Rev. Ken Suhr (Chair of Elders) welcomed the clergy to the gathering and led the body in a time of remembering the purpose of the Order of Deacons and Order of Elders in ¶306 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Rev. Martha Morales (Chair of Deacons) led the body in an opening prayer and announced that Rev. Anna Lee Mulford will be replacing Rev. Suhr as the Chair of Elders as of July 1, 2020.

Rev. Mulford introduced herself, shared her hopes for her time in service as Chair of Elders, and thanked the current and new members of the Order Executive Committee.

A video was shared that reviewed the various programs and ministries that the Order Executive Committee maintains: Caring Clergy Colleagues (Rev. Faith Conklin), Counseling (Rev. Moonyoung Lee), Continuing Education (Rev. Kathy Cooper-Ledesma), Communications and Prayer Email Group (Rev. Erika Gara), and Care Cards, CHARMS, and Covenant Groups (Rev. Ken Suhr). More information about these programs can be found online at http://www.calpacumc.org/bom/orders/.

Rev. Morales introduced herself, shared her hopes for her time in service as Chair of Deacons, and thanked the members who are leaving the committee this year.

Rev. Suhr led a time of Questions and Answers with Bishop Grant J. Hagiya. Bishop Hagiya thanked the members of the Executive Orders Committee for their work.

1. What is God saying to us in the “Black Lives Matter” and “COVID-19” historical moment?

We mourn the deaths and suffering from COVID-19, remembering that God does not cause this suffering, but COVID-19 is part of our created world. The “God of Liberation” (James Baldwin) is fighting for justice and peace, and this is a golden opportunity for us because these two realities have forced us to become innovative and experimental, which must continue even after a vaccine.
Now we must not simply be non-racist, we must be anti-racist; neutrality is no longer an option. As a moral institution, we must be on the front lines of the movement, rather than the taillights, as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. described it. We need to engage people directly in making a difference.

2. What are some very specific ways that we can respond as clergy, and as churches?

The first step is for each person to deal with their own racism, biases, and prejudices. The second step is to continue to provoke conversation about institutional racism within the church - to live with that sin and do something positive with it. The third step is to stand up and address racism within each constituency. The Black church and Black clergy have done and continue to do this, but Asians, Hispanics, Pacific Islanders, and Anglos all need to speak about it and stand up to racism in their community. There are wonderful resources for doing this: *How to be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi, and *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. Everyone has work to do, and Bishop Hagiya is challenging the whole Annual Conference to dedicate this entire year to the issue of anti-racism.

3. What leadership lessons have you learned during this pandemic?

Folks are looking for collaborative leadership in this time of crisis. Everyone has blinders, and leaders must have diverse teams that help recognize mistakes and include various voices and viewpoints.

Second, honest communication is very important. Leaders don’t have all the answers, despite working on it, and need to be honest about that, and invite people to join in this team-based work. A more elaborate response on this can be found in the GBHEM sponsored webinar (found at [https://www.facebook.com/gbhem/videos/2775011459277362/](https://www.facebook.com/gbhem/videos/2775011459277362/)).

4. Is there any clarity in how long you will be our Bishop?

Since everything has been postponed to 2021, Bishop Hagiya will remain until a new Bishop is elected by the Jurisdictional Conference. Bishop said, “in all humbleness, a better leader could take us to the next step. I'm aware of that. So, I'm ready to relinquish that to a leader who will take us in that direction.”

5. What is your response to a church that wants to open after the 4th of July?

The protocols are very comprehensive and clear, and require following CDC, state, county, and city guidelines. Outdoor worship is much less risky than indoor worship, but all the restrictions are still in place. Clergy are invited to use innovation and experimentation without having live events. In the meantime, prepare a plan, and have your Administrative Council and the District Superintendent approve it, and then you may open worship according to those limitations. Pastors have the ultimate authority to decide what happens in their worship services and can override the Council’s plan and continue to avoid in-person gatherings.
6. Where are you finding hope, inspiration, and encouragement during this time?

Andy Crouch’s work on adaptive leadership and particularly long-term adaptation is helpful here because it encourages innovation and creativity. One example is the online Bible Study and activities for children. At the end of the school year, one child in a local church was asked by his public school teacher what had gotten him through this challenging time, and he answered “God and my church family.” Some new things will not work, but that is an opportunity to learn from failure.

7. Are you getting enough sleep? How are you caring for yourself in this time? What recommendations do you have for the rest of us?

The most important discipline is to get eight hours of sleep, which is really critical for the regeneration of the mind and creativity. Research shows that eight hours are required to function at our very best. When Bishop Hagiya was first elected, he committed to that practice.

The second discipline is exercise. Bishop Hagiya runs every day, which helps to manage stress and provide time for processing. Different people may have other disciplines that are important.

Another important discipline is mindfulness, which comes from eastern traditions. There will be some webinars provided this year that focus on self-care and Sabbath practices. The Jewish understanding of the Sabbath is that every week, no work is done between sundown the evening before the Sabbath through sundown on the Sabbath. All clergy have Bishop Hagiya’s permission to participate in practices that provide a sense of rest and renewal in God, which will help in any crisis.

8. Is Major League Baseball coming back first, or the National Basketball Association?

The NBA appears to be coming back first, largely because of Adam Silver’s leadership as Commissioner.

9. What are your thoughts about ethnic-specific churches?

In the general public, church attendance is declining, but ethnic churches are staying strong because the first and second generations have a commitment to prioritize the institution. Now, the focus must be to create new ethnic churches that can be a growth stream, as we also support them in the work of true liberation as a united community. Long-term, the Kingdom of God is multicultural, but as Gustavo Gutierrez has pointed out, true liberation is “freedom from sin and communion with God,” which would mean that separate churches are no longer necessary in order to break down racism.

10. How do you suggest that we seek to build communities that are both diverse and inclusive? What are the steps or key steps we can be mindful of there?

Monolingual/ethnic churches can start doing outreach to those that are multi-cultural or of another ethnicity. In interfaith situations, Buddhists are a great example of what it looks like to be accepting
of everyone in dialogue. Unfortunately, the least accepting are often Christians. We need to be open to others’ ideas and practices and open ourselves to a world where we can evangelize, and we can be a voice of both acceptance and joyous dialogue. Bishop Hagiya challenged the body to go and meet with the congregations down the street or gatherings of different ethnic groups in the neighborhood, after COVID-19 is over, in order to build a better community.

11. What are the giftings that you see in Cal-Pac clergy that are perfect for this time, and what are some of the challenges that we need to address?

The key strength of Cal-Pac has always been multiculturalism, and the leadership of the Conference should express that. Erin Hawkins, currently the General Secretary for Religion and Race for the last 12 years, will be appointed as the Director of Connectional Ministries on July 1. She will bring those skills and help craft a direction that will guide the ministry of the Conference. Cal-Pac’s biggest challenge is to learn how to change, adapt, and evolve in order to survive.

Bishop Hagiya invited members of the body to ask a question.

Rev. Floyd Morris shared that he is hearing from openly LGBT clergy under appointment that despite a greater degree of openness, they continue to feel that the covenant does not fully encompass them. They feel overlooked and undervalued. He asked, “what can and will the Orders and the Bishop do to help us move into a better place in that respect?”

Bishop Hagiya responded that he regularly meets with some LGBT clergy. The cabinet has met with the group as a whole and confirmed that appointments are made by matching the church with the spiritual gifts of the pastor, and issues of race or identity do not come into the discussion unless fluency in a particular language is needed. The value system that Bishop Hagiya and Cabinet adhere to for appointment making is that God is first, the Kingdom of God is second, the community surrounding the church is addressed third, the clergy are addressed fourth, and the Annual Conference is fifth. While there may be implicit bias somewhere, that is not a factor in the discussion. Bishop Hagiya invited anyone who has this concern to contact him directly.

Rev. Morris mentioned that some clergy may have a fear of retaliation, and expressed the hope that Bishop Hagiya and Cabinet would continue to be extremely careful about implicit bias and maybe increase outreach on this topic. Bishop Hagiya promised to address directly any retaliatory behavior that is reported to him.

Rev. Erin Maddox McPhee received the joys and concerns of the group gathered. Rev. Gary Williams closed the Orders time with prayer.

Rev. Suhr thanked the group for the time and encouraged the group to journey together. Bishop Hagiya offered a blessing over the gathering.
Clergy Executive Session  
Thursday, June 18, 2020  
7:00 PM

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya, presiding  
2020 Report of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry  
Rev. Richard Garner, Chair and Rev. Elbert Kim, Registrar

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya gave remarks to open the Executive Session of the Annual Conference, and clarified that only clergy are allowed to be present on this Zoom webinar. That includes Elders and Deacons in Full Connection, Provisional & Associate Members, Local Pastors, and laity serving the Board.

Rev. Elbert Kim requested the presence of certain laity assisting with the media and technical systems, Margaret Irwin from the Episcopal Office, and Cathy Wilson, the Associate Director for the Board of Ordained Ministry. Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported. There was a question regarding if members of the Board of Ordained Ministry are allowed to vote in the Executive Session. Bishop Hagiya clarified that the Board is not allowed to vote regarding the DQs, as ruled by the Judicial Council.

Point of Order for Rev. Lui Tran, Brea UMC, was submitted in writing and read aloud by Bishop Hagiya: “Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry can vote on matters if they have not been involved in a matter concerning clergy involuntary actions, according to Judicial Council Decision 1383.”

Rev. Richard Garner, Chair addressed the clergy body and invited Rev. Elbert Kim to present the Disciplinary Questions.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Rev. Kim shared his appreciation for the diligence and faith of the Board of Ordained Ministry and recognized Cathy Wilson for the incredible amount of work put in to prepare this report.

Rev. Kim reported that many of the Disciplinary Questions do not require action from the body. The action of the Clergy Executive Session will address items that require a vote or special attention using the polling function on Zoom Webinar, and he offered guidance on how to vote using this system.

Rev. Kim reminded the gathering that only Elders and Deacons in Full Connection and Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry are allowed to vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of the clergy. Provisional & Associate Members and Local Pastors may not vote during this session. Editorial corrections should be emailed to Cathy Wilson at cwilson@calpacumc.org.
PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND COMMISSIONING


Rev. Kim moved to approve Christy Ann Clark, Hyon Shim Hong, and Kristin Reksc for provisional membership and commissioning on the Deacon track. Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported.

Rev. Kim presented Lea Michelle Booth, Khuong Duy Chau, Jessica Miyeko Kawamura, Kurt Edward Poland, Alexander Steven Powell, Hong Yun Won, and Joy Grace Yun for provisional membership and commissioning on the Elder track.

Rev. Kim moved to approve Lea Michelle Booth, Khuong Duy Chau, Jessica Miyeko Kawamura, Kurt Edward Poland, Alexander Steven Powell, Hong Yun Won, and Joy Grace Yun for provisional membership and commissioning on the Elder track. Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported. Rev. Kim prayed for the new Provisional Members.

Rev. Kim invited the body to review Disciplinary Question 29 under letters (a) and (d), which provides a list of deacons and elders in provisional membership who are in preparation for ordination for information only. No vote was required.

FULL CONNECTION

Rev. Kim presented Jeania Ree Violet Moore for ordination as a Deacon in Full Connection.

Rev. Kim moved to approve Jeania Ree Violet Moore for ordination as a Deacon in Full Connection. Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported.

Rev. Kim presented Denyse Anne Barnes, Benjamin Paul Camp, Rachel deBos-Haigler, Hannah Ka, Yoo Shim Michelle Park, Erin Karynn Stenberg, Jackeline Alejandrina Vives, Won-Seok Yuh, Joseph Yun for ordination as Elders in Full Connection.

Rev. Kim moved to approve Denyse Anne Barnes, Benjamin Paul Camp, Rachel Michelle deBos-Haigler, Hannah Ka, Yoo Shim Michelle Park, Erin Karynn Stenberg, Jackeline Alejandrina Vives, Won-Seok Yuh, and Joseph Yun for ordination as Elders in Full Connection. Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported. Rev. Kim prayed for the new clergy in Full Connection.

TRANSFERS FROM OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES OR DENOMINATIONS:

Rev. Kim moved to receive Esther Dang by transfer from the West Ohio Annual Conference as an Elder in Full Connection and Mary Dennis by transfer from the Baltimore-Washington Annual
Conference as a Deacon in Full Connection under ¶347.1. Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported.

Rev. Kim presented the clergy transferring out to other Annual Conferences, noted on Disciplinary Question 41, and noted a change in the report: Rev. Robert English’s transfer has not been completed. Rev. Kim offered a prayer for those being transferred.

Rev. Kim presented Disciplinary Question 17 regarding the number of clergy under review. The report should be amended to show that all are blameless in the West District except for one.

Rev. Kim moved Disciplinary Question 18(a), which lists members of the Administrative Review Committee, and Disciplinary Question 18(c), which lists members of the Committee on Investigation. Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported.

Rev. Kim presented Disciplinary Question 19, which names certified candidates for ministry. The Board encourages the exploration of God’s calling towards ordained or licensed ministry. Those interested in ministry were encouraged to contact Cathy Wilson. Current state restrictions have caused the upcoming Orientation to Ministry to be redesigned as an online program.

Rev. Kim moved Disciplinary Question 20, which lists those who completed licensing studies and were approved as Licensed Local Pastors, but did not receive an appointment, and Disciplinary Question 21, which lists Licensed Local Pastors who were approved and given appointments. Both require a 3/4 majority vote. Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported. Rev. Kim prayed for those serving as Local Pastors.

Rev. Kim presented Disciplinary Question 24, which provides information about ministers from other Annual Conferences or Methodist Denominations serving in our Annual Conference while retaining their conference or denominational membership. This item does not require voting but is to acknowledge colleagues from other Annual Conferences and Methodist Denominations.

Rev. Kim moved Disciplinary Question 25, which lists ministers from other Christian denominations serving in Cal-Pac while retaining their denominational affiliation, and Disciplinary Question 26(b), which lists affiliate members retaining their Annual Conference membership while serving in this Annual Conference. The Board moved Disciplinary Questions 25 and 26(b). Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported.

Rev. Kim presented Disciplinary Question 49, which lists the names of clergy from our Annual Conference appointed in other Annual Conferences while retaining their membership with the California-Pacific Annual Conference.

Rev. Kim presented Disciplinary Question 43, which lists those placed on honorable location through the work of the Conference Relations Committee, chaired by Rev. Mark Ulrickson. The body was asked to review the list for highlighted names of those who have not been in
communication in two years and contact Cathy Wilson at cwilson@calpacumc.org with updated contact information.

Rev. Kim moved Disciplinary Question 44, which lists those granted the status of honorable location – retired, which had one person added to the list this year, and Disciplinary Question 46, which lists those terminations of conference membership by withdrawal, with two names listed under part (a) and part (c). Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported.


Rev. Kim moved Disciplinary Questions 50, 51, and 52, which are related to voluntary leave, family leave, sabbatical leave, and medical leave. Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported.


Rev. Kim presented Disciplinary Questions 63 – 71 as a point of information.

Rev. Kim moved Disciplinary Question 72, for clergy appointed for less than full-time service, which requires a ⅔ vote. Bishop Hagiya called for a vote and the motion was supported.

Rev Kim shared that a portion of the Board’s report would take place during the plenary session, including a report from the Orders Executive Committee.

Rev. Jeania Ree Moore was granted a point of personal privilege. She spoke to racial justice and racism as a systemic reality which is prejudice combined with social and institutional power, and as such, people of color cannot be racist. Merriam-Webster is updating its definition of racism,
and Beverly Daniel Tatum has written on this subject. Rev. Moore stated that it is vital that this systemic reality is the one Cal-Pac is working with as folks discuss and grow in their understanding, witness, and action to dismantle racism.

Rev. Kim invited the body to review the names of those who have reached milestone years of service in the report from the Archives and History Committee at the end of the Disciplinary Questions.

Bishop Hagiya offered appreciation to the Board of Ordained Ministry for their hard work preparing the report and acknowledged Rev. Rich Gardner’s efforts in his final term. Bishop Hagiya also thanked Rev. Bob Rhodes as Conference Secretary, Rev. Preston Price as the parliamentarian, and all clergy for adapting to the online gathering.