36th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Conversations - 10:00 AM (PDT)

Rev. Cedrick Bridgeforth introduced himself as the first clergy delegate. Monalisa Tu’itahi, first lay delegate, welcomed the body, and shared logistical information for joining in a time of conversations. Rev. Molly Vetter shared a pre-recorded video introduction to the conversation groups on behalf of the General Conference Delegation, in which Rev. Frank Wulf, Rev. Tom Choi, Claire Williams, and Dione Taylor responded to the question, “What does our Wesleyan understanding of grace have to offer in the midst of denominational uncertainty, pandemic, and racial tensions?” Rev. Vetter invited the gathering to participate in smaller conversation groups for 30 minutes.

36th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Ordination and Commissioning Service Worship - 11:15 AM (PDT)

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya commissioned Joy Primm as a deaconess prepared to serve as a missionary in a pre-recorded video. Aaron Shows, Pasadena FUMC organist, played “Dearest Jesus, We Are Here” by J.S. Bach. Bishop Hagiya offered a greeting and opening prayer.

Rev. Sunyoung Lee presented Jeania Ree Violet Moore for ordination as a Deacon in Full Connection; Denyse Anne Barnes, Benjamin Paul Camp, Rachel Michelle deBos-Haigler, Hannah Ka, Yoo Shim Michelle Park, Erin Karynn Stenberg, and Jackeline Alejandrina Vives for ordination as Elders in Full Connection; and Won-Seok Yuh and Joseph Yun for ordination as Elders in Full Connection in Hawaii at a future date. The Board of Ordained Ministry affirmed the candidates with prayers and support.

Rev. Lee presented Christy Ann Clark, Hyon Shim Hong, and Kristin Marie Reksc for commissioning as Provisional Deacons; Lea Michelle Booth, Khuong Duy Chau, Kurt Edward Poland, Alexander Steven Powell, and Hong Yun Won for commissioning as Provisional Elders; and Jessica Miyeko Kawamura and Joy Grace Yun for commissioning as Provisional Elders in Hawaii at a future date. The Board of Ordained Ministry affirmed the candidates with prayers and support.
Bishop Hagiya led the congregation in a litany of affirmation and approval of the candidates for provisional and full connection and then led them in the General Examination.

Bishop Hagiya acknowledged the work of the Holy Spirit in the provisional candidates’ lives and invited the congregation to continue to hold them in prayer as they prepared for ordained ministry. Bishop Hagiya prayed for the provisional candidates. One at a time, each candidate came forward and kneeled as a support person stood behind them, and Bishop Hagiya as he raised his hands over each candidate and spoke the prayer of commissioning. Christy Ann Clark, Hyon Shim Hong, and Kristin Marie Reksc were commissioned as Provisional Deacons. Lea Michelle Booth, Khuong Duy Chau, Kurt Edward Poland, Alexander Steven Powell, and Hong Yun Won were commissioned as Provisional Elders.

Bishop Hagiya examined the candidate for ordination as Deacon in Full Connection and prayed for her. The candidate came forward and kneeled as a support person stood behind them, while Bishop Hagiya laid both hands on her head, prayed, and charged her to take her authority as a Deacon. The Ordinand was presented with a stole to represent the mantle she took up. Jeania Ree Violet Moore was ordained as a Deacon in Full Connection.

Bishop Hagiya examined the candidates for ordination as Elders in Full Connection and prayed for them. One at a time, each candidate came forward and kneeled as a support person stood behind them, while Bishop Hagiya laid both hands on their head, prayed, and charged them to take their authority as an Elder. Each Ordinand was presented with a stole to represent the mantle they took up. Denyse Anne Barnes, Benjamin Paul Camp, Rachel Michelle deBos-Haigler, Hannah Ka, Yoo Shim Michelle Park, Erin Karynn Stenberg, and Jackeline Alejandrina Vives were ordained Elders.

Rev. Richard Garner called for the offering to support a fund for scholarships children, youth, and young adults to attend life-changing Cal-Pac Conference discipleship events that complement the disciple-making journey of our local churches in every district. The congregation was invited to give online at http://www.calpacumc.org/donate or by mailing a check to PO Box 6006, Pasadena CA 91102-6006.

Bishop Hagiya dismissed the congregation with a blessing and Aaron Shows played a personal arrangement of “O for A Thousand Tongues” as the postlude. The congregation expressed their support of the Commissioners and Ordinands with a standing ovation.

36th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Plenary Session 3 - 2:00 PM (PDT)

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya called the gathering to Order at 2:01 PM (PDT). Bishop Hagiya reflected on the ordination service and gave thanks for the ability to do it safely. Bishop Hagiya clarified that it was Rev. Ted Brock, who passed away on his 75th ordination anniversary, was remembered yesterday. Bishop Hagiya congratulated Rev. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore, who is retiring as Dean of Boston Theological Seminary, and noted that Bishop MaryAnn and Jeff
Swenson came by on a bicycle to send their greetings, but were not allowed to enter the church due to COVID-19 safety restrictions. Bishop Hagiya gave thanks for the DACA decision by the Supreme Court and recognized that the church needs to be vigilant in supporting Dreamers. Bishop’s Awards are not being distributed this year due to the pandemic, but the recipients are: Rev. James Conn, Connee and Phil Freeman, Dan Gara, Lorraine Kadooka, Rev. Etuini Kelemeni, Tupou Seini Kelemeni, Rev. David Richardson, and Ana-Haydée Urda.

**Orders of the Day** Rev. Cathie Capp moved the Orders of the Day. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and the motion was supported.

**Announcements** Rev. Won-Seok Yuh had trouble connecting. Bishop Hagiya shared that Rev. Yuh was to be ordained today, but the travel ban in Hawaii precluded it. He will be ordained at a later date. On Rev. Yuh’s behalf, Rev. Bob Rhodes offered reminders about procedures for legislation and announced that notes from the morning conversations will be available at [http://www.calpacumc.org/gc2020](http://www.calpacumc.org/gc2020).

**Response to Systemic Racism** Bishop Hagiya presented his initiative in response to Systemic Racism, which is a part of a two-year project that will include Black churches throughout the Western Jurisdiction. When Erin Hawkins is installed as Director of Connectional Ministries, a comprehensive conference-wide plan will go into effect to address anti-racism by praying, planning, and strategizing with Strengthening the Black Church Cal-Pac, Black Church and Renewal, and Ebony Prophets. A program to engage and nurture the next generation of leaders will be designed and implemented by Black laity and clergy. One key part of the plan is that a therapist who specializes in issues of race will be hired to work with African-American clergy and laity. Training in community engagement is necessary as the church moves toward a more cooperative missional structure that allows collaborative work.

Bishop Hagiya shared an example from Salem, Oregon, in which 9 UMC churches were able to learn to work together to establish one 1,500 member governance body, in which pastors, lay people, and facilities were benefited and leveraged, and an endowment was developed to support historically Black churches. Bishop Hagiya asked the body to start similar efforts and promised that the conference will work to strategize and empower dynamic and powerful anti-racist ministry. Bishop Hagiya described his own Japanese-American heritage and experience in the church, inviting congregations to begin to develop multicultural cooperation.

Funding for this strategic initiative comes through the repurposing of ministry funds after the sale of property in the West District. This is not meant to diminish the value of other ethnic groups, but rather to begin addressing systemic racism in the church by learning to be both independent and autonomous while also collaborating with one another. Bishop Hagiya recommended “The Three Horizons” by Bill Sharp. Bishop Hagiya presented a video, in which Rev. Adrienne Zackary, Pastor VJ Cruz-Báez, Rev. Sandie Olewine, and Rev. Gary Bernard Williams shared their experiences with systemic racism.
Rev. Zackary shared her experience of racism in the church and called the body to identify and hold accountable those behaviors that treat people of color as less than human, have courageous conversations which help people take ownership to act and think differently, and take time to lament racism, do deep listening, and affirm the humanity of all human beings.

Pastor Cruz-Báez shared her experience as a Puerto Rican with African blood in her lineage. She learned to internalize microaggressions and was afraid to confront her own prejudice. African people were dehumanized, became the property of the empire, lived in pain and slavery, and were taught a different language, system of values, and religion, as they were forced to assimilate to the dominant culture. Unconsciously, people have learned to be divided, but this must end by intentionally preventing colonialist thinking, microaggressions, macroaggressions, and cultures of inequality, racism, anti-blackness, and colorism, beginning with ourselves.

Rev. Olewine reflected on experiencing 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence during a prayer vigil on Pentecost Sunday. The evil of racism and violence has been starkly revealed. Being black in this nation is to be at risk, and no matter how well-intentioned, white people benefit from their skin color. She invited the body to begin by no longer being surprised that racism exists and learning to listen for a deeper understanding of systemic racism with the goal of transformation. White privilege allows denial and avoidance, and she asked white members of the body to find groups to support, be willing to make mistakes, learn to step beyond ego, and intentionally bear witness, name, and uproot racism.

Rev. Williams reflected on the differing experiences of the police that persons have depending upon their race. He shared an experience of growing up in South Central LA, being harassed by police, and one experience of being placed in a chokehold until he passed out at 15 years old. He invited the body to advocate for banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants, and to work to prosecute and arrest police officers who kill or abuse persons of color.

Bishop Hagiya invited Rev. Zackary, Pastor Cruz-Báez, Rev. Olewine, and Rev. Williams to share in a panel discussion.

Rev. Williams advocated for laws that address violence and support an institution that serves and protects everyone. He is fatigued and angry that it took a string of black deaths for folks to say enough is enough, and he called out the UMC to work to address racism and be a place where all are included.

Rev. Zackary shared that the Merriam-Webster Dictionary recently revised its definition of racism to focus on its systematic nature against people of color. People of color are impacted discriminated against in the foster care system, due to COVID-19, and in other systems. Rev. Zackary quoted Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said: “it is cruel jest to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps.” The playing field is uneven, and that must be acknowledged and changed. Rev. Zackary shared that she lives every day with the fear that her three sons might not come home, and no one should live in that terror.
Rev. Olewine reflected on a conversation with Rev. James M. Lawson, Jr., in which he stated that people of color are encouraged to fight over pieces of a pie that is intrinsically rotten; rather, a new pie is needed. Rev. Olewine invited the group to rethink how we consider and allocate budgets and not put people of color in situations where they are pitted against each other.

Pastor Cruz-Báez invited the gathering to look at their fears, and evaluate rules, poverty, systemic inequities, racism, and sexism, as we create a new norm that is inclusive of different expressions of God. She affirmed that both words and actions are important.

Rev. Williams expressed hope that this is the beginning of a journey together as a conference and thanked the Bishop for the opportunity to speak about and enact this new initiative.

Bishop Hagiya expressed gratitude on behalf of the conference for the depth of care in the conversation. Monalisa Tu’itahi called for more young voices to be included.

Rachel Gipson, lay delegate Westwood UMC, moved Resolution 20-06 - Strategic Plan for Racial Equality for Cal-Pac Conference, which offers actionable steps to formalize, define, and prioritize the conference response. There were multiple seconds. Bishop Hagiya advised Gipson on the legislative process, and Gipson moved to suspend the 24 hour rule, and there were multiple seconds. Bishop Hagiya called for a vote on the motion to suspend the rules and it was supported.

Rev. David Berkey and Rev. Sandy Olewine spoke in favor. Liz Roark spoke to the need to reinstitute the Conference Commission on Religion and Race.

James Kang, Conference Staff, moved to amend the resolution, beginning on line 21 of the second page, to read: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will empower ‘the office of the Executive Director of Connectional Ministries with the Commission on Religion and Race’ to oversee and monitor the progress and applications of this resolution and report back to the body with updates and recommendations by December 31, 2020.” There were multiple seconds. Rev. Cedrick Bridgeforth spoke against. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote on the amendment and it was not supported.

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter moved to amend page 2, beginning on line 7, to read: “primary value and focus, and supports a structured, accountable, transparent plan to address institutional and structural racial inequity at all levels of our church body;” and line 10, to read: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a racial disparity audit will be conducted within the next 9 months at every level ....” There were multiple seconds. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote on the amendment and it was supported.

Mark Stephenson called the question. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote on the motion as amended and it was supported.
Legislation  Rev. Lea Booth moved Resolution 20-04 - Resolution in Response to the Murder of George Floyd and Others.

Rev. Frank Wulf, Echo Park UMC, moved to amend beginning on line 42, to read: “The State of Minnesota and the churches and leadership of the Minnesota Annual Conference to ensure that ….” There were multiple seconds. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote on the amendment and it was supported. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote on the motion as amended and it was supported.

Bishop Hagiya moved Resolution 20-05 - Resolution for Closure: College United Methodist Church. Rev. Catie Coots moved to suspend the 24 hour rule, and it was seconded by Amybeth Lake, laity. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and it was supported. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote on the motion and it was supported.

Budget  Bishop Hagiya re-opened conversation on REC 20-07 - 2021 Budget with Narrative, which was moved by Howard Hudson, Chair of CFA, and Archana Carey, Conference Treasurer, on Friday.

Rev. Mandy McDow, Los Angeles First UMC moved to amend the proposed budget to add $35,000 for Strengthening the Black Church to the total Justice and Compassion Essential Ministry Team (JCEMT) budget. There were multiple seconds. After discussion, Bishop Hagiya called for the vote on the amendment and it was supported.

Rev. Robb Fuesler, St. Paul’s UMC in Coronado, moved that the 2021 budget be an aspirational budget and that CFA create an alternate side-by-side budget that anticipates reducing the overall bottom line by 25%. There were multiple seconds. After discussion, Bishop Hagiya called the vote on the amendment and it was not supported.

Rev. Garth Gilliam, Sherman Oaks UMC, moved that a line item be added to the budget for the next quadrennium to fund Urban Kids camp at $12,000 a year. Bishop Hagiya advised that this motion would be out of order because an Annual Conference session cannot act on behalf of a future session, and highlighted existing funding that may be allocated for the camp. Rev. Gilliam thanked the conference for considering the importance of this camp and withdrew his motion.

Rev. Fuesler asked for a reconsideration of his amendment. Bishop Hagiya ruled the request out of order. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote on the amended motion and it was supported.

Howard Hudson, Chair of CFA, moved REC 20-08 - 2021 Quotas & Special Offerings. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and the motion was supported. Mr. Hudson thanked Ms. Carey and her team for their hard work and expressed appreciation for the work of the Annual Conference.
Legislation (Res 20-01; Rec 20-01, Rec 20-06) Rev. Booth moved RES 20-01 - Standard Change to Calculation of Median Cash Salary. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and the motion was supported.

Rev. Booth moved Recommendation 20-01 - Advance Specials. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and the motion was supported.

Rev. Booth moved Recommendation 20-06 - 2021 Salary Ranges for Conference Staff Positions. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and the motion was supported.

Sessions Committee Bishop Hagiya announced that the next session is scheduled for the week of June 16, 2021. Bishop Hagiya moved that the location of the 2021 Annual Conference be the University of Redlands, assuming that we can meet safely. He expressed concern about the Session falling on Juneteenth and invited the body to consider how that day might be honored. Bishop Hagiya called for the vote and the motion was supported.

Closing Business Bishop Hagiya thanked the clergy and lay volunteers from First UMC Pasadena; the entire Sessions Team; Rev. Bob Rhodes, Conference Secretary, and his team; Rev. John Demaree and the Media Team; Rev. Janet Cromwell and Rev. Victor Cyrus-Franklin, Jr., and the Worship Team; Rev. Sunyoung Lee, Rev. Richard Gamer, Rev. Elbert Kim, and the rest of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Jennifer Gaylord; Rev. Rachel Tabutol, Rev. Steven Wilson, Rev. Erin Maddox McPhee, and the UM Daily staff; Rev. Denyse Barnes, Pastor Josh Zulueta, and the Moderators; the General and Jurisdictional Delegation; Conference, District, and Local Church staff; the Cal-Pac Appointed Cabinet; Connee and Phil Freeman; volunteer translators; and others whose names were omitted.

Rev. Rhodes moved the 36th Annual Conference be adjourned at the end of the Youth Worship Service. Bishop Hagiya stated that there may need to be a special called Session of the Annual Conference after the 2021 Sessions of General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference.

36th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference Closing Worship - 5:00 PM (PDT)

Kisione David Finau, YPC Young Adult Co-President, offered the greeting to worship. The Hawai‘i District Combined Young People’s Praise Team led in opening Praise. Acts 4:33 was shared on the screen. Echoes of Praise offered a liturgical dance to “Break Every Chain” by Tasha Cobbs. Olivia Trinidad, Kent Nguyen, and Tema Finau offered Messages of Hope themed “God Sending Us Forth...” A TikTok video titled “What is your favorite verse?” showed a series of young people passing their Bibles and sharing their favorite Bible verses. Ryan Park, Fine Tuitupou, and Marissa Wells shared Messages of Love and Mercy entitled “Because We Are the Church.” A Video honoring the Class of 2020 graduates was shared. Members of Inglewood First UMC sang “We Are the Church.” Jonathan Obogu offered the benediction and Pastor Langi Lolohea blew the pu to close the Annual Conference.