

Alamo Heights United Methodist Church

Charge Conference 2025
December 7, 2025

Senior Pastor's Report

December 7, 2025

From its inception, Methodism has been a movement dedicated to helping people grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ—a relationship that assists people in developing and maturing in God's grace. Methodism began as a renewal movement within the Church of England in the mid-1700s. It emphasized worship, prayer, Bible study, small group accountability, and acts of mercy and service. Many Anglican clergy saw the Methodist movement as a threat to organized religion and would literally run Methodist leaders out of their town. The beginning years of Methodism were difficult.

These difficulties prompted Charles Wesley to write the hymn "And Are We Yet Alive?" in 1749. The opening verse says, "And are we yet alive, and see each other's face? Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!" These were heartfelt words because it was such a difficult and turbulent time. They didn't know if they would physically see each other again. Charles' hymn became an anthem that early Methodism would rally around. His brother, John, had this hymn sung regularly at Methodist Society meetings and conferences. John Wesley understood that Methodism would only live if people were connected to Jesus Christ and each other.

My friends, this great hymn of the church begs the question of us today at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church: Are we yet alive? These past 10 years have not been easy. We unexpectedly had a church splinter from us. We experienced a worldwide pandemic. We weathered a denominational schism.

Yes, we are alive in the grace of Jesus Christ. Because we have stayed connected to Christ. We are a church that is planning and preparing for the future.

- We continue to grow in **worship**—welcoming over 80 new members and baptizing 26.
- We continue to grow in **discipleship**—offering 21 free courses to over 600 registered participants.
- We continue to grow in **hospitality**—hosting 7 support groups and 6 distinct 12-Step Recovery programs that serve hundreds of people each week.
- We continue to grow in **outreach**—serving hundreds of individuals through The Hope Center, distributing hundreds of blessing bags, over 4,000 cans of food, and 775 Heart Pillows.

- We continue to care for the church and **beyond**— growing Arts for All to 3 times its original size, paying our conference apportionments in full, and unanimously voting to improve our ministry and our campus through the *Grow Together* capital campaign.

At the end of his life, John Wesley said this about Methodism: “I am not afraid that the people called Methodist should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power.”

My friends, when we are connected to Jesus Christ, we have power. And so I ask again, are we yet alive? Yes. Very definitely, yes. Here at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church, we are alive; moreover, we are thriving!

In the love of Jesus Christ,

Pastor Jason



Report of the Pastor

The report of the pastor shall include the names of all persons involved in the changes in membership and other items as outlined in *The 2020/2024 Book of Discipline* (§§ 234, 340). This report should cover, as fully as possible, the work of the pastor. Care should be taken not to duplicate the reports of the Church Council, committees, organizations, and officers of the charge.

Copies of this report should be filed with the recording secretary, pastor, district superintendent and chairperson of witness or evangelism ministries.

Alamo Heights UMC

Central

Church

San Antonio

District

Rio Texas

Charge

Annual Conference

For the period beginning December 8, 2024

DATE OF PRIOR CHARGE CONFERENCE

and ending December 7, 2025

DATE OF CURRENT CHARGE CONFERENCE

1. List those who have been received into baptized membership since the last report.
(Attach as a supplement.) **Attached**
2. List those who have been received into professing membership since the last report.
(Attach as a supplement.) **Attached**
 - a. On profession of faith or restored.
 - b. From other United Methodist churches.
 - c. From other non-United Methodist churches.
3. List those who have been removed from the professing membership since the last report.
(Attach as a supplement.) **Attached**
 - a. By action of the Charge Conference, or trial court, or by withdrawal.
 - b. By transfer to other United Methodist churches.
 - c. By transfer to other non-United Methodist churches.
 - d. By death.
4. Have the membership records and rolls been audited (§231)? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Date of last audit: _____
If not, please indicate reason: _____
5. The Pastor shall give a report on the state of the church and an account of pastoral ministry as it relates to (§ 340): providing support, guidance, and training to the lay membership in the church; ministering within the congregation and to the world; and administering the temporal affairs of the congregation. Include as a part of the report, a statement outlining the pastor's program of continuing education and spiritual growth for the past year and plans for the year to come (§ 350). (Attach as a supplement.)

SEND COPIES TO:

1. The recording secretary
2. Pastor
3. District Superintendent
4. Chairperson of witness or evangelism ministries.
5. Charge conference of which you are a member and an affiliate member
6. Bishop
7. Board of Ordained Ministry

Signed _____

Printed Name _____

Date _____

Report of Pastor / Church Conference 2025

Prepared and edited by the General Council on Finance and Administration and authorized as the official form for this purpose.

BAPTISM 2024

Caroline McNitzky

Theodore Brown

Samuel Brown

TOTAL

3

BAPTISM 2025

Adeline Craig

Reeves Craig

Harper Craig

Elizabeth White

Alyssa Wigley Adult

Juliette Franco

Jeffrey Guerrero

Kennadie Cohoe Adult

Kamerin Cohoe Adult

John "Hunt" Cibulas

Marlow Noelle Ramos

Alanna Sakhel

Hayden Limbaugh

Palmer Nielsen

Emma McDonough

Louisa Holt

Julianna Dickout

Quentin Dickout

Nathaniel Stevens

Zara Mist

Kemper Gaddis

Sabria Fallon Adult

Jett Brewer

TOTAL

26

Prof of Faith 2024

Seth Brown
Lauren Brown
Total 2

Prof of Faith 2025

Cristina Allison
Ann Shearer
Alyssa Wigley
Eric Campolo
Cullen Guerrero
Kennadie Cohoe
Kamerin Cohoe
Danyll Mercado
Allison Jarrett
Tara Fletcher
Hadley Ahrens
Larina Alteri
Semaj Foster
Zion Foster
Everett Konkol
Katherine Leinweber
Hadleigh Pearce
Keiernan Pearce
Emma Powell
Claude-Duvall Vardiman
Thad R. Ziegler
Tara Fletcher
Catherine Benedict
Christine Kilduff
Peggy Perkins
Nathan Kocurek
Maru Ortiz
Elaine Wood
Peter Sellers
Sabria Fallon
2024 & 2025 Total 29

From Methodist, 2025

John Bransby
Faith Perry
Sunny Adams
Rob Hannah
Lindsay Hannah
Total 5

From othe UMC 2025

Justin Allison
Jason Alteri
Ashley Alteri
Jake Zerr
Hannah Campolo
Bryan Bettice
Rachel Bettice
Brigette Bettice
Scott Burrow
Maty Wright
Mark McDonald
Kylle Nye
Lea Nye
Total 13

CT other Denom. 2024

Jessica Cox
Mary Caroline Cox
Frannie Cox
Total 3

CT other Denom. 2025

Alissa Fallon
June Deckard
Griffin P. Gaedke
Gideon Mpumgu
Tommy Wirth
Ken Scoggins
Lleta Scoggins
Katerrina Rakosky
Gary Martin
Joyce Martin
Anne Marie Adkins
Thais Potter
Kristi Norcross
Total 13

TOTAL NEW MEMBERS 65

Withdrew from Membership
2024

Lynn Juel

Total **1**

2025

Jay Lewallen

Diane Lewallen

Anthony Gardner

Cheryl Gardner

TOTAL **5**

CT to Non UMC 2025

David Jones

Jody Jones

Cliff Whittingstall

Elaine Whittingstall

Hannah Whittingstall

William Whittingstall

Katherine Peel

TOTAL **7**

To Other UMC 2025

Ann Berg

Total **1**

Total Membership Deletions **14**

Death 2024

Nancy Cooke
Douglas Blakeley
Anne Johnston
Carolyn Simms
Kathryn Roberts
Robert Sine
Paul Hoermann
William West
Phillip Strickland

Total 9

Death 2025

Winston Evans
Jane Brooks
Phyllis Dinsmore
Bruce Cauley
Ralph Hayles
Louise Roach
Fred Sweeney
Samuel Sweeney
Glenda Roth
Jacqueline Lenehan
E. Lynn Carter
Carrla Hornbuckle
Jane Hitt
Molly Pruitt
H. Wayne Crawford
James Wagener
Alice Lovitt
Jason Latham
Victoria Karickhoff
Jim Beach
Shirley Bryan
Gloria Schwanenberg
Howard P. Smith
Kenneth Fowler
Chaney Carroll
Nancy Oro
Annabelle Friend
Kent K.G. Hamilton
Phyllis Dinsmore
Patricia Peele
Kent K.G. Hamilton
Cheryl Wilson
Scotty Light

DEATH-2024 & 2025

42

Board of Stewards 2026	Term	Foundation-2026	Term
Dianne Dorsett- Chair BOS	2026	Chair – To be elected 2025	
Vanessa Konkol-Secretary	N/A	Senior Pastor – Jason Adams	N/A
		Treasurer – Valerie Slade	N/A
Executive Committee-2026		Finance-Lindsay Hannah	N/A
Dianne Dorsett- Chair BOS	2026	Chair of Finance (Advisory)- Johnny Boyd	2026
To be elected –Chair Trustees		Ed Benson (Advisory)	N/A
To be elected –Chair Foundation		Tracy Vardiman	2026
Pat Crump –Chair SPRC	2026	Paul Darr	2026
Johnny Boyd – Chair Finance	2026	Erin Drawert	2026
Dan St. Romain –Lay Leader	N/A	Renee Kizziar	2027
		Tony Lobasso	2027
At-Large-2026		John Goodwin	2027
James L. Smith	2026	Helen Groos	2027
Camille Jones	2029	Richard Dullnig	2027
John Townsend	2029	Faye Bracey	2029
		Keith Pike	2029
Finance Committee-2026		Wade Caldwell	2029
Johnny Boyd/Chair Finance	2026	Joshua Euton	2029
Carrie Lobasso	2027		
Hill Ojeda	2026	Nominations-2026	
Trustee Chair – To be elected		Chair – Jason Adams, Senior Pastor	N/A
Dan St. Romain – Lay Leader		Niki Burnam	2026
		Lindsay Evans	2026
Trustees-2026		Kresta Wright	2026
Chair – To be elected		Dale Clark	2027
Steve Waters	2026	Louise Cates	2027
Thad C. Ziegler	2026	Ruth An Lind	2029
Sally Flanagan	2029	Jeff Foerster	2029
Scott Boynton	2029	Nicole Boynton	2029
Dan St. Romain – Lay Leader	N/A	Dan St. Romain – Lay Leader	N/A
SPRC-2026		Delegates to Annual Coference 2026	
Pat Crump – Chair	2026	Chip Slade	
Caroline Wernli	2027	Valerie Slade	
Randy Holmes	2027	Bonnie Cundiff	
John Burnam	2029	Robert Cundiff	
Dan St. Romain – Lay Leader	N/A	Nicholas Weatherston	
		Dan St. Romain	
		Priscilla St. Romain	
		Delegate Alternates	
		John Burnam	
		Nickie Burnam	

Candidates for Ordained/Licensed Ministry 2026

Renewals

Chris Estus

Darrell Smith

Janet Weatherston



Report of the Finance Committee

The report of the Finance Committee shall be made on this form, or one revised and adapted by the Annual Conference. Numbers in parentheses refer to paragraphs of *The 2020/2024 Book of Discipline*.

Copies of this report should be filed with the recording secretary, pastor, district superintendent and chairperson of the committee on finance

Alamo Heights UM	Church	Alamo Heights UMC	Charge
Las Misiones	District	Rio Texas	Annual Conference

For the period beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 7, 2025
DATE OF PRIOR CHARGE CONFERENCE DATE OF CURRENT CHARGE CONFERENCE

I. ORGANIZATION

1.a. Has the committee been organized according to *The 2020/2024 Book of Discipline* (§258.4)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b. Names of officers?

Chairperson	<u>Johnny Boyd</u>	Vice Chairperson	<u>Carrie Lobasso</u>
Treasurer(s)	<u>Lindsay Hannah</u>	Financial Secretary	<u>Hill Ojeda</u>

II. BUDGET AND COMMITMENT PLAN

2.a. Has the committee submitted to the Church Council, or its equivalent, a complete budget for the ensuing year? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, why not?

b. Did the committee give the Church Council an opportunity to request financial support for recommended ministries (§258.4)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, why not?

3. How frequently does the Financial Secretary/Treasurer send members and contributors regular reports of their giving?

☐ Monthly ☒ Quarterly ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Annually ☐ No, we do not send reports

4. Is giving by individual participants in the local church regularly reviewed? ☒ Yes ☐ No;

If not, why not?

5. What are the plans for raising sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the Church Council (§258.4)?

Education, monthly financial updates, Foundation support

6. Does the Financial Secretary/Treasurer report regularly to the Church Council on the giving trends in the church/charge? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, why not?

III. THE HANDLING OF CHURCH FUNDS

7. Does the Treasurer regularly make reports to the Committee on Finance and the Church Council on the financial position of the church (§258.4b)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, why not?

8. Are all benevolences and other connexional funds remitted monthly to the conference treasurer (§258.4b)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, why not?

9.a. What bank(s) have been designated by the Church Council as a depository (§258.4d)?

Frost Bank

b. Are all accounts FDIC insured and in amounts at or below the current FDIC insurable limit? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If not, why not?

Balances can exceed the limit.

c. Are all accounts in the name of the church? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, why not?

10.a. Has the committee established written financial policies to document the internal controls of the local church (§258.4d)? (Attach as a supplement.) ☒ Yes ☐ No

b. Have these policies been reviewed by the committee and found to be adequate and effective (§258.4d)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

11. Are the church offerings counted by a counting committee in accordance with the mandates of *The Discipline* (§258.4a)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, why not?

12. Are all funds deposited promptly in accordance with procedures developed by the Committee on Finance (§258.4a, d)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, why not?

13. Are financial officers of the church bonded (§258.4b)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, why not?

14.a. Have the financial records of the church and all its organizations been audited for the prior fiscal year (§258.4c)? ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. If not, why not?

The church engages Calvetti Ferguson to perform a compilation of the church financial statements.

c. Were there any recommendations or exceptions? ☐ Yes ☒ No

d. If there were recommendations or exceptions, how has the church addressed them?

Signed Johnny Boyd
Printed Name: Johnny Boyd
Date: 11/14/25

SEND COPIES TO:

1. The recording secretary
2. Pastor
3. District Superintendent
4. Chairperson of the committee on finance
5. Conference treasurer office
6. Charge conference of which you are a member and an affiliate member
7. Board of trustees
8. Bishop of the area in which you serve

Report of the Finance Committee 2025

Prepared and edited by the General Council on Finance and Administration and authorized as the official form for this purpose.



Report of the Trustees

The trustees are amenable to the Charge Conference and as such are required to make an annual report

(¶ 2550). Additional reports should be made as requested by the Charge Conference or Church Council or equivalent. Numbers in parentheses refer to paragraphs in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline.

Copies of this report should be filed with the recording secretary, pastor, district superintendent and the board of trustees.

Alamo Heights UMC **Church** Alamo Heights UMC- San Antonio **Charge**
Las Misiones **District** Rio Texas **Annual Conference**

For the period beginning January 1, 2025 **, and ending** December 7, 2025
DATE OF PRIOR CHARGE CONFERENCE DATE OF CURRENT CHARGE CONFERENCE

1. Organization for the present conference year was effective _____, by electing the following officers (no less than three, and up to nine persons):

	Name	Term Expires
President	Steve Waters	2025
Vice President	Thad Ziegler	2026
Secretary	Brian Nash	2025
Treasurer	Lindsay Hannah	
Member	Dan St. Romain- Lay Leader	
Member		
Member		
Member		
Member		

2. a. Is the local church incorporated (¶2529.1a)?

☒ **Yes** - List the record locator/account number given to the organization by the state:
☐ **No**

b. Who is the custodian of deeds and other legal papers? Valerie Slade

c. Where are they kept? Church Office

3. Name or names in which title to each piece of property is recorded, as shown by civil land records (¶¶2536, 2538):

	Name(s)	Office	Book	Page
Church Buildings	AHUMC	Bexar County	5188	1912
Church Buildings				
Parsonages				
Parsonages				
Other				
Other				

4. Does each deed contain trust clause (¶2503)? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

5. Do you have a long-term plan for the replacement of facilities and equipment as they deteriorate? ☒ Yes ☐ No

6. a. Insurance (§2533.2, 2550.7)

Item Insured/ Insurance	Replacement Value	Amount of Coverage/ Limits	Type of Coverage	Company	Restricted By Coinsurance (Yes or No and amount)		Expires When
Church Buildings	\$ 23,136,000	\$ Same	Limited All Risk	Care Providers Insurance	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amount:	01/01/2026
Parsonages	\$	\$			N <input type="checkbox"/>	Amount:	
Church Furnishings and Equipment	\$ 2,315,000	\$ Same	Limited All Risk	Care Providers Insurance	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amount:	01/01/2026
Parsonage Furnishings and Equipment	\$ N/A	\$			N <input type="checkbox"/>	Amount:	
Vehicle(s)/ Commercial Auto		\$ N/A					
Hired and Non- Owned Auto Liability		\$					
General Liability		\$ 4,000,000	Umbrella				01/01/2026
Medical Payments		\$					
Umbrella/Excess Liability		\$					
Worker's Compensation/ Employers Liability		\$		Church Mutual			01/01/2026
Employment Practices Liability		\$					
Employee Benefits Liability		\$					
Directors and Officers/ Errors Omissions		\$ 1,000,000	Liability	Great American Zurich	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	Amount:	01/01/2026
Crime/Employee Dishonesty Coverage		\$			N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Professional Liability Coverage/ Pastoral Counseling		\$ 3,000,000	Liability	Care Providers			01/01/2026
Sexual Misconduct Coverage		\$					
Cyber Coverage, if any		\$					

b. Have the buildings been inspected for fire and other safety hazards within the past year? | ☒ Yes | No

c. Have you assessed the replacement value within the last 5 years? | ☒ Yes ☒ No

d. Who performed the assessment? Church Mutual

e. Does the church have a Misconduct Prevention Policy, such as Safer Sanctuaries? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: It is recommended that the Misconduct Prevention Policy be reviewed every couple of years. Provide the date last reviewed? 10/31/25

f. Is the amount of insurance adequate? ☒ Yes | No

(to determine the adequacy of coverage, please use the GCFA Insurance Worksheet found at:
www.gcfa.org/resource/umc-minimum-insurance-requirements)

7. a. Has an annual accessibility audit for church properties been conducted (§ 2533.6)? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(attach as a report; an example accessibility audit form may be found at www.gcfa.org/forms-and-assets)

b. If needed, have you developed an accessibility plan? ☐ Yes ☒ No (Attach plan)

8. a. Has an annual evaluation been conducted in relation to the church buildings, grounds, and facilities showing the impact on their ability to be carbon neutral and/or have net zero greenhouse gas emissions (§ 2550.11)? ? Yes ☒ No
(attach as a report;)

b. If needed, have you developed a plan/timeline for the renovation and development to achieve this? Yes ☒ No
(attach plan/timeline)

9. Provide a detailed list of income-producing and permanent funds:

Item	Date Received	Amount	Where Invested	Income	is Used for
Under: Mutual Funds, Stock Certificate, Certificate	October 2025 & Prior	5,209,498	Wells Fargo Frost Bank, TX Meth Foundation	\$176,640	Ops. Capital Expenditures, Specific Ministries
Endowed Funds	October 2025 & Prior	\$7,854,379	Texas Methodist Foundation	\$621,975	ok Budget, Music Ministries, Children's Ministries

(Attach as a supplement a statement "clarifying the manner in which these investments made a positive contribution toward the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles of the church and showing the investments are socially responsible..." § 2533.5 and § 2550.9)

President of Trustees

Steve Waters

Printed Name: **Steve Waters**

Date:

10/18/25

SEND COPIES TO:

1. The recording secretary
2. Pastor
3. District Superintendent
4. The board of trustees.
5. Conference Treasurer office
6. Charge conference of which you are a member and an affiliate member
7. Bishop of the area in which you serve

2025 Charge Conference Report-Rev. Chris Estus

The recovery ministry at AHUMC is thriving. Through the Recovery Ministry, AHUMC hosts 6 different 12-step Recovery Fellowships. Included are Alcoholics Anonymous, CODA, Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families, Sexaholics Anonymous, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, and our own Pioneer Group. These groups hold 14 meetings per week in the West Wing. Weekly attendance is between 125 to 150 people.

I also have the privilege to be a part of the worship services on Sunday and serve wherever I am needed. We also have a study on Sunday mornings called Common Space, led by Darrell Smith, Reed McNitzky and me which allows us to discuss topics brought up by the people attending the group.

Respectfully,

Rev. Chris Estus, Pastor of Recovery

MINISTRY REPORT

Congregational Care – Pastor Linda Baumheckel

Prepared November 2025

STEPHEN MINISTRY

1. We added two ministers who had training years ago. We did a training update. We meet monthly and have 4 ministers

PRAYER MINISTRY

1. Preparing a 2026 campaign to highlight all the ways prayer is enlivened on this campus.
 - a. Preparing a Prayer Bead Workshop for 2026
 - b. Creating New Business Cards – One Stop HelpVision is to have these cards in the Hope Center and many key areas.
 - i. Prayer Room Phone Number
 - ii. Recovery Meetings QR Code
 - iii. Wesley Nurse Info

FLOWER MINISTRY

1. Improved the system for arranging the flowers, assigning, and deploying.
2. We send out an average of 8 arrangements weekly with a team of 3 drivers and two substitutes.
3. Write cards to go out with the flowers and cards for those who will not receive an arrangement.
 - a. Prepare cards for encouragement, illness, and related.
4. I created Flower Ministry return labels and improved the card information which goes on the pic that holds the cards in the arrangements.

MENTAL HEALTH

1. April was our awareness month.
2. NAMI reps in our congregation hosted a table for 4 Sundays
3. Took Communion offering for the local chapter of Nami
4. Once a month class dealing with mental health in a family member, facilitated by two congregational members.

GRIEF MINISTRY

1. Continue to work with Porter Loring with three grief groups who they facilitate on campus.
2. Held a Healing for the Holidays general workshop for grieving people.
3. Offered an 8 week course for those grieving and facilitated by Porter Loring.

WORSHIP

FORUM

1. Continued to grow the Forum Independent Living Worship congregation. Meets Sundays at 10 am.
2. Included more pastors in our congregation for weekly coverage.

SAGE PARK INDEPENDENT AND REHAB CARE

1. Continued to build our relationship with SAGE PARK as we offer weekly worship on Wednesdays at 10 am.
2. Resulted in my doing a graveside for one of the resident's family.

HEALING SERVICES

1. Designed and Conducted One Service

BLUE CHRISTMAS

1. Designed and provided a Blue Christmas Service

PREACHED

1. I preached in all three services at least once this year.

MUSIC

1. Provided special music in both traditional services.
2. Composed original music for special worship services I designed.
3. Substitute on piano for Taize services.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

1. Held one consecration in two services to deploy the shawls through the congregation.
2. Visioning for 2026 different ways to deploy, different projects to make and recruitment.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

1. I have a team of three people to help tend the congregational shutins.
2. I continue to meet with staff and parishioners, at their request, for Pastoral Care.
3. Celebrating the NOTEBIRD software we use for tracking Congregational Care.
4. I create and facilitate different projects that go to shutins.
 - a. Kids make cards
 - b. I prepare devotionals for Lent and Advent.
5. Mary Lou Russell has created a CD for shutins. This is a new outreach. I am slowing going into homes on home visits to deliver the CDs.
6. Created a 30 Day 30th Church Anniversary (On the Property) ALL CHURCH prayer guide.
7. Provided a staff devotional to support the losses we were feeling from the July 4th floods.
8. Created Summer fun bags to encourage the pastoral team.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Baumheckel

2025 Charge Conference Report

Modern Worship, Wedding Ministries

Modern Worship at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church continues to be a place of belonging, intergenerational leadership, and experimentation.

Our Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 continues to welcome new visitors almost every week, and we have surpassed 100 people in attendance 40 of the 45 Sundays so far this year (4 of the Sundays where attendance was below 100 occurred during a holiday weekend). More important than the promising trend in numbers is the quality of worship consistently happening in the service. For example, there is a regular element of participation in worship leadership from children. Kids in the service had read scripture, served communion, led prayers and liturgy, and played in the modern worship band. This reflects a core value of inclusivity and allows all worshipers to feel like they can be leaders in this congregation; we do not designate the work of worship only for “the professionals.”

The modern worship service has also experimented with ways to engage people in worship throughout 2025. For example, during the season of Lent, we arranged the worship space “in the round,” with the modern worship team in the middle of the room and the congregation encircling the band. Everyone was facing inward toward the altar, located at the center of the space, which was a visual reminder of our calling to be attentive to the loving presence of God in our midst. This 6-week alteration helped people be aware of the unique aspects of the Lenten journey. During Lent, we also shared weekly Holy Communion as a sacramental reminder that God always journeys with us in our life together. In the fall of 2025, our congregation had regular opportunities to respond in a tactile way to the theme of the service by engaging in service opportunities as well as moments for prayer and anointing – all during the worship service. This allowed people to affirm that worship demands our whole selves and that all people are invited to the work of worship, not just those who have the mental capabilities.

Our worship band has added a couple of people from our congregation to help lead worship on Sundays, and we continue to look for additional musicians

and singers to share their gifts with this service. Additionally, we have recently welcomed Niki Burnam, a member of AHUMC, to the staff in a part-time role with modern worship. So far, Niki has helped plan the season of Advent and worked with several other ministry areas in the congregation to incorporate families in worship during Advent.

Beyond the Sunday morning worship service, the community in the CLC has continued to strengthen because of leadership from dedicated laypeople. Several participants of the modern worship community have organized a small group that welcomes people who are new to AHUMC; they intentionally meet in the atrium to practice hospitality and are available to receive visitors. Others have assisted me in planning and implementing discipleship opportunities during the seasons of Lent and Advent so that people can be the Church during the week and not just on Sunday mornings for an hour. John Burnam, a member of AHUMC, led a summer course on the way of St. Benedict. This course had a consistent and engaged group throughout the 12 weeks of the course in a season when there is normally minimal activity around the church. As we turn to 2026, we are continually planning ways to welcome and embrace new visitors to our congregation by offering spaces and times where they can begin to be known and know other parishioners.

Regarding weddings at AHUMC: Nance Haney continues to be busy with hosting weddings for both members and nonmembers. Weddings are one of the ways our congregation can reach out to our surrounding community and represent the love and hospitality of Christ. Premarital counseling has been a key part of our ministry of weddings – Priscilla MacDougal, the counselor with whom we work, has regularly been noted by couples as a great gift in their marriage preparation. In 2026, Priscilla is planning to contact couples we married going back to 2023, and to offer these couples a check in session. Nance and Priscilla are as much of a gift to AHUMC as they are to the couples whose weddings happen at our church.

Submitted by Rev. Reed McNitzky

In partnership with AJ Navarro, Nance Haney, and the wonderful people of the AHUMC modern worship community.

2025 Charge Conference Report - Rev. Donna Strieb

I continue to serve half-time as Pastor of Spiritual Formation, focusing on three primary areas: teaching, worship, and ministry with senior adults, plus some additional areas as needed.

- I teach a hybrid *Tuesday Morning Class* with persons attending and on Zoom. Last spring we averaged 35 persons using Amy-Jill Levine's study on *The Gospel of John*. This fall the class nearly doubled its enrollment with 64 persons. Our fall study uses Adam Hamilton's book, *Moses: The Reluctant Prophet*. Both studies have proved helpful in navigating the times in which we live.
- I lead the monthly *Taizé* prayer services on the first Wednesday of every month with two months off in the summer. These services are offered both in person and via livestream. We are in our 26th year of providing this worship experience at AHUMC.
- I serve as liturgist in the traditional worship services each week.
- I am the staff liaison for our *Thursday Lunch Bunch* for senior adults that provides a time of fellowship and a full hot meal for seniors, the majority of whom are not members of AHUMC. In addition to 85 guests, we to host a group of 24 persons from the program for special needs young adults - *Reaching Maximum Independence*, a group of about 20 people from Sage Park Assisted Living (next door to the church), and an Alzheimers' Support Group. This fall we have seen an increase in the number of guests, serving on average about 140 persons each week. We have also seen an increase in volunteers which is most welcome.
- Once a month, I help host some of the retired pastors of the Rio Texas Conference at our Thursday Lunch Bunch.
- I provide pastoral care as needed, including 12 funerals to date.
- I assisted as part of the clergy team teaching the 2024 Confirmation Class. I teach the session on John Wesley, the Methodist Movement, and history of Alamo Heights United Methodist Church.

During 2025 these ministries have grown to bless many people in our congregation and beyond our church walls. I have now served on staff at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church for 45 years, and I am grateful that I can continue to serve the Lord in my retirement years.

Respectfully,

Rev. Donna Strieb, Pastor of Spiritual Formation Ministries (Half-time, Retired)

Darrell Smith, Pastor of Discipleship and Communications 2025

2025 has been a year of growth and new development. The beginning stages of the *Grow Together* capital campaign involved much listening, research, and prayer. Over the course of months and under the leadership of our Senior Pastor Jason Adams, our Communications Team partnered with Horizons Stewardship to begin the process of translating the needs of our campus into clear and consistent messaging.

In general, the AHUMC Communications Team provides oversight for all communications that are received from AHUMC. Working under the discretion of the Senior Pastor and responsively to the Leadership Team and ministry directors, the AHUMC Communications Team manages the marketing, branding, and the overall creative graphic and media communication efforts of the church, employing the following principles:

- We recognize that communication begins with listening. We, therefore, purpose to receive, reflect, and respond to the needs of the church and the community, valuing relationship and process over events or projects.
- We hope to provide simple, up-front communication that engages our audiences with timely, relevant, and consistent messaging.
- We acknowledge that the number of messages people receive daily is overwhelming. People and families are engaged in a wide range of activities that demand attention. Accordingly, we must provide clear, concise, and compelling information that is easily accessible and appropriately targeted through a variety of channels.
- We desire to empower our ministry directors and lay leaders with the communication training and tools necessary to effectively communicate with their specific audiences.

All AHUMC communications fall into one of four classifications: Liturgical, Ministry, Community, or Common Good. Each classification includes activated channels of communication that are automatically employed and additional channels of communication that are employed at the discretion of the Communications Team.

- Events or initiatives classified as **Liturgical** are AHUMC-sponsored with an unrestricted audience. Examples of liturgical expressions include worship services, course offerings, *Plastic Free July*, *Role Call*, and festivals.
- Events or initiatives classified as **Ministry** are AHUMC-sponsored with a restricted audience. Ministry expressions originate within AHUMC departments and ministries and are the most common classification of

communication at AHUMC. Examples of ministry expressions include *Vacation Bible School, Arts for All, Summer Sounds*, mission trips, and retreats.

- Events or initiatives classified as **Community** are sponsored by AHUMC congregants. Community expressions promote AHUMC's members and congregants on mission. Examples of community expressions include *Fishing Under the Bridge, Walk to Emmaus, Kairos, SAMM Ministries, 1 HOPE for Kids*, Scholarship Committee, and *School Supply Drive*.
- Events or initiatives classified as **Common Good** are external events or initiatives sponsored by like-minded organizations. Common Good expressions partner with outside organizations to help inform the larger community. Examples of Common Good expressions include Alzheimer's Care Support, Grief Support Groups, and Recovery Bake Sales.

We are grateful for the tenure and service of Communication Team members Cristian Ortiz, and Angelina Vannez as well as the support of lay leaders like John Burnam and Kalos Strategies.

Our year in Adult Learning and Discipleship continued in the recognition that disciples are not mass-produced, and they are not created with the flip of a switch. Living into the life of a disciple—someone who lives out the love and teaching of Jesus the Christ—takes time. In fact, the process of living as a disciple is a lifetime endeavor that requires lots of space and lots of love. It is our hope that our efforts in discipleship formation continue to be reflective of both the time and space needed for discipleship as well as our scriptural and historical tradition.

We continue to develop and offer educational and dialogical opportunities within the community of faith that create opportunities for relationship building as well as encourage, edify, and sustain disciples. In January 2025, AHUMC began the semester by hosting eight staff-led courses with over 200 participants, including *Common Space* as the most attended course with over fifty participants each week.

We hosted our first summer semester of courses in 2025 featuring three staff led course options for 150 registered participants. Retired UMC pastor Rev. Pricilla MacDougall welcomed over 70 women each week in the Women's Ministry course offering.

We launched our fall semester in September with nine new staff-led courses and over 270 participants. Senior Pastor Jason Adams and Modern Worship Pastor Reed McNitzky led the church through a 10-week sermon series and companion course entitled *The Ologies: A Study on God Stuff*. Throughout the year, most of AHUMC's course offerings are free to any interested participants. Moreover, many of our courses are offered both in-person and online.

Our efforts to survey the hundreds of participants who engaged one of AHUMC courses in 2025 overwhelmingly affirmed our efforts to provide for both the education and connection of disciples.

- 94% of respondents indicated that they had recommended AHUMC's courses to someone else or would in the future.
- 92% of respondents reported that their participation in the course had led to new relationships and connection with others.
- 99% of respondents defined their course experience as "transformative," "helpful or encouraging," or "educational."
- 96% of respondents rated their overall experience of a course at AHUMC as positive.

AHUMC is committed to offering a wide array of opportunities for the education, encouragement, and equipping of disciples. The spring semester of 2026 will feature another roster of staff-led courses. Opportunities for discipleship connection, study, and growth at AHUMC are not limited, however, to educational opportunities alone. We continue to support Sunday school classes, study groups, support groups, and recovery groups at AHUMC. In addition to providing resource and communication support to these groups, we also help our groups and classes adapt to the hybrid environment of meeting in-person and online simultaneously. It is our hope to continue supporting our existing groups as well as creating an encouraging environment for the foundation of new ones.

Mission and Outreach Report 2025
Pastor Janet Weatherston

As the pastor of Mission and Outreach at Alamo Heights, I find joy in serving alongside the people of this congregation. We continually improve existing ministries and develop new ways to know our neighbors. The congregation at Alamo Heights UMC remains generous with their time, talents, gifts, service, and witness.

My pastoral duties, which align with my ministry here at AHUMC, are a great blessing in my life. I am pleased to share that I have completed the twenty courses required for a local pastor in the United Methodist Church. I have enjoyed opportunities to deliver messages on Sunday mornings, in both the Sanctuary and the Christian Life Center. I support worship by regularly serving as a liturgist during campus services, including the Taizé service. I have been humbled to participate in baptisms and officiate services for families celebrating weddings or grieving at funerals. I believe in the power of prayer and always encourage that everything we do be connected to prayer. I have led or co-led two different book studies this year. I have partnered with the Youth Ministry, New Zion Choir, Confirmation, Arts for All, and the Weekday School to share devotionals and spend time with them. I am thankful for the opportunities to serve and share about Jesus the Christ.

Members of our congregation were impacted by the flooding in Hunt, TX, during the summer, when many precious lives were lost. Our church members generously donated money, while our youth and congregation assembled 191 flood buckets. We also hosted a UMCOR training, during which several people were trained to assist with cleanup.

I work alongside The Hope Center, which is open each Monday to assist with electric or water bills for five area zip codes. We also provide emergency food bags to those in need when the church is open. People without homes are offered smaller bags of food and hygiene items. We consistently offer resources for local ministries that assist the homeless. The Hope Center also participates in several food drives throughout the year.

Mission Central is the original ministry of our Asbury Church campus. Located in room 102 in the West Wing, its primary purpose is to serve as an active part of the community outside the church walls. We continue to make blessing bags on Wednesdays at Mission Central for the congregation to give to those in need. We maintain connections with other UMC ministries and seek to support them, such as Magdalena House, Project Transformation, and Impacto Community Center. Recently, we participated in our first Food and Prayer Drive-Through, distributing 30 bags of food and 31 gift cards to families affected by the loss of SNAP funding. Mission Central will partner with the Texas Diaper Bank starting in 2026 to provide diapers and feminine hygiene products, a vital resource in our community. We will also partner with Alamo Heights ISD to distribute some of these products.

Our church benefits from the support of Wesley Nurse Sonia Serna from Methodist HealthCare Ministry, who is involved in many outreach efforts. Fluent in Spanish, Sonia provides our Hope Center clients with essential resources. She also arranged for a free vaccine bus, sponsored by Christus Santa Rosa Hospital, in partnership with Mission Central. She is always actively helping others in the community. Her office is located in the West Wing—please stop by and say hello.

Our 2025 pumpkin patch was a tremendous success. We unloaded 43,000 pounds of pumpkins on October 4th, with help from 77 volunteers. By the end of October, we sold \$43,000 worth of pumpkins, with our share of the profit totaling \$16,000. This is the largest volunteer event on campus, and all proceeds go to support local mission and outreach.

During Advent, our manger donations and Angel Tree programs combine to bring hope to children during the holiday season by providing toys to three groups of children. We will offer toys to Piedras Negras, Mexico, through Aleluyah Border Ministry; children of incarcerated parents through Kairos Prison Ministries; children in need of hope in the Westside through

Mission and Outreach Report 2025
Pastor Janet Weatherston

Impacto Community UMC; and twin-sized bedding through Sleep in Heavenly Peace. We are offering Alternative Christmas Cards to support ministries at AHUMC, partnering with the children and youth choirs to include songs and a QR code.

Opportunities are plentiful for AHUMC to be Christ to our neighbors and community. We will continue to meet needs through our Mission and Outreach efforts, reaching out to people where they are in life so they may also experience hope.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Mission and Outreach Pastor at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church.

Peace,
Pastor Janet Weatherston

Charge Conference Report 2025
Music and Worship Ministry

Welcome all people / Build community / Share God's love / Serve the world

The purpose of the Music and Worship Ministry is to serve the congregation in weekly worship through art and music. Through the gifts of music, poetry, hymns, prayers, and visual art, we consider it our purpose to offer our gifts to enhance, deepen, and expand the spoken word. It is our purpose *and* our joy.

We have continued to offer a variety of places for people to serve. We have dedicated members of Adult Choirs, Youth Choir, Children's Music, and Adult Handbells.

Some of the highlights of the year have included:

- The Arts for All Program, now in its third year, continues to thrive as a vibrant afterschool initiative. With 44 students currently enrolled, the program meets weekly to offer engaging classes in Visual Arts, Creative Movement, Ukulele, Storytelling and Handbells. Our partnership with AHISD ensures seamless transportation from school to our church, enabling consistent participation. Of those enrolled, 98% attend regularly, with 73% depending on the provided transportation. Our diverse student body includes 6% identifying as Asian/Pacific Islander, 57% as Hispanic/Latino, 5% African American and 11% from households with an annual income of \$25,000 or less, reflecting our mission to serve and uplift our community.
 - We continue to seek grants and funding for this program as it operates independently financially from the AHUMC budget.
 - We received this last year about \$8000 in grant money.
- Arts for All hosted "A Taste of Thanks" event. The purpose was to thank those who have supported the program through their, prayers, presence and gifts. This was a wonderful afternoon of deserts, displays of artwork and performance by some of the handbell students and then we heard from a few parents on the impact of this program on their children.
 - We also created our first impact report so that our sponsors are aware of what good their donations are doing in the lives of these children.
- We have seen growth in both the Children's Music and Youth Choirs. Growth is in numbers, but more than that we see consistency of attendance, bonds begin created among peers and a place for the children and youth to be themselves in a safe space of love, grace and acceptance.
- Our annual Children's Music Camp in June brings in people from the community and the state. This camp is supported by the Gene Medlar Fund which allows us to offer a low-cost camp and scholarship opportunities. We were able to grant 12 scholarships this year and 70% of those attending the camp do not attend Alamo Heights UMC. This year we also had several of our Arts for All students attend Summer Sounds Camp.
- The Youth Choir embarked on an inspiring mission trip to Colorado Springs. We had the opportunity to work with Afghan refugee children one day and then we joined in a traditional Afghan meal made by the women of the community. This work was last minute due to the planned work falling through. I do believe this was God breathed work and meant so much to our young people.
- The Lessons and Carols Service with the Orchestra and all the choirs is a particular highlight for this ministry.
- Our Holy Week experience involved the adult choirs, the youth choir, and brass
 - Good Friday is a highlight of the Holy Week experience as it is planned and led by our Youth Choir. The congregation finds great hope in seeing our youth serve in this way.
- A few of us attended the Rise Leadership Conference at Church of the Resurrection. This proved to be a beneficial experience.

- One of our biggest takeaways was how to engage all of the intelligences into the worship experiences. We are looking forward to bringing this concept into Advent services on a small scale for this year.
- We have had several foundational people in the Music Ministry pass away this last year. Though we are sad, I do believe that through our grief we are made stronger as a group. It is beautiful to watch the choirs of all ages support, encourage and walk beside each other through the hard days.
- We have an amazing staff in our Children's Music program and Arts for All. They are all master teachers, love working with children, and are supportive of the programs. We are grateful for each of them and the gifts they bring.
 - Amanda Morris – Children's Music
 - Stacie Brown – Arts for All Lead Teacher & Handbells
 - Heather Kelly – Arts for All Drama
 - Sue Kuentz – Arts for All Storytelling
 - Lucy Warner – Arts for All Ukulele
 - Tess Kilduff – Arts for All Admin & Class Assistant
 - Clara Schweninger – Arts for All Class Assistant
 - Aubrey Martinez - Arts for All Class Assistant
 - Alisiana Cervantes - Arts for All Class Assistant
 - Carol Cauley – Arts for All Snack Coordinator
- Our Music Ministry Staff is a wonderful team that supports Worship, Music, and all those in the ministry and larger church. It is an honor to walk alongside them in ministry.
 - MaryLou Russell – Pianist & Organist
 - Angela Leonhardt – Children's Music Director
 - Ashley Person – Music Admin
 - Tessa Kilduff – Music Admin

Participation in a musical ensemble provides a common space for people of varied ages, occupations, ethnicities, and theological views to join in a common purpose beyond themselves. Each Sunday, corporate worship offers the same opportunity for unity, encouragement, and community. It is our desire that as we practice our faith through worship and song, we grow as disciples of Jesus, making space for God's transformative work in our lives and having the courage to share our lives with others.

Respectfully submitted,

Nona Schwab
Music and Worship Director

Alamo Heights United Methodist Church is a Christian community of love, hope, and belonging for all.

2025 Charge Conference Report Children's Ministries

2024 has been a busy and exciting year for Children's Ministries. We continue to host a Children's Ministry Coalition lunch with 16 children's ministry directors and staff from around the city. In January we hosted our annual Nerf and Nachos for our elementary aged kids. The kids had a blast and some of the parents joined in the fun as well. On Palm Sunday, the kids processed with palms at both services. After church, we had an egg hunt and activities for the kids. During Holy Week, we had Journey to the Cross where children and their families could experience the events of Holy Week in a family friendly way. In May we had our 5th Grade Blessing to celebrate our 5th graders and prepare them for the transition to Youth Ministry.

This year's Vacation Bible School was held June 2-6. We hosted 180 children with 65 youth helpers and 75 adult volunteers. For our mission project, we raised money for the Boys & Girls Club in Nome, Alaska.

Over the summer we had so much fun with our Summer Sunday Fundays. Each week we have a different theme and tie it into a Bible story. Some of our themes were CandyLand, a Bug's Life, GLOW Party, and Shark Week! The kids LOVED it! We also squeezed in a Wacky Wednesday!

August was busy with Back to School and our Blessing of the Backpacks. We are thrilled to have 25 volunteers sign up to lead Kids' Sunday School this year. It makes such a difference in our ability to teach and love on the kids in our ministry.

In September, we gave out Bibles to our 3rd graders. And in October, we held our annual Harvest Festival. It was another stellar year! We estimate that we had close to 1,000 guests at the festival. While this is exciting, it has also outgrown the scope of Children's Ministry. We look forward to exploring working with other ministries to make this possible next year.

As we approach the Christmas season, we are looking forward to hosting Journey to the Manger. The kids will be creating their own nativity set as they learn the story of Jesus' birth. We are also preparing for the Children's Christmas Eve service. This is a special opportunity for our children to lead the service as well as the telling of the story of Jesus' birth.

We are excited to welcome 2026 and all that it has in store for our church.

2025 Charge Conference Report AHUMC Weekday School

The AHUMC Weekday School is a growing and thriving pre-school where young children are loved and appreciated. Our focus and mission is to teach our young students the Love of God and to encourage them to share that love with everyone they meet! We start each day with chapel in the Sanctuary learning about God and His love for each of us. We spend our time in chapel singing praise songs, hearing bible stories, practicing our monthly bible verse, and praying. We are richly blessed with Pastor Jason Adams along with Pastor Reed McNitzsky and Pastor Janet Weatherston joining us every Wednesday to lead our chapel time. The children and families regularly share how impactful their lessons and stories are for the children each Wednesday. Our pastors are seen as rockstars and celebrities to our children!

We love, care for, and educate children 6 weeks old to 5 years old. We are blessed to have 110 children enrolled at the school and from those children we serve 100 different families. We have roughly 90 children attend each day, Monday through Friday. There are 28 staff members at the Weekday School. We have a beautiful mixture of certified teachers with decades of teaching experience with young learners working alongside of early childhood care givers who are gifted in meeting the needs and developmental goals of young children. We continue to offer extended hours of care offered to our families until 5pm Monday through Friday. We now offer high quality and affordable childcare Monday through Friday from 7:30am until 5pm each day to all our families. The Weekday School also continues to offer our staff health benefits for our full-time employees as well as paid sick days and 5 paid holidays for teachers and staff.

We continue to grow and cultivate a strong relationship between the families of our school and our church community. The Weekday School staff work hard to show their love and support for the church and all Children's Ministry offerings. At the Harvest Festival this year, there were 16 Weekday School teachers who volunteered their time to help and support this event. We currently have approximately 20 families who have joined or attend AHUMC regularly who are also Weekday School families. We have 20% of Weekday School families also attending church here on Sundays and are proud to consider the Weekday School a pipeline for the church for families with young children. Our PreK three year olds partnered with the Garden Ministry team to plant herbs, vegetables, and flowers in the garden this past spring as well as this fall. The Weekday School held their second annual fundraiser this spring and used the funds raised to cover all exterior windows with ballistic film covering for added safety and security. We continue to invite parents to come on campus as special guest readers, center time helpers, small group leaders, and helping with class celebrations.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to continue our mission of sharing the love of God with the children and families we serve, while educating the children for their future.

Sarah Jernigan
Director of Weekday School