



**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
RIO TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Cynthia Fierro Harvey
Resident Bishop

October 31, 2025

Dear Friends,

There has never been a more important time than NOW to be a Matthew 25 church!

“...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” – Matthew 25:35-36

There has never been a more critical time for us to be a Matthew 25 church. We are the wealthiest nation in the world, and it is unconscionable that anyone goes to bed hungry!

As the government shutdown continues, more than 3.5 million Texans who rely on SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) to feed their families are at risk of losing their benefits as soon as THIS Saturday, November 1.

I am asking United Methodists in the Rio Texas Conference to help fill the gap and, as one of my good friends said, “to be the you” Jesus was speaking to in Matthew's Gospel.

If you are able, I ask that you intentionally set aside a portion of your food purchase for a food pantry near you.

If your congregation has a food pantry, thank you! I ask that you to do more! Invite your members, community partners, neighbors and friends to increase their giving so your shelves can be continually restocked.

Friends, the time is now! Let us be a Matthew 25 Conference filled with Matthew 25 churches: Feed the hungry, give those who thirst a drink, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, visit those in prison – today, **NOW!**

Together in ministry,

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey
Matthew 25:35-36