

The United Methodist Church Foundation
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Latino President of United Methodist Church Foundation Follows a Family Tradition

Nashville, TN – When Oscar Luis Garza of Humble, Texas, was nominated as president of the United Methodist Church Foundation (UMCF) Board of Directors for 2010, his acceptance matched his hometown's name. Humility indeed permeates the commitment of this United Methodist leader to the ministry of administration.

Garza is believed to be the first Latino to lead the board of a United Methodist foundation. He serves as a leader in his home congregation of Cypress Trails UMC in Spring, Texas, and on the Core Leadership Team of the Texas Annual Conference. A Tax Director at Deloitte Tax, LLP in Houston, attorney Garza shares his time and skills with the denomination generously.

The love of United Methodism runs deep through his family tree. His father, Oscar O. Garza IV served as treasurer of the Rio Grande Annual Conference and currently serves as treasurer of Metodistas Asociados Representando la Causa de Hispano-Americanos of The United Methodist Church (MARCHA). The senior Garza was an original member of the General Council on Ministries GCOM (1972-80) and later served on the board of the General Council on Finance & Administration (GCFA) (1980-88). Oscar Luis followed in his father's footsteps serving on the Audit & Review Committee of GCFA (1992-2000).

His mother, Rosa Elva Garza, has served her local congregation, district and conference in many ways and was a director of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) for eight years.

"Oscar is the quintessential servant leader," says Byrd Bonner, executive director of the UMC Foundation. "He brings an energy and passion to policy decisions of our board that is contagious. He loves the Church." Oscar Luis brings a unique blend of his deep faith and his expertise as an attorney working for a major accounting firm to the board table. With his work, including management of a team in India and clients in London, he also brings a global perspective to his position as board president.

Garza follows Rev. Don Underwood, senior pastor of Christ UMC, Plano, Texas, as president. Underwood chaired the Foundation board 2006-2009. "It has been my great pleasure to work with Oscar for several years on the Foundation board. From his first meeting he was engaged and thoughtful. His leadership qualities are extraordinary and he was a natural choice to be the next President of the United Methodist Church Foundation. I have no doubt that he will lead the Foundation to future great accomplishments," says Underwood.

GCFA and the UMC Foundation celebrate the election of this great leader of our Church as board president and are grateful to be a continuing part of this great family's tradition of service.

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The United Methodist Church Foundation is recognized as a financial steward building a financial legacy for the making of disciples of Jesus Christ.

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