



### **Bio for Dr. Mark Welshimer**

Dr. Mark Welshimer serves as the Lead Pastor of Magnolia UMC, a growing suburb on the northwest side of Houston, Texas. He is a native Texan from El Paso and made a faith decision at an early age. At Texas Tech University, he became a member of The United Methodist Church through the Wesley Foundation, and served at Ralls FUMC and Brownfield FUMC. He received his calling into the ministry as a summer camp counselor at Sky Ranch Camp.

Dr. Welshimer is committed to lifelong learning and has served in diverse churches. He has earned a BBA from Texas Tech, a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from SMU Perkins. He has served as the Evangelism Pastor at St. Peter's UMC in Katy, one of the fastest growing congregations in Methodism, as well as a pastor at FUMC Fulshear, FUMC Houston, FUMC Waco, and a Chaplain at Houston Methodist Hospital.

Connectional ministry in mission and relationship are at the heart of his ministry. The ministries Dr. Welshimer has served have all grown with enthusiastic spirituality and developed with grace based missiology. Dr. Welshimer has led many stateside and international mission trips, with trips to Mexico, Honduras, Belize, New Orleans, El Paso, London, and Jamaica. He has also helped lead educational trips to Israel, Jordan, London, Greece, and Rome. As an ordained Elder, he serves on many Texas Annual Conference committees, boards, and ministries including the Texas Southern University Wesley Foundation, the Methodist Children's Home in Waco, the Religion and Race Committee, the Advanced Pastoral Leadership Cohort IV, the Society of Samaritans mission organization in Magnolia, the Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, The Walk to Emmaus Community, and is a mentor for candidates discerning a call to ministry. Dr. Welshimer has a vision of reaching people where they are with relational connectivity, grace, and truth. He has a passion to make disciples for Christ by serving all people with practical grace, unconditional love, relevant faith, and invitational empowerment as he is intentional about encouraging vital Christian community.

He and his wife Sara, also raised in El Paso, have been married for 17 years. Sara is a teacher of the Distinguished Scholars Program and the Chair of the English Department at Houston Christian High School. They have three children, an annoyed cat, and a cute dog. He enjoys traveling and swimming with his kids, cooking with his wife, playing golf, and running.