

U.M. Daily

33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference

Morning Worship

Saturday, June 17, 2017

Miranda Lohr offered a welcome to the gathering. The conference sang, "Here I am to Worship" and "Trust In You." Philippians 3:12 was shared in English, Korean, and Tongan. Peasipa Namoa from the Hawaii District offered a testimony. The gathering sang "Trading My Sorrows" The scripture was read again Samoan and Spanish. Luis Posadas offered a testimony. The body sang "Every Praise." Kisione Finau, Jr. invited the body to remember that we are going "from here to there," and then shared a closing prayer.

Messaging Moment 4

Title: "The Village: Four Priorities" Scripture: Matthew 10:5-11, Acts 1:8

Rev. Myron Wingfield, Chair of the Connectional Table, led the body in focusing on moving "from here to there" by Transforming the World. An excerpt from the video that was shown at the close of yesterday's messaging moment, from the "ready > set >" series, was shown with a quote about the village raising the child. These messaging moments are about the village that is the UMC - about who we are called to be, what we are called to do, and how we build one another up and transform the world.

The four priorities are: Transforming Congregations, Transforming Leaders, Transforming Lives, and Transforming the World. There is theological grounding for these priorities in the Book of Acts. The disciples were in the temple every day at first. Then the Spirit came at Pentecost, and leaders began to emerge (Peter, Stephen, and others). Lives began to be transformed by these leaders, and as they left Jerusalem they began to transform the world.

Rev. Wingfield shared about a young man who argued that it began with transformed lives, then leaders emerged, they went out to serve and create congregations, and those congregations transformed the world. This is what is presented in the Gospel of Luke. This is a wonderful example of youth teaching adults in the church! Each one of these four foci are an ongoing and necessary component of an ongoing and vital church, and overlap with each other. Rev. Wingfield then read from Matthew 10:5-11 and Acts 1:8. These texts highlight the importance of moving "from here to there" as communities are transformed.

A video, "Celebrating the Saints," was shown that told stories of faith communities who are working to transform their larger communities. Ministries at Grace UMC, St Mark UMC, Pearblossom Community UMC, and Imperial Beach UMC were highlighted in the video.

Rev. Wingfield pointed out that people who were once served by these programs are now leaders and an integral part of the faith communities. He also encouraged the body to work for change that brings about transformation in and among themselves. Luke 10 describes Jesus sending 72 disciples out into the world in pairs to share the good news. They returned to celebrate the changes they saw in the world, but Jesus also cautioned them to celebrate the changes the Spirit had wrought in their own lives.

Rev. Wingfield recalled watching an episode of “The Late Show” with Stephen Colbert, in which Michael Render (known as “Killer Mike” from the rap group “Run the Jewels”) was a guest. Mr. Render is an activist who cares deeply about the world around him and often speaks on college campuses.

A video was shown in which Mr. Render encouraged listeners to find a child who is different and is doing well in school, and help them get into college and succeed by serving as their big brother / sister. He advised teaching mentees how to be successful, but also to learn empathy for someone who is from a different background. This helps us see Christ in our neighbors.

A video on the “You Are Not Alone” program (housed at North Hills UMC) was shown. The San Fernando Valley Refugee Center serves unaccompanied minors from South America and Central America through a program providing resources, medical care, and socialization with other children in the same situation. Hope is provided through opportunities for kids to “be kids,” play, and creatively imagine the kind of change they would like to see in the world. There are currently 154 children participating in the program. We are called by Scripture to care for immigrants, and this program helps us do that and show that God cares for all people. Rev. Wingfield offered a special thanks to Rev. Farley for his instrumental support in the creation of that program.

Sandee Furuta, from the Conference and District Property Committee and Congregational Loan Committee presented on the “Safe Parking Lots Program,” which began with brainstorming how church properties could be used in creative ways to help provide homeless housing in Los Angeles. They met with staff from the Los Angeles Mayor’s office about the mayor’s vision for addressing needs of homeless persons. They took an inventory of the properties in the West District and existing ministries with the homeless. Wesley UMC and Bowen UMC agreed work with the Los Angeles Home Services Authority to trying to launch this program. Partners in this project include Rev. Farley, the LA Mayor’s Office, LA County, LA Board of Supervisors, LA City Council, West District Union, Trustees at Wesley UMC and Bowen UMC, the Community Center across the street from Wesley, and Ms. Furuta’s use of staff time. This is the first project of its kind in LA. Several churches have approached her to expand to the San Fernando Valley. This type of project can be done throughout our conference, in coordination with the cities in which we work.

Rev. Allison Mark came forward with her daughter, Amara, to speak about the meaning of “Ohana” (family). Cal-Pac is part of her extended family. Rev. Mark reflected on her personal experience of being nurtured by the extended family of the Cal-Pac Conference, as well as

several of the young people that she has had the opportunity to mentor and nurture in her time serving God. Rev. Mark stress that we are transformed, and can transform the lives of others in relationship with one another, as we show our love, share our faith, and shine a light into the world. Raising up the young people as family is part of getting “from here to there.” Rev. Mark invited the body to consider how to mentor others and be a part of a family of faith which raises up young leaders and sends them into the world to be witnesses to the ends of the world?

Rev. Wingfield gave thanks for the opportunity to serve on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and saw the extraordinary impact that Young People’s ministries makes in lives and communities. Rev. Wingfield also recalled Rev. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore’s words from yesterday about the transforming work at Boston University and other United Methodist campuses.

A video was shown about the “Seminary Hill Farm” at Methodist Theological School of Ohio, which is a place of theology, ecology, and good food for all. The program was founded in December of 2013. Jay Rundell, President at MTSO, described how theology and practice work together. Hope Hutchinson (who grew up in our conference) and other students spoke about work, the curiosity and learning of people in the community about farming, food, as well as reflecting about the role of theology in the world.

Rev. Wingfield announced that Ms. Hutchinson graduated and will be commissioned as a Deacon in the Minnesota Conference next Wednesday (June 21). The body congratulated Rev. Richard Bentley and Ruth Hutchinson, her parents.

These views of different ways to connect to communities can be expanded to being part of a Worldwide Village. Hannah Foust from Indiana became concerned at 12 years old about the need for fresh water in Burkina Faso. Because of her inspirational work, 13 wells have now been dug, transforming 16,000 lives in Burkina Faso. Foust spoke at General Conference in Portland, Oregon in 2016, telling about how the UMC is part of her story, as a mission-focused church that is willing to let a little girl preach from the pulpit and organize churches to help kids on the other side of the world. It is her dream that every young person can have an adult to look up to, to nurture them, just as the adults in the church have done for her. Can you imagine what we can achieve if we work together? We need to form strong bonds with others, so that one day there will be no more empty cups, plates, or hearts to fill.

Rev. Wingfield shared about the success of Africa University, which has just celebrated its 23rd graduating classes. Africa University represents 26 nations, and all three Africa Central Conferences. Africa University is changing the continent of Africa.

Rev. Wingfield spoke about Rev. Ivana Prochazkova (Czech republic ordained UMC Pastor) - she grew up in a home and culture where atheism was the norm. Ivana and her husband Peter lead and serve the church in Slovakia. She is developing a thorough theological education program in the Czech language for young people.

Rev. Bau Dang, former DS in our Conference, translated the entire bible into Vietnamese. When Rev. Wingfield served on the Board of Ordained Ministry with Rev. Dang, he would see him up in the dark of the early morning at his desk translating. The body congratulated Rev. Dang on completing his work. Rev. Dang reported that 25,000 New Testaments and 37,500 whole Bibles have been distributed in Vietnam and to Vietnamese people in Cambodia, Laos, Russia, US, Canada, and many other countries. They are published in Vietnam with the expressed permission of the communist government there. This is a miracle in and of itself. This project can be supported through the Advance, "Bibles for Vietnam." It costs \$5 per Bible to print, and is available online at Bible.com.

Rev. Wingfield reminded the body of the call to share Scriptural holiness throughout the land, transform the world by sharing the great good news of JC, sharing stories of how we have been changed.

A video, "Therefore Go, GC2016 Day of Service," was shown about service projects that happened at General Conference. Doing good and making a difference in the world is the purpose of the legislation that is created. Methodists are called to do as Jesus did.

Rev. Wingfield closed the time of messaging with a benediction. Bishop Grant Hagiya dismissed the body for a 15 minute break.

33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Plenary 5
Saturday, June 17, 2017
10:15 AM

Call to Order: Bishop Grant J. Hagiya called the plenary to order at 10:20 AM. Bishop Hagiya welcomed Bishop Michael McKee of the North Texas Annual Conference, who will be the speaker for the ordination service. Bishop McKee spoke about his family's experience with the California-Pacific Conference and its churches and thanked Bishop Hagiya and the Annual Conference for their welcome. Bishop McKee and Bishop Hagiya spoke about the similarities between the the North Texas and California-Pacific conferences and how they work better together.

Orders of the Day: Rev. Bob Rhodes presented the orders of the day for approval. He announced that the second Plenary of the day (Plenary 6) has been moved from 1PM to 2PM. **Rev. Bob Rhodes moved the Orders of the Day. They were approved.**

Announcements: Rev. R. Preston Price, III, announced that keys need to be turned in by 10PM Saturday or 12PM Sunday. Linens can be bundled and left in rooms. Cal-Pac is charged for missing linens and he asks that the body be good stewards of resources. He asked for prayer for Rev. Karen Clark Ristine (Conference Secretary) and her mother, who is actively passing away.

Rev. Sandy Olewine announced that Rosie Rios is the commencement speaker for her graduation ceremony from University of California Los Angeles.

Rev. Bob Rhodes announced that Susan Strombotne left the conference gathering in order to be with her mother, who is passing away, and invited the body to pray for them.

Action on 2018 Budget (Recommendation 17-8): Archana Carey (Executive Director of Finance and Facilities) and Dan Griffin (Council on Finance and Administration) presented the budget.

Rev. David Berkey and Miranda Lohr gave an update on Young People's' Ministry, sharing that over 60 youth and young adults here at Annual Conference have met and created a new structure for youth and young adult ministries in Cal-Pac. Miranda invited youth and young adults not already involved to reach out to Conference leaders. Rev. Berkey said there are currently 40 youth and young adults interested in leadership within the new structure. He asked for prayer and the Holy Spirit's leading in this process. Bishop Hagiya challenge all present to mentor a young person, especially someone who is different from themselves.

Dan Griffin recommended the 2018 budget to the body. A question was asked from the floor about the salaries, pensions, and benefits for campus ministers, now that they are no longer employees of the conference. Rev. David Berkey reported that campus ministers will become employees of the boards of the Wesley Foundations at their respective schools. Grants and funding will be provided to those boards as needed. Jan Hansen, who is not present due to health issues, will have more information on this matter. Bishop Hagiya shared that a meeting will happen soon. Bishop Hagiya shared that the official documentation of the Annual Conference's decision to do this has been found and the Conference staff and boards will work to make sure the process for this transition is run well. **Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the 2018 budget was supported.**

Amendment 1 (Seconded): Edna Burems moved the Campus Ministries quota be changed from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The motion was seconded. Archana Carey explained quotas at the bishop's request. Four speeches were made in support of the motion. **Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and it was supported.**

A young adult asked about the availability of program funds allotted for a Director of Age-Level Ministries in the 2017 Budget in which the position was only filled for 3 months. Dan Griffin said that while the money is available in this budget year and is managed by Connectional Ministries, apportioned monies are not carried over from one budget year to another. Rev. John Farley (South District Superintendent) reiterated the question for further clarification. Mr. Griffin clarified that continued discussion on this matter should be directed toward the CFA.

Amendment 2 (Seconded): Rev. Eric Schmidt moved the Hunger Appeals quota be changed to \$30,000. The motion was seconded. Bishop Hagiya clarified that it is the responsibility of

related ministry areas to promote specific quota items. **Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and it was supported.**

Bishop Hagiya called for a vote on the 2018 quotas and it was supported.

COSROW Report: Krista McVey presented the COSROW report. In monitoring plenaries and legislative sections, COSROW notes that white men (mostly older) have done the most speaking, followed by white women (mostly older). She also noted that our conference is one of the most diverse in the United States UMC.

Retirement Recognition: Rev. Adiel de Pano and Rev. Paige Eaves recognized and thanked Gail Kendall, who is retiring from her position as Executive Assistant to the Bishop. They presented her with gifts. Gail thanked everyone for their support during her 11-year tenure.

Honoring Our Retired Clergy: Videos for retirees Rev. Holly Reinhart-Marean and Rev. Luat Trong Tran were shown.

Closing Announcements: Rev. Preston Price, III, announced we will reconvene at 2PM. He invited everyone to attend the Ministry Fair. The MFSA dinner has been moved to Orton Hall. Edna Burems gave the closing prayer.

33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Plenary 6
Saturday, June 17, 2017
2:00 PM

Call To Order: Bishop Grant J. Hagiya

Orders of the Day: Rev. Bob Rhodes presented and moved the Orders on the screens.
Bishop Hagiya moved the Orders of the Day, and they were approved.

RES 17-17 “Wesley Foundation Board of Directors”: Rev. Bob Rhodes moved **Res 17-17**.
Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and it was supported.

Bishop Hagiya recognized Mic 2, and Dr. James Dwyer moved for Cal-Pac to request a Declaratory Decision from the Judicial Council to determine the legality of the sentence in the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶161.G, “and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching,” because it violates the First and Second Restrictive Rules ¶17-18, and in particular the First Restrictive Rule, which states that “The General Conference shall not ... establish any new standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine” (¶17). The motion was seconded.

One-fifth of the body is required to support a request for a Declaratory Decision. **The body voted and it was supported. The request will be sent to Judicial Council.**

Casting A Vision: Bishop Hagiya said that “Why” must be the church’s central question. What is being abandoned in order to reach core values? What can be put in place to meet core values? Churches keep adding more and more, yet the central points presented throughout this Annual Conference show that the church could benefit from giving some things up in order to meet core values. Bishop Hagiya shared a story of an experience of pastoral care in which he had the privilege of witnessing life and death in one day, which was so powerful he fell to his knees to pray in the hospital parking lot. He thanked God that he was present with two families experienced death and resurrection. We give thanksgiving for the cycle.

The “why” is important, but the “what” is also important. The “what” can be confusing, since we are in a post-religious world and people are not coming to the church like they did in the 60s-70s. The church has to adapt and change strategy to find out what works and what doesn’t. District and conference events are opportunities to share strategies about what works and what does not work.

The church needs to strengthen areas of Leadership, Discipleship, and Community so that we can meet the needs of today. The old standards are not working. Bishop Hagiya has a personal axiom of “I could be wrong,” which helps him remember that the things that do not work are just as important as the things that do work. Bishop Hagiya’s hope is that church renewal and revitalization will be fueled by our laity rather than our clergy. There are hundreds of laity waiting to be energized for ministry, which would affect all churches and communities as they fulfill the Baptismal vow through the power of Jesus Christ.

Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) are trained as lay people to serve and lead smaller congregations and settings. Sending CLMs to mission areas is a model for the future. They laity are spiritually hungry, and need a deep sense of spiritual guidance but don’t know where to find it. They try to find meaning in the secular world, but the “Age of Aquarius” let them down. The churches have let them down spiritually too. The church can reclaim spiritual vitality by having forums where any question can be welcomed, entertained, and taken seriously. A 5000 member church is doing this with great impact, and others can as well.

The UMC’s Wesleyan DNA offers answers to these theological questions through our understanding of Justifying, Sanctifying, and Perfecting Grace. Bishop Hagiya will provide continuing education opportunities with visiting scholars that provide training to equip his vision, widespread spiritual grounding, and stewardship education. He expects high accountability for clergy, but also high resourcing to help clergy be their best. A Coaching initiative has begun throughout the conference, with the goal that everyone has a professionally trained coach through the Coaching4Clergy program. Bishop Hagiya will take a group of up to 50 people will be attending 5th Transforming Ministry Conference in Portland, Oregon, in August 2017. The group will tour Nike, learn what the creative process is like from the original Jordan designer, and discern how that process can be applicable to the church. McMenamins hotels and restaurants also have a legacy from which we can learn.

Bishop Hagiya said that we all have resources which we need to gather together to maximize our collective resources! He is energized by these hopes and visions and assures the body that together we can do great things. Normally the Episcopacy is 8 years, and effective change takes about 7 years. However, Bishop Hagiya only has 4 years with us, so he is accelerating the process. The possibilities are exciting, and all ideas and energy are welcome.

Honoring Our Retired Clergy: A video was shown celebrating Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey

J.P. Harris reported that there is a wildfire one mile outside of Wrightwood. The community is under mandatory evacuation. A prayer was offered.

Eastern Congo “Mama Lynn Women’s Center”: Rev. Greg Batson (Cal-Pac Foundation) reported that Cal-Pac has partnered with two other Conferences (Tennessee and Memphis) with a \$350,000 campaign to build the Mama Lynn Center in the East Congo, which will provide safety and support for survivors of violence and domestic abuse. The body is encouraged to step up support in local churches. James Kang created a website: calpacumc.org/congowomenarise.

Rev. Jim Powell (North District Superintendent) reported that this work began when the North District challenged its members to raise funds for a motorcycle for Bishop Unda, and enough funds were raised to pay for a van in addition to the motorcycle. Then, the North District began to raise funds for the Mama Lynn Center through a variety of fundraisers. Rev. Powell presented a check for over \$38,000 to Archana Carey.

Sessions Committee: Rev. Lew Fry reported on behalf of Bishop Hagiya, who is Chair of Sessions. Toby Bushy and Amy Metcalf (University of Redlands) have been most responsive to needs. Rev. Fry acknowledged the hard work of the many people who make Annual Conference possible, such as: John Demaree (Media Team) and his team of volunteers; Jennifer Gaylord (Registration and Housing) and her team of volunteers; Rev. Karen Clark Ristine (Conference Secretary); Rev. Bob Rhodes (Orders of the Day); Rev. Rachel Tabutol and Rev. Stephen Wilson (UM Daily) and their team of volunteers; Ken Ellis (Chapel Stage Coordinator); and Susie Strombotne, Beth Rhodes, and Rev. Camille Maddock (Child Care); and Barbara Call-Day (Nurse).

Bishop Hagiya set the dates for the next Annual Conference: **Wednesday, June 13 - Saturday, June 16, 2018**. Rev. Lew Fry moved that the 2018 Annual Conference be held at the University of Redlands. There will be discussion of alternative sites in the future. **Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.**

Bishop Hagiya thanked the worship team, soloists, and all provided inspiration: Session Committee, Media Team, Cabinet and Staff who put in countless hours, Support Staff, Board of Ordained Ministry, and especially the laity. The body applauded. After break, the Inaugural Class of the Bishop’s Awards for lifetime achievement will be awarded.

Closing Business: Rev. R. Preston Price, III, announced that UM Daily reports will be on the Cal-Pac website. Suggestions or changes needed should be reported to Rev. Karen Clark Ristine. Rev. Price moved that the Annual Conference will be concluded after the Ordination Service is concluded this evening. **Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and it was supported.**

Scholarships & Awards: Rev. Curtis Brown (Discipleship Ministries) presented the “One Matters” award. He affirmed that reaching out to one more person matters, because God has not created any extra persons or extra churches. A video was presented to recognize Aiea United Methodist Church in Hawaii, which opened in 1976. In December 2016 they consecrated a new Korean ministry, now known as Aiea Korean UMC, and received 105 new members and 15 baptisms that day. Rev. Brown introduced Rev. Hoyong Kim, pastor of Aiea Korean UMC, and presented him the “One Matters” award, giving thanks to all the laity who worked together to make it happen. Bishop Hagiya noted that the church was also awarded \$1000.

Bishop Hagiya granted the body a 15 minute break.

Upon return from break, Rev. Preston and Jean Price were called forward to address the body on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Rev. Price has helped the Bishop all week and been a dominant presence.

Scholarships & Awards: Rev. Bob Rhodes invited Bob Arvizu introduce the Scholarships. Mr. Arvizu presented Bishop Hagiya with a mug and a pen. Mr. Arvizu described how the scholarships were originally used and how they are distributed now to Community Colleges and UM Youth. Mr. Arvizu presented a report of the four most recent recipients. Since 2015, 12 scholarships have been awarded. The body was invited to raise funds for scholarships through the “adopt a piggy” fundraiser.

Points of Personal Privilege: Rev. Rhodes invited the following persons to share a point of personal privilege. Rev. Mark Stephenson lifted up yesterday’s court verdict regarding the tragic shooting of Philando Castille, which has prompted protests. He invited the body to work for equal protection for all people, as we use open dialogue to heal wounds, stop the hurt, fight for justice, and eliminate racial divisions. The Bishop offered a prayer.

Rev. JT Greenleaf thanked the body for participating in the Ice Cream Social at University UMC, which raised \$1100 for a youth mission trip with Sierra Service Project to Tsaille, Arizona.

Ainise Isamau thanked Bishop Hagiya for challenging the Pacific Islander churches in Hawaii and on the mainland to create a camp that would help bridge the gap between first and second generations. With 4 months of careful planning, they created a camp themed “Feed My Sheep” which used cultural and spiritual workshops and Q & A faith questions to teach kids how to spiritually feed sheep. 91 youth and young adults attended.

Bishop’s Awards: Bishop Hagiya honored six Annual Conference members who have made considerable impacts within the community with Lifetime Achievement awards for service to Cal-

Pac: Rev. Dr. John Cobb, Jr.; Gaunnie Hardin Dixon; Becky Haase; Stephen F. Harbison; Byron Hayes, Jr.; and James M. Lawson, Jr. Each recipient was given an opportunity to address the conference.

Bishop Hagiya introduced the recipients with a summary of why they were chosen:

Rev. Dr. John Cobb, Jr. - He is ranked with theological giants such as Karl Barth, and his scholarly work has been guided toward helping people understand how theology guides practice, specifically in ecology. He embodies grace and has Christ-like qualities.

Gaunnie Hardin Dixon - She served as Conference Lay Leader, is a solid rock of strength, and is willing to say "yes" and try anything with enthusiasm.

Becky Haase - Becky has expertise in finance, an ability to pinpoint problems, and is courageous enough to speak the truth through her presence in the conference.

Stephen F. Harbison - As Cal-Pac's first full-time chancellor, he often provided his time and services pro-bono.

Byron Hayes, Jr. - As the first Cal-Pac chancellor, he played a critical role in restoring financial stability and fruitfulness during a challenging time, and continues to offer his services pro-bono.

James M. Lawson, Jr. - Notable not just within our Conference, but around the world, Jim has a passion for and has worked towards racial justice and reconciliation. He continues on the forefront of the work of justice and reconciliation by teaching and mentoring new generations.

Bishop Hagiya welcomed Lucille Wheatley, who was honored at the MFSA Dinner later that evening and turned 100 years old in March. As a Quaker, she learned two things: active concern for the welfare of others, and remaining quiet until God's still small voice told her to speak. She lived life speaking the language of love by participating in marches and seeking social justice.

Rev. Rhodes asked the body to remove all personal items from the auditorium, as it will be locked immediately following this session until 6:15 PM.

Bishop Hagiya led the body in a Sending Liturgy in which clergy and laity from each district were invited to stand with the Bishop and District Superintendents and receive a blessing upon the next year of ministry. The Bishop officially closed this session and sent the body to dinner.

Commissioning and Ordination
Saturday June 17, 2017

Handel's Music from the Royal Fireworks was played as the prelude and the congregation gathered. During the processional hymn, Praise to the Lord the Almighty, while the Board Of Ordained Ministry Leadership team, worship participants, candidates, and Bishops processed.

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya greeted everyone and led the gathering in prayer. After prayer, congregation was led in a recognition of common ministry and reaffirmation of baptism.

Bishop Hagiya inquired about who presented the candidates to be ordained or commissioned. The laity recommended the candidates in their local congregations and presented them with prayer and support. The Board of Ordained Ministry confirmed the examination of the candidates and presented them with prayer and support. Rev. M. Cherie Jones presented the people for ordination as deacon: Jeffrey Alan Bishop, Martha Walz Morales, and Robin Ann Rhodes. She then presented the people for ordination as elder: Valerie Lou Weise and Stephen Jerry Wilson. Rev. Sunyoung Lee presented for commissioning as provisional members preparing for ordained ministry as elders: 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. She then presented for commissioning as provisional members preparing for ordained ministry as deacons: Jeania Ree Violet Moore and Chelsea Laine Simon. After the candidates were presented the Board of Ordained Ministry affirmed them with our prayers and support.

Bishop Hagiya asked the congregation to declare their assent for the ordination and commissioning of the candidates. Bishop Hagiya, Bishop Felipe Ruiz, Bishop Charles Wesley Jordan, and Bishop Michael McKee then examined the candidates for commissioning and ordination.

The congregation offered a prayer for illumination by singing "Word of God, Come Down on Earth." James Choi shared Ephesians 4: 1-16 and Rev. Martha Morales lifted up Matthew 10:1, 5-10.

Bishop Hagiya introduced Bishop Michael McKee prior to the sermon "First Things Last."

Bishop McKee spoke about his call to ministry when he was four years old, and the subsequent change of mind when he realized that all the pastors he knew were bald. He spoke of ordination services being remarkable moments in the church's life; a momentous time in a conference's life.

Bishop McKee reflected on his own ordination as a deacon 45 years ago just after his wedding. Someone commented on how shiny and new their rings were, and that his ordination night would also be shiny and new for him. Bishop McKee was also reminded that not everything in ministry is shiny and new; it is fulfilling but it is challenging and difficult also. Whether we are difficult or not, we are given to each other by God. The practice of ministry happens despite this difficultness. Only the first things last.

Bishop McKee wants all those being ordained or commissioned to remember everything about this night. When things become challenging for him, Bishop McKee draws on that well of memories of his ordination. He encouraged those being commissioned and ordained to read the fourth chapter of Paul's letter to Ephesus every week until the day they die. The scripture repeats two words over and over again - one and all. One baptism - we just remembered our own baptisms - a first thing. You need to know the story of Jesus so that his story becomes your story.

We need to remember that these people being ordained and commissioned and all of us need to remember the first things, one faith, one hope, one Lord, one baptism, one body, and one spirit.

This tells us something about who we need to be as a church too and the responsibilities we have. It is about the unity of the spirit and the unity of the body of Christ. We all belong to God. This troubled world needs to have some conversations about what it means for the abundant life of God's children.

The body of Christ is put together by ligaments. Just as ligaments connect bones together, religion connects people together as the body of Christ. Bishop McKee pointed out that the root word for ligaments is the root word for religion. He stressed that everyone has a place, a ministry, and a calling and these have to be shared among the people because no one has all the gifts which are needed in the world today. Bishop McKee is amazed about what gifted clergy and laity can achieve together. He pointed out that the people behind him may be bringing gifts which perhaps none of the rest of us has.

Bishop McKee recounted a story of "Chuck" who serves as a local pastor in a rural setting after a career at police officer. Chuck worked to establish a welcoming environment for for a family that had a child with disabilities after receiving a request from the boy's mother. Opening doors for this family, did not just welcome them but welcomed others to the church and ministry abounds.

Bishop McKee encouraged everyone to pick up the gauntlet, answer their emails, listen to what people are telling them on the streets, so that they might hear how you are knit together as the body of Christ.

Rev. Elbert Kim led the congregation in an Affirmation of Faith. "Njoo kwetu, Roho mwema (Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading)" was sung.

Bishop Hagiya commissioned Rev. Andrew Lee as a missionary and offered a prayer over him and his ministry. Rev. Andrew Lee, his spouse, and children are all leaving Hawaii to go to Cambodia to undertake missionary work. Rev. Lee was vested with an anchor cross. The congregation joined with Bishop Hagiya in covenanting to support Rev. Lee by word, gift and deed.

“Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading” was sung (in Swahili, Refrain in English) with the congregation joining in for the refrain, while those to be commissioned as provisional members came forward.

COMMISSIONING PROVISIONAL MEMBERS FOR SERVICE

As the Candidates for Provisional Membership stood behind the Communion Table, Bishop Hagiya addressed the congregation acknowledging the work of the Holy Spirit in the candidates’ lives that led them to be commissioned, and invited the gathering to continue to hold them in prayer as they prepared for ordained ministry. Bishop Hagiya extended arms over all of the candidates and prayed. Then one at a time, the candidates came forward and kneeled. Bishop Hagiya laid both hands upon the shoulders of each candidate and prayed. As each candidate was commissioned, those present to support them stood. Jeania Ree Violet Moore and Chelsea Laine Simon were commissioned as Provisional Deacons. 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 as Provisional Elders. The gathering sang verse 1 and 2 of “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading”.

EXAMINATION OF DEACONS

As the Candidates for Ordination as a Deacon stood behind the Communion Table, Bishop Hagiya examined them for Ordination as a Deacon, then prayed over them. A sung prayer, “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading” (Refrain in English), was offered over the candidates. The candidates for Ordination as a Deacon were invited to kneel before the Bishop one at a time. Family members and friends were invited to stand where they were for silent prayer during the laying on of hands. Bishop Hagiya laid both hands on the head of the Ordinand and prayed. The Ordinand then placed hands on the Bible, while Bishop Hagiya charged them to take their authority as a Deacon. The Ordinand was presented with a stole to represent the mantle they took up. Jeffrey Alan Bishop, Martha Walz Morales, and Robin Ann Rhodes were ordained as deacons. The gathering sang verse 3 and 4 of “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading”.

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

As the Candidates for Ordination stood behind the Communion Table, Bishop Hagiya examined them for Ordination as an Elder, then prayed over them. A sung prayer, “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading” (Refrain in English), was offered over the candidates. Candidates for Ordination as an Elder were invited to kneel before the Bishop one at a time. Family members and friends were invited to stand where they were for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for Ordinands. Bishop Hagiya laid both hands on the head of each Ordinand and prayed. The Ordinand then placed his/her hands on the Bible, while Bishop Hagiya charged them to take their authority as an Elder. Each person ordained then received a stole to represent the mantle they took up. Valerie Lou Weise and Stephen Jerry Wilson were ordained elders. The gathering sang verse 5 of “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading,” then it was sung in Swahili.

Rev. Karin Ellis called for the Offering which was allocated to support Congo Women Arise. Concertato on “Lasst Uns Erfreuen” was played while the offering was requested. The congregation joined in the doxology after the offering.

The Bishops presided over Holy Communion and the new commissioners and ordinands helped to serve. The congregation was dismissed with a blessing and sang "Go to the World" as worship participants recessed from the chancel. "Toccata from Symphony No. 5" was played as a postlude.

