



Crossroads District

Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church

5606 N. NAVARRO, SUITE 200-C & D, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904

Rev. Dr. Marcus A. L. Freeman, III
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
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September 10, 2021

Greetings Crossroads District Pastors and Laity,

We have arrived at 2021's Annual Charge Conference season by the grace of God after having endured a pandemic. We approach this Charge Conference season under the Annual Conference theme: "**Fall Afresh On Me**", where we claim the hope of a fresh indwelling of God's Holy Spirit for carrying on the work of sharing the good news of the gospel. We are thankful that most of our churches in the Crossroads District have returned a combination of worship in person, an online presence, and with necessary precautions in place where applicable. However, with the surge of the Coronavirus variant that has recently occurred, and still recognizing that many of our cherished leaders and members live in communities where the spread of the virus variant is raging, a decision has been made to hold Charge Conference one more year as a virtual, District-wide gathering on Zoom. Therefore, **our District-wide Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, December 12, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom.** At this gathering, the required action items will be addressed, we will celebrate how we are experiencing the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our ministry, and we will have special presentations again from Bishop Robert Schnase, and this year Rev. Karen Horan as well. We are adding an option for churches who want to have an individual Charge Conference in person. Should churches want a separate, in person Charge Conference, there will be dates for churches from which to choose, on a first come/first serve basis. These requests need to be made through the District office.

This year, **we are adding Charge Conference paperwork check-in days located at various locations around the District.** We hope this will assist in ensuring that all Charge Conference paperwork is completed and properly submitted and hopefully it will minimize the need to send the documents by mail. As usual, each church participating in the District-wide Charge Conference is expected to have their Charge Conference business approved by their local Church Council prior to our virtual gathering. Once completed and signed, you may select a designated Charge Conference paperwork check-in location and drop off your paperwork in person. On December 12th 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 Rev. Horan, and celebrate our ministries.



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Based on this year's theme, "Fall Afresh On Me", the pastor or lay leader is asked to submit a written response to the following questions:

- 1. How has the Holy Spirit been falling afresh on your congregation as we have been seeking to restore the life of the church after the pandemic?**
- 2. What are some steps your congregation can take in order to take advantage of opportunities that the Holy Spirit may be presenting for your church to vitalize your ministry in these times?**

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 (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 2021 Virtual 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