



# SCHOOL OF ESSENTIAL WISDOM SPRING TERM

## MARCH: The Who, What, and Why of the Methodist Story

March 2:  
*Susannah Wesley*



Presented by  
Mary Jo McCurley

March 9:  
*Charles Wesley*



Presented by  
Mark Pope

March 16:  
*John Wesley in England*



Presented by  
Rev. Dr. Vic Casad

March 23:  
*John Wesley in America*



Presented by  
Rev. Dr. Vic Casad

March 30:  
*Methodist Connectionalism*



Presented by  
Dr. Ted Campbell



## APRIL: Forgiveness

Presented by Charles Hosch, JD

April 13: *A (Reluctant) Look at Forgiveness*

April 20: *Even*

April 27: *Time*

## MAY: Comparative Religions

May 4: *Beginnings of Judaism*

May 11: *Beginnings of Christianity*

May 18: *Beginnings of Islam*

May 25: *Beginnings of Buddhism*

### Did you know?

Past issues of the *Spotlight* newsletter are available on the church website at [www.upumc.org/seniors](http://www.upumc.org/seniors)

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FIND US ONLINE: To view detailed information about our Senior Life Ministry, please visit our website at [www.upumc.org/seniors](http://www.upumc.org/seniors)



Vol. XXIII, Issue 2 | FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2023



## A Good Thing to Know

How do you thank someone who has meant so much not only to our church and the larger community of churches but to me personally? Words seem so inadequate.

Dr. Dede Casad has brought us the School of Essential Wisdom, the Podcast series of interviews with members and staff of the church, the Equip Conference, the Study of How to Leave a Legacy for your loved ones, and so much more.

I have been a student and teacher my entire adult life, but it was in the very narrow fields of "the law" and women's health. It was only after Dede opened my eyes that I realized there is so much out there left to learn and yet to be explored. Dede herself has been a lifelong learner and she sparked in me, and in so many others, that same desire.

You know John Wesley expressed the role of education as being:

- "To restore our rational nature to its proper state;
- To discover every false judgment of our minds;
- To subdue every wrong passion in our hearts;
- To turn the bias from self-will, anger, revenge, and the love of the world, to Resignation, lowliness, meekness and the love of God."

Wesley saw education as a vitally important channel of God's grace, a means by which people could be challenged. Thank you, Dede, for challenging us to restore our rational nature, to discover every false judgment, to subdue every wrong passion, and turn our bias to the love of God. The other day at church, someone said to me, "I hear you are taking Dede's place." My response was: "No one can take Dede's place."

If you would like to join me in honoring Dede for being an inspiration, model, and mentor to us all, please give to the Dr. Dede Casad Education Fund. This fund is administered by the University Park UMC Foundation, to help adults for years to come further their spiritual and religious education.

*Mary Jo McCurley*

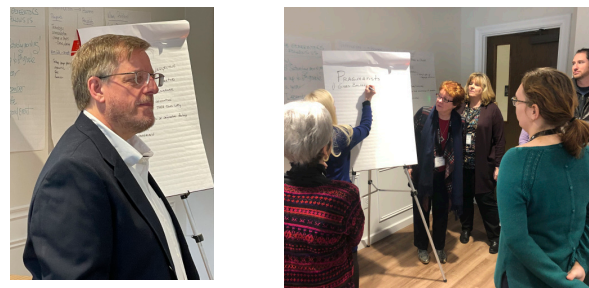
Lay Director Of Senior Ministry



# 4th EQUIP Conference JANUARY 24-25, 2023

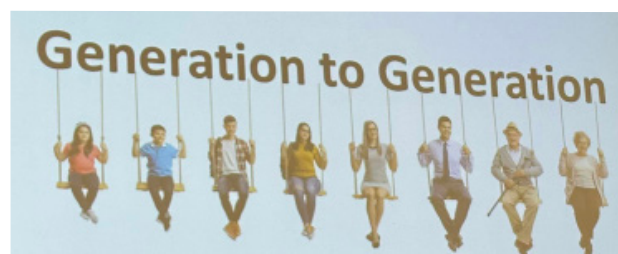
Conferees from around Texas gathered in person at UPUMC and via Zoom for our fourth EQUIP Conference, all with the goal of learning how to design and enhance meaningful programs for senior adults, and how to grow intergenerational lay leadership in our churches. Several attendees were veterans of previous years' EQUIP conferences, and they had a lot to contribute from their years of experience with the programs they had built in their home churches.

Mark Beese, a consultant in team building and leadership training, led the general sessions and designed practical break-out sessions to help participants with "hands-on" activities that could be adapted to their own situations. In addition, we were blessed to have two old friends from the Texas Methodist Foundation, John Mollett and Blair Thompson-White, join us for lunch both days and share with conferees what their recent work at TMF has taught them, and how it we must be able to grow and evolve with the new "Mixed Ecology of Church."



**FEEDBACK:** "Thrilled my pastor shared your email and encouraged me to come." "Thank you again for a very insightful, informative 2 days."

## Intergenerational Sunday School, Jan. 29



On the 5th Sunday of January, ALL the classes joined together in the Activity Center. Everyone enjoyed meeting each other, playing games, and making Valentines for our UP youth who are away at college.



## A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND WELCOME FOR BISHOP RUBEN SAENZ JR.

I am going to claim editorial privilege here and submit this report not as an observer, but as a participant. It was such an honor for the members of the Chancel Choir to sing for Bishop Saenz's installation. The experience proved to be a series of revelations for me and for many others, I am sure.

The first thing I realized was that the Worship Leaders for the service were predominantly lay people. The two lay leaders of each Conference (our own Kim Brannon for the NTC) began the Covenant Service. Ten young lay people from both conferences presented the Signs of Episcopal Ministry (pastoral staff, Bible, stole, etc.) to the Bishop. Six other lay men and women read scripture, prayers, and declarations of investiture. The remaining nine of the Worship Leaders were members of the clergy.

The big takeaway for me was that the LAITY in the Methodist Church has a huge role in accepting and working with its ecclesiastical leaders. After Bishop Saenz affirmed that he is "resolved to serve faithfully and well the congregations and people of the North Texas and Central Texas Conferences as bishop, pastor and friend," WE, the people present, pledged to our new shepherd:

**On behalf of the congregations and people, we receive you, Bishop Saenz, with joy and thanksgiving, as our bishop and pastor. We pledge to you our prayers, our loyalty, and our support as you lead us in the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us all.**

The service was truly the work of the priesthood of all believers.



Another revelation was how dignified and yet approachable our new bishop is. Bishop Saenz's son surprised his family and the congregation with a lovely introduction of his father, whom he called a man of God. The Bishop's sermon and celebration of the Eucharist communicated the depth of his commitment to the word of God and to the sacrament. Before and after the service, the bishop also graciously posed for pictures with UP families and youth.

The music was glorious. Members of the FUMC Fort Worth choir and their Director joined our Chancel Choir. The choral music was accompanied by organ, brass, and percussion. In honor of the occasion, we premiered *Jubilate Deo* written by our own Composer in Residence, Ramon Gonzales.



With Redman Hume, Bishop's standard bearer.



The bishop and Mrs. Saenz, with the Stobaugh family.

# Hebrews

The Sunday afternoon (5-6 pm) Bible Study led by Mike Bennett will continue on March 5 & March 12.