Prior to the opening of the 33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference, the Clergy gathered for a time of covenanting, prayer, and reflection.

**Wednesday, June 14, 2017**

**Orders Covenant Session**

Orton Center 1:00 PM

As the clergy gathered for lunch prior to the Orders Covenant Session, Rev. Colleen Windham-Hughes offered a word of welcome. She explained that photographs would be displayed of previous commissioning and ordination classes. The gathering was invited to consider what has changed since they began in ministry. Rev. Erin McPhee offered an invocation and invited those gathered to begin the meal. Following the meal, the clergy were delighted to welcome Bishop Grant Hagiya back to Cal-Pac in his new capacity as bishop, and he graciously answered many questions -- including instruction on the appointment process, his vision for mission, and his personal practices of renewal.

The Orders Covenant Session began with a welcome by Rev. Ken Suhr who invited the gathering to sing “Great is thy Faithfulness.” Joys and concerns were lifted up and Rev. Ed Hansen offered prayer.

Rev. Windham-Hughes introduced the Orders Executive Committee and invited the gathering to contact the members as needed for support. She read Paragraph 606 of the Book of Discipline on Orders and asked those gathered to reflect on its meaning for their ministry covenant.

Rev. Suhr shared what it means for him for the United Methodist Church to be a church of “the Movement” and not “the Moment.” He encouraged clergy to shift from a moments-based church to a movements-based community, emphasizing that this shift takes change, sacrifice, and openness. Rev. Suhr noted the Orders Executive Committee is working to promote covenantal relationships between clergy in the conference and encouraged clergy to start and/or become part of such groups.

Rev. Moonyoung Lee shared about the history of Methodist Class Meetings, distributing “Class Tickets” based on the original tickets given to Methodist class meeting participants. The tables were designated as Covenant Groups and asked to discuss, “How is it with your soul?”

Rev. Mark Richardson spoke about the importance of counseling for clergy and the resources the Orders Executive Committee provides to reimburse clergy for counseling for 50 percent of out-of-pocket costs. Clergy were asked to discuss, “When something is broken in your life, where do you go to for help?”

Rev. Cathy Cooper-Ledesma shared about the importance of clergy participating in continuing education opportunities and the resources the Orders Executive Committee provides, including $1,000 per quadrennium for continuing education and renewal leave.
Rev. Colleen Windham-Hughes talked about what the Orders Executive Committee provides, including connecting pastors with Elder Pastors, sending cards to grieving clergy families on behalf of the conference clergy, and staying connected with retired clergy through CHARMS.

Rev. Paige Eaves and Rev. Adiel De Pano led in a laying on of hands for Bishop Hagiya as the gathering prepared to enter into the opening worship of Annual Conference. Rev. Tom Choi led the gathering in singing “Be Thou My Vision”. Bishop Hagiya gave a closing benediction.

33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Opening Worship
Wednesday June 14, 2017
Memorial Chapel 3:00 PM

Worship leader John Oh invited the gathering to rise and sing. The Annual Conference Worship Band lead in singing, “This is the Day,” “This is Amazing Grace,” “Great Are You Lord,” and “Breathe.”

Rev. Karen Clark Ristine and Rev. Dr. Lincoln Galloway led the Call to Worship which was based on Ezekiel 37:1-5, 11-14. Bishop Grant Hagiya, Lay Leaders Phil and Connee Freeman, along with the Cabinet stood as the litany of response was shared. The gathering sang “And Are We Yet Alive” and recited the Litany of Response. Rev. Ruben Esponda read Matthew 10:5-10 from The Message.

Bishop Grant Hagiya offered the Episcopal Address. Since his election as a bishop, he has had one burning goal: to revitalize the churches. The California-Pacific Conference’s 10-year statistics show decline, and Bishop Hagiya shared his belief that this occurs when we give up the opportunities to transform individual lives. Leadership has not been clear about where we need to go and why we need to go there.

Bishop Hagiya wants United Methodists to have more conversations in light of the tumultuous events and the divide over LGBT issues. He said has become more convinced that the United Methodist Church must stay together, and he believes there is a way forward, together.

On average, the UMC has divided every 50 years in its existence - over doctrine, over slavery, and over culture. Dividing is not new to the Methodist Church. If we split apart over the issue of human sexuality, we will lose far more than we gain, he said.

Bishop Hagiya listed UMC Missional accomplishments to be proud of: Raising over 68 million dollars for Imagine No Malaria; becoming a worldwide church with increasing members from Africa and Asia; United Methodist Committee on Relief being sought by the federal government to teach and implement case work; and building the first great university for the African continent, Africa University.

The mission of the UMC must remain primary and ideological divisions remain secondary. This is God’s mission, not ours, Bishop Hagiya said, and our own sinful nature thwarts our mission when we argue over sexual identity.

Ninety percent of the UMC believes that any separation will harm the denomination. It is only the extremes of the Church’s right and left - traditional and progressive - that want the Church to split. People will leave in any change process. We must ask, “How many casualties can we withstand as leaders?” Casualties are part of the change process and a reality.

Bishop Hagiya stressed that the church must find a way to stay together for the sake of the world. To emphasize this, he had the body read 1 Corinthians 3:4-9 in unison.

Bishop Hagiya said that love and reconciliation win over fear and hatred. We can stay together in love even though we don’t agree on this issue. Bishop Hagiya spoke of his colleague, Bishop Mike Lowry of
the Texas Conference. While having similar histories, they discovered that they were opposites on both theological and social issues. Through their honest sharing, they decided their friendship showed a better way. They spoke of issues that were dear to their hearts - the mission of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Hagiya stressed that we must respect and love the other person even when we disagree on these issues - this is what we must do. We must center our attention on the mission God has given to us as addressed in Matthew 10:5-8, which was read in unison from the Message translation.

We don’t have to take on all the ills of the world. We need to tackle the problems where we live, right next door to us. Jesus has given us this power and authority to be in mission. We do not have to be ordained. All of us in our baptism are called to fulfill this mission.

“You have been treated generously. Now live generously.” Even though we don’t deserve this love, God has loved us. We fall short, but God still loves us. In turn, we must go and love everyone else with the same love God gives to us. This is our purpose.

Bishop Hagiya’s late father, a mechanic by trade, upon retirement volunteered at his local church as a handyman. He also wanted to help the community. He started a specialized recycling program for the local senior center. Upon retiring from this, the Center wanted to honor him with an award. Reluctantly, he went to the awards dinner. He had raised over $400,000 through this program for the Center, right in his own community.

Matthew 10:9-10 was read in unison.

We don’t need a lot of money and resources. All we need is ourselves. We are the equipment. All we really need is sustenance, so travel light. All that is required is faith, which will guide us toward the way forward.

We must counter the ethos of fear in our society today. To confine the Gospel to ourselves is a travesty. If we are to have this mission reform, grow, and prosper, we must move away from institutional maintenance. We must engage with real missions right where we live! Go to the lost, confused people. Tell them of the Kingdom of God.

Metrics are always difficult. The Church needs to reform the way we count. Every local church needs to reach out to its neighborhood and bring 10 new people to Christ every year. Every church needs to increase its average worship attendance by 10%.

Every church needs to make 25% of the current congregation living Disciples. Every church needs to give 100% of its apportionment. We need find new creative ways to raise funds.

Annual Conference Goals: the need to double our vital congregations; start 20 new faith communities in the next three years; create comprehensive revitalization of local church programs; and improve our leadership, discipleship, and community engagement systems.

We will try to provide whatever resources each local church needs. Now is the time for us to trust in God and to work for health and vitality in our communities and churches. Now is the time for us to have a vision of who God calls us to be in our neighborhood. We must decide if this is going to be our shared agenda, or only the Bishop’s agenda. We must have our own unique agenda for our local communities as well.

As a closing story Bishop Hagiya told of a family friend whose history mirrored the Bishop’s own as third-generation Japanese-Americans. The family’s dream was to purchase a farm which they did in the California desert. It was a piece of deserted, barren land which the father stared out for over 20 minutes in silence. That night, the family gathered at the shelter on the property. The father stood up and announced
that this was their new home. There would be no talk of going back. The father had a vision for the possibilities of this land. In the following years, the family would work hard to transform a dry and barren land into a rich and lush farm. Five of the nine children went to college. Among the dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren are now doctors, lawyers, and teachers - all because of one person’s vision.

Cal Pac Conference, the Bishop urged, do not give in to cynicism or denial. Now is the time for faith and vision. Now is the time for action. May it be so.

Claremont School of Theology President Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan offered an invitation to support Claremont School of Theology with the offering and prayed over the gifts to be given.

Rev. Ristine invited members to write prayers on pieces of ribbon to be tied on the prayer walls in the chapel narthex.

Bishop Hagiya, with Phil and Connee Freeman, prayed Blessings of Healing and Hope. They invited the body to exchange signs of peace with one another. The worship musicians ended the service with “I am Free to Run.”

**Messaging Moment 1**

**Vision Overview**

Hawaii District Superintendent Rev. Se Hee Han welcomed Bishop Grant Hagiya with a floral lei.

The first Messaging Moment was delivered by Bishop Grant Hagiya. He offered an overview of his vision for Annual Conference. The Bishop interspersed his talk with videos and diagrams.

The first video was “Stuck on an Escalator.” Change process is often like the video. We expect others to do the change but we are the ones who need to initiate change for our churches.

Diagram - “The Four Priorities”: This diagram began on a napkin, then on a piece of paper, then a crude computer diagram. Cal-Pac Director of Communications James Kang created the finished diagram.

At the center is God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit: This is our core and everything emanates from this center. Communion with God, spirituality, must be our center.
The four outlying circles are:

**Transforming Leaders** - leadership development. Laity must lead this charge.

**Transforming Lives** - disciple-making and spirituality. If we are disciples, then we are willing to go to our deaths for Jesus. We need that discipleship commitment.

**Transforming the World** - this is what we do well as an Annual Conference and denomination. This must continue, especially in our local communities.

**Transforming Vital Congregations** - church revitalization and new church development. We need both to start new places for new people and to revitalize existing churches.

Revitalization means we live to the potential of our churches. Like deferred maintenance, we are paying the price of not revitalizing our churches for so long.

Resources - we must put all of our resource - financial, human, time and energy - toward healthy and vital congregations. The AC will resource our local churches, laity and clergy.

Local churches exist to make disciples to transform the world.

Apportionments will be decreased and alternative sources of revenue will be explored.

Bishop Hagiya asked the conference to discuss the vision in small groups.

Bishop Hagiya asked the conference consider why Southern California is growing while the church is declining. This tension means that the mission field is large and needs us.

The potential for Southern California is seen in these numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>24 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>29 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2050</td>
<td>39 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is the playing field, the harvest in our midst, Bishop Hagiya said. We can’t sit here and decline when our population is growing around us. If we were a corporation and we saw these numbers, we would double the energy and resources poured into this area. The opportunity is right here, and we are poised and positioned as a church to make a difference. We must be motivated to live out this potential.

Luke 10:1-3 was read in unison.

Our job is to pray, to train, to mentor the people who will go out into the mission field to make disciples. We are clear on where we need to go.

Bishop Hagiya reminded the gathering that the center of our foundation is God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Hagiya told the story of when he was 14 and his mother was diagnosed with cancer and eventually passed away. What got him through was looking at his mother’s faith, which was like a rock. He pulled out his sixth-grade Bible and lived with it. The Bible enabled him to make it through this tragedy. We have to have our center in God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. All else is peripheral to that center.

He closed by sharing a video with Michael Jr “How do I know” and encouraged the gathering to remember that we learn through failure so don’t be afraid to fail.

We know what our What is. We must discover our Why in our souls. If we can discover our Why as an Annual Conference, we will discover our purpose. The Bishop invited the Annual Conference to find this Why. This is the beginning of our understanding of why we are here.
Bishop Hagiya invited Rev. Karen Clark Ristine to share announcements and a closing prayer. She invited Episcopacy Committee Chair Rev. Adiel dePano to formally welcome the bishop back to the Cal-Pac Conference after eight years of being away. Rev. Ristine said, “Welcome Home,” and Rev. dePano invited the body to welcome the Bishop with our applause. Rev. DePano then led a prayer for Bishop Hagiya.

Rev. Ristine offered a closing prayer.

33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Laity Session
Wednesday June 14, 2017
Orton Center 7:00 PM

The Laity Session began with a welcome by Andre Aldridge, West District Co-Lay Leader, recognizing first-time attenders. He said he wants everyone’s experience to be positive and pointed out the information in the Member Guide.

Eutha Hankinson, member of Laity Council, gave the opening prayer.

Mercy Herstad, North District Co-Lay Leader, lead the hymn, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.” José Griffin Atli was the pianist.

Connee and Phil Freeman, Conference Co-Lay Leaders, were introduced. They said they pray constantly for the laity and regularly visit churches in the conference. They recognized 40 young adult attendees. Three members of the Laity Council, Liz Roark, Doug and Judy Lewis, are retiring and were presented a recognition plaque.

Annie Solomon, East District Co-Lay Leader, recognized the Lay Young Adult Person of Year from Emmanuel UMC in San Bernardino - Mikhayla Roark. Dionne Taylor, South District Co-Lay Leader recognized the Lay Woman of the Year from Santee UMC - Roben Partridge. JP Harris, Co-Lay Leader North District recognized the Lay Man of the Year from Glendale UMC - Sheldon Hasse.

Denyse Barnes, Ojai UMC, intern at Hollywood UMC, offered a preview of legislation. She defined terms. She discussed the different types of motions and the procedures to be followed during Plenary Sessions. Ms. Barnes explained the legislative section number at the upper right corner of the name tag. She informed the laity that the legislative sections will meet Thursday at 1:30 PM. Ms. Barnes explained microphone courtesies.

Andre Aldridge introduced Stan Shimotsu, West Los Angeles UMC, motivational speaker who spoke on the theme of “From Here to There.” Mr Shimotsu shared that storytelling is healing. He explained the relevance of the Japanese internment to today.

Pat Hogan described the process for certification for lay servant ministries.

The gathering of the laity sang the closing hymn, “Surely the Presence of the Lord.” Jasmine Platon was the pianist. Ralph Hogan offered a benediction.
Bishop Grant Hagiya opened the Clergy Executive Session of the Annual Conference. Rev. Elbert Kim requested on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry to allow the following laity to remain: laity serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry, non-clergy assisting with the Audio-Video systems, Gail Kendall and Martha Villalta from the Episcopal Office, and Cathy Wilson, the administrative coordinator for the Board of Ordained Ministry. The request was approved.

Rev. Richard Garner, chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, offered opening remarks. He expressed gratitude for the leadership of Bishop Hagiya and the Board of Ordained Ministry, including new members.

Rev. Elbert Kim, Registrar for the Board, reported the diligent and faithful work performed by the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and offered gratitude to Cathy Wilson for her invaluable assistance in formulating the report. Many of the Disciplinary Questions do not require action, so clergy only voted on the portions that did. Editorial corrections were not made during the session. Instead, the gathering was encouraged to send an email with corrected information to Cathy Wilson at cwilson@calpacumc.org or by leaving a message at the university message center.

The first order of business was consideration of provisional members to be commissioned and members to be ordained in full connection.

**Disciplinary Questions 28 and 32, 33 and 34:**

The Board presented the 2017 candidates for provisional membership and membership in full connection. For provisional membership and commissioning as deacons, the Board presented Jeania Ree Violet Moore and Chelsea Laine Simon. For provisional membership and commissioning as elders, 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 deacons in full connection, the Board presented Jeffrey Alan Bishop, Martha Walz Morales, and Robin Ann Rhodes. For ordination as elders in full connection, the Board presented Valerie Lou Weise, and Stephen Jerry Wilson. After the introductions, the candidates left the chapel to be voted on individually.

**PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND COMMISSIONING:**

Rev. Sunyoung Lee, registrar for provisional membership, introduced each of the candidates to be commissioned before votes were taken.

Rev. Kim moved Jeania Ree Violet Moore for provisional membership and commissioning on Deacon track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Chelsea Laine Simon for provisional membership and commissioning on Deacon track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Benjamin Paul Camp for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Christopher Robert Carter for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.
Rev. Kim moved James Hyun Choi for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Ki Tae Choi for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved John Feaumolotu V. Finau for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Matthew Ray Hambrick for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Hannah Ka for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Bae Sun Kim for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Erin Karynn Stenberg for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Blair Trygstad Stowe for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Sione Tongia Tu’ipulotu for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Hee Jung Yu for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Sunyoung Lee offered a prayer for those approved and invited the gathering to show their celebration for the newly elected provisional members.

Rev. K. Cherie Jones, the registrar for Full Connection, introduced each of the candidates to be ordained before votes were taken.

Rev. Kim moved Jeffrey Alan Bishop for ordination as a Deacon in full connection. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Martha Walz Morales for ordination as a Deacon in full connection. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Robin Ann Rhodes for ordination as a Deacon in full connection. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Valerie Lou Weise for ordination as an Elder in full connection. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved Stephen Jerry Wilson for ordination as an Elder in full connection. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. K. Cherie Jones offered a prayer for those approved for full ordination and invited the gathering to show their celebration for those elected.
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES OR DENOMINATIONS

Disciplinary Questions 31, 38, 39, 41, 65 & 66
Rev. Tom Choi introduced the following as transfers from other Annual 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. Choi introduced the following as transfers from other denominations:
J. Anthony Boger, transferring in as a Provisional Member from the Seventh Day Adventist denomination.

Rev. Choi moved to receive Bethany Carpenter by transfer as an Elder in full connection. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Choi moved to receive Mandy McDow by transfer as an Elder in full connection. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Choi moved to receive John Michio Miyahara by transfer as an Elder in full connection. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Choi moved to receive Deborah Shepherd by transfer as a Commissioned Deacon in Provisional Membership. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Choi moved to receive J. Anthony Boger by transfer from the Seventh Day Adventist denomination as a Provisional Member. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Choi offered a prayer for those who transferred.

Disciplinary Question 29 under letters (a) and (d)
Rev. Kim invited the session to review the list of deacons and elders in provisional membership who are already in preparation for ordination.

Disciplinary Question 19
Rev. Paige Eaves recognized persons who have served on the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and as candidacy mentors, and reported on certified candidates and offered a prayer.

Disciplinary Questions 21
Pastor Jim Brooking moved approval of all Local Pastors listed. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported. Pastor Brookings offered a prayer.

Disciplinary Question 24 and Disciplinary Question 49
Rev. Kim noted the list of ministers from other Annual Conferences or Methodist Denominations serving in California-Pacific Annual Conference while retaining their conference or denominational membership. He also noted the list of clergy appointed in other Annual Conferences while retaining their membership with California-Pacific Annual Conference. Rev. Kim invited those present who fit these categories to stand and be recognized.
Disciplinary Question 25
Rev. Kim moved the list of ministers from other Christian denominations serving in California-Pacific Annual Conference while retaining their denominational affiliation. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported. Rev. Kim invited those present who fit this category to stand and be recognized.

Disciplinary Question 26 (b)
Rev. Kim moved the list of all affiliate members retaining their Annual Conference membership while serving in this Annual Conference. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Disciplinary Question 27
Rev. Kim moved all associate members serving in this Annual Conference. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported. Rev. Kim invited those present who fit these categories to stand and be recognized.

Disciplinary Question 18(a)
Rev. Kim moved the nominations for the Administrative Review Committee as this is the start of the new quadrennium. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Disciplinary Question 18(c)
Rev. Kim moved the list of those to serve on the Committee on Investigation. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Disciplinary Question 42
Rev. Kim reported Disciplinary Question 42 on page 9 lists those who are recommended for discontinuance from provisional membership.

Rev. Kim moved discontinuance for Amanda Burr by expiration of the eight-year time limit. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim moved discontinuance for Hilly Hicks by voluntary discontinuance. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. K. Cherie Jones offered a prayer.

Disciplinary Question 17
Rev. Kim introduced the disciplinary question that asks: “Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration?” Bishop Grant Hagiya formally asked each District Superintendent to stand and asked each whether clergy under their care are blameless in their life and official administration. The East, Hawaii, North, and West district superintendents answered, “Yes.” South District Superintendent Rev. John Farley, answered “Yes, all but one, who is under review.” Bishop Hagiya asked clergy to affirm that district superintendents are blameless in their life and official administration. All were affirmed.

Disciplinary Question 43
Rev. Mark Ulrickson, from Conference Relations, reported there was no one placed on honorable location.

Disciplinary Question 44
Rev. Ulrickson moved two individuals to be placed on retired status this year. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.
Disciplinary Question 45
Rev. Ulrickson moved the termination of those on honorable location who failed to submit a report to the Annual Conference for two consecutive years.
Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Disciplinary Question 46
Rev. Ulrickson moved the termination of conference membership by withdrawal.
Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Disciplinary Questions 50 and 52
Rev. Ulrickson presented Disciplinary Questions 50 and 52, related to leaves.
The Board moved for approval Disciplinary Question 50.
Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

The Board moved for approval Disciplinary Question 52.
Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Moment of Personal Privilege by Rev. Mary Scifres: Prayer for Stephanie Toon.


Rev. Ulrickson offered a prayer for leaves, withdrawals and termination of membership.

Disciplinary Question 48
Rev. Ulrickson reported Disciplinary Question 48, the names of those who served in ministry and finished their labors and are now in the church triumphant are listed: Harry Adams (Retired), Paulino Alfaro (Retired), James Burn (Retired), Dale Conrad (Retired), Melvin Criswell (Retired), James Decker-Mahin (Retired), James Dinkel (Retired), Dennis Holway (Retired), Myra Hogan (Retired Deacon), Marilyn Huntington (Retired), Yong Han Jeon (Retired), Marshall M. Ketchum (Retired), Tong Ho Kim (Retired Deacon), Allen J. Moore (Retired), Mardoqueo “Mardy” Olivas (Retired), Wonwha Lee Ryu (Retired), Miyeko Kawata Uriu (Retired), Helen Waterson (Diaconal Minister), and Earl Wood (Retired).
Rev. Ulrickson shared some thoughts and offered a prayer.

Disciplinary Questions 53 through 56
Rev. Ulrickson presented a report on retirement. The following Deacons are retiring this year: Carol Mayer. The following Elders are retiring this year: Matthew Chong, William Cutter, Karen Dalton, Romeo Del Rosario, Gary Alan Dickey, LLC Hammond, Mary Elizabeth Moore, Holly Reinhart-Marean, Luat Trong Tran and Robert Wickerts. No Associate members are retiring this year. The following Local Pastors are retiring this year: Hilly Hicks and Diane Mettam. The Board moved approval of those persons retiring.
Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Ulrickson offered a prayer for those retiring.

Disciplinary Questions 63 – 71
Rev. Kim presented Disciplinary Questions 63-71 for the information of the body.

Disciplinary Question 72
Rev. Kim presented Disciplinary Question 72 which lists those pastors/deacons appointed to less than full time positions.
Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and it was supported.

Rev. Kim encouraged clergy to review the other pertinent information in the report.
Rev. Garner took a moment of privilege to mention that this is the first time in several years that there have been more people coming into the ordination process than retiring. He then shared about coaching. Those who are interested in seeking coaching or being trained as a coach can contact the Bishop’s office or the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Rev. James Stevenson spoke about the new Clergy Excellence Leadership scholarships.

Rev. Leanne Shaw and Rev. Amy Aiken presented an LGBTQIA+ Statement to let the body know the policy that the Board aspires to live into in examining candidates for ministry.

Rev. Ken Suhr, chair of the Order of Elders, and Rev. Colleen Windham-Hughes, chair of the Order of Deacon, were introduced.

Rev. Randa D’Aoust, from the Archives and History Committee, offered names of those who have reached milestone years of ministry service. She named those completing service for 60, 50, 35, 25 years of service as an Elder.

Rev. Kim reported that this was the conclusion of the Board’s report related to Disciplinary Questions. Bishop Hagiya thanked board members for their hard work.

Rev. Ed Hansen offered thanks to Cathy Wilson for including information about Elder Pastors in the handout and encouraged the gathering to review the information.

Rev. David Palmer asked about the validity of the LGBTQIA+ document presented by the board. Bishop Hagiya responded, affirming it stands because the language is aspirational. Rev. Garner shared that the document merely states the way the board reviews candidates.

Bishop Hagiya offered a concluding prayer.
Morning Worship: Worship opened with three songs, “This Little Light of Mine,” “Michael Row Your Boat Ashore,” and “Kumbaya.” Rev. Ed Hansen shared the history of the Strength for the Journey Retreat, a ministry for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Rev. Hansen 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 song, “Strength for the Journey.”

Charles McWells offered a testimony. He described his disbelief on hearing the test results that said he had HIV/AIDS. He said 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. Fortunately, he said, there was a Greater Healer. That phone call took place 21 years ago. It has not been easy going from there to here. After his diagnosis, he dropped to his knees to pray and promised God he would do whatever he could to help people like him. In time, new medications helped him recover. 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 said 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, he said. Hope Ministry gave him support and they continue to support Strength for the Journey. Hollywood UMC gave early support, and has helped sustain Strength for the Journey 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. He thanked Cal-Pac for its help and support in this ministry.

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

Messaging Moment 2
What Makes Congregations Vital?

Rev. John Farley introduced the morning’s messaging moment 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. 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 to create 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 cultures all come together to support each other and serve Jesus Christ.

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

Daniel Roberts asked the question: Who is preaching on Sunday Morning? He suggested that everyone who stands before the church in worship 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.

The worship band performed “Happy Days.”

Rev. Brent Ross 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. 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 offered a closing prayer encouraging everyone to find their unique self, find their community, and know their neighborhood.

33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Plenary 1
Thursday, June 15, 2017
10:25 AM

Call to Order  Bishop Grant J. Hagiya called the Annual Conference to order and thanked the team that presented the Messaging Moment. The Bishop offered a prayer for Rev. Karen Clark Ristine, Conference Secretary, who left to be with her mother in Texas after being notified that she was in her last days.

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 after 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.

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 then discussed the gifts and graces they bring to the process of examining
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.

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 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 and Rev. Dr. Colleen Windham-Hughes spoke in their role as the Co-Chairs of 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 Connectional Table, in consultation with the Rules Committee, in response to Judicial Council Ruling 1311. Their work produced Rules Change 17-2, which recommends keeping the structure of the Connectional Table and makes modifications to the leadership serving on the Connectional Table. Rev. Woodall moved approval of Rules Change 17-2. Rev. Richard Bentley asked whether the Dean of the Cabinet is a non-voting member. Rev. Woodall said that was the intent and agreed to add that provision to Rules Change 17-2.

**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 the legislative sections in their work in the afternoon.

**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 requires support from two-thirds of the total number of conference members in all the Annual Conferences across the UMC connection. The total number 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 and voting will happen at a later plenary.

**Delegation to the 2019 General Conference Session** Bishop Hagiya explained that the Annual Conference needs to decide whether to send the existing delegation from General Conference 2016 or
elect a new delegation to send 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 the conference send the 2016 General Conference delegation. The motion was seconded and discussed. **Bishop Hagiya called for a vote. The motion to send the General Conference 2016 delegation to the called 2019 General Conference was approved.**

Rev. Bob Rhodes offered a closing prayer for the plenary session.

---

**33rd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference**

**Plenary 2**

**Thursday, June 15, 2017**

**3:30 PM**

**Call to Order:** Bishop Grant J. Hagiya called the Annual Conference to order.

**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 introduced the Laity Council and thanked the lay leaders for their work. Mr and Mrs Freeman introduced the Young Adult Lay Person of the Year, Mikhayla Ruark from San Bernardino UMC; the Lay Woman of the Year, Roben Partridge from Santee UMC; the Lay Man of the Year, Sheldon Haase from Glendale First UMC. The Freemans emphasized the value of clergy and laity partnership. They encouraged the gathering to transform themselves so that there will be no doubt that we are not only leaders, but Christian leaders.

**Council on Finance and Administration (CFA):** CFA Chair Dan Griffin introduced Archana Carey, Executive Director of Finance and Facilities and Conference Treasurer. He thanked the CFA members and staff. He explained the CFA’s responsibilities and goals. He shared the good news that most ministries in 2016 ended within their budgets. This is a significant accomplishment. Of 360 churches in the conference, 207 gave 100% of apportionments in 2015. In 2016, 213 gave 100% of apportionments. Overall giving for local churches toward 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%. Mr. Griffin said the conference strives to have a balanced budget and to continue to strengthen 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 posted on calpacumc.org/finance. Bishop Hagiya said he has heard from churches that apportionment giving is increasingly difficult to sustain. At his direction, CFA and conference directors made reductions in spending so that apportionments could be reduced. He opened the floor for questions.

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

Bishop Hagiya reminded the conference that a decision regarding the budget is on the agenda for Saturday’s plenary session.

**Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us:** Alma Roberts from California-Hawaii Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses (CHARMS) 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
## Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Name of Legislation</th>
<th>Sect. Act</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REC 17-1</td>
<td>Pensions 1 – Conference Health Plans</td>
<td>100% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC 17-2</td>
<td>Pensions 2 – Retiree Health Plans</td>
<td>100% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC 17-3</td>
<td>Pensions 3 – Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan</td>
<td>100% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC 17-4</td>
<td>Pensions 4 – Clergy Housing Allowance</td>
<td>100% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC 17-5</td>
<td>2018 Salary Ranges for Conference Staff Positions</td>
<td>98.5% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC 17-6</td>
<td>Clergy Background Check Policy Update</td>
<td>97% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC 17-7</td>
<td>Clergy Minimum Compensation Standards</td>
<td>100% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Resolutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolutions</th>
<th>Name of Legislation</th>
<th>Sect. Act</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-1</td>
<td>Harris UMC Historical Designation</td>
<td>96.7% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-2</td>
<td>Christ UMC Historic Designation</td>
<td>100 % Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-3</td>
<td>Downey UMC Historic Designation</td>
<td>72% No Recommendation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-4</td>
<td>Holy Land Investments</td>
<td>82.2% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-5</td>
<td>Holy Land Travel</td>
<td>100% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-6</td>
<td>Anti-Gun Violence: Silencers</td>
<td>100% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-7</td>
<td>Anti-Gun Violence: Concealed Carry</td>
<td>97% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-8</td>
<td>Human Rights: Philippines</td>
<td>100% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-9</td>
<td>Assets and Church Property (Resolution 40 Replacement)</td>
<td>100% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-10*</td>
<td>Peace in the Korean Peninsula</td>
<td>92.3% Concurrence as amended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-13</td>
<td>Affirming LGBTQI Clergy</td>
<td>83.3% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-14</td>
<td>Affirming Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops</td>
<td>85.4% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-15</td>
<td>Petition to Convene a Special Western Jurisdiction Conference</td>
<td>90% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES 17-16</td>
<td>Responsible Process on Status of Bishop Karen Oliveto</td>
<td>86.8% Non-Concurrence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table: Rules Change Proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rules Change Proposals</th>
<th>Name of Legislation</th>
<th>Sect. Act</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RULES 17-1</td>
<td>Tenure</td>
<td>100% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RULES 17-3</td>
<td>Fiscal Rules</td>
<td>98% Concurrence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**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 instructions in preparation for the Memorial Service.

**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 a closing prayer.

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 congregation. Rev. Lim led the gathering in a remembrance of 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.


Wanda Bethea remembered the life companions of ordained and diaconal ministers, who 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.

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.”

Bishop Jordan led the gathering in prayer giving thanks for those loved ones who are present with the Lord, celebrating their witness and gifts. Then, the congregation 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.”

Rev. Dr. Moore began by describing a moment she experienced 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, back into God’s creation. She spoke of how the beloved ones remembered in tonight’s memorial service 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. Dr. 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. In verses 26 and 27, the scripture moves back and forth in singular and plural in a curious mix of grammar and gender. She read the passage. Adam 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 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 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 all 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. Dr. 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. Dr. Moore was squeezing her mother’s 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. Dr. Moore spoke of how Jesus had many “holy ground” moments with his disciples, friends and strangers along the way. In the Gospel passage read 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 disappeared, 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 decried. 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 U.S. 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. Dr. Moore named Bishop Felton May, remembered tonight, as an example of this. In his work caring for those at the margins of society, he lived the gospel with “holy boldness” and inspired others to do the same.

She invited all to recognize the presence of eternity in our lives. 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 offering to support Strength for the Journey. Michelle Small danced to “His Eye is on the Sparrow” by Lauryn Hill while the offering was collected. Rev. Lim led the Prayer of Dedication.

In preparation for Holy Communion, the congregation 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. During communion, the worship team sang, “Thank You for the Lamb,” “The Blood will Never Lose Its Power,” and “O How I Love Jesus.” After communion, Bishop Hagiya led the gathering in prayer and the congregation sang “Sing With All the Saints in Glory.” Rev. Dr. Moore offered a benediction. The closing song was “The Trees of the Field.” A Postlude followed.
Katherine Wilson led 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 Kaulilani Mark-Schiebert, daughter of Rev. Allison Mark and Rev. Andrew Schwiebert, to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. The children of the Annual Conference joined them on the stage as part of Amara’s 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 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 congregation covenanted to nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Amara in their care.

Rev. J. Daniel Lewis lead the United Methodist Affirmation of Faith #883.

Bishop Hagiya led the liturgy of thanksgiving over the water. Bishop Hagiya 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. The children and youth led Bishop Hagiya, the newly baptized Amara, and her family around the sanctuary so all could greet her.

Bishop Hagiya offered a closing prayer. The congregation sang “This Little Light of Mine.”

**Messaging Moment 3**

“How to Fish” Scripture: Luke 10:4

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

In living into the initiative “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 need to support smaller churches. There are 75 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 other’s burdens. The initial goal was to recruit 20 congregations (10 large and 10 small) from across the Western Jurisdiction. The response was 28 congregations. The participating congregations include at least one from each of the Episcopal Areas in the Jurisdiction.

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 laity have also visited one another. Rev. Lee highlighted the exciting news of a new Korean ministry begun at Hope UMC in San Diego.

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 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. Bishop Hagiya 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 sometimes 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) talked 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, “Future Bound: Episode 5 - Calvary UM Mission in Hawaii,” 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. 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 U.S. 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.

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. One-on-one meetings are crucial for young adults, where it is possible to cultivate genuine relationships 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 provided examples of 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. 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.” The mission is to build the community of Christ, even as they love those who have not found that relationship yet. 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 said: “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?”
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 Annual Conference to order. Bishop Hagiya introduced the Youth/Young Adult Layperson of the Year, Mikhayla Roark. 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.

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

Welcome: Bishop Hagiya welcomed and introduced Bishop Felipe Ruiz from the Methodist Church of Mexico, North West Annual Conference. Bishop Ruiz shared greetings from the church in Mexico, from the Bishops of Mexico, and from the Northwest Conference of Mexico.

Constitutional Amendment Voting: Bishop Hagiya invited Rev. Preston Price to lead the conference through the voting on the five Constitutional Amendments.

Rev. Lui Tran asked to be recused from the voting because of his role as a member of the Judicial Council. Rev. Price recused himself as well because he serves as clerk to the Judicial Council. Bishop Hagiya accepted both recusals.

Rev. Price said information on the constitutional amendments was published in the Preliminary Report, which is available online. These votes will be combined with the votes from all other Annual Conferences throughout the world and tallied for the official vote. Results will be announced after being certified by the Council of Bishops.

Voting is limited to Full Connection Members and Lay Members. Provisional Members and Local Pastors do not have a vote on constitutional amendments. Voting members were asked to stand or raise a hand to receive a ballot. Rev. Price explained that each amendment will be presented individually with discussion followed by vote.

Amendment 1: Rev. Patricia Farris, a member of the 2016 General Conference delegation, described the United Methodist Constitution as a foundational document. 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 opened the floor for discussion. There was none. Bishop Hagiya instructed voters to mark their ballots.

Amendment 2: JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto, a member of the 2016 General Conference delegation, presented Amendment 2, which would change the language of paragraph 4, adding to and changing a listing that names inclusion in the life of the church. Bishop Hagiya opened the floor for discussion. After discussion, Bishop Hagiya gave time for reflection, offered a prayer, and called for the vote.

Welcome: Bishop Hagiya took a moment to welcome Bishop Charles Wesley Jordan (retired).

Amendment 3: Rev. Sandra Olewine, a member of the 2016 General Conference delegation, presented Amendment 3, which would address how delegate elections are handled in Annual Conferences. Bishop Hagiya opened the floor for discussion. After discussion, Bishop Hagiya gave time for reflection, prayer, and called for the vote.

Amendment 4: Rev. Tom Choi, a member of the 2016 General Conference, presented amendment 4, which focuses on the rules for the election of bishops in Central Conferences. Bishop Hagiya opened the
floor for discussion. There was none. Bishop Hagiya offered time for reflection, prayer, and called for the vote.

**Amendment 5:** Rev. Sandra Olewine presented Amendment 5, which was written as a means to hold Bishops accountable to the denomination and not just the Jurisdictional Conference that elected them. Bishop Hagiya opened the floor for discussion. After discussion, Bishop Hagiya gave time for reflection, prayer, and called for the vote.

Rev. Gilbert Stone inquired about vote tampering in annual conferences. Bishop Hagiya assured Rev. Stone that the Conference Secretary checks the vote in secrecy and transmits the tally.

**Legislative Action / Consent Calendar:** Rev. Lydia Sohn presented the Consent Calendar, including items that received a vote of 80 percent or more in legislative sections.

Rick Uhls moved to remove Resolution 17-6. The motion was seconded. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote. It was not supported.

Bert Roark moved to remove Rules 17-3. The motion was seconded. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote. It was not supported.

David Cutler moved to remove Resolution 17-4. 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 a closing prayer.

---

**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.

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

**United Methodist Endorsing Agency:** Rev. Jeff Bishop described the United Methodist Endorsing Agency, which supports current chaplains and recruits the next generation of chaplains. The endorsing agency is developing an endowment fund to assist chaplains. 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 their 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.

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 U.S. church consists of progressive and traditional compatibilists. When the church focuses 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.

Bishop Hagiya then led a conversation among members of the Annual Conference and 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 distributed in an earlier plenary, while noting that there are still vacancies on some committees. She explained that the vote is only on new additions to the committees. There are vacancies left on the list intentionally, since the committee wants to find the people with the right gifts for each job. 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 compile all the 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 the Nominations Report with addendum. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote. The Nominations Report with addendum was approved.

Bishop Hagiya called for a 15 minute break.

**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. Rev. Martha Morales moved to refer the resolution back to the Archives and History Commission, which submitted the resolution. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote. The motion to refer the resolution to the Archives and History Commission 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 a 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 no arguments against. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote. The Resolution, as amended, was supported.

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


Norma Kehrberg, Chair of the Rules Committee: Norma Kehrberg said she had received questions and concerns about the process for removing items from the consent calendar and the Rules Committee would work in the next year to clarify the 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).

Rev. Farley shared his gratitude that although there is a lot of work to be done, everything is done in prayerful discernment of God’s will; Bishop Hagiya asks for 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 moved approval of two resolutions of discontinuance which would close charters of two congregations.

Resolution 17-11: “Discontinuance of Hansarang UMC” in Montrose, Calif., was presented. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote. The motion was supported.

Resolution 17-12: “Discontinuance of Trona Community UMC” in Trona, Calif., was presented. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote. The motion was supported.

Rev. Powell offered a prayer for both faith communities.

Rev. David Farley, Director of Justice and Compassion Ministries, presented a report from Human Resources, which was 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 is 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) discussed current challenges at the theology school. 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 (%) and Desert Southwest Conference (%). 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 loan 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. Bishop Hagiya opened the floor for discussion.
Retirement Videos were shared from Rev. Carol Mayer, Rev. Diane Mettam, and Rev. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore.

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

Lynn Owan of the Hawaii District offered a closing prayer.

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 stage.

David McConkey led the Call to Worship and the gathering 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 eldest 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 a benediction. “God of Grace and God of Glory” was shared as the postlude as the retirees, spouses, and worship participants left the stage.
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 congregation sang “Every Praise.”

Kisione Finau, Jr., invited all to remember that we are going “from here to there” and then shared a closing prayer.

**Messaging Moment 4**

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

Rev. Myron Wingfield, Executive Director of Connectional Ministries, led the final messaging moment with a focus on moving “from here to there” by Transforming the World. 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, he said.

The four missional priorities of the United Methodist Church 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.

This is also what is presented in the Gospel of Luke. Each one of these four focus areas are an ongoing and necessary component of a vital church, 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,” 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 all 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.

In a video, 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 legal 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. David Farley for his instrumental support in the creation of that program.

Sandee Furuta, from the Conference and District Property Committee and Congregational Loan Committee described the “Safe Parking Lots Program,” which began with brainstorming how church properties could be used in creative ways to help provide homeless overnight shelter 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 to work with the Los Angeles Home Services Authority to launch this program. Partners in this project include Rev. David 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, with her daughter, Amara, spoke 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 stressed 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 all to consider how to mentor others and be a part of a family of faith that 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 make 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.

He introduced a video 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 the Cal-Pac conference) and other students spoke about the work of farming, locally grown food for the dining hall, and the partnership of theology and ecology. Rev. Wingfield shared that Ms. Hutchinson graduated and will be commissioned as a Deacon in the Minnesota Conference next week.

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 as a 12 year 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 classe. 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 district superintendent, 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 full Bibles have been distributed in Vietnam and to Vietnamese people in Cambodia, Laos, Russia, the United States, 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 Jesus Christ, 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.

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 Annual Conference to order. 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 North Texas and California-Pacific conferences and how they work better together.

Orders of the Day: Rev. Bob Rhodes moved the orders of the day. They were approved.
He announced that the second plenary of the day (Plenary 6) has been moved from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Announcements: Rev. Preston Price announced that keys need to be turned in by 10PM Saturday or 12PM Sunday. Linens can be bundled and left in rooms. 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, head of the Cal-Pac General Conference delegation, is the commencement speaker for her graduation ceremony from University of California Los Angeles, today.

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 at Annual Conference have met and completed work on a new structure for youth and young adult ministries in Cal-Pac. Miranda Lohr invited youth and young adults not already involved to contact 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 challenged 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 raised 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 campus ministries to continue their work. Bishop Hagiya reported that the official documentation of the Annual Conference’s decision to make this change, which was approved several years ago, will be followed by Conference staff and Wesley Foundation boards during the transition.

**Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the 2018 budget was supported.**

**Amendment 1:** Dr. 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 the amendment 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 three 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 clarified the question, noting that the funding in question is within the 2017 year, and asking if the funding not spent on the staff position could be redirected to other funding for youth and young adults. Mr. Griffin clarified that continued discussion on this matter should be directed to the CFA.

**Amendment 2:** Rev. Eric Schmidt moved the Hunger Appeals quota be changed to $30,000. The motion was seconded. In response to a question, Bishop Hagiya clarified that it is the responsibility of related ministry areas to promote specific quota items.

**Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the amendment was supported.**

**Bishop Hagiya called for a vote on the 2018 quotas recommendation 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) laity and clergy have done the most speaking, followed by white women (mostly older) laity and clergy. 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 announced that the afternoon plenary will begin at 2 p.m. He invited everyone to attend the Ministry Fair. The MFSA dinner has been moved to Orton Hall. Dr. Edna Burems gave the closing prayer.
Call To Order: Bishop Grant J. Hagiya called the Annual Conference to order.

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

RES 17-17 “Wesley Foundation Board of Directors”: Rev. Bob Rhodes moved Res 17-17. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote. The resolution was supported.

Bishop Hagiya recognized Dr. James Dwyer who moved a request that the Cal-Pac Conference seek 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.

Bishop Hagiya noted that one-fifth approval from the voting body is required to support a request for a Declaratory Decision. There was brief discussion.

Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion to petition Judicial Council was supported.

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 up things in order to fulfill mission priorities.

Bishop Hagiya shared a story of an experience of pastoral care early in his local church ministry 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, one experiencing the birth of their first child, the other facing the death of a wife and mother. We give witness and 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 organizational culture. People are not coming to the church like they did in the 1960s and 1970s. 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. In a true learning organization, the information flows up and down every part of the organization. We’re far from that. That’s what we want to achieve.

The church needs to strengthen areas of Leadership, Disciple Making, and Community and Mission Field Engagement so that we can meet the needs of today. The old standards are not working. Bishop Hagiya said he 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 said he hopes 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 powers 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 do not know where to find it. They try to find meaning in the secular world, but it 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. Bishop Hagiya said he wants to institute a deep sense of spiritual development for laity and accountability and coaching and other support for clergy.

The UMC’s Wesleyan DNA offers answers to these theological questions through our understanding of Justifying, Sanctifying, and Perfecting Grace. Bishop Hagiya said he will provide continuing education opportunities with visiting scholars that provide training to equip this 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 lead a group of up to 50 people to the 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.

Bishop Hagiya said that we all have resources that we need to gather together to maximize our collective resources. He is energized by these hopes and visions and assured the body that together we can do great things. 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, Lay Leader of the North District, reported that there is a wildfire one mile outside of Camp Wrightwood. The community is under mandatory evacuation. He offered a prayer.

**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. Rev. Batson encouraged clergy and laity to build support for the campaign in local churches. James Kang created a website: [calpacumc.org/congowomenarise](http://calpacumc.org/congowomenarise).

Rev. Jim Powell (North District Superintendent) reported that this work began last year when Bishop Gabriel Unda, resident bishop of the East Congo, itinerated with Cal-Pac and was present at Annual Conference. He visited the North District, whose laity and clergy challenged themselves to raise funds to provide a motorcycle needed for ministry in Bishop Unda’s episcopacy area. 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 Treasurer 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 (Agenda Chair); Rev. Rachel Tabutol and Rev. Stephen Wilson (UM Daily) and their team of volunteers; Ken Ellis (Chapel Stage Manager); 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 through 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 who provided inspiration: Session Committee, Media Team, Cabinet and Staff who put in countless hours, Support Staff, Board of Ordained Ministry, and especially the laity.

Closing Business: Rev. Preston Price announced that UM Daily reports will be on the Cal-Pac website. Suggestions or changes needed should be reported to Conference Secretary Rev. Karen Clark Ristine. Rev. Price moved that the Annual Conference will conclude after the Ordination Service ends.

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. There is not one person who doesn’t need the love of God. 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 $1,000.

The plenary took a 15-minute break.

After the break, Rev. Preston Price and Jean Price were invited to speak on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Scholarships & Awards: Rev. Bob Rhodes invited Bob Arvizu of the Spanish American Institute to present SAI/UMC Latino Youth Scholarships. Since 2015, 12 scholarships have been awarded. This year’s recipients are: Fey Salgado, San Dieguito UMC; Corwin Scherer, Magnolia Park UMC; Danielle Trinidad, Montclair First UMC; and Brianna Vasquez, First UMC of San Fernando.

Points of Personal Privilege: Rev. Rhodes invited the following persons to share a point of personal privilege. Rev. Mark Stephenson noted 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. J.T. Greenleaf thanked the annual conference for participating in the Ice Cream Social at University UMC, which raised $1,100 for a youth mission trip with Sierra Service Project to Tsaile, 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 four 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. Attendance was 91 youth and young adults.

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. 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, the Bishop said Jim Lawson 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 to be honored at the MFSA Dinner later in the evening and who 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.

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 in prayer.

**Commissioning and Ordination**  
**Saturday, June 17, 2017**

Handel’s Music from the Royal Fireworks was played as the prelude as the congregation gathered. During the processional hymn, “Praise to the Lord the Almighty,” the Board of Ordained Ministry leadership team, worship participants, candidates, and Bishops entered.

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya greeted everyone and led the gathering in prayer.

Then he led the congregation in a recognition of common ministry and reaffirmation of baptism.

Rev. K. Cherie Jones presented the candidates for ordination as deacon: Jeffrey Alan Bishop, Martha Walz Morales, and Robin Ann Rhodes. She then presented candidates for ordination as elder: Valerie Lou Weise and Stephen Jerry Wilson. Rev. Sunyoung Lee presented for commissioning as provisional 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 deacons: Jeania Ree Violet Moore and Chelsea Laine Simon. After the candidates were presented, the Board of Ordained Ministry affirmed them with 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.

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 his 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 42 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 the difficulty. Only the first things last.

Bishop McKee asked those being ordained or commissioned to remember everything about their ordination 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. These are the first things and they last. 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 significant conversations about what it means for the abundant life of all 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 said he has never felt more hopeful about the church. He pointed out that the candidates for commissioning and ordination may be bringing gifts that perhaps none of the rest of us has.

The opportunity for ministry abounds, Bishop McKee said. He encouraged everyone to pick up the phone, answer your emails, listen to what people are telling you on the streets, meet people you don’t know, use what gifts you’ve got, and they’re more than you can imagine. Just listen to God’s people and know that it is the first things that will last.

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 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 covenanteeing to support Rev. Lee by word, gift and deed.

“Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading” was sung (in Swahili, Refrain in English) 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 prepare 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, Hannah Ka, Bae Sun Kim, Erin Karynn Stenberg, Blair Trygstad Stowe, Sione Tongia Tu’ipulotu, and Hee Jung Yu were commissioned 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 each and prayed. The ordinand then placed hands on the Bible, while Bishop Hagiya charged them to take their authority as a Deacon. Each 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 and prayed. The ordinand then placed 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 collected. The congregation joined in the doxology after the offering.

The Bishops presided over Holy Communion and the newly commissioned and ordained helped to serve. Bishop McKee offered a benediction and the congregation sang “Go to the World” as worship participants recessed from the chancel. “Toccata from Symphony No. 5” was played as a postlude.
CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify and declare the Daily Proceedings of the Thirty-third Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference, meeting in Redlands, CA, June 14-17, 2017, to be the Official Record of the Annual Conference.

Grant J Hagiya, Presiding Bishop
The Los Angeles Area
The United Methodist Church

Rev. Karen Clark Ristine,
Conference Secretary
California-Pacific Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church