

Bishop Saenz Dines and Speaks with UMMen at Prairie Rivers District Gathering



District Superintendent Lance Clay introduces our Bishop



Bishop Saenz gives encouragement to the gathering



GI Trinity's *Cross Point* Praise Band shares worship music



Dist UMM Pres John Forbes Jr welcomes all to GI First Faith

On September 24, 2018, 130 men and women gathered at Grand Island First-Faith UM Church to enjoy a delicious meal served by church members and hosted by Prairie Rivers District staff and UMMen officers. The elements of the program are summarized in the photos shown above. The hospitality and fellowship of the evening were wonderful.

Ruben Saenz, Jr., Bishop of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference (comprising Nebraska and Kansas) spoke words of encouragement to the group. The primary topic involved getting men involved in the mission of the church:

- Often men like to be alone, which makes involvement challenging, but the need for involvement is still evident.
- Seeing Christian faith as an adventure can be of interest to men. Surely Jesus is the Great Adventurer – see Philippians 2:5-11. Step out of the “known” and into the “unknown”. Mission trips accomplish many things.
- Working with men: men need time to steep in the environment before opening up, befriend them, listen to them, eat with them, find ways to serve them, and then you can share your faith with them.
- In tight spots, focus on the passion of Christ – appreciate his love for us. People need to see the person of Jesus behind the church. Help men meet Jesus the man, not Jesus the religion.
- Help men live out the mission alongside them. Discipleship is a contact sport!