



Crossroads District

Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church

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DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
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September 1, 2020

Greetings Crossroads District Pastors and Laity,

We have arrived at another Annual Charge Conference season where we will uphold our United Methodist connectional system through sharing our annual reports on all aspects of our ministry. Despite our current challenging circumstances, there are certain functions of our Annual Charge Conference that are still a disciplinary requirement and vital to our work into the new year. Observing all safety recommendations and hoping to lighten this burden, we are streamlining our actual meeting this year to one District-wide virtual Charge Conference gathering. At this gathering, the required action items will be addressed, our ministry in this difficult year will be celebrated, and we will have a special guest appearance of Bishop Robert Schnase. This meeting has been set for November 15, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

As usual, each church is expected to have their Charge Conference business approved by their local Church Council prior to our virtual gathering. Once completed and signed, your Charge Conference forms are due to be sent electronically, mailed or delivered to the District office by October 16, 2020. All reports must be submitted in advance to the District office for this effort to be successful. On November 15th for the Conference, we will have a roll call of all churches present, we will vote on the standard action items, we will hear from our Bishop, and celebrate our ministries.

The theme for this year's Charge Conference is, "**Even So, It Is Well With My Soul**". Based upon this theme, the pastor or lay leader is asked to submit a written response to the following questions:

- 1. How is it with your church's soul after you have endured the many challenges of 2020?**
- 2. What two or three things will your leadership give attention to in the coming months to either build upon, or enhance the state of the soul of your congregation?**

A form with these questions will be included with the Charge Conference packet along with a checklist of all forms that you are asked to complete and submit for this year's Charge Conference. These forms may also be downloaded from the District website at www.gocrossroadsdistrict.org).

One more thing, we are planning to show brief presentation about ministries throughout the district that demonstrate how churches have sustained ministry throughout the pandemic. Please send any photos or videos to Ruth Lopez electronically at gocrossroadsdistrict@gmail.com if you would like to present them.

Thank you for your extra sacrifices to faithfully prepare for our 2020 Annual Charge Conference in this unusual time. It is our hope that this modified virtual Charge Conference process will minimize risks and lift the burden of this process for you to some degree. In the meantime, thank you for all that you are doing to lead your congregation to still make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Marcus A. L. Freeman, III
Superintendent
Crossroads District Office
Rio Texas Conference – United Methodist Church