



VALUES: Love God and Love our neighbor as ourselves.

VISION: To bring the hope of God's kingdom to earth by being the hands of Jesus.

MISSION: To be a convergence of God's grace cascading to...

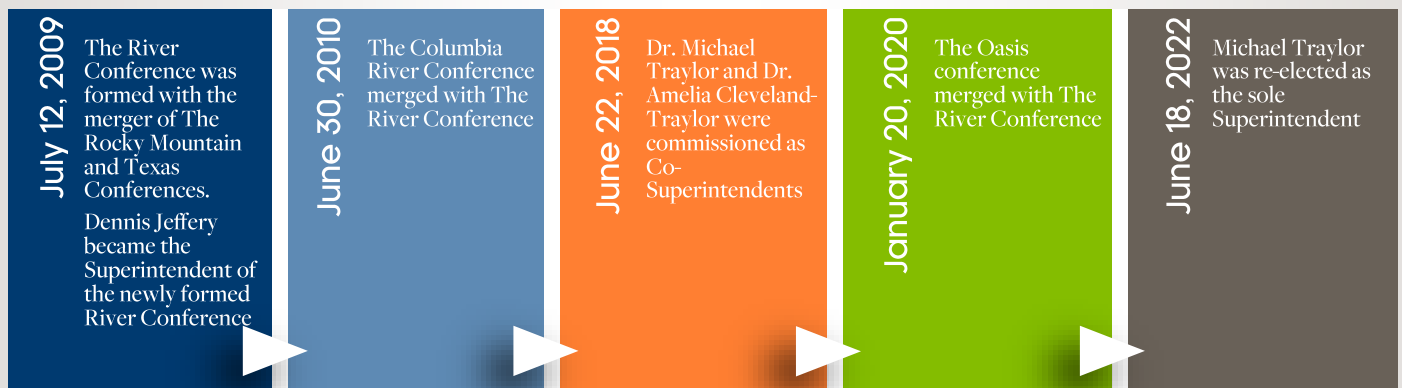
Make disciples ❖ Mobilize leaders ❖ Meet human needs ❖ Multiply churches

HISTORY

The River Conference was formed on July 12, 2009 by combining The Rocky Mountain Conference with the Texas Conference. Superintendent Dennis Jeffery was appointed to lead this newly formed Free Methodist Conference.

The Columbia River Conference voted to join us in 2010. TRC grew in numbers and area making it the largest conference in the Free Methodist Church USA as far as area covered.

After eight years of serving as TRC's Superintendent, Dennis Jeffery resigned. In June 2018, Dr. Amelia Cleveland-Traylor and Dr. Michael Traylor were elected as Co-Superintendents. In 2020 the Oasis Conference (Arizona and New Mexico) were welcomed into TRC's family. Dr. Michael Traylor was re-elected as TRC's sole Superintendent in June of 2022.





The River Conference

of the Free Methodist Church

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP & STAFF



**KENNY
MARTIN**
Bishop

**DR. MICHAEL
TRAYLOR, MD**
Superintendent



**HEATHER
UTLEY**
Asst. Superintendent



TRC DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

We have six Districts within The River Conference. Each has a District Superintendent who is the first line of defense for the churches and pastors. As a Leadership Team, they have been trained under the Spiritual Leadership, Inc. (SLI) concept of Loving, Learning, and Leading. This L³ culture is being used to encourage our churches and pastors to make disciples who make disciples. We are intentional on how we live into the great commission and great commandment.

ARIZONA

CHURCHES:	Chandler, AZ	Light and Life FMC
	Glendale, AZ	Renuevo Free Methodist Church
	Phoenix, AZ	Ebenezer Free Methodist Church
	Phoenix, AZ	Phoenix Life
	Phoenix, AZ	Rehoboth FMC*
	Phoenix, AZ	United Family FMC
	Prescott, AZ	Emmanuel Pines Camp
	Tucson, AZ	Luz Y Vida para la Familia FMC

**JULIE
GRAY**
Arizona
District
Superintendent



BOISE

CHURCHES:	Boise, ID	Epworth FMC
	Boise, ID	Jerusalem Church
	Caldwell, ID	Caldwell FMC
	Caldwell, ID	Deer Flat Church
	Caldwell, ID	Iglesia Damasco
	Fruitland, ID	West Valley

**JOHN
MCGEE**
Boise
District
Superintendent



COLORADO

CHURCHES:	Aurora, CO	Living Tower Ministry Center
	Aurora, CO	Meadowood Church
	Colorado Springs, CO	Fresh Wind Community Church
	Colorado Springs, CO	Hope and Good News Church
	Grand Junction, CO	Tha Myx
	Lakewood, CO	River Church
	Pueblo, CO	Fresh Wind Ministries-Pueblo
	Rapid City, SD	Freedom Motorcycle Church

**EBENEZER
APPIAGEI**
Colorado
District
Superintendent



NORTH TEXAS

CHURCHES:	Abilene, TX	Victory FMC
	Amarillo, TX	Amarillo FMC*
	Dallas, TX	Capel of Change Dallas*
	Dallas, TX	Hosana FMC
	Eules, TX	Viva Ministries*
	Fort Worth, TX	Lighthouse Fellowship
	Hemphill, TX	Hemphill FMC
	Midland, TX	Midland FMC
	Rockwall, TX	Rockwall FMC

**TIM
GREENAWALT**
North Texas
District
Superintendent



SOUTH TEXAS

CHURCHES:	Corpus Christi, TX	EPIC Church*
	Corpus Christi, TX	Faro de Luz
	Houston, TX	Joy FMC
	Laredo, TX	Iglesia Cristiana Monte Sion
	Laredo, TX	Nuevo Tierra*
	Laredo, TX	Viento de Dios
	McAllen, TX	Praise Christian Fellowship
	Rosenberg, TX	First FMC
	San Antonio, TX	Grace and Truth Church
	Spring, TX	Essential Life Church
	Sugar Land, TX	Casa de Alabanza

**WILL
PENA**
South Texas
Co-District
Superintendent



**MARINANNE
PENA**
South Texas
Co-District
Superintendent

SPOKANE

CHURCHES:	Bonnars Ferry, ID	Springs of Living Water
	Chewelah, WA	Abundant Life Fellowship
	Colville, WA	FMC of Colville
	La Grande, OR	Hub City Church*
	Mead, WA	Timberview Christian Fellowship
	Missoula, MT	Faith Harvest Fellowship
	Pendleton, OR	Pendleton FMC
	Post Falls, ID	Journey of Hope
	Priest River, ID	Living Hope
	Spokane, WA	First FMC
	Spokane Valley, WA	Opportunity Christian Fellowship

**JAMES
LEMAN**
Spokane
District
Superintendent



* Church Plant Project

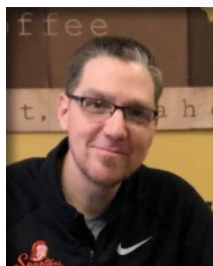
TRC STAFF



**DEB
BAGGETT**
Conference
Administrator



**JOSE
SEGURA**
MEG Chair



**KASEY
MARTIN**
MEG Coordinator



**RICK
SNODGRASS**
Multiplication Director

CONFERENCE OFFICE INFORMATION

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8am-4pm Mountain Time

Address: 23300 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX 77373

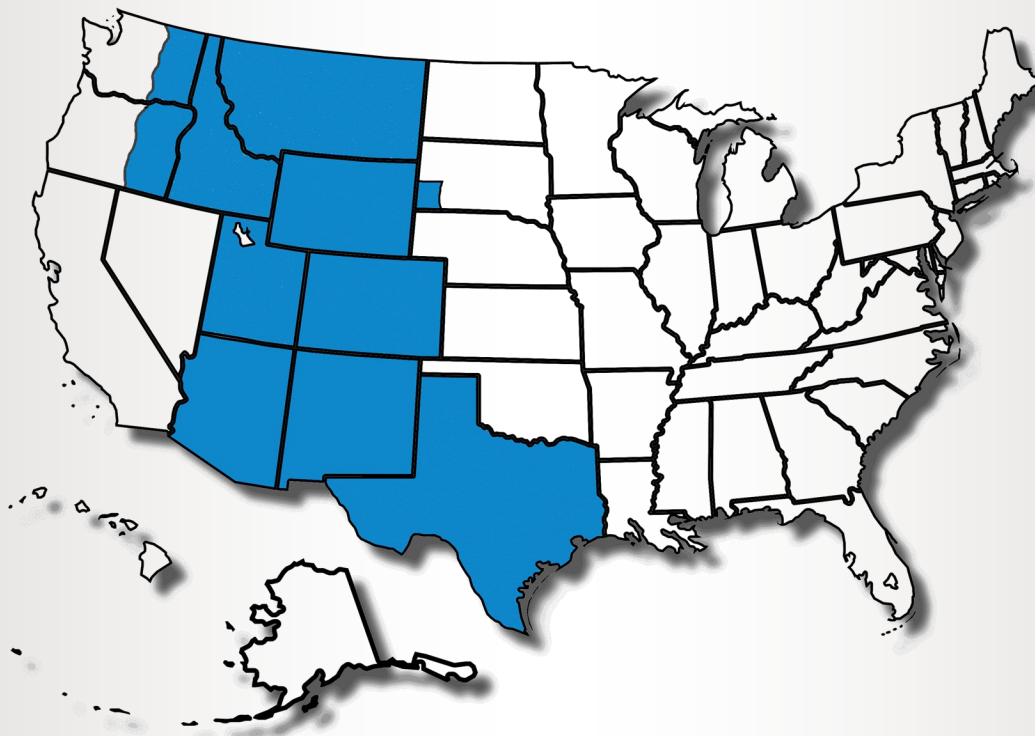
Phone#: 720.305.1529

Email: admin@theriverconference.org

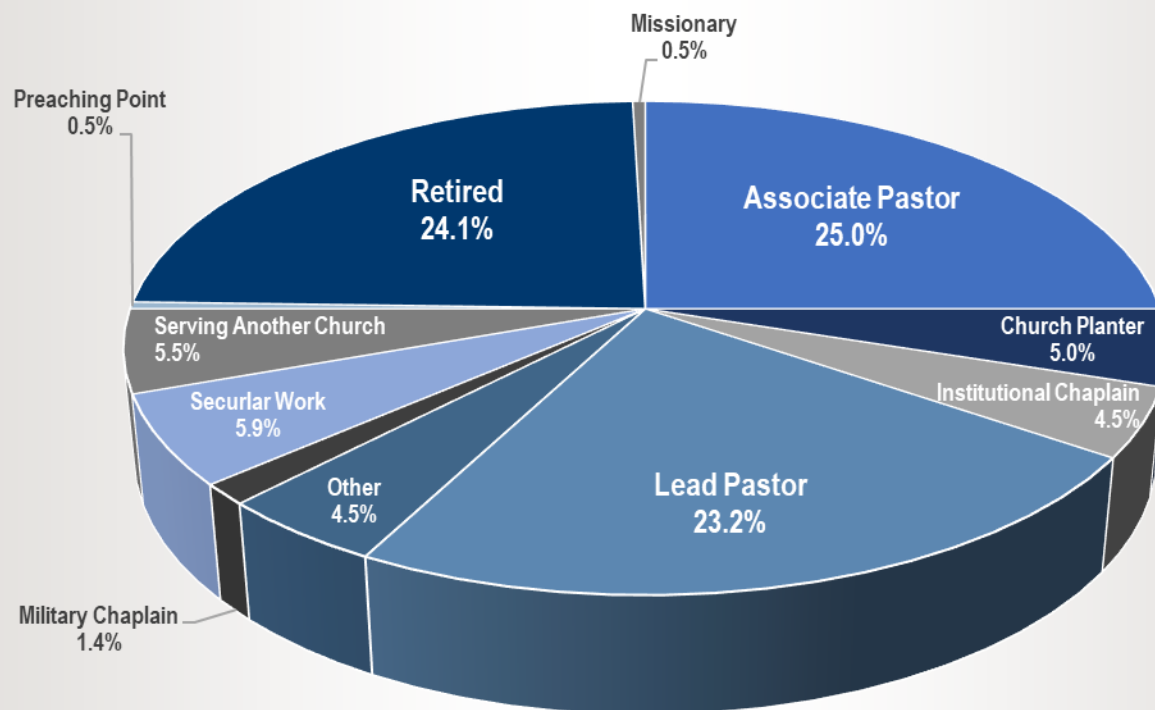
Website: theriverconference.org

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

TRC spans from Canada to Mexico through the Rocky Mountains down through Texas. Many of the fastest growing cities in the US are within TRC's boundaries. We extend over three time zones: Central, Mountain and Pacific. When calls and meetings are scheduled, you will see all three times listed in the information.



MINISTRY ROLES



TRC has 220 pastors serving in various roles throughout their communities. These men and women are dedicated to kingdom work using their gifts to disciple those communities.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

As TRC's pastors are on the front lines, there are others working behind the scenes to help the kingdom and our churches become the hands and feet of Jesus. We have a mixture of Lay Leaders and Elders who give of their time to lead the conference.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A standing Board of Directors of not less than four members, giving due regard to clergy/lay balance are elected by the annual conference. It shall act as the standing Administrative Committee of the conference in the interim between annual conference sessions to care for routine business and items specifically delegated to it by the conference within the limits of the Book of Discipline. The conference Board of Directors shall give strategic planning attention to such ministries as world missions, Christian discipleship, church planting and social action. It may assign individuals, form task forces and create standing committees to carry out the ministries deemed appropriate for the health and growth of the church.

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (MAC)

A standing Ministerial Appointments Committee (MAC) composed of the bishop as chair, the superintendent as vice chair, and one lay member are elected by the annual conference. An annual conference may, if it so desires, increase the number of members by electing an additional elder and an additional lay member. The annual conference may ask the Nominating Committee or the Administrative Committee to prepare nominations for election; however nominations must also be allowed from the floor. Elections may be for three-year terms with provision for rotation and continuity. When a new superintendent is elected, the immediate past superintendent may not serve on the Ministerial Appointments Committee for the succeeding year.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE BOARD (MEG)

A standing MEG, composed of the members of the Ministerial Appointments Committee and additional members as determined by the electing body. Such additional members may be elected to rotating three-year terms, and may not serve more than nine consecutive years. Ex-officio members are excluded from term limits. Total membership of the board shall not exceed twelve nor be less than four members, with due regard to a proper division between laypersons and ministers. When a new superintendent is elected, the immediate past superintendent shall not serve on the board for the succeeding year. The board shall assist in recruiting personnel and shall be responsible to screen candidates for reception into the conference and/or for ordination. TRC has five regional MEGs that work with Local and Conference Ministerial Candidates to help them traverse the ordination requirements. We also have a MEG Coordinator, Tim Auw. He tracks LMC and CMC progress in their ordination journey. If you have a candidate that has expressed a calling to become a pastor, Tim is the person to contact to get them into the process.

FINANCE TEAM

Members of our Finance Team with not less than five members are elected by the annual conference and serve three-year terms. Its duties may include the preparation and supervision of the conference budget. It shall assist the superintendent in stewardship education and the promotion of the General Church Budget throughout the conference. The conference superintendents and treasurer shall be ex-officio members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A standing Nominating Committee approved by the annual conference of not less than six members, giving consideration to equal representation of ministerial and lay members are elected to a one-year term. General considerations in the selection of the society Nominating Committee shall also apply to the annual conference. Representation by districts/regions or other appropriate distinctions shall be determined in advance by the conference body.

PROPERTY TEAM

The Superintendent appoints members of our Property Team to help churches with their buildings and property. They are available for consultations on construction, purchasing property, and upgrading existing buildings. Dan Lincoln is the Property Manager and should be your first call if you plan to renovate, buy, or build. We have a representative in each district to guide you in your property projects. Learning from experience, we discovered that having a Property Team helps alleviate many of the pitfalls of construction and purchasing property. It is TRC's policy to contact Dan Lincoln prior to purchasing a property or renovating an existing property. Together, you will create a plan of action to accomplish your goals.

with the conference property in assessing budgets for building projects, and creative approaches to funding projects. The Advancement team is a resourcing team and will not have the responsibility or authority to approve conference or FMF loans.

TRC GENERAL CALENDAR

Over the course of a year, we have several deadlines that must be met. We make an effort to limit these reports, meetings, and tasks so that you have the time to do God's work in your church and community. However, the things listed below are essential to the denomination and The River Conference.

We included some articles on time management for ministry leaders and pastors. These may prove helpful when developing your daily, weekly, monthly and even yearly calendar. Simply click on the clock to get you to the online article.

TRC MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Ministerial Appointments Committee (MAC)	1st Tuesday
Ministerial Education & Guidance Board (MEG)	1st Thursday
Finance Team	3rd Tuesday of Jan, Mar, May, Sep, Oct, Nov
Property Team	3rd Tuesday
Board of Directors	3rd Thursday
Nominating Committee	4th Thursday of Feb, Mar, Apr, May

There are no committee meetings in July or December

SPECIAL PROGRAMS OFFERED BY TRC

To fulfill our Mission and address the needs of our conference, we are constantly looking for different options to offer our pastors. Currently we have three:

- ♦ **PASTORAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM** This addresses the need for new pastors to gain practical experience by working with one of our local churches for a 12-months.
- ♦ **RIVER INSTITUTE** This is a comprehensive site where people who have a call to the pastorate can fulfill the necessary courses to become and ordained pastor in the Free Methodist denomination.
- ♦ **LIFE GIVING LEADERSHIP** Each TRC District has a Team of Teams comprised of pastors who meet each month and want to learn, love, and lead together.

Details on these programs are explained below. If you are interested in participating in any of these programs, please contact the Conference Office.

PASTORAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM



MISSION To mobilize leaders to fulfill their call through formalized church-based immersive experiences that equips, encourages, and emboldens leaders to serve in the next step of their journey.

DESCRIPTION River Conference Pastoral Residency is a 1-year training and empowering program aimed at leaders seeking broad-based experiences to fulfill their ministry calling. The training occurs at TRC local churches and affiliates, overseen by TRC pastors and leaders. Potential candidates include, but is not limited to, those called to pastoral ministry or church planting. The expectation is that residency graduates would serve at their Host Church, another TRC church, or begin a new work.

The Core Content of the Residency

TRC's Pastoral Residency is based on the medical training model. In medical training models there is a mix of hands on training, didactic teaching, mentoring, and ongoing evaluations. The content and experiences can vary greatly depending upon the calling and the intended practice of the participant. Although there is flexibility in the scheduling, there are some core content that is foundational.

- ♦ Pastoral Formation and Professionalism
- ♦ Church and Organizational Administration
- ♦ Evangelism
- ♦ Leadership and Team Building
- ♦ Discipleship Strategies and Practice
- ♦ Biblical Preaching and Teaching

RIVER INSTITUTE

VISION To be an organization devoted to equipping the leaders of TRC through educational offerings, training opportunities, and ordination coursework to the Glory of God.

MISSION Educate Leaders through conference, resource materials, and coaching; Equip Leaders through specific trainings including church planting training; Empower Leaders who desire ordination in the Free Methodist Church through providing essential courses, ministry assessments, and coaching.

Currently, there are many different offerings for leadership development within TRC.

Due to the tremendous geographic and language challenges, courses can be redundant or inaccessible. The River Institute is a means for organizing all of the coursework, training, and coaching into a single vehicle.



The River Institute organizes the educational offerings so that the essential courses for ordination, are offered regularly in multiple languages using online, hybrid, and face-to-face coursework. Instead of each region trying to find someone to teach History and Polity, the River Institute developed a schedule that is posted online. With the use of technology, we offer courses by the best and brightest all over the conference and denomination. Additionally, for those with language limitations, it is almost impossible to find someone teaching courses in their native language.

The River Conference has partnered with Asbury Theological Seminary to provide a platform for the River Institute. This partnership delivers the theological training. In general, each Institute contains five Modules, and Asbury Seminary will grant a non-degree certificate for completion:

1. FM History and Polity
2. Wesleyan Theology
3. Church Administration
4. Homiletics and Hermeneutics
5. Pastoral Counseling and Self-Care

Expected Learning Outcomes

Wholeness is pursued, not a truncated understanding of the gospel and that the five core freedoms of Free Methodism are grasped - these being:

1. Freedom of all races to worship together in unity.
2. Freedom of women and men to be treated with equal respect regarding the use of their gifts equally in the church, in the home, and in the world.
3. Freedom of the poor to be treated with dignity in the church, and with justice in the world.
4. Freedom of the laity and clergy to be given equal authority and decision-making positions within the church.
5. Freedom of the Holy Spirit to inspire our worship.

Cost

There is a nominal cost to participate in the River Institute of \$1000 to complete the courses listed above.

LIFE GIVING LEADERSHIP



A concept developed by Spiritual Leadership, Inc. (SLI) was adapted to our Life-Giving Leadership groups. In 2019 the Superintendents introduced the District Leaders to the concept of living the L3 culture. They spent 12 months Loving, Learning and Leading together as a District Leader Team. In 2020, each District Leader began the process with the pastors in their region.

SLI's Unique Design comes from the integration of the spiritual principles with leadership principles:

- ◆ There is lots of information around Leadership Principles
- ◆ There is lots of information around Spiritual Principles
- ◆ There is not much information around the combining these two to create SLI's Unique Design on Spiritual Leadership being made up of both of these.
- ◆ This combination fully lived out through the L3 Culture gives birth to Generative Ministry.



SLI is about building generative ministries that grow and multiply. Generative ministries gather energy as they grow and multiply. They generate energy and transfer values through relationships. Generative ministries do not require a constant inflow of energy from external sources, and are about living into and implementing adaptive change.

TRC is kingdom focused. We want to see the communities throughout the conference be transformed through the local church. As you become a part of The River Conference, you will be invited to join the district team of teams.