

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

California-Pacific Annual Conference

“The Cup Overflowing: Leadership”

University of Redlands

Redlands, CA

June 17 – 20, 2009

(Note: Subsequent corrections to the Daily Proceedings are noted in italics)

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Gathering of the Orders of Ministry: Covenant Time Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.

The Orders of Ministry gathered in the Orton Center, around tables served with decadent chocolate truffles and fruits. Greg Norton led the gathering in singing several hymns and praise songs, centered on the theme of covenant among us and with God. Molly Vetter, chair of the Orders of Ministry, and Debbie Gara, current chair of the Order of Deacons, welcomed the body and introduced the new incoming chair, Greg Norton. They also recognized the members of the Orders Executive Committee.

Debbie Gara described the Purpose of Orders, according to *The Book of Discipline 2008* ¶ 307, as providing, assisting, developing, enabling, and holding accountable the members of the Orders. The Orders Executive Committee seeks to provide continuing formation for the community and individual, assist in developing a sense of belonging, and enable relationships that fulfill our purpose.

The Orders of Ministry also helps provide continuing education events: The 2009 Clergy Convocation, titled Made Well, will be held at the Doral Desert Princess Resort Hotel in Palm Springs from Tuesday, September 29 through Thursday, October 1, 2009. Kathleen Puntar introduced a new process for receiving Continuing Education grants. Application deadlines for events scheduled January – June 2010 is October 1, 2009, and deadlines for events July – December 2010 is June 1, 2010. There are ten grants of \$1,000 available for each period. Applications are available at www.calpacordainedministry.org or by e-mailing CalPacConEdu@msn.com.

Dave Beetles spoke on behalf of Elder Pastors, who provide support and pastoral care for all active clergy. They also work with those in appointment transitions. A new ministry to clergy on incapacity leave will also be added to their work.

Erin McPhee introduced her father, Dr. Randy Maddox, professor of Duke Divinity School and Wesleyan scholar. He spoke on the topic of Covenant Faithfulness: The Methodist Way of “Responsible Grace.” He provided biblical and theological foundations for understanding Covenant, reflecting on Wesley’s Covenant Prayer (UMH 607) and Exodus 19. Covenant must be understood as a Response to God’s covenant faithfulness (“hesed”). It is also by the gift of Grace that we have the ability to respond, as understood from Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:24-27. The deepest sustaining Grace that supports all others (Prevenient Grace, Justifying Grace, and Sanctifying Grace) is Social Grace, where the covenant faithfulness to God is sustained in the covenanted faithfulness with one another. Dr. Maddox noted that this communal covenant is central to the “Methodist Way.” He concluded by emphasizing the importance of mentoring or modeling, as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “Follow me, as I follow Christ.” One way to counter the challenges is to let those who find covenant faithfulness life-giving share their story.

Following the keynote, Debbie Gara introduced Rex Britt to speak on his personal experience of covenant relationship during his years of ministry. He shared that without the informal clergy gatherings, ministry would have been lonely. For him, ministry covenant means never having to face anything alone. After the testimony, the gathered body was invited to discuss the following questions among the tables: Where have you felt supported by the covenant? What do you long for in the covenant community?

Ken Suhr also shared his involvement in a covenant group that has met for the past 11 years. A group of nine gathers once a year for five days to share and pray with one another. He noted that it is a safe place to be where he can question, wonder, and hear different perspectives about ministry and life. He emphasized that in making this covenant group work, they each made three commitments: a commitment to the relationship, a commitment to vulnerability, and a commitment to encourage. Following the testimony, the tables discussed: If you are in a covenant group, how is it working? If not, where do you go for support in your Ministry? Would you like to be part of a covenant group?

Kay Barre shared her experience of covenant relationship through a non-conventional medium. After the sudden loss of her brother, she found herself reaching for her computer to connect with those on Facebook. Through its virtual community and social networking, she received comfort and support from those both far and near, but whose friendship

has given much strength to make a difference. The internet is the new medium, but we are still the community. Following her testimony, the questions asked were: What are some new and creative ways that you might experience covenant? What is something you can do to help the covenant in the coming year?

A time of sharing joys and concerns was led by Molly Vetter, which was followed by the Celebration and Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson led the Service of Baptismal Renewal beginning with a bidding prayer of confession with Faith Conklin. The water for the baptismal renewal was a collection of water from all eight districts. Sea glass was given to each person renewing their baptismal covenant.

First-Time Laity Orientation Session Wednesday, 3:00 p.m.

Lay Members gathered in the Chapel where Dan Gara called the session to order at 3:03 p.m. with a word of prayer.

Mele Maka gave a warm welcome and asked all first-time members to stand to be recognized.

Ken Ellis, Conference Lay Leader, introduced the District Lay Leaders of our Annual Conference. Dan Gara, Conference Treasurer, told the members that Melrose Hall is the location of the main offices of the conference where help can be found. Ken presented a picture slideshow of the conference staff members.

Tom Howard informed the members on how to get around the campus of Redlands. He advised all to drink plenty of water and to wear sunscreen and hats. He encouraged using wait times in line as opportunities to get to know others. He reminded that the duty of a lay member is to participate in all voting sessions, except those for clergy only. He asked the members to attend the session with an open mind.

Mele Maka talked briefly on the upcoming Lay Ministries' events.

Ron Griffen discussed the Wesley Circles. He gave updates on how Wesley Circle will run and how the circles will integrate Bible studies as well as reflect on Wesley's Covenant Prayer. A video was shown informing members of what to expect during the plenary sessions.

Frank Wulf informed the members on the amendments which will be voted upon during the conference. Many amendments relate to the worldwide United Methodist Church.

Questions were asked and answered by Ken Ellis.

Eunice Musa Iliya from Nigeria briefly spoke about her church in Nigeria. She explained how it is such a blessing being back home in Nigeria, but could not thank this conference enough for the prayers and support she has received.

Richard Englar, Hawaii Lay Leader, closed the session with a benediction at 4:30 p.m.

A Service of Remembrance and Hope Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Greg Norton played the prelude on the organ. Marcia Hartsock opened the service with the Call to Worship at 7:38 p.m. The opening hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness" was sung. Marcia led the congregation in the opening prayer.

Ron Fisher led the congregation in the Affirmation of Faith based on Romans 8:35, 37-39. The anthem, "Magnificent and Holy" was sung by the Centered in Song vocal group.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson welcomed the congregation and officially opened the 2009 California-Pacific Annual Conference. She then gave a prayer, honoring those we have lost within the past year. The Bishop led the congregation in the Memorial Liturgy. With each name read, the Bishop and family members poured colored sand into a common vase. Upon hearing the phrase, "Absent from the body," the congregation responded, "Present with the Lord."

Bishop Charles Jordon read the names and biographies of United Methodist Bishops throughout the world that had passed away within the past year. The Bishops were: James M. Ault, Ole E. Borgen, Ralph E. Dodge, H. Ellis Finger, Ernest W. Newman, and Melvin E. Wheatley, Jr.

Mrs. Margaret Jordan read the names and biographies of the Bishops' life companions who had finished their labors. They were: Thelma Q. Goodrich, Carolyn Adele McKeithen Looney, Mary F. Milhouse, Nancy K. Oliphint, and Ada Rose Yow Stokes.

Ken McMillan read the names and biographies of the Clergy and Diaconal Minister from the California-Pacific Annual Conference who had passed away this past year. Those ministers were: George Carter, Fred Coots, Jr., Rollin Dexter, Richard Edgar, Stanley J. Gollery, Ralph G. Holliday, Donald Inloes, Susan Lemly, Regina Roberts, Kathleen Ross, Lloyd Snodgrass, Shigeo Tanabe, Gaius Thede, Howard Walker, James E. Williams, and Delta Wright.

Jan Hanson read the names and shared the lives of the spouses of the clergy of the California-Pacific Annual Conference who had passed away within the past year. They were: Evelyn Gustafson, Mary Heather, Laura Miller, Elizabeth Smith, Elizabeth Trevor, Dorothy Wayman, and Ruth Whaley.

Ken Ellis offered a prayer for those lay members of the Conference who had passed away this past year. Bishop Shamana prayed for others who have gone before us within this past year.

The offering was introduced by Ray Aller and Lynne Austin for the "International Child Care – Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti." For every dollar given, healthcare can be provided to a child for one day. \$31 will provide healthcare to a child for a month. Laura Witzak of Mission Viejo UMC shared a brief story of her recent mission trip to Haiti. A video played during the offering, showing the children of Grace Hospital.

Bishops Mary Ann Swenson, Charles Jordan, and Beverly Shamana led the celebration of the Great Thanksgiving. Communion assistants were Eunice Iliya Musa, David McGlocklin, and Jose Vindel. Communion servers were the Conference Lay Ministers and members of the Commission on Ethnic Ministry.

Lyda Eddington played the harp during Communion, followed by the congregation singing "Come Share the Lord," "One Bread, One Body," and "Let Us Be Bread." Bishop Swenson led the people in the prayer after receiving.

Bishop Shamana closed the service with the benediction.

Greg Norton played "Carillon du Longpont" for the postlude.

***THANK YOU:** To the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference for the gift of a chalice!*

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Laity Session Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Lay members of the Annual Conference gathered in Orton Center (as well as in University Hall via a video feed) where they were welcomed by Ken Ellis, Conference Lay Leader. The Laity Session was called to order at 8:40 a.m.

Ken Ellis introduced the District Lay Leaders followed by the gathered body singing the hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive." Larry Hygh offered the opening prayer. Ken welcomed Randy Maddox to give the keynote.

Randy Maddox spoke of leadership in the tradition of John Wesley, and how God calls the laity to leadership functions. He outlined the following points: (1) A Call for All, not just the "Chosen"; (2) Called to a "Warm Heart," not just Belief; (3) Called to Spiritual Healing, not just Forgiveness; (4) Called to Social Holiness, not "Lone Ranger" Religion; (5) Called to Care for Bodies, not just Souls; and (6) Called to Care for the Whole Creation!

Following the keynote, Ken Ellis opened the floor for questions.

Ken Ellis closed with a blessing and sent the session forth at 10:07 a.m.

Clergy Executive Session
Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Bishop Swenson called the Clergy Session in the Chapel to order at 8:35 a.m. by inviting the gathered body to sing the hymn, “Are We Yet Alive.” She then offered the opening prayer.

The Bishop reminded everyone the distinction between who may be present during the Clergy Session and who is eligible to vote according to *The Discipline*. She requested special permission for the following lay persons to be present: Gail Kendall, Wes Davis, Cathy Wilson, Leanne Nakanishi, lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the technical staff. They were admitted.

Board of Ordained Ministry: Derek Nakano introduced himself and expressed his honor to serve as the Chair of the Board. He noted that this had been a year of dealing with deep changes. Along with having new officers and leaders, the Board of Ordained Ministry is discerning a myriad of questions such as: How do we go after deep change while continuing to care for people? How do we bring deep change to the interviewing process? How do we make deep changes in the board? How do we work with seminaries more effectively? The Board is setting broad and far-reaching goals to press forward with deep changes that God placed in their hearts. They seek to improve effectiveness for the ordination process, greater clarification for the executive session, create avenues of input, and create new ethos in the candidacy mentoring relationships. He asked for understanding and compassion from the body as the Board undertakes these new challenges.

Derek Nakano also indicated that two Conference Rule changes would be presented to the Legislative sections. Rules 18 & 19, referring to Background Checks, had become too ineffective. Currently, the Rules indicates that background checks on clergy be done at the time of commissioning and then each time the clergy has an appointment change. This practice has proven to be largely inconsistent with some clergy having checks multiple times in a given year while others go for great lengths of time without an updated check. The proposed rule will set a five-year rule requiring all clergy to be checked consistently.

Rule 35 is the second change proposed. It seeks to change the length of the Residency program from two years to three. The Board feels that the two years rule is too short for individuals to develop the skills necessary for long sustained ministry. Findings from General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) indicate that the time spent during this residency is crucial for fruitful ministry especially during such a developmental time.

BOOM Membership: Derek thanked John Valles for his work with the Board. John will be retiring and moving to Texas. He thanked Debbie Gara for her years of service as Chair of the Order of Deacons. He also thanked Cathy Wilson for her dedication and work in supporting the Board.

Anna Mulford led the clergy through the Disciplinary Questions. She indicated that many of the DQs do not require any action from the clergy body. Therefore, only those items that require action will be presented. She asked that corrections to the DQ report be placed in the yellow box in the narthex.

Candidates for Provisional Membership and Commissioning and those to be Ordained in Full Connection were presented on the stage.

Provisional Membership (DQ28, pp.6-7): Robin Rhodes was elected to Provisional Membership and Commissioning in the Deacon Track. Rosemary Davis offered a prayer for Robin. Those elected to Provisional Membership and Commissioning in the Elder Track were Mary Dang, Thomas Kendall, Sam B. Kim, Brian Long, Allison Mark, Dianna Masters, Sharon McCart, Karen Clark Ristine, and Malakai Tatafu. Melissa MacKinnon offered a prayer for those elected to Provisional Membership in the Elder Track.

Full Connection (DQ33, p.7): Mary Allman-Boyle was elected for Ordination as Deacon in Full Connection. Lara Bolger, Debbie Camphouse, Christian DeMent, Paige Eaves, Timothy Ellington, Nestor Gerente, Jennifer Gutierrez, Cheryl Kelly, Joy Price, and Brent Ross were elected for Ordination as Elder in Full Connection. John Woodall prayed for all those elected to Full Connection.

Transfers (DQ37, p.8): Gail Messner presented those transferring into our Annual Conference from other Conferences or Denominations. These were Daniel Dongil Chang, Robert Miyake-Stoner, Emilio Muller, Karen Murata, Kenny Walden, and Amanda Burr. Gail Messner offered prayer for these persons.

Certified Candidates for Ordained Ministry (DQ19, pp.1-3): J.T. Greenleaf presented the names of the certified candidates as listed in DQ19. J.T. encouraged the clergy to become mentors as they are needed in every district. Mentoring training will be held on July 9, 2009 from 9:30-3:30 in the camping annex at the Conference Center.

Local Pastors (DQ20-23, pp.3-5): Anna Mulford moved to accept the list of those serving as Local Pastor in DQ 20-23. They were **approved**.

Sandy Olewine requested the Board to print the ages of the certified candidates as a way of tracking how we are encouraging and empowering young people into the ministry. The Board indicated it will take some work, but agreed to do so.

Disciplinary Questions 24-26 were approved and those clergy were asked to stand to be recognized.

Administrative Committee on Investigation (DQ18, p.1): The list of names in DQ18 was **approved**.

Discontinuance (DQ42, p.8): The Board moved to discontinue Glenn Hoskins from Probationary Membership. It was **approved**. The Board moved to discontinue Myung Hee Paek from Probationary Membership. It was **approved**. John Woodall explained that these two persons were in their eighth year of probationary membership, but had not been approved for full connection.

Termination of Conference Membership (DQ46, p.9): It was **approved** to terminate Conference Membership by withdrawal from ordained ministerial office for Lee Seals. The Bishop noted his faithful service and Lee Seals shared with the body about his decision.

The Board moved to terminate Conference Membership for Michael Bankhead by withdrawal under complaints or charges. It was **approved**.

Tom Griffith made a motion that the Clergy Session endorse a proposed request for a declaratory decision to the plenary session for adoption and to direct the motion to the plenary session be made by the Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry on behalf of the Clergy Session. It was **supported**. A question from the floor asked if Mike Bankhead was aware of this proposal. Tom Griffith responded, "Yes."

Willie Foreman offered prayer for Lee Seals and Michael Bankhead.

Leave of Absence (DQ50, pp.10-11): The Board moved to accept the list of Personal Leave, Family Leave, and Sabbatical Leave in DQ50. It was **approved**.

Retirees (DQ53-56, pp.11-16): Derek Nakano presented the list of names of our retirees. Those retiring this Annual Conference were asked to stand and be recognized. Derek Nakano offered prayer.

Deceased (DQ48, pp.9-10): Willie Foreman presented the names of clergy who had passed away within the past year and offered prayer.

Less than Full-Time (DQ76, p.17): Anna Mulford reminded the body that a three-fourth majority vote was required to approve those who had served more than five years in "less than full time" appointment. The list of those who served less than full-time was presented. It was **approved**. The body also voted for those serving less than full-time for more than five years. It was **approved**.

This concluded the work of the Board. The Bishop and the clergy body expressed gratitude. Clergy Session was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Plenary Session # 2

Thursday, 11:00 a.m.

Greg Norton led the body in singing. Bishop Swenson called the session to order at 11:05 am. She noted the history of the California-Pacific Annual Conference and welcomed everyone to the conference. She acknowledged those who were first-time attendees of the conference and congratulated those attending the conference for 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 years. Langi Lolohea offered a prayer for peace.

Conference Co-Secretaries, Dan Lewis and Leanne Nakanishi, made a motion to set the Bar of the 2009 California-Pacific Annual Conference (seating for those voting) as: the main level seating area of the chapel, the balcony seating level from the stairwell entrance forward, the green room, the stage, and the AV Room. Voting members MUST display a name badge to vote. **Motion was passed.**

Karen Clark Ristine presented the Orders of the Day. They were approved.

Conference Co-Secretaries, Dan Lewis and Leanne Nakanishi, presented four procedural motions: (1) The Agenda in the Preliminary Report be the official agenda of this Annual Conference, and that the Agenda Chairperson be authorized to make necessary adjustments in consultation with the Bishop as needed; (2) Proceedings published in the UM Daily be the official minutes of the Annual Conference after they are corrected and approved; (3) The registration forms be used as the official roll call of the Conference Sessions; (4) All resolutions NOT adopted by the end of Annual Conference be referred to the appropriate entities. They were **approved**.

The secretaries also indicated changes to the Legislation Tracking Sheet: (1) Add Resolution 09-6 “Human Rights in the Philippines”; (2) Remove Personnel Policy Committee’s Recommendation 09-3.5 “Medical Insurance Rule Change.” It was redundant with the Rules’ recommendation RC 09-4.28 “Lay Employee Retiree Health Insurance;” (3) Remove Rules’ Recommendations RC 09-4.1 & RC 09-4.25; (4) It was noted that Rule 18 was used twice. The second Rule 18 was now Rule 19.

Courtesies: Susan Juergensen highlighted the location of Cokesbury and the book signings happening during the week of Annual Conference. Judith Favor will be here for a book-signing.

Jim Hall, the author of Twilight Poems, Prayers and More would also be here.

Safety Issues: Chapel Coordinator, Scott Wolverton, reviewed University of Redlands’ safety procedures in case of an emergency. He noted that the emergency line while on campus was x8888 or on a regular phone line (909) 749-8888. Conference sessions were being broadcast on FM 106.3. He reminded all to be courteous by silencing electronics.

Rules Committee: Chair Bob Stimmel shared that all ministries review their rules and submit changes to the Rules Committee by **March 1, 2010**.

Lynn Westover made a motion to suspend the rules for membership on the committee on Native American Ministries. It was **supported**.

Nominating Committee: Bill Hitt indicated that the committee has turned to more rigorous use of technology of the day. He encouraged the use of the website: www.calpac-nominating.org Stephanie Toon Glassman was introduced as the new incoming Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

The rules were suspended for the Nominating reports to be received. It was **supported**, and the report as presented was **adopted**.

General Conference Amendments’ Overview: Bishop Swenson invited Bishop Jordan, Molly Vetter, and Ken Ellis to speak regarding General Conference Constitutional Amendments. Bishop Swenson explained that proposed amendments from General Conference are voted the following year by the annual conferences all around the world. This is the year for voting on amendments from the 2008 General Conference.

Molly Vetter and Ken Ellis greeted the Annual Conference on behalf of the General Conference delegation. 32 Amendments seek ratification, and each of the amendments needed a vote for approval or disapproval this year. To ratify

these amendments and make them a part of the Constitution, 2/3 of all individual votes from all the Annual Conferences is required. The actual number of yeas and nays are to be submitted to the General Conference. Changes to the Amendments are not allowed.

The 32 amendments are divided into five groups for clarity. The first and the second group contain 23 of the amendments, which all relate to the Worldwide Structure of the church. The first group: 4, 10, 23, 26 contain the substance of the changes proposed. The second group, which contains the other 19 amendments, simply implements the changes that will come from the first four amendments.

These amendments will do several things such as change the name of the Central Conferences whose regional bodies are outside the boundaries of the United States. These Central Conferences are regional conference structures that are no longer limited to churches outside the United States. United Methodist churches within and outside the United States will become parallel.

Bishop Swenson invited Bishop Jordan to share the vision of the Council of Bishops on the 23 amendments.

Ken Ellis and Molly Vetter provided brief summaries of some of the amendments. #1 proposes change in the language to clarify that all people are available for membership in the church; #19 revises the rules regarding which clergy are eligible to vote for clergy representative for General Conference extending the right to vote for provisional members and local pastors; #6 creates provisions for new Annual Conferences to make space for less than full members; #8 adds gender to race and status as an unacceptable base for discrimination; #9 sets a minimum limit to Jurisdictional Conference delegates to 100; #15 changes the requirements of lay members for the Annual Conference requiring one year and not two; #17 gives lay representatives on the committee of investigation a right to vote; #22 adds Bermuda to the Northeastern Jurisdiction. Substance of all these amendments can be found in the downloadable legislation.

Dan Lewis, Conference Co-Secretary, presented the instructions on how the balloting would work. As soon as the votes were tallied, it would be reported.

Orlando Rivera closed the plenary session with the Benediction.

Plenary Session # 3 **Thursday, 2:00 p.m.**

Bishop Swenson called the session to order at 2:04 p.m. Cynthia Abrams gave the prayer for peace.

Karen Clark Ristine welcomed Skip Keating, Lay Leader of the Pasadena District who joined Bishop Swenson at the table. Karen moved the Orders of the Day. They were approved.

Dan Lewis presented the announcements. There is reserved parking for the disabled between the Chapel and Casa Loma. Olan Mills will be taking pictures for the Annual Conference directory from noon until 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday only. Dan also explained the timing lights for the floor.

Greetings from the University: Neil Macready, president of the University of Redlands, extended greetings from the University of Redlands.

Comprehensive Mission Report: Bishop Swenson introduced the Conference Comprehensive Plan for the California-Pacific Annual Conference, and encouraged the Church to live courageously in these trying times. Wayne Walters and Wayne Moore prefaced the Comprehensive Mission Report. Debbie Haustedt was called to share the 123 plan that emphasizes grace, compassion, and justice.

Ken Ellis and Molly Vetter highlighted the focus of the work with a video:

1. Leadership Development – the plan is to develop principled Christian leaders.
2. Creating Places for New People – the plan is to have 10 new ministries before Bishop Swenson retires in 2012.
3. Engaging Ministry with the Poor – the plan is to help address the needs of the poor who are living in our own zip codes. Each district will also hold poverty summits to help districts figure out a way to address poverty in their area.

4. Stamping out the killer diseases of poverty – the task is to help bring clean and fresh water to our communities and the world such as Calexico and Nigeria.

Marion Gill introduced Sue D'Alessio as the new Executive Director of the Conference Leadership Center. Sue explained in more detail about Focus Area #1 and emphasized that open doors should be a two-way door that invites people in, but also lets church members walk out into the world and minister to those in need.

Marion then presented the new Leadership Development for Young People, Fernando Alcantar who emphasized that the church should not be the church of tomorrow, but rather the church of today.

Amber Marshall talked on behalf of the second focus point: New Places for New People. A video was shown.

Sandy Olewine talked about the third focus point: Engaging in Ministry with the Poor. A video was shown about the Pit Stop Ministries in Pasadena at Scott UMC. The pastor of Scott UMC thanked everyone for supporting Pit Stop Ministries.

Riley McRae talked about the fourth focus point, which is a need for healthier living. Riley emphasized looking beyond ourselves and our orders.

Ken Ellis gave a speech, on a balance board, about how the plan needs a balance of finances and incorporation of our three simple rules, to get the best stewardship of our resources, to best accomplish our conference goal.

Wayne Moore presented the conference spending which is a 3-point mandate for budgeting.

- Will be adding 1.3 million dollars for retired clergy health care.
- Rate of apportioned giving is down 4%.
- Working within the current budget.

A conference health plan was presented by Ken McMillan. The plan will be discussed in all of our Wesley Circles as well as the Table Forums with members of CFA present to answer questions. The body will vote on this tomorrow.

Bishop Swenson and Ken Ellis also shared how the Council of Bishops intends to give their share in this by rolling back Bishops' salaries to that of the 2008 level and by having fewer meetings to save church resources.

Added to minutes from written Comprehensive Mission Report

Conference Leadership Team & Council on Finance and Administration Comprehensive Mission Report 2009

Bishop Swenson:

There are signs of life and hope in the Wesleyan movement around the world. People are sharing their faith, walking alongside new Christian disciples, becoming justice seeking friends, and transforming the world. At the same time, we face an unprecedented moment in our history. In the United States: church membership, worship attendance, and baptisms continue to decline; funding for connectional ministries continues to decline, and grows weaker in the current economic crisis; the "warm heart" of John Wesley's initial movement has become a "contented heart" of institutional inertia; and the 1970's organization and structure we live with is not sufficient, nimble, or responsive to the fast-changing 21st century world we inhabit. While these signs reflect the United States-oriented experience, the impact on our global sisters and brothers is profound and significant. The current global financial crisis has uncovered our hesitancy to act, but it has also gifted us with a sense of urgency and an opportunity to lead courageously.

Your Leadership Team and cabinet sense this urgency and see this opportunity, so I want to call upon Rev. Wayne Walters as the leader of the Team, and Mr. Wayne Moore, President of the Council on Finance and Administration to present our Comprehensive Mission & Strategy Report for 2009-2010.

- *W. Walters: Thank you Bishop; I'm Wayne Walters, and I've been serving as pastor at Sierra Madre UMC, and next month I'll be appointed to Burbank UMC;*
- *W. Moore: and I'm Wayne Moore, lay member at Holman UMC and President of CF&A.*

- *W. Walters: if you get confused about which Wayne is which, just remember that he's the one with the mustache...*
- *W. Moore: And he's the one with hair!*

W. Walters: Each year this Body comes together for worship, study, and fellowship—AND to make critical decisions for the Church. You have already heard about the responsibility each one of us has to vote on the constitutional amendments, which will shape our whole church. For this report, the focus is much more local— our Los Angeles Episcopal Area. Our purpose as the Leadership Team with the Council on Finance and Administration is to bring you two very basic questions about our ministry together:

1. *What are we planning to do,*
2. *and how are we planning to fund that?*

Wayne Moore: In a few moments, I'll talk through the budget that CF&A is recommending for 2010, but first let me invite Team Leader-elect Debbie Haustedt to review and bring us up to date on our strategic work.

Mrs. Debbie Haustedt, member of St. Mark's UMC San Diego, and the Leadership Team.

When Bishop Swenson first came to be with us nine years ago, this Conference was just finishing a re-structuring process; as we lived into that new structure, we saw the need for a more fundamental strategic plan that would reflect the basic mission of the church at both the congregational and connectional levels. Through Bishop Swenson's leadership at the general church level, we had an early look at how the whole church was renewing and redefining our fundamental purpose: "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

At the same time, the full cabinet and Leadership Team collaborated around a series of listening forums, and had feedback sessions here at Annual Conference: from all of this emerged our 1.2.3. plan to support our vision of "To Be the Cup Overflowing." The plan focuses on grace, compassion and justice, with local, connectional and global outcomes. Most importantly, we recognized the truth in Ghandi's saying, "Be the change you wish to see." Whatever transformation we were seeking, it had to begin with ourselves, specifically our leadership—that's you and me, everyone in this chapel and then some! In fact, we saw leadership—that is to say people, more than any program—as the key in every aspect of our mission.

This is why you have heard the mantra, "Leadership, leadership, leadership," appointed, congregational and future leadership; diverse in terms of age and gender, and ethnically and racially diverse.

The image you see on the screen now is a composite of all the words in our 1.2.3. strategy, with the most frequently used words showing as the largest—and the big one is leadership! Our plan took a big leap forward when we approved and funded the strategic initiatives on leadership and congregational support. Now as we plan these next few years with Bishop Swenson's leadership, let's hear from our General Conference delegates, who can tell us about the next phase of our strategic work together."

Mr. Ken Ellis and Rev. Molly Vetter introduce a video from the general church: "Four Areas of Focus Introduction"

Mrs. Jackie Hawthorne, member of Crenshaw UMC and the Leadership Team:

These four foci and our 1.2.3 strategy mesh together very smoothly because they are rooted in our common mission as Christians and United Methodists—to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Managing and implementing that work at the global and denominational level has been the task of the Connectional Table. Like the cross, the image of 'table' is central to who we are as Christians; again with Bishop Swenson's leadership, we have adopted the model of the table for our own work. Since General Conference and the Bishop's re-assignment to this Area, our Table has realigned itself around the four emphases. This past fall and again this spring, leaders representing all of the principal ministry areas of the conference gathered to discern how this conference could live out the four areas of focus.

Mrs. Marian Gill, member of Atascadero UMC and the Conference Leadership Team:

The first emphasis is developing principled Christian leaders: as we have said, the leading priority that lay and clergy people in this conference lifted up was leadership development. To meet that need, you approved a Center for Leadership and recruited a new Executive Director to develop and guide this Center. You have read about Rev. Sue D'Alessio, and she flew in this morning from guiding her Wisconsin Annual Conference Session to be with us today: would you please join me in welcoming her to her new ministry and this new fellowship:

Bishop will say a few words; Sue also.

Marian continues:

Our focus on leadership development serves both lay and clergy, and even more importantly, existing and emerging leaders—leaders from the next generation.

Many of you have already met our new Director of Leadership Development for Young People and experienced his passion and conviction; but this is our first opportunity for all of us to welcome him into the life of the conference. Would you please join me in welcoming Fernando Alcantar...

Marian continues:

The Center for Leadership is the primary, but not only way in which we as a connection are living out the focus on ‘developing principled Christian leaders.’ Our initiative in developing future leadership blends with congregational renewal to provide financial support to congregations that can serve as teaching communities around emerging leaders. This past year, we were able to fund ten such persons at churches from the San Diego to Hawaii to Pasadena districts. It’s my pleasure to introduce one of these young leaders to represent this group, Mike Tolbert and his pastor Tom Choi from Kailua, Hawaii.

Ms. Amber Marshall, member of Walnut UMC and the Conference Leadership Team:

The second emphasis is on ‘new places for new people, and renewing existing congregations’: here is brief introduction to this focus...

“New Ministries for New People” video.

Amber continues: This Conference has been ahead of the curve in new ministries for several years: let me recognize some familiar and some new faces: Director of New Ministries Rev. Jim Conn, Associate Director for Urban Ministries Rev. Jennifer Gutierrez, and our new Associate Director for Latino Ministries Rev. Emilio Mueller.

One of the first emphases to come out of our own Table process was to set a goal of starting a specific number of ministries by a specific date; with this report, we want to set the goal to start ten new ministries before Bishop Swenson retires in 2012. These ministries have a broader definition than ‘congregation,’ because our new ministries work has shown us we need a much wider definition of how to be present in communities and ‘make disciples for the transformation of the world.’ Everyone here should also note that our best knowledge and experience points to existing congregations as the source of new ministries. So this is not something that somebody else is going to do for us—it is something we are going to do together.

Rev. Sandy Olewine, pastor of the Neighborhood in Long Beach and member, Conference Leadership Team.

The third emphasis is engaging in ministry with the poor: when the Conference Table met, we knew that many of congregations were already ‘living out the Wesleyan Code in your zip codes’ through ministries with the poor. Some of those examples include Honolulu FUMC’s “Pancake & Praise” breakfast, which has grown from serving 60 people to 200 every Sunday morning. Another is Pacific Beach’s Wednesday night ministry, and another is Scott UMC’s Pit-STOP ministry in Pasadena, which meets the needs of homeless men. Let’s watch:

Connectional Ministries Scott-PIT Stop video clip.

(Sandy continues) This is one of six sample videos available for using with your own congregation. But the challenge from General Conference in the four emphases is this: in the same way that people come together and make a bigger difference as a congregation than any one person could do on their own, what could we achieve if congregations got together across a whole region? What kind of difference could we make together— what kind of transformation could that be?

The Conference Table has set a goal of convening poverty summits in each district, and each of these would have the goal of creating district based service centers for the poor; through these Centers, congregations would pool their time, talents and resources to maximize the church’s witness and service to the poor.

Rev. Riley McCrae of Chollas View UMC, member of the Conference Leadership Team:

The fourth emphasis is ‘stamping out the killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally’: there are two things to report about this area of focus: first, the Bishop called upon the cabinet, staff and elected leadership of the conference to join her in focusing on our own health, so we that we can speak with integrity about the need for health. To do that, she set a goal of hiking into Camp Sturtevant for a retreat over Pentecost, and we’re glad to report that that goal has been accomplished: would those who made the four mile hike UP into camp and back out please stand... Next, looking beyond our borders, we know that clean water is essential to basic health, so as a literal expression of our vision “to Be the Cup Overflowing,” we call upon this Conference to bring reliable sources of ‘fresh, overflowing water’ to poor communities outside the U.S. and overseas. Specifically, we propose to start by developing our existing relationships in Calexico and Nigeria to bring water to poor communities there. The specifics need some research, but we know what the results look like—and taste like!

Rev. Wayne Walters:

Each of these is only a starting point, and the expectation is that by focusing in these four areas, more people, more ideas, more congregations, and more leaders will be formed to transform our world. In conjunction with this strategy, the Conference Leadership Team will use the newly revised congregational Covenant for Vital Ministry to develop a Conference Covenant for Vital Ministry, using the goals reported here. We will use this Covenant to guide and assess our connectional work, our progress on leadership development, ten new ministries by 2012, district-based poverty summits and eventually service centers, and fresh overflowing water in communities in Calexico and Nigeria— all of that is just to start with. In addition, this Conference Covenant will be the basis for future Comprehensive Mission Reports to the Annual Conference session, so that together we can see how well we ‘walk the talk’ of living out our Wesleyan Code all across and beyond our many zip codes. This is our strategic foundation for developing and considering a budget to support our mission. What do we need now?

Mr. Ken Ellis balancing on his balance board: We need to balance the four foci, our finances, and our faith that God is working through all things for those who love and serve... ”

Mr. Wayne Moore, member of Holman UMC and President of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration: It is the responsibility of the Council of Finance and Administration, in consultation with the Conference Leadership Team, to develop a budget that represents the best stewardship of our connectional resources for the purpose of fulfilling the conference’s total mission. Looking toward the horizon and the year 2010, our view is sharply defined—but not limited by—this year’s economic landscape. There are some mountains that were not part of the picture just 12 months ago, and some valleys too. In order to bring a balanced proposal, we remembered John’s words in the third chapter of Luke, to “prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight; every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low.” It wasn’t easy, but we are ready to go forward with this proposal for ‘financial re-landscaping.’

We started with three things on our budget map: let me name them and then explain them.

The big new mountain was we had to add \$1.3 million to the budget to pay for retired clergy health care insurance. The new valley was a lower rate of apportionments received—down from (87.4% in 2007) to (82.9% in 2008.) Our compass direction was to not raise apportionments at all—to stay on the plain, if you will.

These three together meant that connectional spending would have to be reduced: add a \$1.3 million expense, drop the rate of receipts by 4.5% and not go over the current working budget all equals budget cuts. Here are some of the details:

- *Support for retired clergy health insurance was previously paid outside the budget and made possible by our pre-1982 pensions fund surplus: because of the severe economic downturn, that surplus is not currently available.*
- *The rate on connectional giving is what it is; we are glad to note that already this year, there are eleven churches who have already paid 100%, which is four more than last year, and that giving has remained within (.8%) of last year at this same date. Churches who have kept faith with the commitment to give 5/12ths by the end of May total 150, just six fewer than last year.*
- *Finally, the Council has always started its budget work from the position of not increasing the proposed budget, and that any increases recommended should be modest.*

Using these three benchmarks, we have been able to develop a connectional giving plan for 2010 that is \$8,090 less than this year’s budget. This was achieved despite adding \$1.3 million for retired clergy health insurance, and reducing the projected rate of giving. Almost every ministry area participated in this reduction, with the most significant changes in the budgets for the capital replacement fund, communications, working capital reserve, camping, and connectional ministries—including campus ministries. Please note that in addition to these connectional budget changes, there will be parallel changes in what is billed to local congregations for active clergy benefits—those amounts are specific to your local congregations’ appointed clergy status.

Because this budget also includes changes in how we fund retiree health insurance, let me pass the map and compass to Ken McMillan of the Board of Pensions to review those changes with us:

Rev. Ken McMillan...

Bishop Swenson with Ken Ellis:

I want to invite Ken Ellis to join me here, because I want him to help me share with you what the Council of Bishops is doing in response to many of these same issues as we consider our own conference actions. In May the Council of Bishops issued a Call to Action. Because this is truly a kairos moment, we affirmed for the record~

1. *That we are committed to expressing the love of God and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;*
2. *That business as usual is not working and it is past time for changing;*
3. *That we have not lost our heart or passion to be servant leaders for the whole church;*
4. *That we earnestly desire to be faithful and fruitful.*

Ken and the Bishop alternating:

The Council then voted to begin initial signs of re-ordering their life as a Council and their United Methodist witness by:

- *Recognizing the financial challenges that face us, the bishops in 2010 will roll back the salary of U.S. bishops to the 2008 amount.*
- *They will have fewer and shorter meetings in order to practice faithful stewardship of time, energy and resources, and to model efficiency and frugality.*
- *We will “tell the stories” of the positive ways our mission is being implemented in the world and convene Conversation Circles to engage thousands of people in prayer, reflection, and action.*
- *The Council will collect information about how congregations and others in the connection are adapting creatively to the global economic crisis. The intent is to clarify the challenges and constraints facing our conference and ministries.*
- *And we are committed to complete the goal of raising \$20 million for the Central Conference Pension Initiative and raising \$75 million for the Global Health Initiative by 2012.*

Bishop Swenson:

I see the work of the Leadership Team and Council on Finance and Administration and the goals they have set, and the decisions they have made to be in harmony with what the Bishops are doing. It is important to me that there be integrity across the mission of the whole church, and I am glad to see that happening at so many levels, in so many places of our church.

Mr. Wayne Moore:

Thank you Bishop: it is the responsibility of the Council of Finance and Administration to look at the whole of the Annual Conference, and in consultation with the Conference Leadership Team, to develop a budget that represents the best stewardship of our connectional resources for the purpose of fulfilling the conference’s total mission. After all these details, there are really only two things to remember: compared to this year [2009], the operating budget has been cut significantly, yet at the same time, the apportioned amount is basically the same.

This will be hard for some, but the Council believes we have found the best balance between our mission, our finances and our future—and the balance point for all three is our stewardship, which is a reflection of our faith that God is ready to work through us to transform the world.

The Council proposes this budget to the Conference for its consideration, and invites this Annual Session to join in looking at our whole system of mission and how to fund that mission locally, regionally and nationally. We invite the prayerful discernment of this projected allocation of resources, confident that it is the best and most balanced way for us to fulfill our purpose in the year 2010, and beyond.

Rev. Wayne Walters:

Bishop and members of the Annual Conference, this concludes the Comprehensive Strategic Report: questions of clarification for understanding are welcome, and questions specific to the Pensions’ proposals will be available for discussion at tomorrow’s Table Forums. Final discussion and action on the whole budget is on the agenda for Friday afternoon here in the chapel. On behalf of the Council and the Leadership Team, thank you.

Episcopacy Committee: Jan Wiley of the Episcopacy Committee rejoiced in having our own Grant Hagiya elected as Bishop and his appointment to the Pacific-Northwest Annual Conference. She also expressed joy in having Bishop Swenson back with us, and having Bishop Beverly Shamana and her husband back as she retired from her responsibilities as Bishop of the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

Leadership Team Nominations: Bill Hitt spoke to the session on behalf of the Leadership Team nominations. The congregation nominated clergy as well as lay members to be voted on for the Leadership Team. There are 3 clergy spots and 2 laity spots still available. The nominees for the ballot will be online at: <http://secretary.cal-pac.org> under “Annual Conference 2009.”

Courtesies: Susan Juergensen and Lee Carlile presented the courtesies. Larry Hygh, Jr. presented Kathy Noble from UM Connections based out of Nashville, TN. Kathy introduced the concept of Re-Think Church, www.10000doors.org (website for 18-34 year olds), and Find-a-Church.

Wesley Circle Explanation: Debbie Haustedt explained the dynamics of the Wesley Circles.

The session was adjourned at 3:47 p.m., following the benediction by Won Yuh.

Plenary Session # 4 **Thursday, 7:30 p.m.**

Bishop Swenson called the Plenary to order at 7:32 p.m. and asked Connee Freeman, Lay Leader of the Los Angeles District, to open us in a prayer for peace.

Karen Clark Ristine announced the Orders of the Day. Krista McVey, Lay Leader for the Riverside District, joined Bishop Swenson at table. The Orders of the Day were approved.

United Methodist Men: Richard Kim gave an update on the United Methodist Men. The United Methodist Men has had many ups and downs throughout this past year. Richard urged the need for more men in the UMM to keep it strong and alive. The UMM membership has been declining even as other functions of the United Methodist Church grow. The UMM must continue to be active in their local churches. We must turn the key for the UMM to get things going again!

United Methodist Women: Debbie Haustedt gave an update on the United Methodist Women. Debbie spoke on how women empower women, which empowers the church. The UMW provides opportunities of growth for women. There are 10,000 plus members in the UMW. They are united by a purpose to serve. The UMW pledged \$ 375,000 to the Women’s Division. The UMW pledged to raise \$ 20,090 to give 2,009 bed nets to people in Africa. Instead of \$ 20,090, the UMW raised \$ 32,953.25 and was able to send 3,295 bed nets to Africa. Bishop Swenson was given an orange wig by the UMW, which she proudly wore.

Nominating Committee: Stephanie Toon Glassman, new Chair of the Nominating Committee, raised from the floor that the best way to reach her is by e-mail. You can get her e-mail by writing it down as it is projected on the screen during the plenary sessions on Friday, as well as by visiting the Nominating Committee booth in the quad.

Board of Ordained Ministry: Derek Nakano gave the report on the Board of Ordained Ministry. Derek explained how it is a very joyous time for this ministry. Derek invited Anna Mulford to present the 2009 class of Provisional Membership and Full Connection clergy. They were Robin Rhodes for Provisional Membership and Commissioning in the Deacon Track; Mary Dang, Thomas Kendall, Sam B. Kim, Brian Long, Allison Mark, Dianna Masters, Sharon McCart, Karen Clark Ristine, and Malakai Tatafu for Provisional Membership and Commissioning in the Elder Track; Mary Allman-Boyle for Ordination as Deacon in Full Connection; Lara Bolger, Debbie Camphouse, Christian DeMent, Paige Eaves, Timothy Ellington, Nestor Gerente, Jennifer Gutierrez, Cheryl Kelly, Joy Price, and Brent Ross for Ordination as Elder in Full Connection.

Gail Messner presented the transfer report of those clergy who were transferring into the Cal-Pac Conference. These were Daniel Dongil Chang, Robert Miyake-Stoner, Emilio Muller, Karen Murata, Kenny Walden, and Amanda Burr. (Note: further explanation may be found above in Clergy Session minutes from Thursday).

Rosemary Davis presented another item from the Board of Ordained Ministry. Professional Certification is The United Methodist Church’s recognition that an individual has been called, made a commitment to serve, and has fulfilled the required standards for academic training and experience to serve in an area of specialized ministry. The Certification is granted by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in cooperation with the Conference Board of Ordained

Ministry. Koreen Stahl Miller was presented a certificate granting her recertification as a Director of Christian Education in The United Methodist Church. Koreen was originally certified in June 1966.

Derek asked the session to read up on a rule that was being brought to the floor to change number 35: length of service to change from two years to three years. The two-year residency was too brief for learning and skill building.

Derek also presented a proposal from the Clergy Session to request a Declaratory Decision from the Judicial Council regarding voluntary Termination of Conference Membership by withdrawal under complaint or charges. It was **supported**.

**Passed Proposal included here: PROPOSED REQUEST FOR A DECLARATORY DECISION
FROM THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

We hereby move that the California-Pacific Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church request the Judicial Council to issue a Declaratory Decision on the constitutionality, meaning, application or effect of ¶2719.2 of the 2008 Book of Discipline, which reads:

“When a bishop, clergy member, local pastor, or diaconal minister is the respondent to a complaint under ¶361.1(d) and desires to withdraw from the Church, the jurisdictional or central conference in the case of a bishop, the annual conference in the case of a clergy member, or the district conference (where there is no district conference, the charge conference) in the case of a local pastor or a diaconal minister will ask him or her to surrender his or her credentials and will remove his or her name from professing membership; in which case the record shall be ‘Withdrawn under complaints’ or ‘withdrawn under charges,’ whichever is appropriate.” (Emphasis added.);

and also of the reference to this cited subparagraph in a partially conflicting ¶360.3 of the 2008 Book of Discipline.

Specifically, are the words “and will remove his or her name from professing membership” unconstitutional because:

- 1) This creates a violation of a (now) professing member's right to trial before s/he is removed from professing membership? (¶20)*
- 2) It is a violation of the constitutional right of the clergy members in full connection to determine what shall be the status of one who is terminated from conference membership voluntarily? (¶33)*
- 3) JCD 804 says that a body that “expels” a member can only expel them from the body in which their membership is held?*

The California-Pacific Annual Conference affirms that one of its clergy members was allowed to withdraw from annual conference membership under complaints, at this, its 2009 session.

*Thomas H. Griffith
Gwen Jones-Lurvey
Andrew J. Welch*

Derek noted membership changes to the Board of Ordained Ministry. John Valles will be moving to Texas. Debbie Gara is leaving as chair from the Order of Deacons. Greg Norton will be taking over as the Order of Deacons chair.

Orders of Ministry: Molly Vetter and Debbie Gara presented the Orders of Ministry. Debbie, Molly, and Greg explained that one of the tasks of the Orders is to provide spiritual renewal through such events as the Clergy Convocation. Molly and Greg gave Debbie a gift for the work and leadership she has shown.

Bishop Swenson introduced Randy Maddox, our Bible Study leader.

Bible Study Part 1

Thursday, 8:20 p.m.

Dr. Randy Maddox

Bishop Swenson introduced Dr. Randy Maddox. She highly recommended Responsible Grace.

You will want to read again about John Wesley's practical theology, especially the part about the triumphant goal of responsible grace, because that really is where we are going. As we live it in our lives, that is where we are living into it. She first met Dr. Maddox when she lived up in the Northwest and he was a professor at Seattle Pacific University. He was greatly respected in that area and was highly respected. He is now at Duke Divinity School. She shared some of his recent publications. Over the next few years, they will be participating together in the first United Methodist Commission on Faith and Order.

Dr. Maddox shared fond memories of Bishop Swenson and always respected her faithfulness.

The title of his bible study was "Embodying the Mission of the Whole Christ: Luke 10: 1-3."

The Wesley's were thoroughly grounded in scripture. Charles Wesley wrote 7 volumes of short hymns inspired by scripture.

The passages that have been suggested focus on the theme of leadership. In Luke 10: 1-3 reflects on Jesus' crucial moments in his own leadership. He suggested we look through with Wesleyan eyes. Scripture never simply interprets itself. It's read in light of traditions and the people who have helped shape us.

"**The Lord appointed seventy**": To say that God had appointed them was to say that the mission they were being sent on, was not their mission, but God's mission. It is a mission into which we are invited. That invitation is for us to play a part. The God we know in Christ is not consumed with the need to demonstrate sovereignty by controlling everything, but this God is committed to restoring and to upholding all that God had made. God's mercy and love is over all that God created and God invites all to participate in all projects of salvation. "The God who made us without ourselves loves us too much to save us without ourselves." (St. Augustine).

"The Lord appointed **seventy others**": God invites all active disciples to play a part in that mission. Christ sends out the entire community as his representatives, because there is so much to do.

"The Lord.. sent them... **to every town and place where he himself intended to go.**" God sends them out as God's strong voice and loving arms to not only proclaim the good news, but also to touch and heal. God sends you out to every place where creation stands in need. There is plenty to do.

Jesus said to them, "**The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few....**": Always make sure you present the whole Christ in all your offices. Preach Christ in all his offices. (1) Prophet: Strong & winsome articulation of God's way. This focuses on Christ's teaching. Live into the ways that are life giving. (2) Priest: compelling offer of God's mercy. Christ reached out to spread God's love and gracious acceptance. (3) King or Physician: compassionate restoration of God's shalom (wholeness). This type of authority found in Psalms was about God giving this person wisdom to restore the way God intended them to be. How do I overcome the brokenness? How do I bring healing?

Keep in balance the work of God. There's the danger of becoming people focused on only 1 part of this work. Wesley was deeply concerned for in his day was those sent out to be Christ, carry on the full work of Christ. It's a harvest of people living in holiness of heart and life, reaching out in transforming ways. Working for that triumph of God's love.

Jesus said to them..."Therefore **ask the Lord** of your harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. **Go on your way.**" In the early church, they referred to dancing around together. The mutual love and connection of God as Father, Son, and Spirit was not a static unity, but a dancing together. They would use it to refer to how God empowers us and how we respond to God's power and how we put it to work. John Wesley called this prevenient grace.

The life of God in the soul of a believer, immediately and necessarily implies the continual inspiration of God's Holy Spirit: God's breathing into the soul, and the soul's breathing back what it first receives from God, a continual action of God upon the soul, and the re-action of the soul upon God. In that dance, we find our own true lives.

"The Lord...sent them on ahead of him **in pairs**." Wesley said, "There is no holiness, but social holiness...no holy solitaires." You want to grow in your relationship with God wherever you are at. God also put leaders in that community. Mentoring is an important part in that dance. We need to share with one another.

Our participation in that dance is part of the mission of the whole Christ. We are working to heal all that is broken. Be ready to join that holy dance.

Molly Vetter explained the function of the Table Forums. She then concluded the session with a benediction at 8:55 p.m.

COSROW: The conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women were once again monitoring our annual conference plenary and worship sessions. Please remember to clearly state your name and clergy or lay status before you speak. This will help our monitors keep an accurate account of participation rates and activities. Thank You.

Friday, June 19, 2009

Celebration of Baptism

Friday, 10:30 a.m.

Greg Norton led the congregation in singing. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson called the congregation to participate in the service of baptism. She invited Bishop Jaime Vasquez of Tijuana, Mexico, to join in laying hands on the infants. Bishop Swenson introduced the candidates for baptism: Sophia Anabella Camphouse, daughter of David and Anna Crews Camphouse, and David Joon Choi, son of Joseph Choi and Esther Kim. Bishop Swenson led the congregation in the liturgy for baptism and Bishop Vasquez offered the prayer of blessing in Spanish.

Plenary Session # 5

Friday, 10:40 a.m.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson called the plenary to order at 10:51 a.m. Wilma Ryder, Lay Leader of the Long Beach District joined her at the table. Jane Larson from the Hawaii District offered the Prayer for Peace.

Karen Clark Ristine presented the Orders of the Day. It was approved.

Dan Lewis announced that the UM Dailies are posted on a panel outside the Chapel as well as in the Dining Hall. They are also available for downloading from the Conference Secretaries' website at <http://secretary.cal-pac.org>. However, he noted that printed copies of the budget will be made available during the next plenary. He also reminded the body that Lost and Found is located in the Fine Arts building.

Courtesies: Susan Juergensen and Lee Carlile announced the following book signing opportunities:

- Leslie Green Huffaker, From Here to Mastectomy, on Friday, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Isla Morley, Come Sunday, on Friday, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Carolyn Bohler, God the What? on Friday, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Bishop Jaime Vasquez from Northwest Conference of Mexico greeted the assembly. He gave thanks to the Cal-Pac Annual Conference for its sister relationship and its cooperative work with immigrants. He noted that Mexico is a beautiful country and invited us to visit his country. There is much to serve for God. The news about Mexico may be alarming, but Mexico will receive us with open arms and hearts and minds. There are many projects as sisters in God.

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean of Boston University School of Theology, brought three greetings: (1) Greetings in the Spirit of Connection; (2) Greetings in the Spirit of Compassion; and (3) Greetings in the Commitment to God's Mission in the World.

Nate Lee, Lay Representative from Riviera United Methodist Church, promoted books that he had written, Dramas for Tweens.

Cheryl Reagan, Lay Representative from Mission Hills UMC and member of COSROW, requested that individuals clearly display their badges when speaking from the microphone for monitoring purposes.

Personal privilege request was given on behalf of Debbie Haustedt, whose father returned to the hospital after being previously released. Her mother is also infirmed. Bishop Swenson offered prayer for Debbie and her family.

Legislative Sections Explanation: Eva Thai, Legislative Sections Chair, and Bob Rhodes, Legislative Facilitator Trainer, described the “Holy Conferencing” process used to carry out the spiritual growth and work of the Conference. The Spirit of God is present in us individually and corporately, and even in legislation.

Eight Legislative Sections will consider the recommendations, resolutions, and petitions of the Annual Conference. Assignments to sections were made randomly. The section assignment number is printed in the lower corner of each person’s badge. The assigned group is the same as the Wesley Circles. The listing of locations can be found on page 10 of the Program Booklet. A map of the University of Redlands’ campus is on the inside back cover. Individuals may vote only in the designated sections indicated on the badge.

Presentation of Missionaries: Christine Lafferty spoke in place of Dale Smith, who was preparing for the Missionary Luncheon. She introduced Chin Cheak Yu, Dean of Trinity Theological College in Singapore, and George Martzen, minister serving in the Bishop’s Office in Singapore.

Shirley Ferrill presented the Bishop an award from the Advance designating the California-Pacific Annual Conference with the highest total giving in the Western Jurisdiction.

Korean Mission: Superintendent Won Kie Kim of the Korean Mission shared that several ministries have been started at Hesperia, Kauai, Federal Way in Salt Lake City, Koreatown and Orange County. 250 people attended a Leadership Seminar in Kauai last year. This year, 20-30 people will go to Korea in October to study Korean practices of evangelism. He also shared that the Korean Mission is purchasing land for building a site for missions training.

A video was intended for presentation. However, technical difficulties prevented its viewing. The Bishop instructed its showing at a later time.

Bible Study Part 2
Nurturing Samuels – A communal project
 1 Samuel 3:1-10, Luke 2:25-32
Dr. Randy Maddox

The complete transcripts of Dr. Maddox’s Bible Studies may be found separately at <http://secretary.cal-pac.org>.

Benediction – Dr. Randy Maddox closed the session with Benediction.

Plenary Session # 6
Friday, 4:00 p.m.

The music team led the congregation in singing. Bishop Swenson began the Plenary at 4:03 p.m. Lee McKlenshaw offered the Prayer for Peace. Vicki Cook, Lay Leader of the Santa Ana District joined the Bishop at the table.

Karen Clark Ristine presented the Orders of the Day. Sandie Richards, clergy of First UMC of Los Angeles, moved to postpone the 2010 Budget Action until such time that individuals had time to review the budget, since many had just received it. Dan Gara indicated that the motion could be accommodated by CFA. Karen suggested moving the Budget to Saturday afternoon. It was approved. Karen Ristine moved the Orders as amended. It was approved.

Maggie Fertschneider, lay member from Atascadero UMC, expressed frustration and disenfranchised because there was no Preliminary Report. She understands that the reports are downloadable online, but felt doing so and printing it was too daunting. She suggested next year having the Conference print the Preliminary Reports in bulk and then pass onto the individuals, the cost of the printing.

General Conference Amendment Ballots: Dan Lewis and Leanne Nakanishi indicated the color of the badges of those eligible to vote: Deacons/Elders in Full Connection (Green), Lay members (Yellow), and Deaconess (Red). Only #2 pencils can be used.

Bishop offered prayer before the voting process. She then asked those eligible to vote to stand to receive a ballot. She also instructed the body to wait until given instructions to vote for each amendment.

After the ballots had been distributed, Bishop Swenson instructed the body to vote for each of the Constitutional Amendments. The ballots were collected and the Bishop called the balloting closed.

Board of Trustees Report: Roy Riggs referred to Trustees Report on p.93 of the Preliminary Report. Roy indicated that Greg Batson had completed his term as Chair of the Trustees after six years. Roy expressed gratitude for Greg's service and leadership. Roy also indicated that a second change to the Board of Trustees is the full-time service of Steve Harbison as the Conference Chancellor.

Roy Riggs shared that if the church does get sued and churches do get sued, they would follow *The Book of Discipline* closely. Roy thanked the conference staff for assisting the work of the Trustees: Joyce Zirkle, Dan Gara, Jan Berentsen, Keith Hwang, Kris Hodson, Paul Cogger, Leanne Nakanishi, and Dan Lewis.

Q&A Comprehensive Report: Wayne Walters of the Leadership Team opened the floor for questions regarding the Comprehensive Plan. There were no questions, concluding Wayne's report.

Board of Pensions: Ken McMillan shared that the Board of Pensions had been working hard for the past two years listening to concerns and considering various options. Many opportunities were given to communicate and answer questions regarding the proposal to be presented. The proposal is listed as Item #8 in the Rules.

He clarified that every person has "access" to the Conference Health Plan. He noted that there is a difference between "access" and being "eligible" for the Conference Health Plan. The question, however, is how the insurance is paid by the subsidy of the Annual Conference. Therefore, there are two changes to the Rule proposed: (1) In line 247, remove the words "under Episcopal appointment within," so that the sentence reads "It is the intent of the California-Pacific Annual Conference to provide access to cost-effective medical insurance for active clergy and retired clergy members who retire as a member of this Conference." This makes it clear that every clergy member has access to the Conference Medical Plan.

The second editorial change is in line 263, by adding two words, "for subsidy" so the line reads "definitions for subsidy." Ken made clear that these editorial changes do not alter the substance of the proposal.

Two issues have caused much discussion. First issue is in regards to Extension Ministries outside the official structure of the UMC. The Board feels that those agencies and organizations ought to be responsible for the healthcare costs of those persons.

The second issue is regarding Blended Rates. There are several regions within the boundaries of the Annual Conference that do not offer an HMO program. Out of fairness, the proposal seeks to offer the same rate for everyone regardless of how the insurance is covered.

Rule #8: Ken McMillan moved to adopt Rule Committee #8.

Amendment: James Butler, Extension Minister, moved to **amend** paragraph 3a by deletion, placing a period after "Bishop of this Conference," line 266, and deleting the remainder of subparagraph a and b (through line 278).

Ken McMillan clarified that the Board's will is to stick to the printed rule. The Board is open to the exceptions and he prefers to consider the conditions of those in extension ministry as exceptions to the rule. The amendment adds \$4M to the unfunded liability. It was clarified that the total cost would be \$50M as opposed to \$64M.

The Bishop called for vote. **The amendment was supported.**

Amendment: Kenneth Heflin, *Glendale First Charge Conference*, moved to delete all references to “blended rate” including lines 393, 420, 466. It was **not supported.**

Amendment: Paul Dinkel of San Diego Hospice moved to delete in paragraph 4f.ii., line 454-455, the words “during the 15 years immediately preceding such clergy’s date of retirement.” It was **not supported.**

The complete proposal as amended was **supported.**

Rule #28: George Hooper moved Rule #28, Lay Employee Retiree Health Insurance Plan, for adoption. It was **supported.**

Cynthia Abrams, GBCS, noted that this week begins a series of actions regarding healthcare reform. She encouraged members to speak to public officials regarding these concerns. She invited people to visit www.webelievetogether.org for more information.

Sunnie Lee, representing the UM Publishing House, reminded that when churches use materials from Cokesbury, not only are those materials of quality, but the churches also help extend the UMC’s reach and witness through the Publishing House’s services near and far. In recent years, due to the global financial situation, insufficient funds have forced deep cuts in the operations of the publishing house, including closures of two of its stores. She assured that with careful and earnest work to hold down costs while maintaining quality services, and with continued prayers and support, Cokesbury would rebuild its capacity and assets needed to maintain its vibrant ministry on our behalf.

Equitable Compensation: Karen Moore thanked the body for supporting equitable compensation. She thanked the individuals of their personal giving, encouraged churches to pay the pastors and then for paying the apportionments. She highlighted ¶342.1 in *The 2008 Book of Discipline*, which states that pastors “shall have claim upon the conference Equitable Compensation Fund and a right.” She emphasized that Equitable Compensation is a right and not negotiable. Pastors must be paid the minimum. 46 Pastors receiving subsidy grants are listed on pages 26-30 of the Preliminary Report. The total expense for Equitable Compensation for 2009 is \$684,125.

Karen reminded the body that the Conference approved a new formula for salary compensation. The minimum salary schedule for 2010 shows that Full-Connection clergy serving 20 years will receive 90% of the Median Cash Salary (MCS), and provisional clergy as well as local pastors and associates will receive 80% of MCS at the 20-year level. She also shared the list of other part of minimum compensation, including housing, auto minimum of \$ 3500, utilities, health insurance, continuing education of \$ 500, and reimbursed ministerial or travel expenses. She indicated that the Median Housing Allowance for 2009 is \$24,000.

Randy Johnson explained what goes into “Cash” Salary. It includes salary, travel, professional expenses, social security, personal pension (403b) payments, any tax deferred contributions, and housing allowance over \$18,000. “Cash” Salary does NOT include: continuing education (minimum \$ 500), auto expenses (minimum \$ 3500), geographical variant (additional \$ 500), professional expenses, Annual Conference expense, utilities, health insurance premiums & CPP protection, and pension payments.

The Conference Equitable Compensation Median Housing Allowance for 2009 is \$ 24,000 with a minimum of \$ 18,000. The highest Housing Allowance in our Conference is \$ 74,800 and the Lowest is \$ 10,400 for a Range of \$ 64,000. He noted that there are six full-time clergy receiving less than the minimum and that is a disservice.

Tom Griffith noted that the Cal-Pac is the only Annual Conference in the denomination that does not have 2-3 point charges. He asked the Commission to discern whether we are doing a disservice by not having multiple point charges and an increasing number of part-time appointments.

Karen Moore responded that the Commission has been in communication with the Cabinet regarding the issue given by Tom.

Consent Calendar Presentation: Eva Thai noted that the Consent Calendar would be posted in front of the Chapel, in front of the Fine Arts Building, and in the Dining Hall. It would also be printed in the UM Daily. The Consent Calendar will be voted on Saturday morning.

Robert Wittry, Lay member of Pasadena First UMC, requested to remove from the Consent Calendar, RES 09-4, Nuclear Power Plant Opposition, for further discussion. It was **supported**.

Andy Mattick, clergy of Malibu UMC, requested to remove RC 09-4.35, Rules Item #35, Requirements for Ordination and Full Connection, be removed from the Consent Calendar for further consideration. It was **supported**.

Eva Thai offered a blessing and prayer. The plenary was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Consent Calendar for Saturday, June 20, 2009

For Concurrence

(Voting percentages from legislative sections in bold following each item)

Recommendations

- RC 09-1.1 District Supt. Housing Task Force Rec #1 Housing Trust Fund **(99%)**
- RC 09-1.1a District Supt. Housing Task Force Rec #1a **(98%)**
- RC 09-1.2 District Supt. Housing Task Force Rec #2 DS Allowance Formula **(98%)**
- RC 09-1.2a District Supt. Housing Task Force Rec #2a **(100%)**
- RC 09-3.1 Personnel Policy Committee Rec. #1 2010 Salary Ranges **(100%)**
- RC 09-3.2 Personnel Policy Committee Rec. #2 Staff Salary Increases for 2010 **(97%)**
- RC 09-3.4 Personnel Policy Committee Rec. #4 Employer Contribution Rate **(99%)**
- RC 09-4.2 Rules Item #2 Membership Board of Global Ministries **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.3 Rules Item #3 Membership Conference Personnel Policy Comm. **(98%)**
- RC 09-4.4 Rules Item #4 Utilities Reimbursement Policy Level 1 Employees **(87%)**
- RC 09-4.5 Rules Item #5 Hawaii District Admin. Asst. Geographic Variance **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.6 Rules Item #6 Holiday Premium for Work on Easter Sunday **(89%)**
- RC 09-4.7 Rules Item #7 Median/Minimum Housing Allowance **(99%)**
- RC 09-4.11 Rules Item #11 Membership Board of Evangelism **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.12 Rules Item #12 Membership Comm. on Ethnic Ministries **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.13 Rules Item #13 Membership Korean Ministry Council **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.14 Rules Item #14 Membership Commission on Religion & Race **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.15 Rules Item #15 Membership Bd of Congregational Development **(97%)**
- RC 09-4.16 Rules Item #16 Membership of Conf. Adult & Family Ministry **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.17 Rules Item #17 Membership Higher Ed. & Campus Ministry **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.18 Rules Item #18 Frequency of Clergy Background Checks **(97%)**
- RC 09-4.19 Rules Item #19 Alternatives to Clergy Background Checks **(95%)**
- RC 09-4.20 Rules Item #20 Membership Board of Church and Society **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.21 Rules Item #21 Membership of Comm. on Disability Concerns **(97%)**
- RC 09-4.22 Rules Item #22 Standards for Equitable Comp. Assistance **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.23 Rules Item #23 Budget Guidelines for Equit. Comp. Churches **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.24 Rules Item #24 Membership CCYA Ministries **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.30 Rules Item #30 Include Campus Ministers in Salary Schedule **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.31 Rules Item #31 Campus Ministers Comp. and Benefits **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.32 Rules Item #32 Compliance with Family/Medical Leave Act **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.33 Rules Item #33 Medical Leave of Absence Policy **(100%)**
- RC 09-4.34 Rules Item #34 Legally Required Leaves of Absence **(96%)**
- ~~RC 09-4.35 Rules Item #35 Requirements for Ord. & Full Connection **(91%)** REMOVED~~
- RC 09-5.1 Board of Pensions Rec. #1 Past Service Rate **(100%)**
- RC 09-5.2 Board of Pensions Rec. #2 2010 Funding Plan **(98%)**
- RC 09-5.3 Board of Pensions Rec. #3 Clergy Retirement Security Program **(96%)**
- RC 09-5.4 Board of Pensions Rec. #4 Comprehensive Protection Plan **(100%)**
- RC 09-5.5 Board of Pensions Rec. #5 UM Personal Investment Plan **(100%)**
- RC 09-5.6 Board of Pensions Rec. #6 Rental Housing Allowances **(100%)**

D-22

DAILY PROCEEDINGS – 2009

RC 09-6 Advance Specials (100%)

Resolutions

RES 09-2 Resolution 09-2 United Methodist Women's Day (100%)
RES 09-3 Resolution 09-3 Hispanic Ministries Sunday (95%)
RES 09-5 Resolution 09-5 Health and Wellness Task Force (100%)
RES 09-6 Resolution 09-6 Human Rights in the Philippines (100%)

For Non-concurrence

Recommendations

RC 09-4.27 Rules Comm. Item #27 Standards for Equitable Comp. Application (96%)

Resolutions

~~RES 09-4 Resolution 09-4 Nuclear Power Plant Opposition (90%) REMOVED~~

Action Items Not on Consent Calendar

CONCURRENCE AS AMENDED

Recommendations

RC 09-4.29 Rules Item #29 Supervision of Campus Ministers (98% concurrence)
Location: PR-55 to PR-56 / Lines 65-68

IV.B.1.a(4) The supervision of Level III Campus Ministers shall be the responsibility of the *local campus ministry boards*, the Executive Director of Connectional Ministries and the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

ITEMS THAT RECEIVED NO RECOMMENDATION

Recommendations

RC 09-4.9 Rules Item #9 Inclusiveness (25% concurrence)
Location: PR-36 to PR-37 / Lines 563-637

RC 09-4.10 Rules Item #10 "Principled Leaders" (31% concurrence)
Location: PR-37 to PR-39 / Lines 639-693

RC 09-4.26 Rules Item #26 District A-Teams (73% concurrence)
Location: PR-49 to PR-50 / Lines 1177-1206

Resolutions

RES 09-1 Resolution 09-1 Civil Rights of All (66% concurrence)
Location: PR-72 / Lines 1-42

*Note that the amendments were passed; however, concurrence on the resolution as amended was not achieved, so we will be looking at the original amendment unless other action is taken on the floor.

Items removed from the Consent Calendar

Recommendations

#RC 09-4.35 Rules Item #35 Requirements for Ord/Full Conn (91% concurrence)
Location: PR-62 to PR-63 / Lines 348-386

Resolutions

RES 09-4 Resolution 09-4 Nuclear Power Plant Opp. (90% non-concurrence)
Location: PR- 74 to PR-75 / Lines N/A

Retirement Service Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Gregory Norton played a beautiful prelude entitled, “Rigaudon” by André Campra. The processional hymn was “Marching to Zion.” Rev. Mark Ulrickson read the Call to Celebration, which was adapted from Psalm 106. Rev. Deborah Camphouse read Matthew 25: 14-23.

Rev. Ken McMillan introduced the Central Conference Pension Initiative. In yesterday’s comprehensive report, Bishop Swenson talked about the denomination’s goal of completing a 20 million goal of which 15 million had already been committed. The Central Conference Pension Initiative began at the 1996 General Conference. Central Conferences are those outside of the United States. These developing countries struggle to achieve financial security just to cover the minimum cost for daily living for their pastors. There had not been adequate pension programs for their retirees. For our church to fail to provide for their well-being and secure futures is a tragic outcome to an otherwise faithful and bold tradition of supporting all who give themselves to Christ’s ministry in the Methodist Church. It is a matter of justice.

The Conference Choir sang “What Gift Can We Bring.” Rev. Tim Ellington delivered the prayer of dedication. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson shared words of affirmation, appreciation, and love for those transitioning into the retired relationship. Some moment in their lives, they heard God’s call. Their moments were different and their lives were different, yet each one of these persons had said, “Yes” to God. We, as the church have embraced and affirmed their calling. Some point in their lives, they were a part of a service of ordination where they made promises to follow Jesus, to love God, and to be full of the divine presence who chose them. They promised to be God’s voice of grace to people in crisis, to be God’s word of justice to people who had been wronged, and to be the sound of God’s affection. They have been the face of the church and have been God’s voice.

There is never enough time to stand here and tell the stories of these people. The stories and words you will hear are sacramental and sacred symbols that will guide us deeper into more stories. For all they have done, the church thanks them! We cannot thank them enough, but tried to with an exuberant standing ovation.

Rev. Derek Nakano shared how as a young seminarian and sitting in a circle with the likes of Bishop Roy Sano, Rev. J.K. Sasaki, and Rev. T.J. Machida, he heard them tell their stories and was told how much they wanted him to carry on that legacy. He was taught to always honor his elders and knew that they were setting forth the legacy that he was asked to carry on. This service is such a special moment for this is a part of that same spirit of how we might see in them the same stories and know they represent a legacy for us that we are asked to carry on.

Rev. Derek Nakano presented the retiring clergy, who shared words of thanks and appreciation between singing verses of “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” led by the Conference Choir.

Retiring Clergy: Tai Hyun Chang, William M. Clements, Dennis Yoshiaki Ginoza, Nancy Warrick Goyings, K. Cherie Jones, Emma Moore-Kochlacs, Cam Phu Nguyen, Faaagi Akeimo Taufete’e, Leh-Chuo Ting, Alejandro Vergara, Timothy Ang, Franklin D. Sablan, Kathy Diane Strickler, Anita Valles, and John Valles.

Bishop Swenson led A Litany in Celebration of Ministry. Our Conference Choir with Jesse Martin as soloist sang “He Never Failed Me Yet.” Bishop then asked the historical Wesleyan questions for admission into Full Connection and Ordination.

Rev. Dennis Ginoza passed the legacy to Rev. Lara Bolger, who received the legacy. The closing hymn was “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Rev. Nestor Gerente closed with the benediction and Rev. Gregory Norton played “Ceremonial March” by Herbert Sumsion as the organ postlude.

Saturday, June 20, 2009

Plenary Session # 7 Saturday, 9:45 a.m.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson called the Plenary Session to order at 9:48 a.m. Mele Maka, Lay Leader of the Santa Barbara District joined her at the table. Son Hye Kim from the District offered the Prayer for Peace.

Karen Clark Ristine presented the Orders of the Day. It was **supported**.

Announcements: Leanne Nakanishi, Conference Co-Secretary

- In regards to making a motion, due to the tight schedule, please have your motion written out prior to presenting at the podium and give a copy to our runner, Nestor Gerente, who will immediately deliver a copy to Bishop Swenson.
- The Men's Restroom in the California Building was vandalized last night. Any information should be forward to Dan Gara and/or to Matt Orlins at the University of Redlands.
- Regarding the results of the General Conference amendments, to preserve the integrity of the system, and because not every Annual Conference has met yet, we will only post the results of the vote on campus in the usual posting locations. We will forward the certification of all votes to you, upon official notification from the General Secretary.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE OF ACTION

**At a session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church,
held in Redlands, California on June 19, 2009 with 708 members present,
the following votes were recorded on the various
Constitutional Amendments voted by the 2008 General Conference.**

Note: Constitutional Amendment vote results from the California-Pacific Annual Conference may not be officially reported prior to the close of voting for every conference. Results will be announced during the Council of Bishops May 2010 meeting.

- Last year, this Conference requested a Declaratory Decision and *The Book of Discipline* required the decision be reported at Annual Conference. The full decision is on the Judicial Council website as well as on our Conference Secretaries' website. It will also be published in today's U.M. Daily and in the 2009 Conference journal. Decision 1103 is as follows:

Declaratory Decision of Judicial Council: Decision 1103

IN RE: Request from the California-Pacific Annual Conference for a Declaratory Decision on the Constitutionality, Meaning, Application or Effect of ¶ 327.6 of the *2004 Discipline*, ¶ 318 of the *1996 Discipline*, and of Judicial Council Decision 799 in Terms of the Authority of the Board of Ordained Ministry or its Executive Committee to Overturn Ruling on a Question of Law by the Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

DIGEST

On Question 1: A hearing before the Executive Committee does not constitute an appeal of a decision by the Board of Ordained Ministry but is part of the Board of Ordained Ministry process. The hearing is part of the process moving to final recommendation of discontinuance of probationary membership to the clergy session. This authority is granted by ¶ 327.6 of the *2004 Book of Discipline*.

On Question 2: Paragraph 318 of the *1996 Book of Discipline* requires a three-fourths vote by the Board of Ordained Ministry for recommendation of discontinuance of probationary membership to the clergy session. Three-fourths vote is not required by the clergy session.

On Question 3: A request for a decision of law that does not cite a specific provision of the *Book of Discipline* is not within the jurisdiction of the Judicial Council.

FULL DECISIONS MAY BE FOUND AT: <http://www.umc.org>

Click "Our Church" and then click "Judicial Council"

Declaratory Decision of Judicial Council: Decision 1115

IN RE: Review of Decision of Law by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson of the California-Pacific Annual Conference on Whether a Resolution Passed by the Annual Conference Supporting Clergy Who Celebrate Same Gender Marriages Violates ¶¶ 341 and 2702 of the *2004 Book of Discipline*.

DIGEST

The Bishop's decision of law is affirmed in part and reversed in part. When the Bishop ruled that clergy are subject to the provisions of just resolution and fair process (¶ 2701) in situations that involve alleged violations, her ruling is affirmed.

When she ruled that “the resolution is permissible” though it is in violation of the provisions of the Book of Discipline, her ruling is reversed.

FULL DECISIONS MAY BE FOUND AT: <http://www.umc.org>

Click “Our Church” and then click “Judicial Council”

Courtesies: Lee Carlile and Susan Juergensen

Alison Knotts, Beth Cooper, Jeanne Roe Smith, authors of To Transform the World: Vital United Methodist Campus Ministers.

Peggy Hallock presented a series of books available from Cokesbury that can help us live more faithfully. She presented Bishop Swenson with a cap as a gift.

Eunice Musa Iliya brought greetings from the United Methodist Churches in Nigeria. She spoke of her relationship with Cal-Pac that has helped her in ministry. She expressed her concern for the Children of Africa. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett asked the Bishop to explain the context for Eunice Musa Iliya’s work and Bishop Swenson spoke of the ministries.

Leadership Team Ballot: Dan Lewis and Leanne Nakanishi explained the process of electing members for the Leadership Team. There will be one ballot to elect three clergy members and two lay members. All clergy vote for the clergy nominees (mark up to three names from the choices listed) and lay members vote for the laity nominees (mark up to two names from the choices listed).

The names of those on the ballot were John Carretti, Tricia Hamilton, and Monalisa Siofele for Laity, and Richard Bentley, Paige Eaves, Brian Suk-Boo Lee, Siosaia Tu’itahi, and Kenny Walden for Clergy. All nominees were invited to the stage to stand as their name was called.

Bob Stimmel moved that, “On one ballot, the top two laity be elected, and the one receiving the highest number of votes received the longest term. And, on the first clergy ballot, the top three clergy vote receivers be elected, and the one receiving the highest number of votes received the longest term.” It was **supported**.

Wayne Walters clarified that there were two clergy resignations from the Team, thereby creating three clergy vacancies.

Bishop Swenson asked to pause and offered a prayer for the election process. The ballots were distributed to all eligible voting members who stood to receive their ballot. Ballots were collected.

Personal Privilege: Amy Rosenbaum announced the MFSA Luncheon features John Cobb as the keynote speaker.

Legislative Actions: Bob Rhodes thanked all those involved in facilitating the Legislative Sections. Eva Thai presented the list of Items on the Consent Calendar. The Consent Calendar was presented on the screen. Eva Thai moved to accept the Consent Calendar. It was **supported**.

Items Not on Consent Calendar:

RC 09-4.29, Rules Item #29, Supervision of Campus Ministers was presented for recommendation as amended. It received a 98% concurrence. It was **supported**.

Items that Received No Recommendation:

RC 09-4.9, Rules Item #9 Inclusiveness, received 25% concurrence. After much discussion, the Item was **NOT supported**.

RC 09-4.10, Rules Item #10 “Principled Leader,” received 31% concurrence. The Item was **NOT supported**.

RC 09-4.26, Rules Item #26 District A-Teams, received 73% concurrence.

Erin McPhee moved to amend the Item by changing the wording, in B to “more than one A-Team” to become “one or more A-Teams.” It was **NOT supported**.

Dan Gara requested clarification for financial impact. It was **supported**.

Announcement: Dan Lewis announced that those who are staying in the East and Williams Buildings must turn in the keys immediately.

Certified Lay Ministry: Ken Ellis spoke regarding the establishment of the Certified Lay Ministry. Ken introduced Carolyn Ingram as the first to fulfill the requirements to be a Certified Lay Minister. She was surrounded by Pat Hogan, Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries, Doug and Judy Lewis, Deans of the Lay Academy, and others who had supported her through the process of becoming certified. The gathered body was invited to stretch out their hands as Bishop Swenson offered a prayer of blessing upon the commissioning of Carolyn Ingram. Carolyn expressed much gratitude to those who had supported her during the long journey of fulfilling her call to become a Certified Lay Minister.

Guest Lay Speaker: Pat Hogan introduced Ruth Pitts-Litman, our Guest Lay Speaker from Palm Springs UMC. She then explained the process by which the Guest Lay Speaker was chosen. They must first be a certified lay speaker in good standing. They are given an invitation by letter or e-mail to participate, must submit a written sermon reviewed by pastors and District Directors, and then the committee selects 6 to hear. The alternate was Donna Daniels, from Orangethorpe UMC, who read from Acts 1: 8.

Ruth Pitts-Litman greeted the assembly. As she studied the Scripture for today, she asked the question, “How does the Holy Spirit come to a person?” She reflected on her upbringing of various individuals who said to have been experiencing the Holy Spirit. So how do we experience the Holy Spirit today? Can we just assume that because we believe in Jesus Christ, we will receive power from the Holy Spirit? Can we just say now we can go out and witness and do good things? Yes we can. Jesus’ life and death makes this all possible. The gift of the Holy Spirit is a gift of love. It is a bond of unity among Christians. It is our essence!

How do we bring the Holy Spirit into our lives? Study Scripture, give of yourselves, and get busy. The Holy Spirit leads us in being busy with the work of the Spirit and that empowers us. We witness through words, deeds, and acts of kindness. Even though we may not speak the same language, the love and witness of Jesus Christ can be felt and heard in all tongues. We witness in our communities whatever they make up by striving to be Christ-like and spreading the word of Jesus Christ.

Ruth invited us to go on a journey. Have you ever lost a loved one? We all have at some point lost someone who was our whole reason for living, our light, our guide, and our anchor. If you will, hold on to that feeling of loss for a moment and you will experience what the disciples felt when they lost Jesus on the cross. Jesus knew that the disciples would feel alone and scared, and therefore left the instructions for carrying on his ministry. He asked them to witness to others in his name. This is the beginning of our local church. When we become members of the United Methodist Church, we promise to faithfully participate in the ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. The local church is where we have opportunities to develop leaders and to further Christ’s mission of Christian love. Our Methodist booklet, “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ” addresses the fact that people need a welcoming place, a place to find answers and support, and a sense of community. This is the purpose of the local church and Jesus’ plan so long ago. She encouraged us to do this until our cup overflows. John Wesley encouraged us to do all the good you can, by all the means you can, at all times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu says, “Do your little bit of good where you are.” It’s those little bits of good, put together, that overwhelm the world. In your unique way, each and every one of you has invited the Holy Spirit into your lives. What wondrous love is this? Perhaps the Holy Spirit has found us. AMEN.

Bishop Swenson affirmed that God calls all of us to go out and witness.

Cabinet Matters: Mark Ulrickson, Dean of the Cabinet, presented the matters of the Cabinet. He expressed that like life, we go through discernment for major changes and tough decisions.

Mergers: Santa Ana District: Cerritos Korean UMC and Encounter Korean UMC had merged to become the La Palma Korean UMC. He also noted that La Palma UMC and La Palma Korean UMC have had discussions and we will see what the future brings for those two.

Property Disposition:

Los Angeles District Superintendent Cedrick Bridgeforth presented:

(1) Martin Luther King Jr. UMC's Resolution for Disposition of Property: Last year's Annual Conference approved the discontinuance of Martin Luther King Jr. UMC and this resolution enacts the compliance of Resolution 40.

Randy Johnson, Temecula UMC asked, "What happens when we do not vote for any of them?" Cedrick answered that all discontinuances, mergers, etc. come before the Annual Conference for notice of approval, as appropriate, of the details of their disposition, but also the spirit of what is intended, so the information is presented to the Annual Conference.

The resolution was **supported**.

(2) La Roca Eterna UMC Resolution for Disposition of Property: This was covered in a Resolution in the 1999 Annual Conference, but this assembled body affirmed the action of the Annual Conference 10 years before. The resolution was **supported**.

Santa Barbara District Superintendent Catie Coots presented:

(3) El Mesias UMC Resolution for Property Matter: The Santa Barbara District's Planning and Strategy Committee has been quite intentional about working with congregations to help become more vital congregations. Several churches had dramatic turnarounds in their ministry and were engaging in new ministries. They also had to make some tough decisions regarding congregations and property, which was now the Annual Conference's responsibility to review. These resolutions had been reviewed by our Conference Chancellor.

Last year, she brought a resolution to discontinue the church and at the time, there were differing visions about what might be done with the assets of the church. There was early agreement that the assets needed to be used for Hispanic ministries. As an Annual Conference, we voted discontinuance for the congregation and she promised to come back this year with a proposal for the disposition of the assets.

This year, they had conversations with representatives from the Conference Hispanic Committee, Conference Board of Trustees, Santa Barbara District Union, and the Santa Barbara District Planning and Strategy Committee.

At first, the plan was to have a Hispanic training center on these grounds, but after due consideration of the deferred maintenance of the property and the estimate of what it would take to remodel the property to be best suited for that endeavor, it was decided that the price and the needs of Hispanic ministry, determined that the best choice was to sell the property. The resolution recommended the assets be distributed according to Resolution 40, so the Board of Congregational Development would have money to start and invest in new ministries in Hispanic and Latino congregations and neighborhoods. The Santa Barbara District would have 25% to do the same, and 50% of the net proceeds from the sale of real property would go the Conference Hispanic Committee for the purpose of starting and revitalizing Hispanic and Latino congregations and ministries.

Tom Griffith asked a question: El Mesias church, previously known as San Fernando El Mesias church was part of the Latin American Provisional Annual Conference. In 1956, we made an agreement that the proceeds from the sale of property would go the Latin American Ministry Fund in total. In an earthquake, that property was severely damaged. The property was sold and the proceeds were used to buy the facility, that is now in Pacoima and he believed there were other funds used to pay for the property.

Now, we have a question of whether the 1956 agreement should be binding or the agreement worked out in Resolution 40 last year, should be binding.

Catie said there was a mix of money, so that with the original property and with the new property, the records were not clear enough, but it appeared the District put in considerable money towards the new property. She thought it was best to be collaborative and figure out the best way to support and encourage Hispanic ministry. With Resolution 40, the same intent was in place and that was why the resolution was written this way, in order to honor what was intended with the original agreement, but also to keep in balance the decisions made by the Annual Conference in the last few years. This was a way to honor both.

Emilio Muller, Conference Director of Latino Ministries asked for clarification. Out of the sale of this property, and after closing the debts that may be pending, all the rest of the money goes into Latino Ministries, because part goes to Latino Ministries in the District and the rest goes to the Annual Conference earmarked for Latino Ministries. Catie responded

that all of the money was earmarked for Hispanic ministries. The one slight nuance is with the Board of Congregational Development, 10% was for an endowed fund.

The resolution was **supported**.

Discontinuances:

Hawaii District Superintendent Woong Min Kim presented:

(1) Hope United Methodist Church in Ka'a'awa: The church had been in existence since 1965 and had a wonderful ministry, but in the past couple of decades, membership and finances had been dwindling. This resolution recommended discontinuance of the church and the property of the church to be transferred to the District Union of Hawaii. The property would be used as a Retreat House – HOPE = House of Prayer Evangelical. The resolution for discontinuance of Hope United Methodist Church in Ka'a'awa was **supported**.

Santa Barbara District Superintendent Catie Coots presented:

(2) Mision Hispana Biblica United Methodist Church: This resolution was to discontinue a congregation that had already made clear in word and deed that they wanted to withdraw from the United Methodist Church, but our system required that the Annual Conference vote on such discontinuance. The resolution for discontinuance of Mision Hispana Biblica United Methodist Church was **supported**.

(3) Trinity United Methodist Church of Arleta: Catie said there are many who are against closing churches at any time, but sometimes there are compelling reasons whether for stewardship or for the mission of the church or because of issues regarding law and ethics, why a church needed to be closed. 4 years ago, they embarked on a project to reposition for effective ministry, in the San Fernando Valley.

Earlier she said that there have been turnarounds in some churches, incredible courage and bravery in stepping forward in engaging in new ministries and a lot of that is still in process. In some cases, they have met challenging situations, which were complex and had named issues that had been largely left unnamed for years with the same goal in mind, to help further the cause of Christ by having churches that are healthy and vital.

The resolution regarding El Mesias was about reallocating assets in order to promote new ministries. But these 2 resolutions have major differences, in that the congregations disagree with the District, not just about the decision, but also even about what the issues were.

In both cases, there have been many people involved in assessing the churches and many conversations about how to work with the congregations to turn things around. There were at least 4 years of work on these issues and a similar lack of progress. While some of the issues were the same, there was also a great deal of differences in these 2 churches.

Catie gave a basic description of the Trinity United Methodist Church of Arleta's situation: Following the guidelines of ¶213, an assessment team was formed and met to review the facts surrounding the mission and ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church of Arleta. This team was made up equally with lay and clergy and included 2 members of the congregation. She did not meet with the assessment team, but heard their report along with members of their congregation on April 14, 2009. The assessment team was appointed after there had been conversation with the church at their initiation about merger or discontinuance.

The assessment team's job was to look at all the objective facts concerning the church's ministry including the numbers in worship attendance, the finances of the church, the demographics of the surrounding neighborhood, their history of worship attendance, their apportionment history, and the current state of disrepair in the buildings themselves.

Trinity is a church where 75% of the income is based on shared facility usage with the largest contributor being a school for disadvantaged children. The school complained to the District office that the church had not maintained the property and that had caused issues regarding the safety of the children and also possible accreditation issues for the school.

They have approximately 17-20 adults in worship. One year ago, they discovered the lay leader was living in the parsonage for an amount less than half the market value. The lay leader was also the Staff Parish Relations chair and on

the trustees. This was a concern to the District because of conflict of interest and because of the legality of the situation. When the church was informed of their concerns, they did not see that anything needed to be changed, except that they did elect a new chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Last spring, the assessment team discovered that 3 of the relatives of the lay leader were receiving salaries from the church. In addition, the lay leader was the person who reviewed their books for the charge conference.

This kind of behavior was inconsistent with the gospel.

Paul Youngjin Kim, clergy from Knollwood UMC strongly opposed the discontinuance of Trinity UMC for several reasons. First, he said we needed to support ethnic ministry development and we needed to strengthen rich ethnic ministries in our conference. Second, there was no clear agreement between the Conference, District and the Trinity UMC congregation.

Amber Marshall, laity from Walnut UMC, spoke against this resolution. She said that the parsonage and the church were paid for. They had been paying 100% of apportionments for the last 16 years. This was a young adult congregation. They were a community-oriented church. They run an after school program that was driven by volunteers and was free for the predominantly low-income Latino community. The laity of the church was not involved in the 2008 covenant for vital ministry, which indicated discontinuance. The assessment team worked for only three weeks and looked at paperwork and did not look at the strengths and spiritual vitality of all the people in this church. This decision to discontinue was premature and more time and discussion needed to be given to them.

Mele Maka, Santa Barbara District lay leader spoke in favor of this resolution. This congregation is partly her relatives. The Santa Barbara District followed the guidelines and rules. This was not about closing the ministry, but about repositioning to go out into the world.

Ilse Peetz, retired clergy, spoke against this resolution. She was reminded of a letter that Bishop Swenson wrote about going out to where the people were. It seemed to her that this was what the church was doing, by going out to work in the community. The second area of the church's work was to revitalize churches and there may be some revitalization that still needs to be done.

Riley McRae, clergy from the San Diego District spoke against this resolution. He has 8 years of experience with social services. Social Services are shrinking and could use the heart of a worshipful church at the core of the community. If we keep this site open, it ought to have that ministry there. If they were having trouble with administration, large churches need to help smaller churches with policy and administration. Lastly, a lot of churches would love to have that many young adults caring about their church.

Jerry McDaniel, Hope UMC of Torrance spoke in favor of this resolution. The heart of this conference is to show mercy, but the prerequisite of mercy is repentance. Otherwise, we just excuse this kind of behavior. We have heard serious charges here. We have heard testimony that when confronted, as in Matthew 18, these people did not repent of these things. We needed to take an action that demonstrates our resolve to uphold the love and rules that are in the Bible. We needed to demonstrate that we would not excuse this kind of behavior. Rather we will insist that our brothers and sisters, by the grace of God, live up to the things that bind us together.

Miguel DeGuzman, clergy from Mission Community in Rosemead spoke against this resolution. Mission Community is still in ministry today because members of Asbury UMC came here kicking and screaming 20 years ago. Through divine intervention, the intention to close was not carried out and they were allowed to share facilities with Alhambra. Years ago, they merged with Rosewood UMC. At present, Mission Community is still in existence because a majority of members came from Asbury UMC. Sometimes we move too fast in closing and do not give them time to recover. If Arleta UMC comes here kicking and screaming, perhaps they still have life left.

David Richardson, retired clergy, spoke in favor of this resolution. He was District Superintendent for this church in the late 90's. If he had the opportunity, he would have closed it then. This has been going on for a long time. This did not just happen. We put in place procedures, so that we can be intentional about ministry. We need to reposition and reallocate. If we do not do this type of thing in ministry, we are not using our minds and hearts.

Patsy Barrett, laity for Bell Memorial spoke against this resolution. She was quite sure there were mistakes on both sides, but she questioned the way in which things were handled. She was in a church that when they had a point of maybe

merging; however, instead of the conference sending more people, they sent one person, who spent about a half an hour and left. They had no say on what went on and it was not even voted on the floor here. McRae had a great idea of a larger church going in and working with this church for this next year. We can use the buildings we have to serve the people rather than sell them.

Melissa Rusler, clergy from Spurgeon UMC spoke in favor of this resolution. We are called to a connectional ministry. There are places in which we are to be held accountable. Both laity and clergy are called to a level of living and communication. This church has not followed that. Our hearts break because they have not lived up to this covenant. There are young adults and people of that congregation who will find places of leadership and ministry in other congregations. But there comes a time when we have to say enough is enough and the time is now.

Greg Batson, clergy from Burbank First spoke in favor of this resolution. He spoke about the process. Having served on the Conference Board of Trustees and being in consultation with the District Superintendent and the Cabinet, they have followed the process fairly and diligently.

Catie Coots said that a year and a half ago, there was conversation about a merger, but the lay leader was quite determined to stop that conversation. They did try to have another conversation a month ago about some of the concerns about the young adults, youth, and children, and to try to see how to work with them and to support the ministries, but all those conversations were refused. This church was not making a good witness. It reflected poorly on the body of Christ and specifically on the United Methodist Church. She asked those to vote, based not on their emotions, but based on the facts.

The resolution for discontinuance of Trinity United Methodist Church of Arleta was **supported**.

Benediction: Nancy Calderone led the body in breathing in and breathing out. She closed the Plenary Session in prayer.

Plenary Session # 8 **Saturday, 2:00 p.m.**

The music team led the assembly in singing. Greg Norton recognized and thanked the members of the music team for leading each of the sessions during this Annual Conference. George Crisp led the body in singing “To Be the Cup Overflowing.”

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson called the Plenary Session to order at 2:04 p.m. Dick Englar, Lay Leader of the Hawaii District joined her at the table. Fernando Santillana offered the Prayer for Peace by leading us in singing a song of peace and then prayers.

Karen Clark Ristine presented the Orders of the Day. It was **supported**.

Point of Personal Privilege: Patricia Farris reminded us this year marked the 25th Anniversary of a courageous decision taken by the then Pacific and Southwest Conferences. For the sake of mission and ministry, 2 new Annual Conferences were formed: The Desert Southwest Conference and the California-Pacific Conference. Next week, Desert Southwest will be celebrating that anniversary in grand style.

Courtesies: Susan Juergensen / Lee Carlile

- Frank Wulf and Richard Bentley presented an award established by Reconciling Ministries and the Methodist Federation for Social Action 10 years ago. It was named after Bishop Melvin and Lucille Wheatley and is given to people who have been giants in the struggle for justice for full inclusion in the church, and specifically for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people. That award had been given out to 3 other couples, including Gaynl and Irwin Trotter, the 2007 award winners and Dr. John and Jean Cobb, the 2008 award winners, who were all warmly welcomed with a standing ovation. The 2009 award winners were Al and Sharon Rhodes-Wickett. Sharon accepted on Al’s behalf and shared how Al’s passion for justice and inclusivity and how central that was for him including non-violence and peace, keeps the fire burning inside of her. She honors Al by receiving with great gratitude all who do amazing things for justice, because that is what God calls us to do.
- Greg Douglass and Brian Kent representing the General and Conference Boards of Discipleship announced the workshop “A Wesleyan Way of Living Today” which will be held on Oct. 22-24, 2009 at Holman UMC.

- Lee Carlile thanked Susan Juergensen for offering gracious and grace filled courtesies for the last 5 years.

Point of Personal Privilege: Thomas Hill announced that the Hunger Walk had 30 participants and collected \$ 6,099.18 from 27 churches. 32 other churches raised \$ 12,000 through walks in their communities. 37 churches received hunger grants totaling \$ 23,900. Regarding the UMCOR VIM buckets, \$ 1,642 was collected which equals 30 buckets at \$ 55. We need to double that, so please continue to send in donations.

Cabinet Matters: Santa Barbara District Superintendent Catie Coots presented the final Cabinet Matter for 2009: The Resolution for the Property Matter and Discontinuance of United Methodist Church of Sepulveda was distributed to the body on Thursday night during Plenary Session # 4.

Per *The Book of Discipline* ¶2548.2 and following the guidelines of ¶213, an assessment team was appointed, equal parts lay and clergy, and including 2 members of the church to meet and review the facts surrounding the mission and ministry of Sepulveda United Methodist Church.

This was a church that had been challenged for many years around issues of property maintenance and appropriate use of the property to the point that the District needed to meet with members of the church and the police department 4 years ago. The parsonage had been used as a place to deal drugs, not when it was inhabited by the pastor. The church rented out their facilities multiple times where parties involving alcohol were hosted. Several members of the church contacted her over the last 4 years, very concerned about the congregation's inability to confront and deal constructively with problems.

The assessment team did a review of the neighborhood surrounding the church, the past history of the church, and its future potential. This is a neighborhood in great need and there are some programs on the property run by non-profits that are making a difference in the lives of people. Head Start rents space, as does a program, well known and loved by her District, the North Valley Caring Services. There were a few members who participated in these programs, but even in 2004, the pastor wrote about the perplexing lack of interest in the congregation in this outreach to the neighborhood. The church does run a thrift shop for 4 hours on a Friday and they would support continuing that.

The assessment team determined that for reasons including a lack of maintenance of the property, decline in attendance, and the history of not paying apportionments, they recommended discontinuance. On April 15, 2009, the assessment team met with her and the congregation to review their report. The congregation voiced very little response to issues of concern raised by the assessment team including the rapidly decreasing reserves, but they did voice repeated and passionately, a desire to continue to be in worship together. After that meeting, she recommended to the congregation they become a mission congregation where they could reduce the cost of their ministry, but maintain the programs that meant the most to them and the District would take over the maintenance and property issues, and the property itself.

The congregation sent a message to the Bishop's office that they voted to withdraw, but later met with Catie to discuss what it meant to be a mission congregation. On June 7, 2009, they voted not to be a mission congregation. Therefore, she presented a resolution for the discontinuance of Sepulveda United Methodist Church. They do not intend to sell the property, so Resolution 40 does not apply, but to continue the programs that mean so much to the surrounding neighborhood.

This morning, it came up about supporting the ministry of smaller churches by helping with administrative issues and the District has helped multiple congregations in their District providing individuals with knowledge and expertise to help address serious problems.

But in the case of Sepulveda, there was a difference of opinion about what those issues were and they have not been willing to engage in truly helpful conversations about addressing those problems.

The Resolution was now before the body.

Betty Lou McKinley of Sepulveda UMC spoke against the resolution: After the results of Trinity UMC and their closing, she saw no reason to speak. She was sad. The minister Catie spoke about was appointed to their church and would not release after several years. She had a speech that she handed out, but she would not even address it. She wanted to share what they do as a church and how they enjoyed being members as a family as she enjoyed being here until today. Now,

she'll have to go back to her church and tell about 70 members, this disappointing news. Bishop said they were all in our prayers.

Fernando Santillana spoke in favor of this resolution: He said that we heard why they wanted to close this church and the conference would still continue to work with the community through the projects they have. But his question was, "Where were our responsibilities as United Methodists? How could we provide Christ to the community?" There were drugs, alcohol, and prostitution, but Jesus walked around those environments. Jesus was there. Let's continue with the work of the District and the social projects, but we need a presence of the religious part and aspect of the church. Someone has to be the voice for the people with desperate needs and they need to hear that God loves them.

Jennifer Gutierrez, California-Pacific Conference Director of Urban Ministries spoke in favor of the resolution. She said that this neighborhood, like many urban areas in our conference, changed very rapidly. This neighborhood has become over 90% Hispanic. The people that are served by North Valley Caring Services are Hispanic. That is where we need to be in ministry with the people in the neighborhood. We need to have the service present, with a presence of Christ and being in evangelical ministry with the people in the community. But because of the reasons listed by the District Superintendent, unfortunately, in our continual processes of death and resurrection that life goes through over and over again, the church needs to be discontinued, so it can be reborn in a form that will minister to the people in that neighborhood.

Marilynn Huntington spoke in favor of the resolution and lifted up Verna Porter, a saint of that church. She fed the homeless for years. She was part of organizing, so that the North Valley Caring Center could come into being. Marilyn knows how difficult it is to see a church that has been so full of love and care for that neighborhood to be closed or discontinued. She believes God may have other plans for that building and those plans, and will bring back the joy, that people like Verna brought, to people in that community.

Tom Hogan from Orlando UMC in the San Diego District spoke in favor of discontinuance. He suggested renaming the facility in honor of Verna Porter. Catie said it was a wonderful suggestion and they would take it seriously.

Robert Latray, lay member from Pasadena First, asked a question, "Why they did not want to be a mission church and did they give any reasoning?" Catie said that ¶ 259 was not used very often. Because it had not been used very often, in terms of how to construct that was a little unstructured in their minds. After conversation with the Trustees and our Conference Chancellor, it was determined they could not have a mission congregation unless they transferred the title or deed of the property and the congregation did not want to do that. So, that was the critical thing and it was about control of the property. Question: "So they are maintaining control by losing the property." Catie replied, "They felt that was the best option for them." They hired a lawyer. The lawyer has directed, what she would call, a lot of inappropriate activity. He encouraged them to make this choice. Question: "So, there was no way for this body to recommend to look at that option?"

Catie said, "This body cannot force someone to be a mission congregation." It was her hope and truly from her heart, to honor what they wanted to do, which was to worship together and be a community and have the District take care of the issues they could not take care of, but they did not see that as a good option for them.

Resolution was **supported**. Bishop thanked all for their loving care and work and said to please keep all of the people in our prayers.

Conference Council on Finance and Administration: Wayne Moore said when they started the budget process this year, Bishop Swenson recounted a quotation she heard. "We do not have the resources to do what we used to do, but we have all the resources to do what we need to do." Wayne Moore moved the adoption of the following items of the 2010 Budget:

- Recommendation # 1: That the World Service apportionment of \$ **1,520,944** and the Conference Benevolence apportionment of \$ **3,355,602** for a Combined total of \$ **4,876,546** be adopted. **Supported.**
- Recommendation # 2: That the Ministerial Support apportionment of \$ **4,971,459** be adopted. **Supported.**
- Recommendation # 3: That the Administration apportionment of \$ **2,274,710** be adopted.

A board member from the Board of Camping, Outdoor, and Retreat ministries spoke about how the vitality of

this ministry should be celebrated. This has been a transformative ministry for our church. The Board had decided to vote for the budget, but wanted to express their deep and profound discouragement with the priorities that were reflected in the budget this year. This is a place to do evangelism. This is a place where young people try leadership and ministry. This is a place where people try Christianity, but may not go to church. They requested that a member of the CFA, Trustees, and Leadership Team meet with their executive team to help them work out their budget in order to return to a passion for camping. Paige Eaves shared that from an insurance standpoint and as a member of the Trustees, she had seen most of the master plans and much had been done to make the camps safer. Her concern was that the cut in the budget would cut back on some safety and risk management procedures. Greg Batson, former member of the Trustees for 8 years and having served on the Camping Task Force, shared that a lot of work had been done in terms of marketing and master plans. He shared that we had to make hard choices with this budget. This is a vital ministry and our conference needs to step up and team up with other congregations to support district and conference camps. We need to look at supplemental income coming from members of our annual conference to help provide more revenue for this ministry. After much discussion, the recommendation was **supported**.

Recommendation # 4: That the Other apportioned benevolences of \$ 775,267 be adopted. **Supported.**

Recommendation # 5: That the goals for Special Days and Causes be adopted as listed:

Ethnic Minority Local Church	\$ 12,000
Peace with Justice	\$ 25,000
Hunger Fund	\$ 21,000
Christian Education	\$ 24,000
AIDS Ministry	\$ 12,000
Youth Service Fund	\$ 32,000
Youth Ministry	\$ 60,000

TOTAL	\$ 186,000

Richard Bentley, clergy from Alhambra First made a motion that “The California-Pacific Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church request the Judicial Council to issue a Declaratory Decision under the provisions of ¶2610.2.(j) on the following question:

“Since the position of Director of Connectional Ministries will become vacant on July 1, 2009 and will remain vacant because with the adoption of RC 09-2.1 (World Service/Conference Benevolence Apportionment), there is no funding for the position’s salary, under the doctrine of the separation of powers as expressed in Judicial Council Decisions such as 831 and 917, is it constitutional for the Bishop, a District Superintendent, the Executive Assistant to the Bishop and/or a member of the Bishop’s staff to fill any of the duties or responsibilities of the Director of Connectional Ministries - especially those delineated in ¶608.6 – while the position remains vacant?”

And I further move that because the annual conference needs an immediate answer to this question in order to organize to achieve its ongoing mission in the world that the annual conference co-secretaries expedite the filing this request for a declaratory decision in the hope that it may be placed on the fall docket of the Judicial Council.”

After the motion was seconded, the following discussion occurred: Richard explained that we have a process when there are disagreements about what *The Discipline* means, to ask the Judicial Council a question, which is: “Who is going to take over the duties and responsibilities of Director of Connectional Ministries, since beginning July 1st, we will not have one?” He was asking whether if it was appropriate for the Bishop’s office and the Bishop’s staff to assume those responsibilities or if we had to make other provisions. That was what the question was about. He was asking the Judicial Council to do it, so we did not spend a lot of time arguing here.

Wayne Walters, Conference Leadership Team leader felt this was a motion about a hypothetical situation or possible violation rather than an actual one. In terms of the replacement for Keith, that was still being processed. The appointment of Keith to a local church took place in late May, so this developed very recently. The Executive Director of Connectional Ministries is hired by, evaluated by, and supervised by the Conference Leadership Team. The Bishop collaborates with them in this process, but it is under the direction of the Leadership Team. Because of the lateness of that appointment, there was agreement to not immediately fill it, but use this as a time of assessment to determine the best way

to move forward, particularly in light of our current economic restrictions. The position may be filled as it has been or it may take a new direction. The motion was about something that may develop, but may not.

Marilynn Huntington, clergy and the first Executive Director of Connectional Ministries in this Annual Conference said that as they went through the general church leadership team, it seemed this was an important direction for the conferences to take. Disciplinary, if she has read it correctly, it did authorize a Director of Connectional Ministry in each Annual Conference or shared Conferences. It is an important position. Even prior to the title, there were personnel doing those tasks. We need to be very clear, about whether or not a conference of this size, and in this position in the West and the Pacific does need to look carefully at whether or not, we do or do not continue to have this position.

Wayne said it seemed like we are talking about 2 issues: (1) How to fill this vacancy? and (2) Is it important to continue? Richard's motion was not about that. Richard's assumption was what they would do, would be in violation of *The Book of Discipline*, and that was not their intent.

George Crisp, clergy, Kailua-Kona spoke in favor of the motion. While it may be somewhat hypothetical at this moment, the minute this Annual Conference was over and until we could get some kind of Declaratory Decision if we took this action, we would have to have someone coordinating the council's activities for this Annual Conference. So far, Wayne had not been able to tell us whom that was going to be or among whom those duties were going to be divided, so that the work would continue. If we were going to continue to depend on leadership activities to do those tasks, we needed someone to coordinate those activities. We needed to know who would be responsible for that and if that person was appropriately placed in that position of authority.

Gary Keene from the Episcopal office asked a question of clarification. Because of raising this within the context of the budget, was Richard referencing this because of the vacancy of the office, there would be no funding in the budget? That would be incorrect, if that were part of the rationale. One of the other propositions, was there would be a potential conflict in the exercise in the supervision for this position, if it was directly linked to the Episcopal office.

Already within our structure, we do not supervise by person, but by function. For example, in congregational development, the Congregational Loan Officer, is accountable to both the Director of Connection Ministries and the Conference Treasurer according to the nature and exercise of her duties.

In the same way, Paul Cogger who fills the role of Camping and Facilities Management is accountable to Executive Director of Connection Ministries in regards to camping programs and in regards to facilities, is accountable to the Executive Director of Administration Services. The accountability has to do with the functions and not the person and that would be the case in however, we move forward in this. Our expectation was that whatever we did, would indeed be within the definitions of *the Discipline* and our own conference rules. The structure and application of our job descriptions, as always, would go through the personnel committee. This did strike him as premature, because without any plan in place, this was an assumption of ill intent that seemed ill advised.

Bishop reiterated that the budget for the position was in the 2009 budget and also in the 2010 budget. Like any vacancy in the Annual Conference, the procedure to go forward would be in the proper way by *The Book of Discipline*.

Richard Bentley responded that there was no clear plan on how we were going to go forward. The question was designed to find out what the guidelines were for what the plan forward should be according to *The Discipline*. He made no assumptions or ill will. In all of Gary's examples, all the divisions of authority were within the Annual Conference in its leadership, as opposed to the Episcopal office, which the Constitution sees very differently. Rather than debating on the floor of the Conference, he was asking that the Judicial Council look at the question, look at the brief, and clarify this for us rather than debating on the floor. That was the purpose of asking a question. If we had a clear plan, he could ask the question in light of the clear plan. In the absence of one, he thought it was even more important to try and get an answer as we formulate the plan forward. It may stay vacant and it may not stay vacant. It was not clear. What was clear was that we did not know what the extent of the Episcopal office was in that plan. This was seeking to ask that question on constitutional grounds.

Becky Haase from Glendale First spoke against the motion. We are a very litigious society and felt like we were participating in this action by sending a request to the Judicial Council instead of having discussion within our own conference about what might or might not happen. She urged us to defeat the motion.

Gary Keene spoke against the motion. If we have to ask for a Declaratory Decision every time we had a vacancy or lack of a plan because it was within a few weeks of an appointment, this conference would be bogged down worse than it was. In all things, we operate within our best understanding of *The Discipline* and our conference rules. We would do so in the instance.

The motion was **NOT supported**.

Point of Personal Privilege: Emilio Muller asked and delivered prayers for the Sevillano family at La Trinidad UMC. The church was robbed at gunpoint three days ago and guns were placed on the heads of the wife and on one of the children of the pastor. The police were called immediately. There was a car chase, the suspects crashed their car, and one of the suspects was arrested. Before they were living in the sanctuary, their lives were threatened.

Legislative Actions: Eva Thai

Items Removed from the Consent Calendar

RC 09-4.35, Rules Item #35 Requirements for Ordination/Full Connection, received 91% concurrence.

It was pulled from the Consent Calendar yesterday afternoon.

Andy Mattick, clergy from Malibu UMC spoke against this Recommendation. This developed from a passionate need for young clergy. Do we obligate the course of candidates or do we eliminate the possible exception of an exceptional young clergy that God has equipped and called to lead? Bob Rhodes, lay person from the Santa Barbara District, and candidate for ordained ministry who would be affected by this recommendation spoke against this. He saw this rule as a change that would take away the opportunities for some amazing fellow classmates at Claremont School of Theology to present themselves to the Board of Ordained Ministry. It takes away from the Board of Ordained Ministry to affirm some of those exceptional candidates and show them joy and hope.

Derek Nakano, clergy from Torrance Faith and Board of Ordained Ministry Chair spoke in favor of keeping the rule as it was in the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, which they had been using. One reason was our Annual Conference had an overabundance of clergy and realizing this rule may have been written for other conferences where there was a need for clergy. Second, the 2-year residence period is actually 1 year and 3 months and the skill building and self-reflection that can take place in 2 years is really vital for full development.

Susan Author, laity from Fullerton First and recent graduate of Claremont School of Theology spoke against this Recommendation. She attended General Conference last year where the body supported the 2-year provisional status recognizing that not all persons enter into ministry unprepared for pastoral leadership. Many are second and third career persons with years of experience in the ministry. The Board of Ordained Ministry still retains the authority to detain those who are unprepared for the service of word and sacrament. This requirement of a 3-year wait hampers the desire for new clergy to embrace their calling. Many colleagues would go to other conferences where they could be ordained much sooner.

Jim Powell, Palmdale UMC, Chair of Resident in Ministry spoke in favor. We have a crisis in leadership. We did not have enough trained and called leaders. The whole component of this time was essential to do more community building and to get to know them to see if they were effective in the church. This was not about penalizing someone.

Molly Vetter moved to amend by deletion of the underlined text in lines 371-375. It was **supported**.

The Rules Item #35 was **supported as amended**.

Karen Clark Ristine moved the Orders of the Day. It was **supported**.

Claremont School of Theology: Jerry Campbell proudly announced that the Western Association of Schools of Colleges had taken Claremont School of Theology off of probation. They were in full accreditation. The Association of Theological School had recommended full accreditation to Claremont.

This fall, they will have the largest incoming class since he arrived three years ago. They also will have more scholarship support in the school's history with most coming from this conference. He shared that the number of people going to

seminary had been declining just as membership in the church had been declining. The Board at Claremont School of Theology decided to create a small University, which would subsidize the School of Theology. He noted that 50 years ago, the Annual Conference gave a charge to Claremont School of Theology to be the first ecumenical seminary. Claremont was so successful that every United Methodist Seminary has followed that charge. The next step was to move from being an ecumenical school to being one of multi-religion. The Board of Trustees believed it was important to make religion a source of peace rather than the cause of conflict and war.

United Methodism is the best denomination to lead the charge of doing this if we want to be true to being a people of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.

Sessions Committee: Tonya Harris thanked the body for all the feedback and comments as the Sessions Committee has moved to live into the new generation. She recognized all those who worked behind the scenes to put the Session together. She also thanked the former chair, Eric Smith. She thanked all for their patience and flexibility in light of abbreviated time together and a deeper level of accountability and good stewardship of our resources. Tonya led the body in chanting, “Now with love, we thank you,” to all who had worked diligently for this Annual Conference.

The 2010 Annual Conference will be held on June 17-20, 2010 at the University of Redlands.

Motion: Ed Hanson moved that in order to build bridges of awareness and understanding, the planners of the 2010 Annual Conference include a significant amount of time on the agenda for United Methodist gay and lesbian families to share their stories with the Annual Conference. It was **supported**.

Staff Recognition: Dan Gara recognized the Conference staff, our servant ministers who tend to us all. Wayne Walters recognized Keith Hwang for his work as the Conference Director of Connectional Ministries. As of July 1, 2009, the Conference will not have the same face, as Keith has been appointed to a local church. Keith Hwang expressed words of gratitude to the opportunity he has served for the past eight years. He encouraged that the time for change has come.

Closing Plenary Business: Dan Lewis and Leanne Nakanishi

- * Leadership Team Results: Monalisa Siofele & Tricia Hamilton
Paige Eaves, Brian Suk-Boo Lee, and Siosaia Tu’itahi
- * Recognized Team & thanked them for their hundreds of hours of volunteer work over the past year. We lifted up the guiding light and spirit of Rev. Kathleen Ross.
- * 2009 Journal deadline is **JULY 31, 2009**
- * Evaluations: Write on paper and hand to the ushers on your way out or e-mail to secretary@cal-pac.org

Benediction: Nestor Gerente, one of our ordinands, closed the session with the Benediction.

Youth Celebration Saturday, 4:00 p.m.

Theme for Youth Day: Walk this Way

Scripture
Deuteronomy 31:1-8

Songs
“You Are Good”
“Mighty to Save”

Messages from members of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries

Moulton Tuuholoaki – Long Beach District
Alex Berry – Pasadena District
Olivia LaSalle – Long Beach District

Participants included youth representatives from every District,
including the following groups:

Footprints Choir – Santa Barbara District
soulyHis – Hawaii District
Maywood Band – Long Beach District
The Message Movement – Pasadena District

The Youth Celebration was developed by the Cal-Pac Center for Leadership and the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, led by Fernando Alcantar

Commissioning, Ordination, and Sending Forth
Saturday, 7:00 p.m.

Prelude. Christoph Bull organist, played “Prelude in E-flat” by J.S. Bach.

Processional Hymn. “Lift High the Cross”

Call to Worship. Dianna Masters and Christian DeMent led the congregation in the Call to Worship.

Introductions. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson introduced Rabbi Mark Diamond, Executive Vice President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California.

Lesson from the Torah. Rabbi Mark Diamond read Deuteronomy 31: 1-8.

Gospel Lesson. Mary Allman-Boyle read Matthew 5: 13-15.

Sermon – “A Disruptive Order”

Leanne Nakanishi opened by reading a poem, “Moment Vanishing” by Elizabeth Spires. The poem ended by asking, “Oh what will I become?” Bishop Swenson answered by saying, “What shall you become?” Your life and calling is meant to be seen by all. Remember Jesus’ word and shine when you do not want to. Make your ministry, including doing work that makes you sweaty and therefore truly sweaty. Be truly salty and you shall stay in touch with those who are called to serve. Disruptive technology is low key, rough, and unproven. Kick the door open to a new and different future. Jesus the carpenter was living and breathing disruptive technology. Jesus disrupted the established order of his faith and the political environment of the time. Jesus’ story and our story are to be disruptive technology in the world. Open up a future that all may have life and have it abundantly. To embrace your calling as a spiritual leader is to embrace the task for others to come to the light. If you have been effective leaders, then you will bring others to the light.

Offering: Rev. Bao Dang and Allison Mark announced the evening’s offering would go to the Visiting Doctors’ Hospital (Vietnam). Malakai Tatafu offered the Prayer of Dedication and “Psalm 19: The Heavens Declare God’s Glory” by Benedetto Marcello was sung during the offertory.

Recognition of our Common Ministry and Examination of Candidates was led by Bishop Swenson.

Commissioning for Ministry as Deacons and Elders: Derek Nakano presented the candidates:

Commissioning for the Order of Deacon: Robin A. Rhodes

Commissioning for the Order of Elder: Mary Thuy-Dung Dang, Thomas Kendall, Sam B. Kim, Brian Keith Long, Allison Kanani Mark, S. Dianna Masters, Sharon Rae Gollery McCart, Karen Clark Ristine, and Malakai Hehepoto `Ele Tatafu

Ordination for Ministry as Deacons and Elders: Derek Nakano presented the candidates:

Ordination as a Deacon in Full Connection: Mary Allman-Boyle

Ordination as an Elder in Full Connection: Lara Anne Bruce Bolger, Deborah M. Camphouse, Christian DeMent, A. Paige Eaves, Timothy Albert Ellington, Nestor Santiago Gerente, Jennifer Gutierrez, Cheryl D. Kelly, Joy A. Price, and Brent Ross

Blessing of Appointments: Bishop Swenson blessed the appointments of each District of the Annual Conference. All appointed ministers of the District stood as the Bishop addressed them. All members of the District stood as the Bishop addressed them.

Sending Forth. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson led the dismissal with a blessing.

Recessional Hymn “In the Midst of New Dimensions”

Postlude “Fugue in E-flat” by J.S. Bach

DEDICATION

*The labor of the 2009 UM Daily Team is dedicated to Kathleen Ross,
2007 and 2008 UM Daily Editor.*

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify and declare
that the Daily Proceedings
of the Twenty-Fifth Session
of the California-Pacific Annual Conference,
meeting in Redlands, CA June 17-20, 2009
to be the Official Record of the Annual Conference.



Mary Ann Swenson,
Presiding Bishop
The Los Angeles Area
The United Methodist Church



J. Daniel Lewis & Leanne Nakanishi,
Conference Co-Secretaries
California-Pacific Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church