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<http://www.lcmdenton.org/>

As the pandemic continues, LuMin Denton has experienced a variety of changes in its ministry format over the past year. In Fall 2020 through February 2021, we continued to meet on Zoom for Bible Study and Fellowship. March and April 2021, we met in person outdoors at the Denton Wesley Foundation, which is on the UNT campus. The 2020-2021 school year ended with a masked, outdoor dinner at Pastor Jim's house. At this end of year dinner we celebrated with and said goodbye to 4 graduating students, with 2 students returning for Fall 2021.

During summer 2021 UNT restarted the new student orientation on-campus visits, however UNT did not include Student Organization Fairs. This put LuMin Denton in a precarious situation since Student Organization Fairs are where we have historically generated interest from new students. Since this was not an option, we made a few changes to our ministry patterns for Fall 2021. First, we hired our 2 returning students to act as on-campus inviters. Their role has been to put up flyers, invite individuals, and be a public college student face to our ministry.

Second, instead of our closed Thursday meals and Bible Studies, we have opened our meals and Bible Studies to everyone in a very public way. On Thursdays between 6-7 pm we grill outside the Denton Wesley Foundation and we serve free hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chips, and cookies to anyone who passes by. This has allowed us to have very good conversations about faith and life with many college students. We regularly serve 30-50 people (mostly students and the occasional staff and faculty member). For the Spring 2022 semester we moved our Bible Study to Sundays, 7 pm and adopted a worship/bible study format that regularly includes communion and conversation around the lectionary text for the day.

Third, on Wednesdays from 12-2 Pastor Jim sits in front of the UNT Union with a sign that reads, "Rant to me about religion, I'll listen." This results in 1-2 conversations per week with students who have had negative experiences with religion either in their hometowns or on campus. As the meme said, "Sometimes the best evangelism is letting people know you are a Christian and not being a jerk about it."

Fourth, we are intentionally working to develop relationships with other congregations in the area. LuMin Denton is incredibly grateful for the many years of support from Christ the Servant, Denton and the more recent support of Faith, Flower Mound.

We know that for LuMin Denton to continue to have a positive impact in the lives of students and others within the University communities in Denton that we need to expand our regular supporters to include other congregations, individuals, and alumni/ae. To help foster these new relationships, I am available for supply preaching, guest preaching, and leading forums as availability allows.

Respectfully submitted,
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(he, him, his)
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