

## **Mission Moment**

**March 1, 2020**

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. was pushing 30 years old and running a flourishing jewelry business in Rio Grande City, Texas, when he felt a call to United Methodist ministry. It was a call he didn't want to hear. He had a wife, young children and a custom-built home. But, he eventually answered the ministry call, selling the home and business and crowding his family into a Dallas apartment so he could attend Perkins School of Theology.

Bishop Saenz has been in full-time ministry since his 1997 seminary graduation, leading two South Texas churches, serving as a top conference staff member and becoming a sought-after speaker on church growth and Hispanic ministry. In 2016, Saenz was the first of three bishops elected by the South Central Jurisdictional Conference. He drew the vast Great Plains Conference as his assignment.

Saenz acknowledges that his election was due in part to concern that the denomination must do more to reach the growing Hispanic demographic. But, "We are called to be episcopal leaders for all people, not just the Hispanic community," he said.

Through the Episcopal Fund, United Methodists support the work of visionary leaders like Saenz. Through the Episcopal Fund, United Methodist congregations support the important work of their bishops. Thank you!