

U.M. Daily

33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference

Morning Worship

Thursday, June 15, 2017

8:30 AM

Morning Worship: Worship began with three songs, “This Little Light of Mine,” “Michael Row Your Boat Ashore,” and “Kumbayah.” Rev. Ed Hansen shared the history of the Strength for the Journey Retreat, a ministry for individuals living with HIV/AIDS; he then led the Call to Worship and Rev. Brent Ross offered an opening prayer for the Strength for the Journey ministries. Pastor Won-Seok Yuh read Luke 10:25-37 which was followed by the “Strength for the Journey” song.

Charles McWells offered a testimony. He described his disbelief upon hearing the test results that said he had HIV/AIDS. He did what anyone would do: he asked how long he had to live. He was told that if lucky, he might live two years. That phone call took place 21 years ago. It has not been easy going from there to here. He has lost weight, down to 115 pounds. He had scabs on his head from loss of hair. He experienced physical issues, and fainting. He was diagnosed, then new medications were created and today he is healthy.

After his diagnosis, he dropped to his knees to pray and promised God he would do whatever he could to help people like him. When he got better, he realized he had to live up to his commitment. His pastor introduced him to Strength for the Journey, and he was asked to be Co-Dean for one of the retreats. He claimed it was a Nineveh moment on the road to Damascus! He had a stressful job and an over-packed life but chose this commitment. Now he can reflect back to see where God has taken him, “From there to here to there”. It is helpful to see where we came from to prepare for where we are going. Hope Ministry home gave him support and they continue to support Strength for the Journey. Hollywood UMC gave early support, and has helped sustain it for the past 30 years. He thanked Grace UMC for doing so much to make Strength for the Journey possible, and to fight HIV/AIDS.

Mr. McWells said he learned that many campers struggled with depression, so they started to develop therapeutic workshops. He saw improvement in the participants of the workshops. He has seen continued improvement. Strength for the Journey created a speakers bureau; they send out public speakers to speak on their personal experiences. They have spoken to over 400 people about HIV/AIDS prevention. He thanked Cal-Pac for its help and support in this ministry.

Rev. Steve Poteete-Marshall offered the benediction then the gathering sang “May the Circle Be Unbroken.”

Messaging Moment 2

Rev. John Farley introduction focused on “Life Giving Congregations”. The worship band led with the song, “What is Your Story.”

Transforming Vital Congregations: Rev. Sarah Heath spoke about the importance of asking questions. She encouraged those gathered to consider questions about each person’s story, each community’s story, and surroundings. She encouraged the gathering to stop talking about who we are not, but talk instead about our passions. Rev. Heath reminded the gathering that story is everything and at the end of life we all become stories.

Paul Park offered a reflection on how one creates from a story. He said that God put us here and that we love to proclaim the name of Jesus. We may not all know John Wesley, but we all know Jesus. People need to hear the commonality of Jesus Christ. That is our passion and that is our love. Mr. Park testified that what makes him feel alive is when different people, different faces, and different culture all come together to support each other and serve Jesus Christ together.

The worship band performed “All Creatures of Our God and King.”

Daniel Roberts asked us the question: Who is preaching on Sunday Morning? He proposed that everyone that stands before the church is preaching. The act of preaching is especially powerful when it is a creative act that has a team involved. He encouraged preachers to think ahead, share ahead and empower the whole team to lead. Mr. Roberts spoke about the, “worship wars”. He said it often becomes very personal: we get caught up in what to do and questions of what worship is. He suggested that worship is the reflection of who our God is and what values naturally come out as we live. They see the true God when we share what we believe clearly. Love your neighbor and your enemy.

Praise band performed, “Happy Days.”

Rev. Brent Ross gave a presentation entitled, “Your People as a Purple Cow”. He talked about the rose bushes his family inherited when they moved into their home and the particular, unique requirements they needed to thrive. When Rev. Ross learned the needs of his garden, he could help them grow. To help something grow we must begin by looking at the specific environment, location and neighborhoods where it is situated. Ministries that are successful have to be based in knowledge of the communities where they are located. Their identity comes from how they fit into their place. Our ministries must change, depending on our location; there, we should stand out like a purple cow in a sea of cows. We need to set our priorities outside of our church walls.

Rev. William deBos and Pastor Ruben Torres reflected on their ministry at Escondido UMC. Two language ministries, two cultures, and one church. Trusting the spirit, despite differences

because together they can do more than they can apart. They stressed that our strength is in our difference.

Rev. Sarah Heath thanked the Conference for the opportunity to present and offered a closing prayer which encouraged everyone to find their unique self, find their community, and know their neighborhood.

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Plenary 1

Thursday, June 15, 2017

10:25 AM

Call to Order Bishop Grant J. Hagiya called the gathering to order by thanking the team that presented the Messaging Moment for their work. Prayers were requested for Rev. Karen Clark Ristine, Conference Secretary, as she was traveling to be with her mother after being notified that her mother's health was slipping. Prayer was shared.

Opening Business Rev. Preston Price moved to set the bar of the conference. Bishop Hagiya called for a **vote and it was approved**. Rev. Price moved that the UM Daily be the official minutes of the Conference once it has been edited and corrected. Bishop Hagiya called for the **vote and it was approved**. Rev. Price moved that the registration records be used as the official roll for conference. Bishop Hagiya called for the **vote and it was approved**. Rev. Price moved that all resolutions not adopted will be referred. Bishop Hagiya called for the **vote and it was approved**. Rev. Price instructed the body about exits, accessibility issues, and safety rules.

Orders of the Day Rev. Bob Rhodes moved the Orders of the Day. They were approved.

Board of Ordained Ministry Rev. Richard Garner, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, named the laity that serve on the Board and the lifted up the gifts and graces they bring to the process. He thanked them for their service. Rev. Garner thanked Cathy Wilson for her hard work in administration of BOOM.

Rev. Elbert Kim presented the 2017 candidates for provisional membership and membership in Full Connection. For provisional membership and commissioning on DEACON track, the Board presented Jeania Ree Violet Moore and Chelsea Laine Simon. For provisional membership and commissioning on ELDER track, the Board presented Benjamin Paul Camp, Christopher Robert Carter, James Hyun Choi, Ki Tae Choi, John Feaumolotu V. Finau, Matthew Ray Hambrick, Hannah Ka, Bae Sun Kim, Erin Karynn Stenberg, Blair Trygstad Stowe, Sione Tongia Tu'ipulotu, and Hee Jung Yu. For ordination as a DEACON in full connection, the Board presented Jeffrey Alan Bishop, Martha Walz Morales, and Robin Ann Rhodes. For ordination as an ELDER in full connection, the Board presented Valerie Lou Weise and Stephen Jerry Wilson. Provisional members left the stage. Bishop Hagiya asked historical questions of those scheduled to be ordained. The Board introduced the clergy transferring from other UMC Conferences: Bethany Carpenter (Elder in Full Connection from the New Mexico Annual

Conference), Mandy McDow (Elder in Full Connection from the North Georgia Annual Conference), John Michio Miyahara (Elder in Full Connection from the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference), and Deborah Shepherd (Commissioned Deacon in Provisional Membership from the New Mexico Annual Conference).

Rev. Paige Eaves shared information on the Candidacy Summit, "Following Your Calling," to be held in August. Among other things, the Summit allows for them to meet District Superintendents and other pastors.

Rev. Amy Aitken and Rev. Leigh Ann Shaw shared the Board's work to develop a statement to articulate their practice of considering candidates for ministry, looking for them to meet our high standards of expectation, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. It is the Board's practice to seek out the most qualified candidates for ministry.

Rev. Ken Suhr & Rev. Dr. Colleen Windham-Hughes spoke in their role as the Co-Chairs the Orders Executive Committee and the functions of the committee. Clergy Convocation will take place August 29-31, 2017.

Connectional Table Report on JC decision #1311: Rev. John Woodall reported on the work of the Rules Committee and Connectional Table in response to Judicial Council Ruling 1311. Their work produced Rules Change 17-2, which would bring us in line with Judicial Council Ruling 1311. Rev. Woodall moved approval of Rules Change 17-2. After discussion, Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was approved.

Legislative Orientation Rev. Lydia Sohn and Rev. Cathie Capp explained the process of legislative sections. Prayer was offered for Legislative committees.

Constitutional Amendments Rev. Molly Vetter offered an introduction to the consideration of Constitutional Amendments 1-5. She explained that a paper vote will be held, and that ratification of these amendments to the Constitution of the UMC require support from $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total number of Conference members in all the Annual Conferences across the UMC connection; the total numbers of people voting for or against each amendment will be reported to the General Conference Secretary. Rev. Vetter explained that clergy in Full Connection (green badges) and Lay Members of the Annual Conference (yellow badges) are eligible to vote. Discussion, debate and voting will happen at a later plenary.

Delegation to the 2019 General Conference Session Bishop Hagiya notified the body that they had to decide whether to send the existing delegation from General Conference 2016 or elect a new delegation to the called General Conference to be held in St. Louis, Missouri in 2019, to receive the report of the Commission on the Way Forward and act on it. Rev. Price moved we send our 2016 General Conference delegation, as they have the history and understanding of the process for this gathering. The motion was seconded and further discussion transpired. The body called the question. It was approved. The body voted on the motion and it was approved.

Rev. Bob Rhodes offered a prayer for lunch.

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Laity Address/Plenary 2

Thursday, June 15, 2017

3:30 PM

Call to Order: Bishop Grant J. Hagiya called the plenary session to order and called for the Orders of the Day

Orders of the Day: Rev. Bob Rhodes moved the orders of the day. They were approved.

Laity Address: Phil and Connee Freeman, Conference Lay Leaders, greeted the Annual Conference. They thanked the Laity Council for their work, as well as Bishop Hagiya, and Conference staff. Mr and Mrs Freeman introduced the Young Adult Lay Person of the Year, Mikala Ruark from San Bernardino UMC. The Lay Woman of the Year was Roben Partridge from Santee UMC. The Lay Man of the Year was Sheldon Haase from Glendale First UMC.

The Cal-Pac Conference has always focused on leadership training, to support our congregations. This year we want to initiate a transformation process. They emphasized the value of clergy and laity partnership. The Freemans encouraged the gathering to transform themselves so that there will be no doubt that we are not only leaders, but Christian leaders. They offered some tips for transformation. The Freemans then offered prayer.

Council on Finance and Administration (CFA): Dan Griffin introduced Archana Carey, Executive Director of Finance and Facilities and Conference Treasurer. He thanked the CFA members and staff. He then explained the CFA's responsibilities and goals. He shared the good news that most ministries in 2016 ended with budgets in the black, or they broke even. This is a significant accomplishment for our annual conference. We have approximately 360 churches in our conference; at the end of 2015, 207 remitted 100% of apportionments. In 2016, 213 remitted 100% of their apportionments. Our overall giving for local churches towards the General Church is 84% percent. African University Fund, Interdenominational Fund, and Black College Fund all received 100%. Western Jurisdiction funds were paid at 86%. We strive to have a balanced budget and to continue to strengthen our stewardship, and financial transparency.

Archana Carey presented the 2018 Conference budget. The CFA proposed 2018 apportionments of \$12,450,000, which is a 3.84% decrease from 2017. More information on this budget and other reports related to the budget is on file on calpacumc.org/finance. Bishop Hagiya expressed how he has heard from our churches that apportionment giving in increasingly difficult to sustain, and shared how CFA and the Conference Directors were able to take leadership to make reductions in our spending. He thanked all the areas who voluntarily took these reductions, then opened the floor for questions.

Questions about money allocated to children and youth ministries were raised and discussed.

Bishop Hagiya reminded the body that a decision regarding the budget was on the agenda for Saturday's plenary session invited the group to thank CFA.

Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us: Alma Roberts shared about CA-HI Assoc. of Retired Ministers and Spouses (CHARMS) and presented a memorial video of clergy and spouses who have died in the past year.

Consent Calendar Presentation: Rev. Lydia Sohn presented the Consent Calendar. Listed below:

Recommendations	Name of Legislation	Sect. Act
REC 17-1	PENSIONS 1 -- CONFERENCE HEALTH PLANS	100% Concurrence
REC 17-2	PENSIONS 2 -- RETIREE HEALTH PLANS	100% Concurrence
REC 17-3	PENSIONS 3 -- COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN	100% Concurrence
REC 17-4	PENSIONS 4 -- CLERGY HOUSING ALLOWANCE	100% Concurrence
REC 17-5	2018 SALARY RANGES FOR CONFERENCE STAFF POSITIONS	98.5% Concurrence
REC 17-6	CLERGY BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY UPDATE	97% Concurrence
REC 17-7	CLERGY MINIMUM COMPENSATION STANDARDS	100% Concurrence
Resolutions	Name of Legislation	Sect. Act
RES 17-1	Harris UMC Historical Designation	96.7% Concurrence
RES 17-2	Christ UMC Historic Designation	100 % Concurrence
RES 17-3	Downey UMC Historic Designation	72% No Recommendation
RES 17-4	Holy Land Investments	82.2% Concurrence
RES 17-5	Holy Land Travel	100% Concurrence

RES 17-6	Anti-Gun Violence: Silencers	100% Concurrence
RES 17-7	Anti-Gun Violence: Concealed Carry	97% Concurrence
RES 17-8	Human Rights: Philippines	100% Concurrence
RES 17-9	Assets and Church Property (Resolution 40 Replacement)	100% Concurrence
RES 17-10*	Peace in the Korean Peninsula	92.3% Concurrence as amended
RES 17-13	Affirming LGBTQI Clergy	83.3% Concurrence
RES 17-14	Affirming Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops	85.4% Concurrence
RES 17-15	Petition to Convene a Special Western Jurisdiction Conference	90% Concurrence
RES 17-16	Responsible Process on Status of Bishop Karen Oliveto	86.84% Non- Concurrence
Rules Change Proposals	Name of Legislation	Sect. Act
RULES 17-1	Tenure	100% Concurrence
RULES 17-3	Fiscal Rules	98% Concurrence

*Item removed from Consent Calendar because it was amended in the legislative section.

Motions to remove items from the Consent Calendar to take place at a future plenary.

Honoring Our Retired Clergy: Three videos were shared honoring Rev. Matthew Chong, Rev. William Cutter, and Rev. Romeo Del Rosario.

Announcements: Rev. Preston Price offered some housekeeping items in preparation for the Memorial Service this evening.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore greeted the body on behalf of Boston University School of Theology and all the 13 United Methodist seminaries, and then offered blessing for our dinner.

A Service of Remembrance, Resurrection and Holy Communion
Thursday June 15, 2017

“Rhosymedre” by Ralph Vaughan Williams was played as the prelude. Rev. Hakchoon Lim lit the Paschal Candle and led the gathering in the Call to Worship. “For All the Saints” was sung by the body. Rev. Lim led the gathering in a remembrance of our baptism.

Bishop Grant Hagiya and Bishop Charles Wesley Jordan began a time of memorial remembrance. Bishop Jordan read the names of the Bishops who finished their labors in this past year: Bishop Moises Fernandes and Bishop Felton May were remembered.

Mrs. Margaret Crawford Jordan remembered the life companions of our Bishops who finished their labors: Rev. Thelma H. Newman, Rev. Kathleen A. Thomas-Sano, Mrs. Ruth Thomas, and Mrs. Gwen White.

Rev. Randy Johnson remembered our ordained and diaconal ministers who have finished their labors: Rev. Harry Adams, Rev. Paulino Alfaro-Guerra, Rev. James Burn, Rev. Dale Conrad, Rev. M. Kenneth Criswell, Rev. James Decker-Mahin, Rev. James Dinkel, Rev. Myra Hogan, Rev. Dennis Holway, Rev. Marilyn Huntington, Rev. Yong Jeon, Rev. Marshall Ketchum, Rev. Tong Ho Kim, Rev. Allen Moore, , Rev. Mardoqueo Olivas, Rev. Wonwha Ryu, Rev. Miyeko Uriu, Rev. Helen Waterson, and Rev. Earl Wood.

Wanda Bethea remembered the life companions of our ordained and diaconal ministers, who this year have finished their labors: Magdalena Acosta, Patsy Barrett, Rilla Carlson, Florence Conrad, Aletha Cook, Patrice Denman, Marcella Gouker, Nancy Heflin, Vida McKinley, Camille Oei, Annette Parker, Jeanne Robb, Gladys Robinson, Dora May Sim, Billie Stimmel, Sione Tu'ifua, Mary Wissman, and Elsie Witman.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil and Connee Freeman called to mind the lay members of the Annual Conference, church members, and all those who have been faithful to God's call and glorified God in their life and work. Worship participants shared these names aloud. The worship team sang “Alleluia” during this time of prayer and reflection.

Bishop Jordan led the gathering in prayer giving thanks for those we love who are present with the Lord, celebrating their witness and gifts. Then, the body sang “My Life Flows On.”

Marcia Galland read Exodus 1:3-6 and John 8:2-11.

Rev. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore preached the sermon, “Dust to Dust-Grounded in God.”

She began by sharing about a moment she shared in a beautiful, isolated bay in Hawaii, where she, her daughter Rebecca, and Piula Alailima gathered to cast her husband Allen's ashes into the Pacific Ocean. She spoke of how the beloved ones we remember tonight offered so many gifts through their spiritual friendships and examples of holy living. They lived out their faith in many different settings, among many different communities of people. These are our saints, the people with whom we prayed and lived, and for whom we give thanks tonight.

Rev. Moore described how beginnings and endings are built into God's creation. Genesis 1 is a reminder that the human family is made from earth. Verses 26-27 - we are created male and female, in God's image. *Adam* (connected to the Hebrew *Adamah*, meaning "dirt") is both a unique person and a gender-inclusive being or community. Today, even as we are still trying to understand gender identity and diversity in inclusivity, the words of Genesis offer us a beautifully complex understanding of humanity. It also grounds us in a human identity that comes from dirt.

While Adam's creation from dirt explains our humble beginnings and sinful, flawed lives, she proclaimed the good news that Genesis teaches us so much more: Our human origins are in dirt, and our lives and deaths are in the hands of the great artist. We were made by God out of dirt! Dust to dust, ashes to ashes. Our beginnings and endings are in God, who lovingly crafted us. The Psalmist of 139 says, "you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

The beloved ones we memorialized tonight know this to be true. They are eternally present in God, and now return to eternity with their maker. But in between the dust of birth and the dust of death, they lived among us and with us, their very lives testified to the memory and power of each ordinary day. They invite us to treasure every moment. And those of us who sat by our loved ones' sides as they passed know how precious every moment is.

She asked us to consider how dirt and eternity stand before us tonight - the beginning of human life is in the earth - and Genesis' red dirt is in the earthiness of human life. Eternity is forever, which means that the present moment is also made of dirt and eternity. At this very moment, we are standing on holy ground, on God's dirt, and God meets us here.

We remember Moses, as he caught sight of the burning bush. Seeing that it was not consumed, God spoke to him through the bush and said, "Here I am. Remove the sandals from your feet, for you are standing on holy ground."

Rev. Moore recounted a "holy ground" moment when she was tending to her mother, living in the hospital with her during the last six weeks of her life. A good friend of her mother's came to visit, and spend a private moment with her. Afterward, the friend thanked her, and then said harshly, "Mary Elizabeth, when did you start loving your mother?" This question shook her, because she had loved her mother all her life. Unsettled, she went back in, and said to her mother, "Your friend seems to think I don't love you. I hope you know that I have loved you every day of my life." Her mother squeezed her hand, after three days of no movement, and held on to it. Her mother gave her that one last blessing. And when she died the next day, Rev. Moore was squeezing her hand. "We were standing on holy ground," she said.

She shared how Regina Calcaterra, in her autobiography, *Etched in Sand*, describes growing up desolate with a mentally ill, alcoholic, violent mother. Even as she lived between abuse and abandonment, Regina traveled from place to place with a small plastic Jesus that she had been given. She was curious about a nearby neighborhood church, and so she started going to all the worship services she could. She said, "I did not understand a word they were saying and

singing, but church is the only place I had ever been where you could be a stranger and people would still smile at you anyway.” For Regina, that church space was holy ground.

Rev. Moore spoke of how Jesus had many “holy ground” moments with his disciples, friends and strangers along the way. In the passage we heard tonight, the woman caught in adultery and those threatening her experienced holy ground. Jesus could have done many things when confronted by the crowd, but he said nothing. He bent over and began to draw in the dirt. John Wesley believed that in this story, Jesus was trying to take people out of their big ideas and return their attention to the earth. He came to remind people that he came not to condemn, but to save the world. When Jesus finally spoke, it was to ask, “let anyone among you without sin be the first to cast a stone.” As the crowd began to disappear, he turned to the woman and asked, “Where are they? Has no one condemned you?” “No one,” she said. Jesus said, “Then I do not condemn you. Go and sin no more.” There, she found herself standing on holy ground.

We stand on holy ground every day, but we are especially aware of it in moments as vivid as the burning bush: in a hospital rooms, or churches or other encounters with Jesus. To live close to the earth is to watch for burning bushes. This is dangerous, of course, because God could send you on a mission like God sent Moses to free his people. Or God could ask you to rethink your judgments as when Jesus asked the people who were going to stone the woman. To stand on holy ground is to hear the voice of God point the way to asking you to liberate immigrant people living in fear of deportation, poor people living without food or shelters, children abused or our LGBT communities who are dehumanized by the churches and used as test cases for church loyalty. To live close to the ground is to refrain from condemning. We will still condemn horrific acts, but we will refrain from battering others, and seek solutions that increase compassion and justice. We live in a hate filled world where people feel free to speak hate and act violently toward those with whom they disagree. Whether the murders are in London, South Carolina, Tehran, or Alexandria Virginia, they poison the earth with hate. Yet, good people do respond. The AME Church in Charleston South Carolina has offered forgiveness to a shooter and have continued to work for social justice that the shooter had decryed. Three men in Portland Oregon came to the defense of two Muslim women who were being abused by a man who was shouting angrily. Two of these men lost their lives in the effort. Several US cities have vowed to continue what was done in Paris to stop climate change. These people act because they know they are standing on holy ground.

Rev. Moore named Bishop Felton May, whom we remember tonight, as an example of this. In his work caring for those at the margins of our society, he lived the gospel with “holy boldness,” and inspired others to do the same.

She invited us to recognize the presence of eternity in our lives in this memorial service. We see the presence of eternity and are invited to participate in the work of justice. We are called to love people who do not love us back. We love the people we remember tonight. They lived in the messiness of their lives and gave their very best to love Jesus. Because of them, the world is a little more tilted toward hope. They stood on holy ground and gave their best for the good of others. May we do the same. May God bless us in that work. Amen.

Rev. Lim invited the body to support Strength for the Journey with their Offering. These camps save lives and provide for those who are living with HIV / AIDS. Michelle Small danced to "His Eye is on the Sparrow" by Lauryn Hill while the offering was collected. The body sang a doxology in response to the offering. Rev. Lim led the Prayer of Dedication.

In preparation for Holy Communion, the body sang "Come Share the Lord." Bishop Hagiya and Bishop Jordan presided over Holy Communion with Rev. Debbie Gara and Rev. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore assisting. Portions of the liturgy were sung as congregational responses. When the liturgy was complete the body joined in the The Lord's Prayer, with each member speaking in their native language. The body received the elements, while the worship team sang, "Thank You for the Lamb," "The Blood will Never Lose Its Power," and "O How I Love Jesus." After communion the body joined Bishop Hagiya in prayer and sang "Sing With All the Saints in Glory." Rev. Moore offered a benediction and a response was sung: "The Trees of the Field." A Postlude followed.

