

U.M. Daily

33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference

Morning Worship (Service of Baptism)

Friday, June 16, 2017

8:30 AM

Music played as the body gathered. Katherine Wilson led in the call to worship. The gathering sang "Morning Has Broken" with "Baptized in Water." Rev. Sandra Olewine read Mark 1:1-5, 9-11.

Bishop Grant Hagiya welcomed Amara Luz Kaulani Mark-Schwiebert and her family forward to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. The children of the Annual Conference joined them on the stage as part of her community of faith.

The liturgy included a covenant with her big sister, Kaira. Bishop Hagiya asked her, "Kaira, will you be a good big sister? Will you love Amara and teach her how to play?" Kaira responded, "I will."

Bishop Hagiya turned to the children and youth who were present on the stage and in the congregation and asked, "To the children and youth who are here, will you welcome Amara as a new friend and love her?" The children and youth responded, "We will."

The entire body covenanted together in the liturgy to nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Amara in their care.

Rev. J. Daniel Lewis lead the body in the UM Affirmation of Faith #883. Then Bishop Hagiya spoke the liturgy of thanksgiving over the water. The Bishop took Amara in his arms and invited the other clergy on the stage (including her parents and grandparents) to participate in baptizing her. Amara's big sister, Kaira, also used the water to bless her. When the liturgy was complete, the children and youth led Bishop Hagiya, the newly baptized child, and her family around the sanctuary so that the body could greet Amara.

Bishop Hagiya invited everyone to stand, and offered a closing prayer. The body sang "This Little Light of Mine," and the service ended.

Messaging Moment 3

Title: "How to Fish" Scripture: Luke 10:4

Rev. Jim Powell, North District Superintendent, shared about his favorite fishing equipment, which he brought with him on stage. He pulled all the equipment he needs to fish with out of his tackle box, including his Bible; Jesus has a mission for us, and calls us to be fishers of people.

Our Cal-Pac initiatives include "transforming leadership." We are to raise up the next generation of leadership--not just young people, but new people with new voices and hearts.

Rev. Powell said that just as you cannot fish from your living room, we cannot fish for people from our sanctuaries. We have to go out into the water and go where the fish are. We have to go to the people, where they are and be God's fishing equipment. From the moment of baptism, we are called to get our feet wet in service. One example of how this is happening is in leadership in the Korean Context via the Partners in Ministry Model with Rev. Woong-Min Kim.

Rev. Kim greeted the Conference on behalf of PIM (Partners In Ministry), a program of the Western Jurisdiction's Korean Ministries Council. Rev. Kim is the coordinator of PIM, which was born out of a dire need to support smaller churches. There are seventy five Korean churches in the jurisdiction; some are vibrant, while some are closing or in danger of being closed. PIM pairs big and small congregations to partner as they grow together and carry each others burdens. Their goal was to recruit 20 congregations (10 large and 10 small) from across the Western Jurisdiction; the 20 participating congregations including at least one from each of the Episcopal Areas in our Jurisdiction. 18 churches are from California Pacific Conference.

Each of the larger churches in a PIM relationship contributes \$12,000 annually to help support the ministry of their smaller partner congregation. The partner churches pray and work together in missions and ministry. Since January 2016, these PIM relationships have been strengthening ministry together.

Rev. Jonathan Lee (Korean UMC of San Diego) spoke of partnering with Grace Korean UMC in Glendale and supporting them financially and prayerfully. They practice a pulpit exchange between the churches, and the laity have also visited one another. Rev. Lee highlighted the exciting news of a new Korean ministry begun at Hope UMC in San Diego with the support of 5 different organizations/agencies.

Rev. Dohmin Kim (La Palma Korean UMC) has an exchange program with their partner church, to support a summer Vacation Bible School by sending a Sunday School director and other teachers. This program has been a blessing, as partner churches become brothers and sisters with whom to work and pray together.

Pastor Hongyun (Brandon) Won (Irvine Dream Korean Congregation, a Korean ministry that is extended from Dream UMC in Pasadena while partnering with University UMC in Irvine) is thankful for the hope PIM has given them. Irvine, as host church, did not want to just be a

landlord, but rather to change, grow, and add their gifts to a shared ministry. They worked together to clean the campus and have combined worship services and cultural food celebrations. They are focused on celebrating missional memories as they grow together in God's call to build God's kingdom together. Pastor Won is thankful for the support.

Rev. Eugene Han (Christ UMC in Honolulu) shared that they have partnered with the Rocky Mountain Conference to begin Korean congregations in Colorado. They have shared pulpits and supported each other by sending young adults on mission trips, leading VBS, building praise teams, and loaning instruments. The praise team works with the host church to grow in leadership skills, and there is a strong focus on building leadership in young adults.

Leading is something you do in partnership with other people. It is not just large churches helping smaller churches. PIM is about working together and sharing differences and similarities as they focus on our shared mission of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In PIM, people do not commit to the church as a building, but instead commit to the larger mission, with the hope that the program will become a movement.

Rev. Changmin Lee (Los Angeles Korean UMC) shared that they are going to have a Convocation that will provide continuing education and spiritual nourishment. The Bishop shared his vision of churches being re-visioned as missional centers. The question is: how do we get from here to there? PIM does this in partnership between urban and small-town congregations, established churches and new starts, and large and small congregations.

Rev. Powell shared that congregations talk about wanting a youth group, and yet have no children's ministries. We need to begin with the youngest among us, focusing on kids, camping ministry. We need ways of looking outside the boundaries of our congregations so that we can get into the "deeper waters" of leadership.

Rev. Jim White and Cynthia Henisey (Palmdale UMC) came forward to share about leadership with children. God is calling people of all ages to grow in faith and find places to serve. Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Palmdale is an all-church and all-age ministry. Teams of Scouts, United Methodist Women, and others work together. Teens lead groups and mentor future leaders who shadow them. Through servant leadership, everyone uses their gifts and has ownership of ministry. This provides a safe environment where young people grow in leadership.

A video was shared: "Future Bound: Episode 5 - Calvary UM Mission in Hawaii," which showed how the faith community is sharing the gospel with their community by providing Sunday School, Bible Study, and worship. Many neighborhood children have become active in the church, and the congregation has "adopted" them. This ministry was not a special plan; it happened as they sought to genuinely respond to God's call in their particular location.

Edward Cesar came forward to share about mentoring. He discussed how leadership with youth is happening through the Spanglish program, a 2-day camp (hosted by Arlington UMC) that helps hispanic youth and young adults be in communion with Jesus Christ. They struggle to

balance their ethnic heritage with what it means to be in the US. Spanglish provides a place for them to unwind, talk, and connect, and is a springboard for young leaders.

The design team consists of young people who have participated in the leadership of Spanglish in previous years. They are excited to lead and have the opportunity to do new things with the help of an adult advisor, pastoral advisors, and Conference Connectional Ministries who make it all possible and provide guidance when needed. Through this process, they become leaders in the Hispanic community.

Rev. Joseph Yun (Campus Ministry at the University of Hawaii) shared about leadership with young adults. Campus ministry is part of our heritage: John Wesley started his Holy Club as a campus ministry. Rev. Yun was inspired by a mentor in college who guided him by praying together, providing times to check in, and training him in his spiritual growth. He began to hear the call to go into Ordained Ministry, and turned to his mentor to ask questions, share his fears and joys, and discuss options. Now, he does the same for students.

Rev. Yun mentored a young man who was breaking free from a cult. At first, he was skeptical, but as he found his place in the church, he discovered he was finally in a place where he could worship freely. One-on-one meetings are crucial for young adults, where it is possible to cultivate genuine relationships, where he was able to be there for them, and listen without an agenda. Young adults will see how authentic you are and will grow in their faith through the blessing of a genuine relationship.

A video was shared on leadership development through camp, from Cat Holbert of Camp Lazy W Ranch. Innovation is still at work in Camping Ministry, where leaders practice faith openly as part of a team, allowing God to do something new as they live together. When learning, we are intentional about asking how we use new information. God's grace is for everyone.

Rev. Jonathan Park (Abundant Life Community of Korean UMC of San Diego) spoke about Leadership Beyond Borders by looking to the next generations of the Korean community. Matthew 4:19 says, "I will make you fishers of people." Jesus invited all people to be transformed as he entered their lives and they explored the mysteries of the Gospel together. A variety of experiences helped followers grow, as they were prepared for ministry through a long-term relationship with Jesus Christ.

Jesus is still calling us to follow Him and serve. Rev. Park's faith community started weekly life groups, which are used to see how to learn and love those who are outside the usual boundaries of "church." People are growing and finding their place in the church through community and loving relationships. There is no pressure to convert, but rather a safe space for exploration and questions. The mission is to build the community of Christ, even as they love those who have not found that relationship yet. One member chooses to live in a shelter to care for children in the homeless community. Jesus reminds us that our focus is on following Him. John 15 reminds us that we become fruitful when we remain in Jesus Christ. We are called to invite and show the inviting love of Christ and find what it means to be fishers of people.

Rev. Powell encouraged us: "if it happens in you, it can happen in others!" We must be courageous and brave enough to get into the deep water. Rev. Powell invited the body to share in small groups: "Where is the deep water in your community, where you haven't yet traveled? Where are the deep waters of your life?"

The second episode of the video series "ready > set >" was shown.

Training is necessary. Coaching is an important resource to receive training and improve our skills. Higher accountability requires a higher level of resources to address social economic issues, disparities, and needs. As God shifts and creates the universe, there are people who support and guide us along the way. Our work of preparation helps us get to new, deeper places.

33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference

Plenary 3

Friday, June 16, 2017

10:15 AM

Call to Order: Bishop Grant J. Hagiya called the Plenary Session to order. Bishop Hagiya introduced the Youth/Young Adult Layperson of the Year, Mikhayla Roark, who is sitting on the stage. The Bishop provided an update about Ana-Haydee Urda, the Chair of our Conference Hispanic Committee. She had a successful bypass surgery last week and is doing better but in a lot of pain. The Bishop acknowledged Resident Bishop Felipe Ruiz from Mexico. He concluded with a prayer of thanks for the day, the baptism, and being here.

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

Announcements: Rev. R. Preston Price III announced that a new projector has been installed. He thanked the audio-visual crew. Bishop Grant Hagiya welcomed and introduced Bishop Felipe Ruiz from the Methodist Church of Mexico, North West Annual Conference. Bishop Ruiz shared greetings from the his church in Mexico, from the Bishops of Mexico, and from the Northwest Conference of Mexico.

Rev. Price asked the Conference to not bring in furniture or rearrange the furniture in the Chapel. He also reminded the Conference that only water be brought into the chapel.

Constitutional Amendment Voting: Bishop Hagiya invited Rev. R. Preston Price III forward to take the conference through the voting on the 5 Constitutional Amendments.

Rev. Lui Tran came to a microphone on the floor of the Conference and asked to be recused from the voting because of his role in the Judicial Council. Rev. Price has recused himself as well. Bishop Hagiya accepted both recusals.

Rev. Price explained information on the constitutional amendments can be found online and some people have printed out a copy. Please look on if you do not have a copy. These votes will be combined with all other Annual Conferences and tallied for the official vote. Results will be announced after being certified by the Council of Bishops.

Voters are limited to Full Connection Members (Lay and Clergy). Provisional Members and Local Pastors do not have a vote on constitutional amendments. Voting members asked to stand to show their status or if you can not stand, please raise your hand. Once you receive your ballot, please sit down. Voting area readdressed for clarity of vote.

Rev. Price announced that each amendment will come before the conference, will be presented and there will be a time a time of discussion followed by a vote.

Amendment 1: Rev. Patricia Farris came forward to speak of the constitutional amendments as foundational documents of the United Methodist Church. The reason these were not sent to legislative sections is they cannot be amended and we have to vote yes or no as is. This amendment has to do with inclusiveness of the United Methodist Church. This will add a paragraph about our commitment to gender inclusion in the life of the church, to follow the paragraph about racial inclusivity. Bishop Hagiya asked for questions. There were no questions. Bishop Hagiya gave time for reflection, offered a prayer, and called for the vote.

Amendment 2: JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto presented Amendment 2, which would change the language of paragraph 4, adding to and changing a listing that names our community inclusion in the life of the church. Bishop Hagiya opened the floor for discussion. There were 4 speakers against the amendment and 1 in favor of the amendment. Bishop Hagiya gave time for reflection, offered a prayer, and called for the vote.

The Bishop took a moment of privilege to welcome Bishop Charles Wesley Jordan (retired) to the gathering.

Amendment 3: Rev. Sandra Olewine presented Amendment 3, which would address how delegate elections is handled in Annual Conferences. The floor was opened for discussion. One speech against and one speech in favor were presented. Bishop Hagiya gave time for reflection, prayer, and called for the vote.

Amendment 4: Rev. Tom Choi spoke to Amendment 4, which focused on the rules for the election of bishops in Central Conferences. The floor was opened to questions and no questions were raised. Bishop Hagiya offered time for reflection, prayer, and called for the vote.

Amendment 5: Rev. Sandra Olewine spoke to Amendment 5, which was written as a means to hold Bishops accountable to the denomination and not just the Jurisdictional Conference that elected them. The floor open for discussion and there were six arguments against and zero arguments for the amendment. Bishop Hagiya offered time for reflection, prayer, and called for the vote.

Rev. Gilbert Stone inquired about voter fraud. Bishop Hagiya assured Rev. Stone that the Conference Secretary checks the vote in secrecy in order to not be influenced.

Legislative Action / Consent Calendar: Rev. Lydia Sohn came before the body to continue the business of the Annual Conference by taking action on the consent calendar, which includes items considered and voted on during yesterday's legislative sections and was presented to the Plenary during a prior session.

Rick Mules moved to remove **Resolution 17-6** from the consent calendar. It was seconded but **not supported in the vote**. Bert Rohr moved to remove **Rules 17-3** from the consent calendar. It was seconded. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and **it was not supported**.

David Cutler moved to remove **Resolution 17-4** from the consent calendar. The motion was seconded. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote. **It was not supported**.

Rev. Sohn moved the consent calendar. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote. **It was supported**. Rev. Sohn thanked the gathering for their efforts.

Rev. Jim Brewster offered prayer over the following meal.

33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Plenary 4
Friday, June 16, 2017
1:30 PM

Call to Order: Bishop Grant J. Hagiya called the Annual Conference to order and welcomed people back at 1:37 PM.

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

United Methodist Endorsing Agency: Rev. Jeff Bishop spoke about this agency, which supports current chaplains and recruits the next generation of chaplains. The Agency wants to provide more information on the endorsement process. They are working on an endowment fund to assist chaplains and finding other ways to help them move back to the local church. Rev. Bishop then recognized those chaplains present. A video was shown.

Discussing The Commission on a Way Forward: Bishop Hagiya introduced a period of discussion and prayer regarding The Commission on a Way Forward. He shared a model for categorizing the ways people hold beliefs about human sexuality alongside commitments to belonging together in the church, using terms developed by Rev. Tom Berlin, a member of the Commission. This model provided a continuum of identification in the conversation about human sexuality, grouping people into four categories: traditional non-compatibilist, traditional compatibilist, progressive compatibilist, and progressive non-compatibilist.

Traditional non-compatibilists say that if anything changes they will not stay. The “Wesleyan Covenant Association” is an example of this position. They argue that any alteration of the Book of Discipline’s current position on LGBTQIA+ exclusion cannot be supported because it violates their position, tradition, and integrity.

Progressive non-compatibilists say that full inclusion is the only way forward, and if no changes are made, they will not stay. “Love Prevails” is an example of this position.

One way or the other, non-compatibilists cannot live with something which violates their integrity. With both of these positions, there is no room for compromise.

Traditional compatibilists are personally against full inclusion, but are willing to hear the other side. While unlikely to change their opinion, they are willing to live together without trying to convert others to their opinion and stretch their integrity to admit that they may be wrong.

Progressive compatibilists are personally supportive of full inclusion, but are willing to hear the other side. While unlikely to change their opinion, they are willing to live together without trying to convert others to their opinion and stretch their integrity to admit that they may be wrong.

When groups put restrictions on others who try to make boundaries less rigid, congregations suffer. We all need more freedom for expression, rather than drawing stronger boundary lines. When non-compatibilists draw strong lines, persons on the other side begin to leave because there is no hope. Compatibilists are also becoming tired of fighting and so they begin to leave as well. Over time we see that no one is happy and everyone loses. In 1974 there were 3,621,000 members, in 2010 there were 3,054,000, and it is projected at this rate of decline, in 2050 we may reduce to 959,000 members. These concerns are affecting our mission.

The Commission on a Way Forward estimates that the majority of the US church is consists of progressive and traditional compatibilists. When we focus on polarities, we lose members and local communities are torn apart. Things get more complicated when we look at the pressures of the worldwide perspective. These labels are a tool to find each person’s place in the conversation.

The body had a lively conversation on these categories, and Bishop Hagiya encouraged the gathering to continue to think about other terms of identification that would be helpful in moving forward in conversation with one another.

Nominations Report: Liz Roark, Nominations Committee Chair, presented the Nomination Report, along with amendments, while noting that there are still vacancies on some committees. We are voting only on new additions to the committees, which are the names that are in all caps. Names with normal capitalization were previously elected and are working in those positions. There are no votes for the United Methodist Men, even though they are capitalized. There are vacancies left on the list intentionally, since they want to find the people with the right

gifts for each job. Please help nominate people for these positions. Ms. Roark encouraged conference members to fill out a profile report that will help the committee match gifts and graces to specific needs. Ms. Roark thanked Jennifer Gaylord for helping the committee create a database to collect all this information. Please contact Liz Roark with questions.

A process is underway to form a new Young People's Council which will have the ability to self-select members without input from the Nominations Committee. Ms. Roark moved to vote and it has been approved.

Bishop Hagiya called for a 15 minute break.

Plenary resumed at 3:21 PM.

Retirement Video: Rev. Hilly Hicks was honored with a retirement video.

Announcement: The Bishop announced that the offering for scholarships at Claremont School of Theology collected \$6,361.62, and the offering for Strength for the Journey collected \$3,453.87.

Legislative Action: Rev. Lydia Sohn, Legislative Chair, presented three legislative items that were not on the Consent Calendar.

The first was **Resolution 17-3**, "Downey UMC Historic Designation." There were two arguments against and two arguments in favor. A conference member moved for referral back to Archives. The body **voted, and the referral was supported.**

The second was **Resolution 17-10**, "Peace in the Korean Peninsula." The legislative section recommended approval as amended, adding language that requires Cal-Pac to send letter to each member of Congress, in addition to the White House. Rev. Sohn reported that the vote in legislative section for the resolution as amended was 48 yes, 4 no. There was one argument in favor and zero arguments against. The body **voted, and the resolution was supported as amended.**

The third was the presentation of **Resolution 17-17**, "Approval of Wesley Foundation Board of Directors." The nominations (shown below) will be voted on tomorrow.

Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo: Jason Takagi, Rev. Rick UHls, Rev. Rich Bolin, Dave Mason, Keith Brummel, Judy Brummel, Lynn Hamilton, Suzanne Barron, Hal Cota, Debbie Wacker, Rob Etter, Diana Dale. **San Diego Area:** Rev. Chuck Kishpaugh; Kim Melchior, Eric Swanson, Susan Farnsworth, Rev. Francisco Garcia Velasquez, Benjamin Camp, Rev. Matthew Hambrick, Anthony Aranico. **University of California – Los Angeles:** Rev. Janet Cromwell, Rev. Lynette Fuka, Rev. Allison Mark, Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Alfred Herrera, Melissa Veluz-Abraham, James C. Kim, Martin Clajus, Seidi Valencia, Suzanne Ware Diaz, Robert Bailey, Liana Ghica, Tucker Moses-Hanson. **University of Hawaii – Manoa:** Judy Cramer,

Grace Omura, Atina Pascua, Rev. Piula Alailima, Rev. Alan Mark, Rev. Tom Choi, Winnie Ching, Elliott Inamasu, Joshua Asato, Rev. Dr. Se Hee Han, Rev. Joseph Yun. **University of Southern California:** Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt, Sonia Rodriguez, Janice Elizabeth Kreh, Rod Sprott, Seidi Valencia.

Norma Kehrberg, Chair of the Rules Committee: spoke from the floor. She shared that she had received questions and concerns about the process for removing items from the consent calendar, and that the Rules Committee would work in the next year to clarify our process before the next Annual Conference.

Cabinet Matters: Rev. John Farley (South District Superintendent) introduced the rest of the Cabinet: Rev. Jan Wiley (East District Superintendent), Rev. Jim Powell (North District Superintendent), Rev. Dr. Se Hee Han (Hawaii District Superintendent), and Rev. Mark Nakagawa (West District Superintendent). The members of the Cabinet are the chief missional strategist, the leaders of the leaders and the churches throughout their district.

Rev. Farley began with a story about his father, Rev. Tom Farley, who served on the cabinet, too. He shared gratitude that although there is a lot of work to be done, he is grateful that everything is done in prayerful discernment of God's will; Bishop Hagiya asks for a moment of prayer in every decision. The Cabinet works as a team and is fully invested. Serving as a District Superintendent requires that they be fully present in times of highest joy and deepest worry, including praying through the process of closing churches.

Rev. Powell shared about the needs of the North District. Rev. Powell brought forth and moved approval of two resolutions of discontinuance which would close charters of two congregations.

Resolution 17-11: "Discontinuance of Hansarang UMC" in Montrose, CA was presented. The body voted and **the motion was supported.**

Resolution 17-12: "Discontinuance of Trona Community UMC" in Trona, CA was presented. The body voted and **the motion was supported.**

Rev. David Farley, Director of Justice and Compassion Ministries, presented on a report from Human Resources, who were asked in 2016 to review lay salaries and return to the Annual Conference with a report. A large amount of preliminary work has been done. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the report has not been finished and an extension has been requested. They take this seriously, and it will be done. They will find ways to seek input and answer questions as the process continues, and will report at next year's Annual Conference. Bishop Hagiya requested that we pray for Jan Hanson who this the staff person helping with this matter. Ms. Hanson is at home on bed rest due to health issues.

Rev. Patricia Farris, member of the Board of Trustees at Claremont School of Theology (CST) presented on their current challenges. Because of their strategy to increase enrollment, CST had their largest graduating class this year. However, there are financial challenges and

budget deficits. CST Trustees have put together a plan to make it through the next 2 years, and are receiving a one million dollar “bridge loan” from the West District Union, which is using money from the sale of property in the district (not from apportionments).

Bishop Hagiya explained that the Claremont School of Theology is owned jointly by Cal-Pac Conference ($\frac{2}{3}$) and Desert Southwest Conference ($\frac{1}{3}$). There is shared responsibility to keep it going. Therefore, we have created a strategic initiative to make funding available for CST. In addition to the \$1 million from the West District, the Desert Southwest Conference raised \$500,000 (based on the level of ownership held by both Annual Conferences), and the staff of CST raised an additional \$650,000. The body shared in conversation.

Retirement Videos were shared from Rev. Carol Mayer, Rev. Diane Mettam, and Rev. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore.

Bishop Hagiya invited the body to continue the dialogue about how we can find a way forward together. He encouraged everyone to take time to tell their story and listen to the stories of others.

A closing prayer was offered and the session was concluded.

33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Retirement Service
Friday, June 16, 2017
7:00 PM

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” was sung while the retirees, spouses, and worship participants gathered on the stage.

David McConkey led the Call to Worship and the body sang “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation.” Mr. McConkey led the Prayer of Illumination. Hebrews 12:1-2 was read by Francis Fukumoto.

Bishop Hagiya recognized the retirees and spouses: Matthew Chee (Full Member), William Cutter (Elder), Karen Dalton (Elder), Romeo Del Rosario (Elder), Gary Dickey (Elder), LLC Hammond (Elder), Hilly Hicks (Local Pastor), Carol Mayer (Deacon), Diane Mettam (Local Pastor), Mary Elizabeth Moore (Deacon), Holly Reinhart-Marean (Elder), Luat Trong Tran (Elder) and Robert Wicherts (Elder). He then led the litany. After the litany, “Now Praise the Hidden God of Love” was played.

Mr. Fukumoto read 2 Kings 2:1-15 in preparation of the passing of the mantle. A representative of the retiring class and a representative of the new full member class came forward. Bishop Hagiya explained the symbolism of the act and presented the mantle to the retiring pastor. The eldest retiring Elder, Rev. Gary Dickey, then passed the mantle to Rev. Stephen Wilson, the

youngest person to be ordained an elder, who responded with appreciation. The elders retiring Deacon, Rev. Carol Mayer, then passed the mantle to Rev. Jeff Bishop the youngest person to be ordained a Deacon, who responded with appreciation. The gathering sang "Forward Through the Ages."

Prior to the benediction, Bishop Hagiya offered a short message to the retirees, emphasizing that their work and ministry was not complete simply because of retirement. He looks forward to hearing about the next stages in their journeys and where their callings take them beyond retirement. Bishop Hagiya offered the benediction with a response to from the gathering. "God of Grace and God of Glory" was shared as the postlude as the retirees, spouses, and worship participants left the stage.

