



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE FORT WORTH AREA

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J. MICHAEL LOWRY
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6-February-2014

St. John the Apostle UMC
5450 Mansfield Road
Arlington, TX 76017

Dear St. John the Apostle UMC, Members-

Well done thou good and faithful servant! You have demonstrated not just your support of the Methodist connection, but exuberant joy by paying 100% of your connectional mission giving (CMG) for every year since 2004. (At least that is as far back as we looked.) We will follow Jesus' example in the parable and reward your faithfulness by taking apportionments away from the bad servants and give them to you. (Just kidding!)

Through good times and bad, economic ups and downs, all matter of problems and challenges, we have been able to rely on your steadfast and reliable support. Because of that regular, dependable support, countless lives have been touched and transformed.

Thank you for being such a significant and dependable part of the Central Texas Conference, and a faithful partner in a new hope, a new vision, and a new enthusiasm. That excitement about ministry is contagious. You have said year after year, after year:

- We want to be a significant part of what Christ is doing in our midst.
- We want to share in the help that people receive when facing a natural disaster - whether it be a flood in the mid-west, a hurricane that tears up the Eastern coastline, an earthquake in Haiti, a Tsunami in Asia, a tornado in Acton and Cleburne or a massive explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas.
- We will support creative/innovative local church ministries that transform lives, for Christ.
- We want to support establishing "new places for new people" (new church starts) wherever those new places are needed, here and around the world.
- We want to assist in eliminating killer diseases and poverty that needlessly inflict suffering.
- We will insure that the children will know "Jesus loves me."

Unlike most other churches that need cajoling, encouraging, or stampeding, we write this letter to let you know that your extraordinarily faithful and most generous response as a community of faith is appreciated and certainly not taken for granted. We know what it takes to live out the Christian witness as a United Methodist presence in your community, and we want to thank you for the positive and amazing difference you have made as you make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Yours in Christ,

J. Michael Lowry
Resident Bishop
Central Texas Conference/Fort Worth Area

Dr. Randy Wild
Executive Director
Center for Mission Support