Newly formed in 2015, the Rio Texas Conference unified the former Rio Grande and Southwest Texas Conferences. We are a bilingual, multicultural conference in south central Texas, encompassing over 400 miles of border with Mexico, the Gulf Coast, the beautiful Hill Country, and multiple urban areas, including Austin and San Antonio. We are comprised of seven districts and over 370 local churches. Our bishop, Robert Schnase, is a prolific writer whose work has impacted a whole generation of church leaders across the country and the world. Under his leadership, we strive to multiply the witness of the United Methodist Church as we make disciples for Jesus Christ. In our ministry, we value Christ-centeredness, fruitfulness, excellence, collaboration, and accountability.

Ministry Opportunities
• Starting new churches, satellites, fresh expressions, and other creative means of reaching people for Christ.
• Justice and outreach: Border issues and immigration, high level of commitment to clergy sexual ethics and safe sanctuaries, walking with the vulnerable and marginalized.
• Strong Hispanic/Latino heritage and population
• Fast-growing urban areas and beautiful small-town rural areas
• Campus ministries, senior pastor, associate pastor, & solo pastor positions

Ministry Settings
• Major metropolitan areas: Austin, San Antonio, the Rio Grande Valley
• Hill Country, West Texas, Coastal Bend
• Numerous universities & college campuses

We are a young annual conference in one of the fastest growing areas of the country. We are interested in courageous ministry ideas and innovative outreach with an ever-changing world.

Rev. Karen Horan, Director of Mission Vitality Center
khoran@riotexas.org
Eligibility

Students who have successfully completed all of the requirements for Contextual Education I and are returning to Candler are eligible to participate. Students on academic probation or who have a hold on their Candler financial account are not eligible. Students participating in other summer programs at Candler or other outside settings are not eligible. Participants’ full time and attention must be given to the forty hours per week for ten weeks.

Requirements:

1. Serve forty (40) hours a week in a supervised parish ministry setting for ten weeks during the summer.
2. Participate in a two-day orientation seminar to be held May 15-16, 2019 and a two-day reflection seminar to be held during August (term), 15-16, 2019.
3. Participate in an online reflection group throughout the summer semester.
4. Participate in weekly meetings with a Ministry Internship Supervisor at your church. Complete readings and written assignments as directed by the Faculty Internship Supervisor.

Participating Students will receive:

1. An $9000 grant will be awarded as follows only upon successful completion of the program: $2000 following the May orientation, $3500 for the Fall 2019 semester and $3500 for the Spring 2020 semester. Please Note: (If a student is within $1,999 of the maximum threshold for scholarships and loans for the 2018-2019 academic year ($48,406) their summer stipend will be processed as a taxable payroll check which will require the submission of a W-9 and direct deposit request form.)
2. Three academic credit hours that will count towards the Fall 2019 semester.
3. The opportunity for deeper formation in the practice of ministry.
4. On-site supervision and mentoring and intentional reflection group experience.

Application Instructions:

1. Write a 1-2 page essay on why you have chosen to apply for this internship, your vocational goals, your particular skills for ministry or the things you would like to practice/experience, the specific issues of ministry that you intend to explore, and how this will deepen your leadership ability. (Essays should be written in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1” margins on all four sides).
2. Submit your essay along with your resume no later than 4:00 p.m., February 28, 2019 to Carmen Toussaint in the Office of Contextual Education at
carmen.toussaint@emory.edu.

3. Applicants will be contacted by congregational leadership as a part of the process of selection. Interviews will be conducted beginning early March 2019.

4. Questions may be directed to Carmen Toussaint, Senior Program Coordinator, Office of Contextual Education. If you need to meet with Dr. Elliott, Director of Internships, please email carmen.toussaint@emory.edu to set up an appointment.