Connectional Relations of the Bagdad/Leander Church

Among the first pioneer preachers serving the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Bagdad, then in the Rio Grande Conference, were two Whipples, Ledbetter in 1863, Gilmore in 1864, Graves in 1865, Peeler in 1867, Alonzo Monk in 1869, and Organ. From its early days, the Bagdad Church was on the Liberty Hill Circuit and served by circuit riders. Some of these were McCarver, Lane, Jones and Price. The following chart shows, as accurately as possible, the connectional relations of this Church from 1879 to the present. In 1866, the Rio Grande Conference became the Northwest Texas Conference.

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Our Church Property

Through the years, many improvements have been made on the Church and the
parsonages. The present Church building with its additions and renovations is the
same one which was moved from Bagdad to its present site in 1901. Following are only
a few of the changes—some major, some minor; but all important in the life and
growth of Methodism in Leander.

- The first organ was purchased in 1881.16

- The value of the Church after it was moved to Leander and remodeled was
$2,383.39.17

- On April 1, 1904, the Church's property at Bagdad was sold for $10 to the
Trustees of the Bagdad Cemetery. Signing this deed were Trustees of the
Leander Methodist Episcopal Church, South, J. E. Humble, A. S. Mason, J. W.
Hamilton, T. N. Bryson, J. H. Vaughn, J. W. Potts, Gordon Bell, J. M. Hamil-
ton and A. C. Miller.20

- The Board of Trustees, on January 6, 1910, bought for $1 from W. R. Walker
"a parcel of land lying West of the Methodist Church in Leander being Lot
No. 6A as shown on plat of Walker's Addition to the townsite of Leander . . .
said Board of Trustees being now composed of A. S. Mason, John Munro, John
W. Hamilton, T. N. Bryson, R. W. Atkinson and J. E. Humble.21This was the
lot which is behind the Church.

- In 1913, a tabernacle was built on the South side of the Church. Many
revivals, meetings, etc., were held there until it was torn down in the early
thirties.22

- On June 30, 1921, the Church bought Lots Nos. 5 & 6 (with house) of the
Walker's Addition from J. F. Carlton for $2,000 to be used for a parsonage.
Trustees signing the deed were A. S. Mason, J. E. Humble and Lee Noble.23

- The Primary Sunday School room was added to the Church in 1923 at a cost of
$645.08. Improvements were made on the parsonage in the amount of $383.39.24

- In 1927 the Church was painted and the steeple straightened.25

- Lot No. 5 and the North 30 feet of Lot No. 6 (with house) were sold on
November 13, 1947, to W. B. and Maud Hoyle for $3,500. Trustees at that
time were C. R. Miller, C. F. Faubion, Bert Giddens, Mrs. H. H. Powell,
Clark P. Faubion, George R. Dorroh and Lois F. Giddens.26

- In 1948 a house was purchased and moved to the present parsonage location
North of the Church at a cost of $3,297.27

- A new floor was put down in the sanctuary in 1951 at a cost of $436 and a
Communion table was given by Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Hanson in memory of George R.
Dorroh.28

- A curtain was put up across the rear of the Church in 1952 making two large
classrooms for juniors and intermediates.29
- In 1953 an extra room was added to the parsonage at a cost of $415.28 An altar
set for the Communion table was bought by the Methodist Youth Fellowship.29

- In 1955 a kitchen and restroom was built onto the Church building.30

- In April, 1957, some used pews were bought and installed at a cost of $1,200.31

- The Church and parsonage was painted and an organ was bought for the sanctuary
in 1960.32

- In 1961, the kitchen was partitioned into a classroom and pastor's study. The
sanctuary and additions were paneled.33

- The Church was rewired and the parsonage remodeled in 1962. The wooden cross
was also added to the chancel, given by the C. B. Johnson family in memory of
Charlie B. Johnson. The lights for the cross were given by Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd
Bonnet in memory of their infant son.34

- In 1965 the parking space in front of the Church was paved.35

- In 1968 abandoned buildings of the St. Matthews Church north of Austin on old
Hwy. 183 were purchased for $1,200 and added to our Church at a cost of
$2,744 as a Fellowship Hall, kitchen, restroom and classrooms. The Church was
painted, walks and ramp built, carpet installed and old shrubs replaced in
1969. On February 22, 1970, a Consecration Service for this new complex was
held followed by a covered-dish dinner.36

- A new organ was bought for the sanctuary in 1970.37

- In 1973, the Southeast door of the sanctuary was closed in.38

- The United Methodist Women had the Church and parsonage painted in 1976.39

- In 1977, the United Methodist Women had the window between the sanctuary and
hall removed and replaced with paneling in the sanctuary and cabinets added
in the hall as well as in the restroom and the choir room.40

- In March, 1978, a new studio console piano was given to the Church for use in
the sanctuary by Mrs. Bill Faubion (Ada Mae) and Mrs. R. B. Hall, Jr. (Clara)
in memory of their husbands and parents.41

- In the summer of 1978, a fence was built on the south side of the Church
property and a parking lot opened at the back of the Church. Most of this
work was done by Bud Harris and other volunteers.42

- Insulation was put in over the Fellowship Hall, pastor's study, classroom and
office in February, 1979. Also, screen doors bought by United Methodist Women
were installed on four outside doors.43

* All of the Church's property was originally owned by Sara J. Walker, who "owned
Lots Nos. 5 & 6 with other property before it was subdivided into Walker's
addition to the town of Leander." She sold the 12,000 square feet to our Church
in 1903 and then in 1907 sold Lots Nos. 5, 4, 4½, 5, 6, 6½, 7, 8, 9 & 10 to
W. R. Walker. W. R. Walker sold Lots Nos. 5 & 6 to J. F. Carlton in 1908 and
Lot No. 6½ to our Church in 1910.44 Then we bought Lots Nos. 5 & 6 from J. F.
Carlton in 1921 and sold Lot No. 5 and the North 30 feet of Lot No. 6 in 1947,
leaving us with the present property.
Story of Our Church Organizations

The Bagdad/Leander Church has had many organizations through the years—Sunday School classes, Epworth Leagues, Woman's Missionary Society, Workers' Council, Board of Stewards, Woman's Society of Christian Service, Wesley Service Guild, Methodist Youth Fellowship, Choirs, Administrative Board, United Methodist Women, Council on Ministries, United Methodist Youth Fellowship, Trustees, Council/Board, Lay Leaders, and many committees, task forces, etc. Following are just a few names, dates and facts about some of these.

- The Sunday School work was organized in the early 1860's as a union effort between the Presbyterians and Methodists. Such men as Joseph Babcock, James Branch and J. D. Speegle served as Superintendents until a Methodist school was organized in the late 1870's with J. F. Heinatz as Superintendent, followed by J. R. Faubion, A. S. Mason and L. W. Faubion. In 1898, L. F. Chapman took over as Sunday School Superintendent and served until November, 1920. George R. Dorroh then became Superintendent and served until 1945. Lois Giddens, Derrell Giddens and J. W. Hanson all served short times; then in 1953, Albert Bredthauer became the Superintendent followed by L. L. Wynn, J. T. Watts and the present Mrs. Steve S. West (Charlotte).

- The Epworth League was active at various times during the Church's early years. Some of the young people connected with this were Joe Branch, Lelia Faubion, Mary Heinatz, Lola Faubion, Frank Hamilton, Sadie Bower, Lawrence May, Arthur Woolsey, Dora Heinatz, Kate Faubion, J. T. Perkins, Ida Hall, Fannie Dorroh, Ethel Sherman, Bee Giddens, Mack Sampley, Gus Craven, Eunice Craven, Clark Faubion, Ruth Nobles, Jeral Stockton.

- A report from the Woman's Missionary Society in 1929 stated "Twenty active members the most of which gave their Sunday eggs for eight Sundays, which amounted to $37.21, by Treasurer, Mrs. C. Manro."

- Some of the pianists and organists were Bessie Holt, Lyda Wiley Giddens, Fannie Dorroh Mason, Maude Humble Mohle, Lucile Chapman, Nattie Giddens, Pearl Hamilton, Irene Knopp, Frankie Poole, Isbell Poole, Ethel Faubion, Bessie Dorroh, Marjorie Dorroh, Anna Rae Borho, Don Simmons, Barbara Giddens, Jean Teltow, Frances Giddens, Doris Powell, Hugh Butler, Bobby Lane, Kittie Huggins, Edna Harris, Jan Smart, Mae Cottrell.

- Leading the singing and directing the choir have been W. B. Mohle, Lois Giddens, Hugh Butler, Bobby Lane, C. Earle Lewis, Stephanie Lacy, Ann Fitz (Children's Choir), Richard Schulze.

- A few of our Lay Leaders have been L. F. Chapman, C. P. Faubion, M. H. Strickland, Clark Faubion, Lois Giddens, L. L. Wynn, R. L. Lane, A. F. Bredthauer, Curtis O'Neal, Bill Cottrell.

The Spiritual Life of Our Church

In addition to the many dedicated Christians who have worked in this Church through the years, at least four ministers were produced—J. H. Lauck, Claude Ledger, 
C. W. Hall and Don Simons. Others who attended our Church at various times and have
gone into the ministry are Willard Sherman, Gus Craven and Elvin Simpson.50

Our records show that revivals and preparatory training classes were held
regularly at the Leander Methodist Church. Many Vacation Bible Schools and special
worship services at Christmas and Easter have been recorded—many of them in coopera-
tion with other churches, especially the Presbyterian. Many fellowship activities
are also reported, such as covered-dish meals, Christmas Tree celebrations, Easter
egg hunts, a variety show and "womanless wedding" in 1950 and a "Homecoming" on
April 8, 1956. Our building has served the community in many ways. A couple of
times when the school was short of space, they have used the Leander Methodist
Church for some classes. Since Scouting first came to our community a little more
than ten years ago, several troops have used our Fellowship Hall for meetings.
Presently, two Cub Scout troops and one Girl Scout troop meet every week here. The
Leander Senior Citizens also have their noon meals five times a week in our Fellow-
ship Hall as part of their nutrition program.

In the early 1970’s, the Leander United Methodist Church began to see many of
its older dedicated members become unable to carry the load as they had for so many
years. There didn't seem to be enough younger people who were willing to take up
where these leaders left off. Thus began several years of struggle, spiritually
and financially, in the life of this old Church. A Resurgence Mission in 1978 led
by our present pastor, Gary E. Gibson, has done much to revitalize our spiritual
life and membership is increasing.

**Our Current Organization 51**

Officers and other leaders this Centennial year, 1979, are as follows:

Bishop - J. Chess Lovern

District Superintendent - Ralph H. Seiler

Pastor Gary E. Gibson

Choir Director - Richard Schulze; Organists - Edena Harris, Kittie Huggins;
Pianists - Kittie Huggins, Jan Smart, Mae Cottrell

Church Secretary - Eva Schulze

Custodians - Jo & Kin Harris
Sunday School Superintendent - Charlotte West; Teachers - Nina Gibson, Alvina Huntington, Dave Sidney, Mae Cottrell, Sue Sidney, Joy Alley, Gary Gibson, Bill Cottrell, Curtis O'Neal

United Methodist Women: President - Sue Sidney; Vice-President - Eva Schulze; Secretary - Alvina Huntington; Treasurer - Clara Hall; Christian Global Concerns - Fay Unger; Christian Personhood - Lucile Shows; Supportive Community - Jean Calvin; Membership - Ada Mae Faubion; Program Resources - Beulah Long; Ways & Means - Maloy Williams; Nominating Committee - Essa Wiley, Murel Harris, Beulah Long

United Methodist Youth: Triune of Presidents - Steve West, Marcette Manley, Crystal Schulze; Secretary-Treasurer - Robin Schulze; Sponsor - Jan Smart

Council/Board: Chairperson - Clara Hall; Vice-Chairperson - Leo Unger; Recording Secretary - Fay Unger; Treasurer - Richard Schulze; Lay Leader, - Bill Cottrell; Lay Member to Annual Conference - Clara Hall, Alternate - Fay Unger; President United Methodist Women - Sue Sidney; Youth Coordinator - Jan Smart; Youth Representatives - Marcette Manley, Crystal Schulze, Steve West; Representative to District Board of Missions - Jack Richardson; Trier of Appeals - Leo Unger; Membership Secretary - Ada Mae Faubion; Health & Welfare Representative - Lucile Shows; Chairpersons of Committees - Curtis O'Neal; Chairperson Pastor-Parish Relations Committee - Leon Unger; Chairperson Finance Committee - Curtis O'Neal; Chairpersons of Commissions: Education - Jean Calvin, Evangelism - Marilyn Kinsey, Missions - Jack Richardson, Stewardship - Charlotte West, Worship - Norm Huntington; Members-at-Large - Lois Giddens, Bob Harris, Bud Harris, Beulah Long, Glen Long, Eva Schulze, Katy Stockton, Waymon Stockton; Honorary Members - Hub Powell, Valva Proffitt.

Trustees - Curtis O'Neal (Chairperson), Grady Marchison, Steve S. West, Clara Hall, Bud Harris, Glen Long (Vice-Chairperson), Bob Harris, Winston Williams, Maloy Williams (Secretary)

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee - Leo Unger (Chairperson), Beulah Dooley, Clara Hall, Curtis O'Neal, Eva Schulze

Nominations Committee - Ada Mae Faubion, Bud Harris, Charlotte West, Dave Sidney, Katy Stockton

Finance Committee - Curtis O'Neal (Chairperson), Bob Harris, Glen Long, Tom Powell, Dave Sidney, Ex-officio - Bill Cottrell, Richard Schulze, Charlotte West

Education Commission - Jean Calvin (Chairperson), Joy Alley, Bev Garity, Bea Richardson, Jan Smart

Evangelism Commission - Marilyn Kinsey (Chairperson), Bill Cottrell, Ada Mae Faubion, Terry Garity, Clara Hall

Missions Commission - Jack Richardson (Chairperson), Jean Lege, Baulah Long, Katy and Waymon Stockton, Fay Unger, Maloy Williams

Stewardship Commission - Charlotte West (Chairperson), Nancy Faubion, Richard Schulze, Lucile Shows, Dave Sidney

Worship Commission - Norm Huntington (Chairperson), Mae Cottrell, Lois Giddens, Sue Sidney

Centennial Committee - Baulah Dooley (Chairperson), Ada Mae Faubion, Nancy Faubion, Bev Garity, Lois Giddens, Eva Schulze
Sources of Information

Most of the information for this History was taken from records collected and kept by C. F. Faubion; his son, Bill Faubion; and Bill's wife, Ada Mae Faubion.

Other sources of information were:

History of Leander, Mrs. Malcolm Naumann

History of Liberty Hill Methodist Church, Margaret Cates Bryson

History of Methodism in Texas, Homer S. Thrall

The Story of American Methodism, Frederick A. Norwood

Conference Journals

Church records (roll books, quarterly conference reports, minutes of boards and other organizations, etc.)

The following information is recorded in the Deed Records of Williamson County, Texas:

Deed dated June 21, 1877, filed July 6, 1877, recorded Vol. 18, Page 2628
Deed dated April 21, 1879, filed May 12, 1879, recorded Vol. 21, Page 626
Deed dated May 18, 1901, filed November 8, 1901, recorded Vol. 100, Page 413
Deed dated April 1, 1904, filed October 15, 1904, recorded Vol. 112, Page 336
Deed dated November 4, 1907, filed March 2, 1908, recorded Vol. 125, Page 393
Deed dated September 21, 1908, filed January 29, 1909, recorded Vol. 131, Page 231
Deed dated January 6, 1910, filed January 11, 1910, recorded Vol. 135, Page 239
Deed dated June 30, 1921, filed July 2, 1921, recorded Vol. 201, Page 258

Rev. B. C. Schmidt, First United Methodist Church, Austin

Lois Giddens, Janie Morgan, Essa Wiley, Boulah Wright, Nancy Faubion, Clara Hall

2. William Faubion and son, Charles Franklin Faubion, Volumes I-IV of ledgers kept 1884-1953 in the possession of Ada Mae Faubion, Leander, Texas.

3. Deed dated June 21, 1877, filed July 6, 1877, recorded Vol. 18, Page 2628, in the Deed Records of Williamson County, Texas.

4. Deed dated April 21, 1879, filed May 12, 1879, recorded Vol. 21, Page 626, in the Deed Records of Williamson County, Texas.

5. William Faubion and son, Charles Franklin Faubion, op. cit.


8. William Faubion and son, Charles Franklin Faubion, op. cit.

9. Deed dated May 18, 1901, filed November 8, 1901, recorded Vol. 100, Page 413, in the Deed Records of Williamson County, Texas.

10. William Faubion and son, Charles Franklin Faubion, op. cit.


12. Ibid.


14. Ibid.

15. Conference Journals of the Methodist Church and local Church records.

16. Church records (roll books, quarterly conference reports, minutes of boards and other organizations, etc.), Leander United Methodist Church, Leander, Texas.

17. William Faubion and son, Charles Franklin Faubion, op. cit.

18. Deed dated April 1, 1904, filed October 15, 1904, recorded Vol. 112, Page 336, in the Deed Records of Williamson County, Texas.


20. William Faubion and son, Charles Franklin Faubion, op. cit.

21. Deed dated June 30, 1921, filed July 2, 1921, recorded Vol. 201, Page 258, in the Deed Records of Williamson County, Texas.

22. William Faubion and son, Charles Franklin Faubion, op. cit.

23. Church records, op. cit.


25. William Faubion and son, Charles Franklin Faubion, op. cit.

26. Church records, op. cit.
29. Church records, op. cit.
30. William Elmo Faubion and wife, Ada Mae Faubion, Records kept from 1953 to the present in the possession of Ada Mae Faubion, Leander, Texas.
31. Ibid.
32. Ibid.
33. Ibid.
34. Church records, op. cit.
35. Ibid.
36. William Elmo Faubion and wife, Ada Mae Faubion, op. cit.
37. Church records, op. cit.
38. William Elmo Faubion and wife, Ada Mae Faubion, op. cit.
39. Church records, op. cit.
40. Ibid.
41. William Elmo Faubion and wife, Ada Mae Faubion, op. cit.
42. Ibid.
43. Church records, op. cit.
44. Deed dated May 18, 1901, op. cit.
45. Deed dated November 4, 1907, filed March 2, 1908, recorded Vol. 125, Page 393, in the Deed Records of Williamson County, Texas.
47. Deed dated January 6, 1910, op. cit.
48. Deed dated June 30, 1921, op. cit.
49. Church records, op. cit.
50. William Elmo Faubion and wife, Ada Mae Faubion, op. cit.
51. Church records, op. cit.
As stated earlier, the town of Bagdad was surveyed and houses constructed in 1854 and a Methodist Episcopal Church, South was organized about 1860. The church gatherings could have taken place much earlier as many of the Trustees of the Church, who are mentioned in the deed of 1877, settled in the area as early as the 1840s. Records show these names and dates: James W. Branch, 1846; John F. Heinatz, 1853; John Faubion, 1858. 1

The Liberty Hill Methodist Church, less than ten miles north, was organized in 1854 2 and some of the same pastors served both churches. No records of membership or number enrolled are available for these early churches until the 1870s.

The Founders of the Leander Methodist Church are not immediately identifiable, unless the Trustees of 1877, who bought the land, can be classified as such. Some of these men lived in the town of Liberty Hill. Wm. Vaught had a store in Liberty Hill. John T. Bryson was one of the Founders of the Liberty Hill Methodist Church. Whittenburg and Gannaway lived at Florence, Texas. The area may have been under the supervision of a set of Trustees for a specified Methodist Conference.

UPDATE FROM 1979

Reverend Melanie Abernathy became the pastor of the Leander United Methodist Church on June 1, 1979 in time to help the congregation celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Church in the present building. She is the first woman to serve as pastor in this historic church and as a young minister, just out of Seminary School she replaced Reverend Gay Gibson. In June 1980 she was reappointed to the same parish.

Mrs. Abernathy and her husband, Miles Abernathy live in the church parsonage located next door to the church. He is an engineer and works in Austin, about 20 miles away, and commutes daily.

The membership of the church is currently two hundred and three. 3 According to a long time member the membership has varied from one hundred and twenty five up to the present number but has consistently been a strong church all through the years. 4

1. Lewis Publishing Co. History of Texas, 1893 pp 789
2. Bryson, Margaret, History of Liberty Hill Methodist Ch. 1947 p 1
3 & 4 Interviews with Ada Mae Faubion and Lois Gidden, 10-10-80
LEANDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OFFICERS

1980 ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Chairperson - Dave Sidney
Vice-Chairperson - Leo Unger
Recording Secretary - LaDelle Tuley
Treasurer - Bev Garity
Lay Leader - Eva Schulze
Lay Member to Annual Conference - Clara Hall
President United Methodist Women - Sue Sidney
Youth Coordinator - Jan Smart
Trier Of Appeals - Leo Unger
Membership Secretary - Ada Mae Faubion
Chairperson Board of Trustees - Curtis O'Neal
Chairperson Pastor-Parish Relations Committee - Jack Richardson
Chairperson Finance Committee - Jack Richardson

Chairpersons of Work Areas:
Education - Eva Schulze
Evangelism - Ron and Linda McClendon
Missions - Maloy Williams
Stewardship - Clara Hall
Worship - Norm Huntington

Members -at-large:
Lois Giddens
Bud Harris
Katy Stockton
Waymon Stockton
Al Tuley

Honorary Members:
Hub Powell
Velva Proffitt

COMMITTEES

Board of Trustees:
'80 - Clara Hall
'80 - Bud Harris
'80 - Glen Long
'81 - Bob Harris
'81 - Winston Williams
'81 - Maloy Williams
'82 - Curtis O'Neal, Chairperson
'82 - Beulah Long
'82 - Miles Abernathy
Nominations Committee:
'80 - Charlotte West
'81 - Dave Sidney
'81 - Katy Stockton
'82 - Richard Schulze
'82 - Norm Huntington

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee:
'80 = Clara Hall
'80 - Leo Unger
'81 - Beulah Dooley
'81 - Eva Schulze
'82 - Terry Garity
'82 - Jack Richardson, Chairperson

Finance Committee:
Virginia Bradley, Chairperson
Bob Harris
Sam Powell
Jack Richardson
Dave Sidney
Ex-officio - Eva Schulze,
Bev Garity
Clara Hall

Stewardship Work Area:
Clara Hall, Chairperson
Nancy Faubion - Congregational Life; Food Committee
Dave Sidney
Leo Unger

Education Work Area:
Eva Schulze, Chairperson
Terry and Bev Garity
Sue Sidney
Jan Smart
Charlotte West

Evangelism Work Area:
Ron and Linda McClendon, Chairperson
Terry Garity
Sue Sidney

Missions Work Area:
Maloy Williams, Chairperson
Jean Lege
Bea Richardson
Waymon and Katy Stockton
Fay Unger

Worship Work Area:
Norm Huntington, Chairperson
Murel Harris
Ron McClendon
Richard Schulze
Sue Sidney