

Thrive!

OUR SHARED MISSION

The Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church exists **“to equip congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world to the glory of God.”**

STRATEGIC FOCUS 2024–28

Over the next four years, we will focus our energies on partnering with God to enhance congregational thriving and flourishing in communities within the 56 counties of the Texas Annual Conference. By equipping and encouraging our churches to live into **five markers of thriving**, we hope to foster culture change within the TAC structure and ministry to shape an organization that enthusiastically leads in changing times.

The clergy and laity of the Texas Annual Conference sense we are at a key moment in the life of our conference and the Church. We are **ready to learn, innovate, and lead** by equipping, encouraging, and deploying congregations to transform our neighborhoods—and thereby transform the world—through the love of God.

FIVE MARKERS OF THRIVING



Understanding and living into your congregation’s unique purpose



Empowering your congregation to share transformative stories of faith



Cultivating generosity, gratitude, and wise stewardship of resources

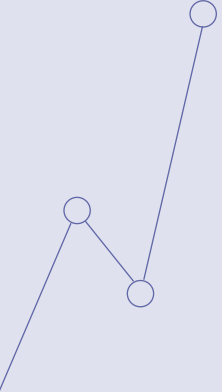


Nurturing deep, abiding relationships throughout your community



Rejoicing with one another regularly through play, rest, and celebration

A NEW WAY OF MEASURING



We’re all familiar with the usual church metrics—worship attendance, professions of faith, budget dollars. And while these numbers still matter, they don’t tell the whole story. We need to also pay attention to other measurable signs along the way. The five markers of thriving—clarity, witness, abundance, kinship, and joy—are **vital indicators of our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ** for the transformation of the world. Congregations can use these five markers to become more aware, nimble, and responsive to how well they are engaging their unique missional context in order to nurture communities that truly thrive together.



WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

The Texas Annual Conference has identified and secured funding for **three initiatives that will help equip us with tools** to cultivate the five markers of thriving in our congregations and communities. This is *only a starting place*, and we encourage you to imagine even more ways to live this out!

Laity & Clergy Development**

Creating a healthy, thriving “priesthood of all believers” by empowering laity through leadership training and in-depth conversations and investing in the well-being and imagination of clergy. Focused attention and alignment of vitality and leadership capacity among both laity and clergy.

The Parish Project*

Yearlong learning cohorts of both laity and clergy (geographically or missionally based). Discovering, implementing, and sharing best practices to strengthen and leverage the United Methodist connection.

Fresh Expressions**

Forging new pathways of being church for people not currently connected to a faith community. Laity and clergy work together to launch and nurture these fresh expressions of the Holy Spirit throughout the conference.

Funding Sources

* Lilly Endowment Grant

** Moody Permanent Endowment Fund and Apportionments

IMAGINING WHAT’S POSSIBLE

What is my role in helping our Texas Annual Conference’s congregations and communities to thrive? How might God be equipping me to uniquely contribute to these efforts?



ROOTED IN CHRIST & CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER

Despite the sincere effort and intentionality we bring to this work, we can do nothing apart from Christ. John 15:4 reminds us that Jesus said, **“a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”**

We humbly rely on God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to invigorate us and help us to bear good fruit. Likewise, we know that our flourishing is interdependent and we need one another—fellow United Methodist Christians and community leaders throughout our conference—to fulfill this common calling.

CLARITY • WITNESS • ABUNDANCE • KINSHIP • JOY



Texas Annual Conference
United Methodist Church