



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Horizon Texas Annual Conference
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RUBEN SAENZ JR.
Resident Bishop

May 19, 2026

Dear Horizon Texas Conference Clergy and Laity,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior who taught us how to pray.

One of the deepest convictions of my heart is that the future of the Horizon Texas Conference will not be shaped first by our plans, our structures, or even our best intentions, but by **our willingness to be a people of prayer**. If we are to lead faithfully, love deeply, discern clearly, and serve fruitfully in this season, then prayer must become part of the very culture of our conference, central to who we are and essential to how we live our life together in Christ.

For that reason, I want to invite persons across the Horizon Texas Conference to consider a sacred opportunity for service through the **Conference Intercessory Prayer Team**. This team is being formed not simply to receive prayer requests, but to help shape a culture of prayer across our churches, clergy, ministries, and leadership. Through their faithful intercession, these servants will help keep our conference grounded in communion with God, attentive to the Holy Spirit, and united in love for one another and for the mission Christ has entrusted to us.

In the Wesleyan tradition, prayer is not a secondary feature of Christian life. It is one of the ordinary means of grace through which God forms disciples, strengthens faith, and renews the church. John Wesley taught that prayer is among the chief ways we draw near to God, and our Methodist heritage has long understood that **the people called Methodist must also be a people called to prayer**.

This is why I see the **Conference Intercessory Prayer Team** as more than a ministry assignment. I see it as a covenant calling. Those who serve in this ministry will take up the hidden and holy work of intercession on behalf of our congregations, clergy, conference leaders, communities, our nation, and world. They will stand before God with faith and discretion, carrying the burdens of others, asking for wisdom, healing, courage, renewal, and grace. In a time when many forms of leadership are visible, this is **a form of leadership that is mostly unseen, but no less essential to the church's life and witness**.

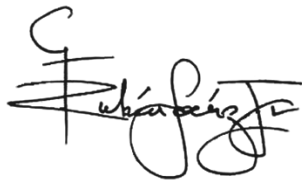
Intercessory prayer requires spiritual maturity, trustworthiness, compassion, and a deep personal life with God. It asks for humility, consistency, and reverence. It calls for people who understand that confidentiality is a sacred trust and that prayer is both privilege and responsibility. Those who say yes to this ministry do so not casually, but prayerfully, offering themselves for a work that is quiet, steadfast, and deeply consequential.

I hope you will read this application in that spirit. Receive it not merely as a form to complete, but as an invitation to discern. If the Holy Spirit is stirring in you a desire to serve the church through faithful intercession, I encourage you to prayerfully consider whether this may be your moment to say yes. The Horizon Texas Conference needs persons who will help anchor our common life in prayer and help cultivate a deeper dependence upon the grace and leadership of God.

Thank you for the many ways you already serve Christ and his church. And thank you for considering this sacred calling. I am grateful for every person who will join in helping us become more fully a conference shaped by prayer, formed by grace, and sent into the world in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

For more information, please contact Rev. Joy Dister-Dominguez, Horizon Texas Director of Care and Healing at JoyDister-Dominguez@htcumc.org or call (972) 526 – 5000 or (817) 877-5222.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruben Saenz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish above the name.

Ruben Saenz, Jr.
Resident Bishop
Horizon Texas Conference
United Methodist Church