

# DAILY PROCEEDINGS

California-Pacific Annual Conference  
*“To be the Cup Overflowing with Joy”*

University of Redlands  
Redlands, CA  
June 18 - 22, 2008

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

## Wednesday, June 18, 2008

### Gathering of The Orders of Ministry Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

Over 200 clergy gathered around tables festooned with linen tablecloths, flowers, snacks and cold beverages in Orton Center of the University of Redlands in Redlands, California. Following a half hour of informal fellowship, John Farley (Orders of Ministry Chair) and Debbie Gara (Executive Committee Chair of the Orders of Deacon) welcomed the body and described the work of the Orders to build support for the clergy. One important support is Conference continuing education grants which will expire at the end of this quadrennium year. \$7,000 is still available. \$28,000 has been dispersed during this quadrennium. Orders also provided funds for counseling clergy and their families. \$500 per person and \$1,000 per family each year is available to support 50% of any counseling costs. Elder pastors also offer their support to those transitioning to new appointments. John encouraged participation in the Human Resources workshop and other upcoming events, as information is crucial for all local churches. For more information, please stop by the Orders' booth on the quad during Annual Conference.

Grant Hagiya shared the vision for the Center of Leadership Excellence. He encouraged the staff of the conference to resource all conference clergy, noting especially the Cal-Pac workshop, "Spiritual Leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." There will be many other such workshops this year.

Molly Vetter announced the upcoming Clergy Convocation on September 29-October 3, 2009. Potential speaker is Laura Winner, author of recent best-seller *Girl Meets God*.

Debbie Gara invited the gathering to thank John Farley for his 12 years of service as the chair of the Orders of Ministry. Orders is the fruition of his vision for a group to support conference clergy. John was honored with a guitar suitable for backpacking. Dan Gara brought it on stage, tripped and smashed the "guitar"! To much laughter, Debbie offered John a replacement gift -- an Advent stole from the Orders Committee. The gathering honored John with a standing applause. John recognized the rest of the members of the Orders Executive Committee.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson thanked John for his leadership. She reminded us that our conference, it is truly a sacramental gathering. She also was pleased that this year she had real hair, and no longer resembled Bill Johnson or J.T. Greenleaf!

Time of Sharing Concerns and Joys was opened by the Bishop reading a prayer from Psalm 65. The Bishop closed the time of sharing, with prayer for all the joys and concerns.

Time of Communion was opened by Faith Conklin, reminding us the communion tables makes God's grace visible. We gather not by our merits but by grace that we have a place at the table. God initiates the covenant and we respond to it although we may not always do so faithfully. Communion is a recalling of God's act through Jesus Christ. The sacrament is an empowering pronouncement of the past, present and future. As the past, we remember Jesus and his teaching, life, death and resurrection. In remembering his past, we remember our past and reflect on the present. Three question cards on the tables guided discussions of three aspects of communion: 1) Remembering the past (Lord's Supper): Who was the person that was most influential in helping shape your relationship with Christ? Share your most meaningful experience when receiving the Lord's Supper? 2) Thanksgiving for the present (Eucharist): Who are you most thankful for in your ministry setting today that helps you celebrate Christ in our midst? What event in this year has been the greatest moment of celebration of Christ in your ministry? 3)

Victory in the future in mutual ministry (Communion): What experience or relationship has provided you the greatest hope for the future in your ministry this past year? Where in your ministry setting do you experience a glimpse of the kingdom of God arriving?

After tables, groups shared their responses to each question card, Greg Norton led the group in singing “In Remembrance of Me,” “For the Beauty of the Earth”, “Cry of My Heart” in response.

Bishop Swenson led the tables in the Great Thanksgiving. At each table, the eldest pastor was called upon to break the bread and lift the cup. “Come, Live in the Light” was sung in response. Bishop Swenson closed the gathering with the benediction.

### **Laity Session Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.**

Lay Delegates gathered in Orton Center where they were welcomed by Phil and Connee Freeman.

Wilma Ryder, Lay Leader of the Long Beach District gave the opening prayer

Conference Lay Leader, Ken Ellis welcomed the 100 first timers here this year. He stated that at General Conference, we found our mission was to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Ken introduced the District Lay Leaders from our Annual Conference.

The Rev. Dr. Grant Hagiya was moving from his appointment as Los Angeles District Superintendent to become the Executive Director of the Center for Leadership Development. Dr. Hagiya explained that in his new job, he would change the scope of our Annual Conference: to move from “established” to “cutting edge”. The new Center for Leadership Development is designed to be our resource center for the Annual Conference and for local churches.

Rev. Keith Hwang, Executive Director of Connectional Ministries, introduced the Conference Connectional Ministries team. He explained that this team helps the Annual Conference staff operate efficiently.

Jan Berentsen, Executive Director for the Cal-Pac United Methodist Foundation, explained their work.

#### **Conference Headquarters Team:**

Dan Gara – Executive Director of Finance & Administration, explained the meaning behind “apportionments” as “a portion meant for others.” This year there was an Annual Conference budget increase of 0.77%. If your church has questions on how to handle direct deposits & credit card transactions, they may contact Dan Gara at the Conference Headquarters in Pasadena regarding VANCO Services, which offers a much lower rate of card processing. Annual Conference Headquarters contact information is on the back of the Conference Journal.

Paul Cogger, Director of Camping & Facilities Management, highlighted their new focus on developing programs. They discovered the importance of Summer Camp Programs in developing Christian discipleship. It is important to have this special space and place. He encourages each local church to identify a person whose goal and vision is to recreate angel sponsorship program, to make camp affordable for all kids in the local church.

Steve Hortwill-Johnston is the Executive Director of Communications & Strategy General Board of Discipleship. He challenged the Laity to “Step Outside”. Lay members of GBoD are: Tom Hogan, San

Diego District; \_\_\_\_\_ Sun City UMC; and Terry Carlson, Pomona UMC. Steve noted that people do not need a chandelier, but they do need light. Methodism began as a movement of spiritual renewal movement. We stand in need of our own movement of renewal. We have heard enough of magic fixes. God works in community, but rarely is interested in big “proof” moments. Transformations come without drastic movement. We are called to step outside our church steps. Our first task is to go outside. The body was encouraged to share answers around the table to the following questions: What does it mean to step outside? How is it a practice of the means of grace to welcome people to our church and invite me to your family?

Judy Cobb talked on what to expect from the Legislative Sessions and the gatherings for the Wesley Circles. She explained how votes are taken at Annual Conference Sessions, and the Parliamentary procedures involved.

Bud Wrisley of the Board of Pensions provided information about their project.

Vicky Cook, Santa Ana District Lay Leader, gave the benediction.

Dismissal was at 4:45 p.m.

### Clergy Session Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson opened the closed Clergy Session in the Chapel with prayer at 2:05 p.m., followed by the traditional Annual Conference opening hymn, “And Are We Yet Alive.”

Bob Rohdenberg spoke briefly about his struggle with a brain tumor. He expressed his gratitude to the community for their prayers and support during this time. Bishop thanked Bob and also encouraged the body to keep Bronnie McNabb of Claremont School of Theology in prayer, as he also has a brain tumor. “When one part of the body rejoices; the whole body rejoices. When one part of the body suffers; all of the body suffers. We are one in the body of Christ.”

The Bishop spoke of John Wesley’s first rule, “Do no harm.” Do not harm others and try not to harm ourselves. Clergy appointments often involve pain and struggle. In the midst of these struggles, the Bishop encouraged clergy to “Care for one another.” She lifted up the promises we share in the covenant community: “the promise of hope, the promise of grace, the promise of transformation.” Pastoral ministry is high stress occupation with high demands, yet we remain in covenant together.

The Bishop turned the session over to Diane Rehfield, the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

**BOOM Membership.** At the end of this year’s quadrennium, some Board members will have fulfilled their term. Our Conference has a “two quadrennium” rule. Derek Nakano will be the new chair. *John Woodall will continue as the full connection registrar. Anna Mulford is replacing Kathey Michelle Wilborn. (This was corrected...See UM Daily # 3, Page 10)* Willie Foreman will be the new Conference Relations chair, replacing David Richardson. By Conference Rules, the Board must include at least one deacon. Currently there are three, but all three are scheduled to rotate off. Diane asked for permission to allow Rosemary Davis and Rick Pearson to remain on the Board. This has been done in the past. The Bishop checked with the Conference Rules Committee chair, who affirmed it was within the rules. **Vote to approve** new BOOM membership.

**Continuing Education.** The Board recommends clergy take two units (20 contact hours) of continuing education per year. This can be done through the new Center for Leadership Excellence, directed by Grant Hagiya.

**Orders of Ministry.** John Farley, the current chair, will retire from Orders of Ministry Executive Committee this year. The Board of Ordained Ministry nominated Molly Vetter as the new chair of Orders of Ministry. **Vote to approve.**

The Bishop reminded those in attendance who may attend the Clergy Session, who has a voice and who is eligible to vote. She requested permission from the session to allow three lay persons to be present: Gail Kendall, Wes Davis, and the videographer. They were admitted.

Kathey Michelle Wilborn proceeded with the BOOM report. She expressed her thanks for the work of the Board. She asked that all misspellings and minor corrections be put in writing and placed in the yellow box in the narthex.

**Probationary Membership.** The candidates for Probationary Membership and Commissioning of Orders of Deacons and Elders were presented. Camille Mattick was elected to probationary membership in the Deacon's tract. Those elected to Probationary Membership in the Elder's tract were Stephen Kim, Sunyoung Lee, Siosaia Tu'itahi, and Sung Joseph Yoo.

**Full Connection.** John Woodall introduced those recommended for Elders in Full Connection. Phyllis Ashe, Lee Carlile, William Hitt, Mary Hollifield, Linda Robison, Karen Tannheimer, and Yuko Ueugi were elected Elders in Full Connection. The orders of Gordon Marchant were recognized.

**Transfers.** Gail Messner presented candidates transferring from other annual conferences and Methodist denominations. They are Darren Cowdrey from the Southwest Texas Annual Conference, David Jamir from the Northern Illinois Annual Conference and Min James Shin from the Korean Methodist Church. Frank Trotter was also recognized, although his transfer was official last year.

**Certified Candidates for Ordained Ministry.** Cheryl Connors moved to add the name of Melissa Prior which had been omitted. **It was approved.** J.T. Greenleaf offered prayer for the candidates.

**Local Pastors.** Kathey Michelle Wilborn moved to add Stacy Brooks Dickson to those listed under Disciplinary questions 20-23. It was approved. She then moved for approval of Disciplinary questions 20-23 with the inclusion of Stacy Brooks Dickson. **It was approved.**

**Disciplinary questions 25 & 26 were moved and approved.**

**Committee on Investigation.** The Bishop nominated those listed under the disciplinary question #18, and noted that the list had not be updated. She deferred this motion to a later time until the list could be corrected.

**Discontinuance.** Kathey Michelle Wilborn moved Disciplinary Question #46. It was approved for Patricia Hedges, Ruy T. Mizuki, and Sung Jacob Sohn. Ruy Mizuki waived his right to an administrative review. Two others were named to be placed on involuntary discontinuance. Preston Price indicated that the Administrative Review Committee had not had time to review those under involuntary discontinuance. The discontinuance section was tabled until a report is ready.

IX. Conference Membership Terminated (q. 50, pg. 8)

*This item was withdrawn for consideration at a called clergy session during this Annual Conference.*

## X. Questions of Character (q. 17, pg. 1)

1. Bishop asked each District Superintendent if clergy members of their District were blameless in their life and official administration of their duties:
  - Santa Ana District (Mark Ulrickson) – all blameless, except two under supervision
  - Riverside District (John Valles) – all blameless
  - Hawaii District (Woong-Min Kim) – all blameless
  - Long Beach District (Lily Villamin) – all blameless
  - Santa Barbara District (Cathleen Coots) – all blameless
  - San Diego District (Myron Wingfield) – all blameless
  - Pasadena District (Thomas C. Hill) – all blameless
  - Los Angeles District (Cedrick Bridgeforth) – all blameless
2. Clergy were asked if their respective DS was blameless. All were declared blameless.

## XI. Honorable Location (q. 47a., pg. 8)

1. David Richardson added the name of Roger M. DeMarr, which had been omitted.
2. David Richards moved approval of Disciplinary Question # 54. **Approved.**

## XII. Family Leave (q. 55, pp. 9, 10) and Sabbatical Leave (q. 56, pg. 10)

1. Kathy Strickler was removed from the list.
2. **The corrected list was approved.** Diane Rehfield offered a prayer.

## XIII. Retirees (q. 59, pp.10, 11)

1. David Richardson mentioned that Judy Flanegin should not have been on the list since she retired last year.
2. Bishop asked all retiring clergy to stand. Ovation.
3. **The corrected list was approved.** Willie Foreman offered a prayer.

## XIV. Deceased (q. 52, pp. 8, 9)

1. David Richardson read names. He asked for personal privilege to mention Jon Longfellow. He concluded with a moment of silence and prayer for those who have gone on to glory, having served the Lord on earth.

## XV. Less than Full time (q. 82, pp. 16, 17)

1. Kathey Michelle Wilborn reminded us that a three-fourths majority vote was required to approve those who had served more than five years in “less than full time” appointments.
2. Myron Wingfield made a correction that Susan Juergensen had actually served 4 years and not 1 year, as printed.
3. Cavalain Hawkins prayed for BOOM members.
4. Vote on less than full time list. **Approved.**
5. Vote on less than full time for more than five years. **Approved.**

Diane Rehfield said this concluded the BOOM report. The Bishop expressed her thanks, as did the clergy, with a round of applause.

The Bishop asked those clergy in who had attended Annual Conference for more than 60 years to stand for recognition and applause. Clergy who were attending for the first time stood for recognition and applause.

Brad Resare reminded Legislative Section Facilitators to meet at 5:30 pm at Och Tamale Room.

Bishop asked for approval of item 9. **Full list was approved.**

Frank Knouse thanked Bishop for her influence back in 1982 for his coming to Cal-Pac. He also thanked Patricia Ferris who had been suggesting that he come to Cal-Pac for ten years. He closed the session with prayer.

Session adjourned at 3:46 pm.

### **Opening Worship Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.**

“Celebrating Our Young Clergy in Ministry” was the theme of the opening worship service of the 2008 California-Pacific Annual Conference. Opening songs included “Praise to the Lord” and “What Does the Lord Require of You.” Johan Dodge led in the Call to Worship followed by, “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing.”

Rev. Andy Mattick led the congregation in a reflection on why Young Adults were leading worship tonight. He spoke of the importance of different generations learning from each other.

Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis led us in a common prayer asking for community, wholeness, and joy. We asked for forgiveness for our sins of ignorance, our sins of neglect, our sins of idolatry, and our sins of betrayal. We asked God to mend our brokenness and fill us with abundant joy.

Following a passing of the peace of Christ, Andy Mattick & band led singing, “Trading My Sorrows”. Rev. Debbie Camphouse led the pastoral prayer. Psalm 65 was read in English, Korean (Sunny Paek), and Spanish, followed by reflective singing of “Joy Comes with the Dawn.”

The Word in Drama - Rev. Jane Voigts made an entertaining appearance as “Joy Fuller” accompanied by her “Joy” Boys. While in character she shared several clever Wesleyan jokes!

In her sermon on “Joy” Bishop Mary Ann Swenson lifted up the Conference theme “To Be the Cup Overflowing with Joy” and reminded us that joy comes to us as a gift. We must prepare the table in order to receive the gift of joy. We read the Greatest Commandment, “Love God, love your neighbor, and love yourself.” John Wesley’s recipe for joy is: (1) Do no harm (2) Do good, and (3) Stay in love with God. (1) Do the least possible harm to the least number of people. We must remember to stop, so we can be aware of our actions. What can we stop doing, so we can start doing something different? We must become mindful that even the small things we do, affects others. She shared that we should live simply, so that others may simply live.

(2) We must do good. It doesn’t matter how small it may seem at the time.

(3) We must stay in love with God.

The Gospel of Luke illustrates how often Jesus went away to pray - 5:16; 6:12, 9:18; 9:28, and 11:1. Going away to nurture our souls is crucial to our renewal.

Rev. Rachel Allen introduced the offering for Domestic Disaster Relief.

Closing song “I’ve Got Peace Like a River,” was followed by the benediction by Bishop Swenson.

## Plenary Session #1 Wednesday Evening

Greg Norton led the body in singing.

Bishop Swenson called the first plenary session of the Annual Conference to order at 8:47 pm. 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, and 50 years.

Al Maeda offered the opening prayer for peace.

The Orders of the Day were presented and moved by Agenda Chair Tonya Harris. **It was supported.** She indicated that updates will be provided to the schedule, and introduced two humorous images on the screen that she would use to indicate if the body was on schedule or behind schedule.

Conference Co-Secretaries, Dan Lewis and Leanne Nakanishi, presented five procedural motions: Motion #1: That the agenda in the Preliminary Report will 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: That the bar of the Conference be established as the main level seating area of the Chapel -- the balcony seating level from the stairwell entrance forward, the green room, stage, and AV room. Delegates MUST display a name badge to vote. #3: That the proceedings printed in the *UM Daily* be the official minutes of the Annual Conference after they are corrected and approved. #4: That the registration forms be used as the official roll call of the Conference Sessions. #5: That all resolutions not adopted by the end of Annual Conference be referred to the appropriate entities.

They also indicated that a new Action Items Tracking Sheet was distributed by the ushers to replace the one received in the Arrival Packets. Changes were indicated as follows:

1. **Resolution 08-1 v.1** was crossed off and added to the bottom of the sheet as **P-08-1 v.1**.
2. **Resolution 08-10 v.1** was crossed off and added at the bottom as **P-08-2 v.1**.

Numbers were assigned to other Arrival Packet Materials as follows:

1. "Respect for Human Rights as a Basis for Military Aid to the Philippines" submitted by the Filipino Caucus is **# 08-5 v.1**
2. "Against Criminalizing Homelessness" is **# 08-7 v.1**
3. "Respect for Human Rights as a Basis for Military Aid to the Philippines" submitted by the Board of Church and Society is **# 08-8-v.1**
4. "Conference Relocation Task Force" **Rec. 08-1**
5. "Conference Hispanic Committee Rules Change" is **Rules #7**

Chapel Coordinator, Scott Wolverton, reviewed University of Redland's safety procedures in case of emergencies. He noted that the emergency line while on campus is x8888. He noted important locations on campus and the importance of staying hydrated. The nurse's station is located at the back of the chapel on the east side of the narthex. Conference sessions are being broadcast on FM 104.7. Scott informally re-established a previous practice of requiring a \$20 donation to "Nothing But Nets" from those whose cell phones ring during conference sessions.

The Bishop introduced Rev. Molly Vetter and Ken Ellis as the clergy and lay leaders for the delegation to General Conference. The entire delegation team stepped forward to share reflections from the conference.

Ken Ellis noted that by number, the representation from the Western Jurisdiction was small. However, by God's grace and hard work, even that small number was able to make a difference.

Frank Wulf shared that the newly elected Judicial Council is comprised of fair and impartial people.

Eva Thai remarked on how connections were made by young adults from around the world.

Marjorie Suchocki noted that the first petition offered was for funds for youth and young adults. It was denied. However, one of our Pacific Islander delegates spoke and pushed the petition all the way through.

Dan Gara reflected on the term "proportionality" and the loss of Bishops in the Western Jurisdiction.

Cynthia Abrams shared how our delegation represented the diversity of God's world.

Patricia Farris shared the story of a delegate from Liberia.

Mele Maka shared the joy of hearing the Ugandan children's choir express their faith.

Mark Ulrickson noted the complexity in balancing the work of the General Conference and the need for regional specific needs.

JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto noted by working together, the General Conference passed a resolution to welcome migrants.

Mary Elizabeth Moore shared verbal snapshots of Bishop Swenson's report on finance, Bau Dang's work in Vietnam, and the work of many Cal-Pac members at the General Conference. She shared how some delegates expressed that they were beginning to hear others for the first time.

Bau Dang expressed the honor of being sent by the Cal-Pac Annual Conference as a delegate to the General Conference. He quickly summarized the missional focus of the General Conference.

The Bishop noted that during this 2008 Annual Conference, we would be nominating Episcopal candidates. Gilbert Stone explained the process for how our annual conference nominates Episcopal candidates to the Jurisdictional Conference. He listed the criteria for qualified nominees and how to correctly fill out the ballots. The ballots were collected by ushers as the people exited following the benediction.

Molly Vetter closed the plenary session with the Benediction.

## **Thursday, June 19, 2008**

### **Baptism Worship Service 8:15 a.m. in the Chapel**

A bright new morning greeted the congregation as Greg Norton, our Conference Music Director, invited us to "let it flow" by singing with the Conference Praise Band: "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing", "Come You Hungry", "Spirit of God, Come Unto Me".

Carol Paton led the Litany of Welcome and Greeting, and Dave Johnson, Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries, introduced our morning's Lay Speaker, Lewis "Bob" Crownover, of Redondo Beach First United Methodist Church. He was chosen to speak at this service by the Conference Lay Speakers' Committee from among a large group of many highly qualified applicants.

Rev. Debbie Gara read the Gospel Lesson from Luke 3:21-22, the story of Jesus' baptism and anointing by God's Holy Spirit.

The Message was given by Bob Crownover on “It’s a Giving Thing”. His testimony included his path from church, then away from church, until he had nothing left in a deep dark hole. At that low point he finally prayed, so he could reconnect with God. By the grace of God, he was immediately filled with a peace that filled the cracks in his heart. He discovered that as worldly as he was, God had not disowned him. “We are not alone!” God didn’t claim us, so that we could sit on our hands. We are to be ministers with Jesus, to love one another as He loves us, and to know the joy that flows from that love. However, we sometimes become so obsessed with getting love that we forget to give love. It is love that will fill our churches, because people need to be loved by God through us!

The Sacrament of Baptism liturgy was led by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson. **Luke Aaron Ray Wheeler** was presented for baptism by his mother Krystle Wheeler, his great-grandmother, and his mother’s friends. Ken Ellis, Conference Lay Leader, and members of Del Rosa UMC, San Bernardino joined the family on the stage as Christian sponsors. As part of the baptism liturgy, the whole body affirmed their faith in the traditional words of the Apostle’s Creed.

Bowls of waters for Renewal of Baptism were sprinkled on the congregation by the candidates for Commissioning and Ordination, and by members of the 2008 District Mission Teams to Mississippi. The Praise Band led singing “Baptized in Water” with readings on baptism by members of the band, followed by “Water Has Held Us”.

Rev. Ron Griffin announced the Wesley Circles, four small groups meeting after this plenary, to help us build relationships and to renew our spiritual life for ourselves and our congregations. We are moving from leadership that is “sitting and soaking” to those that are reaching out. Each Circle had a worksheet, and members were encouraged to bring a Bible. Each member had been assigned to a room by means of a card that was in their Arrival Packet, received at Registration.

The Hymn of Sending, “Since Jesus Came Into My Heart”, was followed by the Benediction offered by the Bishop: “Remember that you have been baptized, and be thankful. You are a part of something bigger than you are alone. It is the adventure of the baptismal life. You are beginning to claim something that was done for you long ago. You are being made clean even now. And after you have been blessed and cleansed, you are released into the world to tell the story of Jesus.”

## **Plenary Session #2 Thursday Morning**

Bishop Swenson called the session to order at 10:36 am. Monalisa Tu’itahi offered a prayer for peace. The Bishop welcomed Connee and Phil Freeman, Lay Leaders of the Los Angeles District, who sat beside Rev. Dan Lewis, Conference Co-Secretary. She also recognized Chan Hie Kim, the Conference Parliamentarian.

Dave Horning offered prayer for Sandy Gorsline who will be having emergency bypass surgery tomorrow.

Tonya Harris presented the Orders of the Day. They were approved. The “on time” slide for the day was displayed on the screen.

Neil Macready brought greetings from the University of Redlands to the Annual Conference. He read an excerpt from a journal of the Southern California-Arizona Conference of the Methodist Church, Centennial Session 1950.

**Courtesies.** Susan Juergensen and Linita Moa welcomed Byrd Bonner, Executive Director of the UMC Foundation. He expressed words of appreciation honoring Jan Berentsen, Director of the Conference Foundation, and Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, President of the General Committee on Finance & Administration.

Cheryl Hemmerle shared the work of the UM Communications. She recognized Larry Hygh Jr. for his work on the team and Bishop Swenson for her work in leading the General Conference to adopt a \$642 million budget. Cheryl also noted the UMC “Nothing But Nets” campaign and encouraged all to “Send a net and save a life.”

Byrd returned to the podium to share a spontaneous original ditty of appreciation for Bishop Mary Ann Swenson to the tune “It’s a Grand Night for Singing”.

**Nominations for the Episcopacy.** Six nominees received more than 25 votes. In alpha order: Bau Dang, Patricia Farris, Grant Hagiya, Mark Ulrickson, Molly Vetter, and Frank Wulf.

Patricia Farris and Molly Vetter appreciatively asked that their names be removed from the list.

Gilbert Stones, Chair of Nominating Committee, informed the body that our Annual Conference can send up to three nominees, but not all four, so another ballot will need to be taken. He invited the four remaining candidates to submit personal statements to be posted in the narthex, hopefully before the next plenary session.

Dan Lewis read greetings from other annual conferences.

Dan indicated that nominations for a general pool for nominees to Jurisdictional Conference committees and boards are to be made by filling out purple forms, and placing them in the box on the stage. Up to 45 names can be forwarded to the Jurisdiction as nominees.

Gilbert Stones solicited talent bank forms from the body, for the Nomination Committee to discover how members would like to be of service to our Annual Conference Committees, Boards, and Agencies. This form is not for nominations, but for individuals to express their own interests. These forms are to be handed out at the end of this plenary session, filled out, and placed in a box in the narthex. He mentioned that a new committee, the Conference Response Task Force on Welcoming, will address issues of welcoming immigrants, LBTG, and persons of the general population.

**Comprehensive Report.** Ken Ellis, Conference Lay Leader, introduced Wayne Moore, Chair of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) and its members, and Rev. Dr. Amy Aitken, Facilitator of the Conference Leadership Team, and its members. The purpose of this combined group is to propose a budget which supports our mission and our strategy as an Annual Conference.

Amy Aitken explained the Comprehensive Report strives to ensure that our mission and our resources together for the purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Conference Leadership Team focuses on developing leadership in the Conference, District, and local churches. She introduced a video and stated that our Annual Conference focuses on the UM mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” by focusing on leadership.

A short video, “The Three Legged Stool”, was shown to illustrate the three-fold nature of our mission: personal, community, and world-wide. Also, like a three-legged stool, we have appointed leaders, congregational leaders, and future leaders.

Marion Gill introduced churches chosen to receive funding to be “teaching churches”: Bishop UMC, Claremont UMC, Kailua UMC, Pasadena First UMC, and San Diego: Wesley UMC. 12 other churches applied, and the Leadership Team hopes to find some funding for them as well.

Amy Aitken expressed the desire of the Conference Table to develop new faith communities within the Annual Conference -- not necessarily new building and new land, but new communities -- by partnering with the goal of the Path One initiative to have 1,000 new pastors for 1,000 new congregations within the General Conference. They are also in the process of developing a Covenant for Vital Ministry for our Annual Conference.

**Apportionments.** Wayne Moore, Chair of CFA, was happy to report:

1) 73 congregations increased their level of apportionment giving, and 14 more churches achieved 100% giving to apportionments. We now have 257 churches at 100%. 66% of congregations give to apportionments, and in 2007 receipts were at the highest level in 17 years!

2) 2006 Pension funds were wisely invested, and have born fruit.

3) Budget Process Report (Preliminary Report pp. 22 & 23): a more balanced operating budget has been decreased for the long term, as internal borrowing from the congregational loan fund was reduced by one-third when Conference approved funding the Board of Camping operation and administrative budget through Conference apportionments.

Result: Camping programs and deferred maintenance (\$465,000) can now be funded. Remodeling will begin at Colby, Wrightwood, Lazy W, and other camps. Increased maintenance will lead to more bookings.

The 2009 budget has the smallest increase ever of 0.77%! The Budgeting process has improved by using a collaborate process that focuses on mission and resources. Thanks to all those who helped make this budget possible!

Ken Ellis recognized members of the CFA who have completed their terms. Amy Aitken, outgoing Leadership Team Facilitator, introduced Wayne Walters as the incoming Facilitator.

**Rules Committee.** Chair Bob Stimmel described his vision of 3 wishes: 1) All ministries review their rules and submit changes to the rules committee by February 27, 2009; 2) The Rules Committee would be able to submit their draft in time for inclusion in the Conference Preliminary Report; 3) Find the one rule that everyone can agree on, with no changes!

**Board of Trustees.** Dan Gara, of the Conference Relocation Task Force, reports that a continuing next year of the issue of relocating the Conference Center (currently located in downtown Pasadena). The Task Force recommendation will be presented to a legislative section this afternoon showing that the work of the Task Force will continue, and no action taken at this time.

**Conference Insurance Committee.** Paige Eaves, chairperson gave a positive update. In 2007 property and liability insurance was found at a much lower rate. Unfortunately, customer service glitches would need to be worked out with Philadelphia. The HUB brokers' have a website to answer questions: coverage of our Cal-Pac policies, certificates of insurance, background checks at lower rates, auto insurance for Mexico mission trips. Churches with outside users can use the Tenant User liability insurance program. See Gail Misquez, Don Williams, and Leslie Doogan at Melrose #115 and at their booth today.

**The following churches need to check with an insurance agent during Annual Conference to make sure your church is covered for Worker's Compensation:** Grace River Korean UMC; Brea Korean UMC; East Light Korean Mission; Camarillo Korean UMC; Zion UMC, Chula Vista First UMC; Grace Korean UMC; Santa Barbara Korean UMC; Valley Korean UMC, Granada Hills; Holtville UMC; Joshua Tree UMC; Cambodian American UMC, Long Beach; United with Hope, Long Beach; Silverado

UMC; Crenshaw UMC; Faith UMC; Hamilton UMC; Korean Central UMC; La Trinidad UMC; Los Feliz UMC; Martin Luther King, Jr. UMC; Pacific Islanders Tolutasi UMC, Los Angeles; St. Paul's UMC, Los Angeles; Young Hwa UMC, Los Angeles; First Inland Korean UMC; Ontario Trinity UMC; Ontario El Mesias UMC; Pasadena First UMC; Pico Rivera UMC; First Tongan UMC of Pomona Valley; Pomona Chinese UMC; Trinity Korean UMC, San Bernardino; San Diego Hispanic Ministry; North County Korean Ministry; San Marcos Shandon UMC; Mision Hispana Biblica UMC; Pacific UMC, South Pasadena; Trinity UMC, Whittier; Valley Korean Central UMC, Winnetka; Yucaipa UMC.

**Legislative Sections** - Karen Ristine, Coordinator, described the “Holy Conferencing” process used to carry out the spiritual growth and business of the Conference. The spirit of God is present in us individually and corporately, and even in legislation.

- Eight Legislative Sections will consider recommendations by committees of the Annual Conference, as well as resolutions and petitions.
- Assignments to sections were made randomly. Your assignment is the number printed in the lower corner of your name badge.
- The Legislative voting process is not the same as in the Plenary sessions. Please see p. xvii of the Preliminary Report.
- Location of Legislative Sections is on p. xvi of the Preliminary Report. Campus map is on the back inside page of the Preliminary Report. You can only vote at the legislative section that is printed on your badge.

Karen Ristine moved to suspend the Conference 24-hour rule to allow petition #08-1 and #08-2 to be considered in legislative sections. **It was approved.**

Richard Bentley also moved to suspend the Conference 24-hour rule to consider petitions that are passed in today's session for considering by legislative sections. **It was approved.**

Jackeline Vives closed the session with prayer in Spanish.

The Nominating Committee distributed Talent Bank forms as the body left the chapel.

### **Plenary Session #3 Thursday, 3:30 p.m.**

**Connectional Ministry Video.** Videos highlighting the ministries at First UMC in Chula Vista and First UMC in Glendale were shown. Greg Norton led in singing prior to the call to order.

Bishop Swenson called the session to order at 3:38 pm.

Opening prayer for peace by Rev. José Vindel of St. Paul's UMC in San Bernardino, celebrating 150 years of witness and ministry. He prayed for the nations and peoples of the world to learn to live together in justice, harmony, and peace.

The Bishop welcomed Leanne Nakanishi, Conference Co-Secretary and Krista McVey, Lay Leader of the Riverside District seated beside her.

Tonya Harris moved the orders of the afternoon. **It was approved.**

**Nominees for Episcopal Endorsement** - Dan Lewis and Leanne Nakanishi, Conference Co-Secretaries Four had been nominated; however, only 1, 2 or 3 can be submitted to Jurisdictional Conference: Bau

Dang, Grant Hagiya, Mark Ulrickson, and Frank Wulf. Voting procedures were explained, and ballots distributed.

The Bishop celebrated a new book written by a member of our Annual Conference, Anna Alter, *Priscilla and the Hollyhocks*, available at Cokesbury Bookstore on campus.

Bishop introduced Bronnie McNabb, who has been living with a brain tumor, and invited him to offer prayer before the vote for the Episcopal nomination vote was taken.

Happy 81<sup>st</sup> Birthday wishes were extended to Irwin Trotter, who has been coming to Annual Conference since he was ordained in 1954.

Jay Sowell, Lay Leader of Hollywood UMC, **moved** “that the agenda committee and the Bishop’s Task Force on Welcoming set aside a significant amount of time at this Annual Conference and a process for discussion of the pastoral and congregational issues surrounding the legalization of same-sex marriages in California.” **It was supported.** Motion will be forwarded to the Sessions Committee to consider implementation.

**Courtesies.** Rev. Mark Feldmeir, pastor of San Dieguito UMC, honored Rev. Roy Ford in celebrating his 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his membership to this Annual Conference. He and his wife of 54 years were greeted by the Bishop.

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Advance.** Rachael Harvey, Missions Specialist on the General Board of the Global Ministries with the Advance Specials, reported that \$1.2 billion has been contributed to the Advance over the 60 years since it was begun. 100% of Advance designated gifts reach the ministry of choice, with a choice of 2,000 projects in 100 countries. Cal-Pac Conference in 2007 gave over \$9,000 to Advance, making us the highest giving annual conference in the Western Jurisdiction! Last year 26% of Cal-Pac churches were in Covenant Relationship with UMC missionaries. Nationally only 5% of UM churches participate in covenant relationships. This was also the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Nakba*, Arabic for “The Disaster”, when Palestinians were forced into refugee camps, without permits to leave their villages. She challenged us, “What can we give to bring healing in this world?”

**Active Clergy Health Insurance Plan (HIP).** Bud Wrisley discussed the Retirement and Active Clergy Pension specifically focusing on the recent changes of pricing and eligibility. Ken McMillan of Board of Pensions brought amendments and recommended changes to the current plan. The retiree health care costs have increase by 44% this past year. Our unfunded liability (the present value of all future payments required to pay for current retiree health care until those persons are no longer with us) was estimated to be \$41 million. Almost 50% of our clergy will be eligible to retire in the next 5 years. Also insurance rates have increased for HMOs. The MSP (Medicare Supplement Plan for retirees outside of the HMO area) is even more expensive.

Cal-Pac Conference Retiree Health Insurance

\$1,140,000 in 2007; \$790,000 in 2006 = 44% increase of \$350,000

Ken McMillan reviewed the yellow document, distributed in the Arrival Packets, on how to address this. A Task Force was formed last year by the Annual Conference made up of retired and active clergy, surviving spouses, conference staff, and board of pension members to carefully review past and present issues. Their recommendations are: 1) Take a fresh look at who is eligible for access to our health care plan; 2) Determine who will receive a subsidy; 3) Ask retired clergy to share a portion of the costs to be determined by years of service to the Conference. Ken noted that Extension Ministries are not covered by Conference insurance.

Floyd McKeithen described the effect of these proposals. All clergy who retire July 1, 2009 would have years of service be counted for their health subsidy. For example 40 years of service = 2% per year of service; and 80% of health costs will be covered. This plan will significantly reduce the Conference's unfunded liability by \$15 million.

**Four pertinent Health Plan documents** should be brought to every Plenary this week when the health issues are discussed: Yellow sheet in welcome packet. Green sheet handed out this morning. White amendment sheet includes input from District meetings. Orange sheet indicates when we will be dealing with this subject until a final vote is taken.

**Presentation of Candidates for Commissioning** – Diane Rehfield, Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry introduced Kathey Michelle Wilborn and Anna Mulford to present the candidates for probationary and full connection membership for 2008, who were elected at the Clergy Session on Wednesday afternoon:

Probationary Commissioning on Deacon Track: Camille Mattick.

Probationary Commissioning on Elder Track: Stephen Kim, Sunyoung Lee, Siosaia Tu'itahi, Sung Joseph Yoo.

Ordination as Elder in Full Connection: Phyllis Ashe, Lee Ann Carlile, William Hitt, Mary Hollifield, Linda Robison, Karen Tannheimer, Yuko Uesugi.

Orders Recognized as Elder in Full Connection: Gordon Marchant.

The Full Connection Candidates were presented to the Bishop to answer the historic questions posed by John Wesley, found in *The Book of Discipline*.

The body responded with applause.

Gail Messner presented those transferring their membership from other Annual Conferences and Methodist denominations:

Full Connection Deacon, Darren Cowdrey from Southwest Texas Annual Conference

Full Connection Elder, David Jamir from Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Full Connection Elder, Frank Trotter from Baltimore Annual Conference

Probationary Elder, Seung-Min James Shin from Korean Methodist Church

Rosemary Davis moved that Mary Joy Buist be continued on leave of absence. She presented David Spencer Camphouse his professional certification in Christian Education.

**Committee on Investigation.** Clergy Nominees: David Richardson, Don Roe, Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Amelia Finau, Jonathan Lee, Eugenio Raphael, Sandra Richards. Lay Nominees: Phil Shigekuni, Cindy Waterson.

Alternate Clergy: James White, Philip Wood, Pamela Daniel, Amy Aiken, Faaagi Taufete'e

Alternate Laity: Becky Haase

These persons were **Approved**.

**Nominees for Administrative Review Committee.** Clergy: Tom Choi (08), Patricia Farris (08), Robert Smith (08). Alternates: Gwen Jones-Lurvey (07), Lily Villamin (08).

These persons were **approved**.

The Conference Secretary will convene the new Committee on Investigation to elect new officers on Friday June 20 at 1:45 p.m. at Fine Arts Building, #107.

Catie Coots **moved** that the Administrative Review Committee meet within the first 10 days of June to process all information for the past year that is in their jurisdiction for review, and that the appropriate bodies will forward to the Administrative Review Committee by June 1<sup>st</sup> all the information gathered to that point. And further, that they meet again at Annual Conference prior to the Clergy Session for preparation and review of any additional materials.

Motion was made to suspend the Conference 24-hour Rules to consider this motion. **It was approved.**

**Coots' motion was approved.**

Appreciation was expressed, and gifts given to Diane Rehfield as she completes her tenure as chair of Board of Ordained Ministry. Derek Nakano will be the new Board chair.

Thomas Griffith moved for a declarative decision from the Judicial Council on some issues, which have come before the Board of Ordained Ministry. **It was approved.**

Myron Wingfield noted that Diane Rehfield was the first deacon to serve as the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

**Break for Holy Hilarity** – Jane Voigts as “Joy Fuller” introduced “Jesus in a box” Easter idea!

**Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry** – Frank Wulf asked campus ministers to stand for recognition. Annual Conference directed the Board to develop strategies to expand and improve the delivery of ministry on college campuses. The work is in process.

San Luis Obispo UMC asked for and received a grant of \$7,000 to begin a new campus ministry at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Work was also being done to reach out to students at Cal State Northridge. Campus ministry was closed at UC Santa Barbara, but there is hope of revival this year. Recruitment of a Campus Ministry Facilitator will help meet the goals established. The study of campus ministry is to be completed by 2009. Evaluations of campus ministers will be done by the Board to provide them better support. Elwin Spray and Jonathan Park were leaving the Board. The UCLA campus minister is taking a job in Pacific Northwest, so a search had begun.

**Ballot #1 Results for Episcopal Candidates.** Bishop Swenson read the results of the last ballot. Grant Hagiya – 345; Bau Dang -- 141; Mark Ulrickson – 130; Frank Wulf -- 123 votes. For the required 50% plus 1 endorsement, 380 votes were needed. No election on this ballot.

Preston Price reminded the Bishop of the Conference Rule that she could ask the body if they wanted to continue balloting.

George Crisp reminded us of the Conference Rule that says that the body could vote for 1, 2, or 3 of those on the ballot, and we were only asked to vote for 1.

Bishop asked the body if they wanted to take another ballot, which they did.

Mark Ulrickson withdrew his name from the ballot.

Gilbert Stones moved that the three remaining names be sent as our nominees. Dave Richardson spoke against. Motion was **not** seconded.

After discussion of the legality of discussing the ballot, Gilbert Stones moved to request to suspend the rules. Motion was **not** supported.

Larry Hygh Jr. offered prayer before the ballot.

**Ballot #2 was taken.**

John Valles offered prayer for David Center, long-time Conference employee, who will have surgery to amputate his foot tomorrow.

Benediction was offered by Jola Bolaji.

Plenary was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

### **A Service of Remembrance and Hope Thursday, June 19, 2008**

Jean Price played “Carillon de Westminster” by Louis Vierne on the organ for the Prelude.

Carol Paton opened with a greeting. The Processional Hymn, “For All the Saints” was sung. Carol led the congregation in opening prayer. Sharon Fix and Rev. Kenneth McMillan read Hebrews 11:1-12:2 interspersed with various groups in the congregation singing “How Firm a Foundation.” Rev. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore led the affirmation of faith based on Romans 8:35, 37-39. The Women’s Choir from Grace UMC sang an anthem, “Safe In His Arms.” During the Memorial Liturgy as each name of the saints was read, a family representative poured baptismal water into a common cup. Upon hearing the phrase, “Absent from the body,” the congregation responded, “Present in the Lord.”

Bishop Charles W. Jordan read the names and biographies of United Methodist Bishops throughout the world who had died within the past year. They were Bishop H. Ellis Finger, Jr., Bishop Keavas Mavorlo, and Bishop Benjamin Oliphant. Mrs. Charles Jordan read the names and bios of the Bishops’ life companions who had finished their labors. They were Mayme Radcliff Finger, Marianne Thompson Garrison, and Edith Laney Straw Knox.

Bud Wrisley and Jan Hanson read the names and biographies of clergy from the California-Pacific Annual Conference who had died. They were Richard Adams, Carl Beharka, Thomas D. Dillard, David T.U. Fifita, Eugene E. Golay, Clayton E. Hammond, Eung Kyun Lee, Jose Leomiti, Hugh Lormor, Earl L. McCallum, Abel Munoz, Harold G. Nienas, George Myron Raun, Allan Waterson, and Emmanuel Wu.

Bud Wrisley and Jan Hanson read the names and brief life testimonies of the spouses of the clergy of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference who had died. They were In Soon Choi, Shirley M. Duvall, Elaine Goss, Emma K. Himeno, Sarah Cho Lee, Margaret Aleta Raun, Elizabeth Robinson, Marilyn Sue Stamper, Mildred Terauchi, Elaine E. Werner, Emily Wogaman, and Edith Marie Wright.

The offering was introduced by Rev. Patricia Farris for the “Nothing But Nets” campaign. This was an opportunity to bring abundant life. For every \$10 we give, an anti-malaria net would be given to protect the lives of a family of four for up to four years. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation would match our donations.

The Women’s Choir of Grace UMC sang “Standing on the Promises.” The Rev. Eunice Musa Iliya from Nigeria prayed for the offering.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Bishop Charles Jordan, and Rev. Catie Coots led the celebration of the Great Thanksgiving. Communion assistants were Mary Elizabeth Moore, Carolyn Breihan, Peggy Rubel, and Diane Davis. The delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences acted as Communion servers.

After the Memorial Service, people gathered for a Peace Vigil on the steps of the Chapel.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two pieces of legislation were amended by legislative sections and will be considered during a plenary session on Saturday:

Rules Committee Recommendation #3 (found on Page 45-48 of the 2008 Preliminary report, was amended to add “and part-time” to line 41 on page 48 after the word “full-time”. (The recommendation was approved as amended with 95% in concurrence.)

Resolution 08-6 Disability Awareness Sunday (found in the arrival packet) amends the final paragraph (new text in bold): Be it further resolved that a special offering will be received as part of the local church observance of Disability Awareness Sunday, with the funds received **sent to the Annual Conference/CFA and** used by the Conference Committee on Disability Concerns to promote the creation of architectural and attitudinal accessibility for persons with disabilities in local churches, **including the disbursements of accessibility grants to local churches.** (The resolution was approved as amended with 97% in concurrence.)

– Karen Ristine, Legislative Sections Coordinator

## Friday, June 20, 2008

### Bible Study, 8:15 a.m.

The jubilant music of the Centered in Song praise band greeted gathering Conference members on a bright morning. Members of this spirit-filled group are staff members of our Annual Conference, led by director Jesse Martin. Mabel Habersham-Flowers lifted us to an even higher place of joy in the Lord!

**Introduction of Bishop Hope Morgan Ward.** Bishop Ward serves the Mississippi Conference (home Conference of our Bishop Mary Ann Swenson). Bishop Swenson shared personal remarks about her friendship with Bishop Ward. Her full biography is in the Preliminary Report, on p. iii.

Bishop Ward opened the Bible study with the words of Psalm 16, merged with the inspiring hymn, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”.

Bishop Ward used the waters of the centerpiece baptismal fountain to remind us of the importance of the waters of new life throughout scripture: the Spirit of God hovering over the waters of creation, Moses and the red sea and waters in the desert, crossing the Jordan River, and Jesus being nurtured in the water of a womb.

Bishop Ward reminded us of Jesus’ promise: “A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.”

In first person narrative, Bishop Ward powerfully told the story of Ruth as an example of the ways that pain gives way to joy. Ruth means “faithful friend”, but this is really a story about Naomi. All those in the story are upright and good people, and they redeem one another from pain to joy. God overpowers all the darkness of the world to bring us to new life. Our sorrow is seen in a new light.

Naomi’s redemption story shows us that because of God’s *hesed* (faithfulness) that is beyond our expectation, our joy becomes overflowing. The flow of God’s providence is real not a coincidence. It is always unfolding even in the darkest of moments of our lives. There is also the flow of redemption as people who lived good and upright lives redeem themselves from pain as they are engaged in the lives of others. Naomi redeemed Ruth by bringing her to the community of faith. Boaz redeemed Naomi and Ruth

by sharing his resources with them. So in the midst of our sorrows, God calls us again and again to resurrections.

In closing, Bishop Ward shared the story of a church member who was upset that none of the homeless volunteered churches wanted to offer hospitality on Christmas week. So Bishop Ward's church "got Christmas". The volunteer response was overwhelming; all wanted to live out the true joy of the birth of God's homeless, dear Son for the next 15 years.

In response, the congregation rose to sing with deep feeling, "Joy to the World"!

### Plenary Session #4, 11:00 a.m.

The session opened with singing. Bishop Swenson called the session to order.

Sandy Liddell offered a prayer for peace.

Tonya Harris presented the orders of the day. They were approved. She also stated that the Welcoming Task Force and the Agenda Committee would meet today at lunch to find ways the Annual Conference can address the issues from yesterday's motion calling for setting aside a significant amount of time during Annual Conference to discuss the issue of same sex marriage.

#### Courtesies – Susan Juergensen/Linita Moa

- Phil Amerson, former president of the CST, now President of Garrett-Evangelical Seminary brought greetings on behalf of the 13 UM seminaries in the U.S.
- Rev. Eunice Musa Iliya from Nigeria sang "If You Keep Your Life, You Will Lose It", the song she sang at Conference when she came four years ago to study at Claremont School of Theology on a CST Presidential scholarship. She now returns to Nigeria where she will be our feet, hands, eyes, and heart to show God's love to the people of Nigeria.

**Report of Episcopal Ballot.** The Bishop clarified the rules for our endorsement, that the votes are reported in descending order, and anyone who receives more than 50% of the ballots cast shall be a nominee. Bishop can then ask if the body wants to continue to ballot. If one-third of the body wants to continue voting, then the rest of names are read and placed on the next ballot.

In this ballot, 725 voted. 364 needed to elect. Rev. Dr. Grant Hagiya was endorsed as our episcopal candidate. Rev. Dr. Hagiya rose to thank the body for asking him to represent them in this way. It was voted not to continue to ballot. Rev. Hagiya was our sole endorsed Episcopal candidate.

Mary Elizabeth Moore of Claremont UMC, moved to properly declare the first vote yesterday as invalid. Thus, Grant Hagiya would be declared to be elected on the first ballot, which would have happened, had we followed our Conference rules for that ballot. **Motion was supported.**

Nan Self, First UMC Redlands reminded us the Cal-Nevada Conference is also meeting today and will celebrate the retirement of Bishop Beverly Shamana. She suggested we send greetings to Bishop Shamana, and welcome her back to our Annual Conference. **This was approved.**

**Recognition of Conference Staff.** Keith Hwang, Dan Gara, Jan Hanson, Jan Berentsen, and Mark Ulrickson introduced the Conference staff and District support staff (*listed in the Conference Journal, pp. xvii-A-1*).

Andy Mattick spoke about Youth Day tomorrow, and commended Susan Faber for helping this ministry. Bishop spoke to support the "Youth Alive!" event she experienced last winter.

Myron Wingfield noted the Noah's Ark and the quilt on the Bishop's desk. The loss of homes in the San Diego District fire storms last October, led to the formation of an ecumenical group called "Recover San Diego" that held a camp for youth called "Camp Noah". Each child received a blanket to wrap themselves up in that week, to remind them that God's love surrounds them. Parents asked for another Camp Noah!

**Board of Evangelism.** John McFarland, Chair, expressed concern for the loss of 1,000 United Methodists in our Conference last year, and used a mysterious pitcher and bowl to illustrate God's *unlimited* waters of grace. He and the Bishop announced a whole week this fall for prayer, confession, and repentance so that we can know and share God's grace.

**Nominating Committee** - Gilbert Stones. Two persons retire each year from the Leadership Committee. One clergy and one layperson need to be added each year. Nominations will come from the floor, and will be placed on the ballot. Everyone votes for one clergy and one layperson. The Bishop opened the floor for nominations:

Marjorie Suchocki, Layperson, Riverside District  
 Orville Benjamin, Layperson, Long Beach  
 Rev. Nak In Kim, Clergy, Hawaii District  
 Rev. Nestor Gerente, Clergy, Long Beach District  
 Rev. Riley McRae, Clergy, San Diego District  
 Amber Poteete-Marshall, Layperson, Pasadena District  
 Truong Le, Layperson, San Diego District

Nominations were closed by vote.

**Missionaries** - Romeo del Rosario, an active missionary moving from the Philippines to Cambodia, told the history of ministry to Cambodia by the UMC since 1980. Now 140 churches are established. In 2016, the UMC of Cambodia will form. 27 Cambodians were interviewed and appointed as pastors, including women. This ministry is supported by Advanced Specials.

#### **Announcements.**

- Dan Lewis, Conference Co-Secretary reminded the Committee of Investigation and General and Jurisdictional Delegation meetings today.
- Dick Toon asked prayer for Harold and Joan Jones, Conference ushers for many years, and enthusiastic supporters of Heifer Project. Harold passed away this year.
- Bud Wrisley, Board of Pensions invited the body to a discussion meeting during lunch.
- Tom Hogan, Orlando UMC asked us to remember the veterans, and to honor all of those who have passed away.

**Closing Prayer** was offered by Jan Hanson giving honor and thanks to God for those who have gone before us, those who are coming up behind, remembering that each of us has been called to be in this place at this time, to do this work in this way.

### **Special Awards**

During the Missionary Luncheon today, the following churches received awards for their participation as a 2007 Covenant Church in support of Missionaries: Rolling Hills UMC (Long Beach District) was the top giving congregation, donating \$12,600 to support 4 missionaries. Native American Church of Southern California (Santa Ana District) was the highest per member giving church at \$621 per member!

**Plenary Session #5**  
**Thursday Afternoon 2:15 p.m.**

Greg Norton led the session in singing “This Little Light of Mine,” “Siahamba – We are marching in the Light of God” and “I Have a Joy, Joy, Joy Down in my Heart.”

**Connectional Ministries** showed three videos: one of the Katrina Rebuild Project, another of the Recover San Diego work after the October fires, and a third video of an Igniting Ministry commercial.

Conference Lay Leader Ken Ellis thanked all those who participated in the Katrina Rebuild Project. Volunteer team members wore a green t-shirt. Ken reminded us that the crisis was not over.

**Opening Prayer.** LLC Hammond offered a Prayer for Peace.

**Orders of the Day.** Tonya Harris reported that the Agenda Committee met with the Welcoming Task Force to work on adjusting the agenda. The Orders of the Day was presented and approved.

**Courtesies.** Rev. Wesley Neal of the Joint Commission introduced Bishop Jaime Vasquez of the Northwest Conference of the Methodist Church of Mexico to share a few words. Bishop Vasquez gave thanks for the support of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference for the work in Mexico. He thanked God for our partnership. Translation was provided by Debbie Camphouse. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson expressed gratitude to Bishop Vasquez for his help with U.S. Hispanic ministries.

Rev. Bau Dang introduced the Vietnamese pastors serving Methodist churches in Vietnam. They were Rev. Dinh Thiln Tu, Rev. Nguyen Trong Viet of Hanoi, and Rev. Dinh Tan Trong of Ho Chi Min City. Rev. Dang shared that twenty Vietnamese American pastors would be going to Mexico for mission work on Sunday.

**Presentation of Consent Calendar.** Karen Ristine clarified that the items on the Consent Calendar are those which receive 80% for concurrence or non-concurrence at the Legislative Sessions. The following items were requested to be removed from the Consent Calendar. Removal of an item consent calendar required vote of 50 people.

Advanced Specials. **It was removed.**

Board of Pensions Rec. #3. **It was removed.**

Rules Item 2X. **It was removed.**

Personnel Policy No. 3 Housing Task Force. **It was NOT removed.**

**Ballot #3.** Gilbert Stones stated the procedure for nominating persons to the Leadership Team. Each nominee was asked to state their name, age, ethnicity, church involved, and a personal statement.

Bob Stimmel clarified Conference Rules on this vote. He moved that one ballot be taken, the top lay and top clergy persons be elected, and that lay and clergy vote for both categories. **It was approved.**

Each nominee shared their information as requested by the Nominations Committee.

Bishop asked prayers for Don Wilhelm, son of retired Rev. Lee Wilhelm, who was in critical condition in San Pedro resulting from a motorcycle accident. Bishop shared a note from Larry Wayman, a teacher at Barrington High School in Honolulu who expressed joy shared by the school staff regarding Ann Broyles' book, *Pricilla and the Hollyhock*.

Kathy Ledgerwood of El Monte First UMC offered prayer for the balloting, and the ballots were cast.

Bishop Swenson recognized Jo Ann Williams, lay leader of the Pasadena district, seated beside her.

**Point of Personal Privilege.** Dayton Griffin-Sloat announced that Rev. Bill Selby will be coming to the very first California Center for Pastoral Effectiveness on October 1-3 at the Colton UMC. The Bishop highly recommended Bill Selby's work.

**UM Women.** Debbie Haustedt, Conference UMW President, celebrated the Hawaii District as host of the Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial meeting in April, attended by nearly 600 women and a few men. A conch shell was blown to announce that a new Women's Division Director had been elected. Tupou Seini Kelemani from First UMC in Honolulu was welcomed with applause, the first Pacific Islander to serve as Women's Division Director. In the U.S., there are 63 conference and 50 women's division directors. Conference UMW vowed that if 2009 bed nets were purchased through donations to the "Nothing But Nets" campaign, the UMW District Presidents would appear at the next Annual Conference with ORANGE HAIR!

**UM Men.** A uniformed troop of Boy Scouts came on stage with United Methodist Men in white caps as Larry Dozier, Conference President of UMM spoke of his concern for the problems of the world. The UMM can best make a difference by chartering new units. UMM sponsored Meals for Millions, which served 28.2 million meals per year. They funded the Prayer Advocate Line to pray with 36,000 people. "If we can't be there ourselves, our dollars can be there." When a child gets involved with a church, the rest of the family will come 17% of the time, but when a man gets involved first, 93% of the family gets involved in church too.

**Board of Pensions.** Bud Wrisley, Chair proposed that the health care rules that have been distributed be withdrawn for this Annual Conference, and would be brought back next year, after conferring with persons who would have been adversely affected had these rules been adopted. He moved that the "additional cost associated with withdrawing HIP rule changes be billed directly to local churches." He noted there would have been a reduction in cost of \$275,000 dollars had the rules change been put in place, and this would be the amount billed to churches.

Peter Moore-Kochlas responded that the local church was already being billed for these costs. An additional \$300,000 exists within the Conference budget for such an expense.

Mary Elizabeth Moore moved to amend the board's motion "to deliberate further the source for funding the shortfall resulting from the postponement of a revised health plan, including monies available in the conference and donations requested at this Annual Conference, then to report back to this Annual Conference for action a plan that minimize the costs that will be returned to the local church." After discussion and questions, the Bishop called for a standing vote. **The amendment was supported and became the main motion.**

Bob Stimmel of the Rules Committee clarified that there was no need for the original motion, since to pull a proposed change does not affect the current Health Insurance Plan (HIP) Rules. He suggested having Dr. Chan-Hie Kim, Conference Parliamentarian to rule the motion out of order thus discarding all previous discussion. **It was supported.**

Bud Wrisley noted that the intent of the motion was to make the Conference aware of the financial impact of *adopting the rules' changes*.

Bud Wrisley indicated that vice-chair Ken Heflin, *Lee Bothast, Gene Koesler, and Edna Steinman* will be leaving the Board, *and asked that the Conference thank them for their service, which was done.*

Patricia Farris, Santa Monica First UMC “moved to ask the Bishop, with the Cabinet, Conference staff and Leadership Team, to work with the Board of Pensions to bring a proposal on the Board of Pensions Health Insurance Plan’s rules changes back to the next session of the Annual Conference that is comprehensive, compassionate respectful of all those affected by the changes and that builds up the body of our conference.” **It was supported.**

Tom Ziegert, Venice UMC, expressed thanks for the Board of Pensions and their efforts to deal with the “tough stuff” which our whole communities are dealing with.

George Hooper, Personnel Policies Chair, moved the immediate consideration of Proposed Rules Change 2X. He recommended a vote against this Rules change, so that the Board of Pensions can work on this item further.

Bob Stimmel, Rules Committee Chair, affirmed that a vote to suspend the 24-hour rule is needed. **It was supported.**

After a brief break, the Conference Praise Band sang “Walk With Me” to call the body to order.

Rev. Dr. Grant Hagiya, Conference Episcopal Endorsee, presided over the remainder of this plenary.

Ana-Haydée Urda asked permission to pray for the New Director of Ministerios Latinos, Emilio Muller, who was too ill to remain at Annual Conference. She offered prayer in Spanish.

**Connectional Ministries Video.** Bau Dang translated the entire Bible into Vietnamese in 10 years, which is now being distributed in Vietnam. Each Sunday, he prepares for six worship services in English, Spanish, Cambodian, and Vietnamese. Utu Langi started a program in Honolulu, Hawaii to provide mobile shelters in Honolulu, Hawaii, by converting buses into housing and parking them in areas of high concentrations of homeless. Calinga Ministry helps women caught in prostitution in a red light district in the Philippines. They offer classes in reproductive health, and show them love and acceptance. Many turn around their lives, accept Christ, and find alternative sources of income.

Grant Hagiya welcomed Dick Engler, Lay Leader of the Hawaii District, seated at the Bishop’s table this session.

#### **Ballot for Conference Leadership Team.**

Total votes cast 784. There was an election! Lay Person: Amber Poteete-Marshall 252 votes. Clergy: Nak In Kim – 218 votes.

Amber Poteete-Marshall is 21, Young Adult, Caucasian, Walnut UMC and Montebello UMC in the Pasadena district; District Youth & YA rep, Director of Children’s Ministries, Program Director and Manager for Outreach Ministries to 250 Latino youth a year; social-work major at Cal-Poly Pomona; staff for Pasadena Elementary & Senior High camps; Board of Laity, District Superintendency Committee.

Nak In Kim is 57, Korean, Christ UMC in Hawaii District. He has grown every church he has served.

**Orders of Ministry.** John Farley and Debbie Gara introduced the Orders Executive Committee, whose purpose is to feed the souls of the clergy. Grant money is provided for renewal leaves, counseling, and spiritual renewal events.

John encouraged the laity to make sure their pastors to take their weekly day off, and to take their vacation time to ensure effectiveness in their work. He invited young people to stand, who have experienced a tug toward a possibility of full-time ministry. Dozens responded.

Debbie announced John's retiring from the Orders of Ministry after starting it 12 years. John announced that Molly Vetter will take his role next year. He was given a standing ovation.

**Commission Equitable Compensation.** Karen Moore, Chair expressed appreciation for members of the Board. Gary Hart explained the tasks of EC: (1) To propose a salary schedule to be approved at Annual Conference each year and (2) To ensure that every clergy member receives a minimum salary. Randy Johnson expressed the Commission's concern that the salaries of pastors who have been on Equitable Compensation have been much lower than those who were not. We have the third lowest starting salary in the denomination. The new proposal for an increase would enable each *full member serving 20 years* to receive at least a median salary. (*The CEC-MCS, see Rule 6*)

**Committee on Episcopacy** (p. 15 of Preliminary Report) Jan Riley, Chair. This committee's responsibilities are similar to those of the local church Staff-Parish Relations Committee. She introduced Gail Kendall, Wes Davis, and Gary Keene, as the Bishop's support staff. There was a possibility that a new Bishop would be assigned after the Western Jurisdiction meets in July to elect two new bishops. A committee will meet July 19-20 to appoint the bishops. Our bishop could be reassigned to a new location, and we would receive a new bishop for the next four years. In 2012, there will be one less bishop in our Western Jurisdiction. Farewell Parties have been planned for Bishop Swenson if she should leave our Conference: Foothills UMC, SD District, Aug 2; Glendale First, Pasadena District, Sunday, August 3; Honolulu First UMC, August 23.

If Bishop Swenson is reassigned to us, a welcome back party will be held on Sat. Oct., 4, 3-6 p.m. at Pasadena 1<sup>st</sup>. If a new bishop is appointed, this party would become a welcome party for our new bishop.

**Prayer Concern.** Rev. Robert Smith prayed for Nicole Leubrun, a young adult member of Faith UMC in South LA who will participate in the Global Justice Volunteer program. She will be going to Freetown, Sierra Leone. Many have donated the \$22,000 for this mission. She leaves tomorrow, and asked Robert Smith to convey her thanks.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson returned to preside during the remainder of the plenary.

**Conference Council on Finance and Administration.** Wayne Moore moved the adoption of the following items of the 2009 Budget (green sheet in Arrival packet):

- a) World Service Funds and Conference Benevolences: \$5,376,486. **Approved.**
- b) Ministerial Support Budget \$3,238,061. **Approved.**
- c) Administration Budget of \$3,438,307. **Approved.**
- d) Recommendation #4: Other Apportioned Benevolences. **Approved.**
- e) Special Days and Causes (Preliminary Report, p. 23) \$207,000. **Approved.**

**Items Not on Consent Calendar** - Karen Ristine. The follow items would be considered in future Plenary Sessions, if they were not removed from the Orders of the Day.

- #08-12 "Support US Troops"
- Advance Specials
- Board of Pensions Rec. #3

**Resolution #08-3 v. 1** "Distribution of the Jubilee Fund" (Prelim. Report p. 64 & 66) Judy Cobb of the Jubilee Fund Committee stated that the Committee does not support this Resolution. Following speeches for and against, the vote was taken. **Resolution was supported.**

**#08-1 Alternative Plan for Distribution of the Jubilee Fund.** Chair ruled this motion out of order in light of the previous vote.

**#08-7 “Against Criminalizing Homelessness” (Arrival Packet).** Tom Zeigert offered a friendly amendment from his legislative section to strike the last “whereas”, since this situation affected many more cities. He also suggested editorial changes. **Changes were supported.** Following discussion the Bishop called for the vote. **It was supported.**

**#08-9 “Immigration and Customs Enforcement”** to end raids on immigrants in the U.S. and to work for fair immigration laws. Following debate, Bishop called for the vote. **It was supported.**

**#08-12 “Support U.S. Troops”** (Distributed on the floor) was tabled for a future plenary in order to conclude our Orders of the Day.

**Welcoming Task Force.** Scott Imler, Chair, stated that their task force was formed to provide a means of dialoging about the appropriate UM response to the new California law that allows same sex marriages. He offered prayer for this process, and then introduced Mary Elizabeth Moore, who assisted in crafting the process.

Purpose is three-fold: 1) Open ourselves to God’s Spirit; 2) Open ourselves to one another with compassion and respect; 3) Discern how to faithfully respond to God and the people in our communities in this time.

**“Process for Reflection on Faithful Ministry”**

Friday afternoon – Facing the faces in our communities.

Saturday morning – Sharing in Wesley Circles (will be extended 35 minutes)

Early Saturday afternoon – Hearing samples from Wesley Circles

Late Saturday afternoon – Reflecting and acting on resolutions

Sunday morning – Commissioning our Welcoming Task Force for the coming year.

Facing the Faces began with a moment of silent breath prayer. Six people had been asked to share their personal stories, with 2 minutes each to speak: Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Jim Hill, Gaunnie Dixon, John McFarland, Kathy Cooper-Ledesma, and Nelson Castorillo

Taylor Dodd of Conference Council on Youth Ministries, announced a money raiser for “Nothing But Nets” with goal of \$10,000 to send 1,000 nets. Westlake Village UMC has already raised money for 130 nets.

Bishop announced there will be a Clergy Session on Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

Paul Elkins, Conference Youth member, offered the prayer of Benediction and Sending Forth.

**Retirement Worship Service  
Friday Evening 7:30 p.m.**

Rev. Greg Norton played a beautiful prelude entitled, “Introduction and Menuet” from Suite Gothique. The processional hymn was “God Whose Love is Reigning O’er Us.” Rev. Diane Rehfield read the Call to Celebration which was adapted from Psalm 134, which was followed by the reading of Psalm 30: 3-5 read by Rev. Dr. Gordon Marchant.

**Offering.** Rev. Keith Hwang explained that UMCOR stands for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Our Annual Conference is still receiving help from UMCOR to assist those who suffered from last year’s wild fires in our Conference. When disaster strikes outside of the U.S., natural or human made disaster, UMCOR is usually the primary channel of aid to ease human suffering. 100% of every dollar you give goes directly to giving relief and recovery to those who need it most. During the offering, our very own California-Pacific Conference Center Choir sang a moving rendition of “Go Tell Everyone.”

**Prayer of Dedication** was given by Bishop Swenson.

**Words of Affirmation.** Bishop Swenson remarked that tonight we would celebrate and honor the witness of these brothers and sisters who served faithfully the call that God had given them. We cannot measure their ministry in numbers, but if we did they would add up to: 655 Years of Service, 157,000 church dinners, 825,000 or more sermons preached, uncountable committee meetings, and an immeasurable influence in ministry.

Some of these retiring pastors began their work before there was e-mail, iPods, or faxes. In those days “apple” was just a fruit, gas was 29 cents a gallon, music could only be heard on vinyl records, movies could only be seen in a theater and a pastoral call was a house visit and not an online chat!

Some served during times of desegregation, Vietnam, the end of apartheid, the collapse of the Berlin Wall, when Nine-One-One became 9/11, and before we walked on the moon.

They had a variety of ministries... extension ministries, teaching, seminaries, missionaries, etc. They held our hands, prayed for us, hugged us, challenged us, preached to us, shared joy with us, and embodied Christ for us. Wherever they were, God partnered with them to create holy moments. The holy moments were timeless moments. Though some may not remember it all, God always remembers. Lives were transformed, people healed, and the divine kingdom made possible. Thanks be to God for these who retire this year.

**Presentation of Retiring Clergy** - Rev. Diane Rehfield. The retiring clergy each shared a few words of thanks and appreciation between congregational singing of “For All the Saints,” led by the Conference Choir.

**Retiring Clergy:** Sara Louise Armstrong, Kathleen Taylor Binder, Nettie Jorinda Bullitt, Terry Lee Bushart, Robert O. Calderhead, Charles William Dobbs, Judy Lunceford Flanegin, William M. Hill, Afrie Songco Joye, So Young Jung, Misipati Karapani, Barbara S. Kilgore, John R. Kilgore, Paul Yoon Moon Kim, Joseph Wonmoon Lee, Osmond A. Lindo, Sr., Fred G. Overby, José Luis Palacios Bravo, Robert Preston Price, III, Juan Nalundasan Riingen, Consorcia A. Sanchez, Paul Wesley Scharer, Leon David Strand, Robert E. Underwood, and Robert J. Wagener.

Rev. Fred Overby passed the legacy to Rev. Karen Tannheimer, who received the legacy. The closing hymn was “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Rev. Mary Hollifield closed with the benediction and Rev. Greg Norton played “Fanfare” by William Mathias as the organ postlude.

## **Consent Calendar for Saturday, June 21, 2008**

### **For Concurrence**

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

#### **Recommendations**

Equitable compensation standards (p. 16-21) **98%**

Board of Pensions Recommendation #1 Past Service Rate (p. 39) **100%**

Board of Pensions Recommendation #2 2009 Funding Plan for Supplement One (p. 39) **100%**

Board of Pensions Recommendation #4 Comprehensive Protection Plan (p. 40-41) **99%**

Board of Pensions Recommendation #5 UM Personal Investment Plan (p. 41-42) **100%**

Board of Pensions Recommendation #6 Rental/Housing Allowance (p. 42) **100%**

Personnel Policy Committee Recommendation #1 2009 Salary Ranges (p.43) **98.5%**

Personnel Policy Committee Recommendation #2 Staff Salary Increases for 2009 (p. 43) **91.5%**

Personnel Policy Committee Recommendation #3 DS Housing Task Force (Arrival) **100%**  
Rules Committee Item #1 Holidays (p. 45) **100%**  
Rules Committee Item #4 Individual Treatment of District Admin. Assts. (p. 48) **100%**  
Rules Committee Item #5 Evaluation & Supervision of District Admin. Asst. (p. 48) **100%**  
Rules Committee Item #6 CEC – Median Cash Salary (p. 48-49) **98%**  
Rules Committee Item #7 Conference Hispanic Committee (Arrival) **94%**

**Resolutions**

Recommendation 08-1 Conference Relocation Task Force (Arrival) **100%**  
Resolution 08-2 Availability of full paper copies of Conference Journal (p. 63) **86%**  
Resolution 08-4 Local Congregation Global Warming (Arrival) **92%**  
Resolution 08-5 Human Rights – Philippines (Arrival) **96%**

**For Non-concurrence**

Resolution 08-8 Military Aid to the Philippines (Arrival) **94%**

---

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women is once again monitoring our Annual Conference Session. To assist our monitors in this process, when speaking on the floor of Conference, please remember to clearly state your name, your church, and whether you are clergy, lay, youth or young adult.

## Saturday, June 21, 2008

### **Morning Bible Study 8:30 a.m.**

Theme: “Parable of the Sower”

Summary: Joy arises from the confidence that God will bring a great harvest from the seeds that fall on good soil.

Good morning! The Conference Praise Band set the theme of today’s Bible study by leading our singing of “Seed Scattered and Sown” and “Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)”.

Our Bishop Mary Ann Swenson joyfully greeted the body and affirmed our Bible study leader, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward. Gary Keene, Bishop’s Assistant, presented a gift to remember us by, a red and gold plaque expressing our appreciation for Bishop Ward’s presence at the 2008 Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference.

Bishop Ward presented Bishop Swenson with a pedometer! In Mississippi, the churches fry everything except the iced tea. So, the Annual Conference began a health program giving pedometers to hundreds of pastors. In one month, they lost a combined total of 1,000 pounds and dropped 2,000 blood pressure points!

Bishop Ward reflected on the day three years ago when the tsunami hit Mississippi, washing away 27 United Methodist churches, and damaging 240 others. She thanked the volunteer work teams from our Conference who helped rebuild homes the past two summers. United Methodists have resolved to continue doing the work until all Mississippians can return to their homes.

Bishop Ward led the singing of “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”, interspersed with readings from Mark 4, and then led an opening prayer.

Each spring, she and her four siblings and two parents formed an effective “seed planting unit” on their family farm. Each one had their own special task according to age. As her daddy’s family grew, he made bigger and bigger dining room tables, so the children and grandchildren could all eat the garden bounty together. Growth happened after the good seed had grown in the good soil.

She asked, “How do we live between the planting and the harvest? The biblical technique of planting was different from today. We only plant seeds in good soil, but the Sower in Jesus’ parable flings the seed, and it falls on rocky, thorny, and hard soil, as well as on good soil.

In the church we only want to plant in soil (people) who are “good”, or in other words, people who are “like us”. One church’s Worship Committee discussed having a baccalaureate service for the one senior of their church who was born and raised in their church. Other committee members suggested adding other seniors whom they knew. After ten names were enthusiastically received, a bad thing happened. A member of the committee said, “If we start, where will it end?”

In the end, the committee came out in a better place. They wrote invitations to the ten seniors to come to the baccalaureate service with careful instructions of where to meet and what to wear. During the procession the congregation raised their eyebrows as if to ask, “Who are these people?” One predicted that we’d never see any of these young people again. But that week, each graduate or family wrote letters of thanks, and some came to visit church, and many stayed in contact with the church for years and years.

The next year the Worship Committee was planning an All Saints Sunday to remember those who had died the past year. One asked why they should only remember church members who had lost loved ones. Why not list all those in the community whom we know who have lost loved ones? Again, the bad thing happened, and the question came, “Where will it end?” But in the end the decision was made to invite anyone in the circles of home, work, and community they could think of and invite them to come for this time of remembrance. From that point on All Saints Sunday became a high attendance Sunday!

It is a good thing to turn out toward the world in a way that is winsome, caring, and inviting. Some seed may fall in rocks or thorns, but some will fall in good soil

Bishop Ward concluded with the story of a troubled youth named Micah. While serving 80 community service hours for breaking into the church, Bishop Ward told him he had a beautiful name. He was surprised, then asked what the prophet Micah said. She gave him a “heart verse” of Micah 6:8, “What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God”. He folded it carefully and put it in his jeans. She has often wondered what became of that slip of paper. It may have been thrown out, but they will always have that moment of encounter, when Micah learned what he could be.

We never know what will happen to the seeds that we sow, but we can always trust that God will give the growth beyond the walls of our church, if we only give God space for grace.

**Plenary Session #6**  
**11:00 a.m.**

Bishop Charles W. Jordan, substituting for Bishop Swenson, called the session to order. Monalisa Siefle came forward to offer the Prayer for Peace. Tonya Harris presented the Orders of the Day, with one addition – a reminder from the Conference Secretary. It was approved.

Dan Lewis, Conference Co-Secretary, clarified the process for speaking from the conference floor and making motions. He also provided check-out information.

Bishop Jordan recognized Judy Cobb, outgoing Lay Leader for the Santa Ana District, who sat next to Dan Lewis.

**Courtesies.** Sarah Wilke, CEO of UM Reporter Communications strongly urged the Conference to participate in the dialogue: “We need your voice.” She encouraged local churches to bring people into the connection through the UM Portal website: [www.umportal.org](http://www.umportal.org). Local church news can be shared with the denomination and vice-versa.

Jim Conn, Director of New Ministries, recalled the Los Angeles Riots of 1992. During the riots, leaders from the Cal-Pac Annual Conference were at the General Conference. Our GC delegates urged the General Conference to respond to the incident. The response created the Shalom Ministries.

Jim introduced Michael Christensen, Director of the National Shalom at Drew University. Michael quoted Jeremiah 29:7 where it says, “Seek the Shalom of the city where I have sent you and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its Shalom, you will find your Shalom.” Shalom is a grassroots work of the community to build up the community. There are 78 Shalom Ministries in the world. Pico Union is the mother of the Shalom zone. Shalom Zone training is offered at Drew University.

Isaiah “Dayo” Dada, member of the British church and pastor in Nigeria, expressed gratitude to all those in the Conference and the Claremont School of Theology for the support he received during this stay in the U.S. Many have become family to him. He leaves in September, not only with the education, but with his cup overflowing with love.

**Point of Personal Privilege.** Bishop Jordan read a special request to recognize and give special prayer for the family of Chris Bolaji of Bellflower UMC. His mother Abigail passed away in Nigeria at age 90.

Randy Johnson asked for the appropriate time to provide corrections to the UM Daily. Dan Lewis stated that instructions for corrections are printed at the end of the UM Daily.

Frank Trotter, Pasadena 1<sup>st</sup>, **moved** that the Cal-Pac Conference urge the Council of Bishops and the General Board of Pensions to develop a comprehensive policy to address the issue of portability within the United Methodist Church. **It was adopted.**

Dan Gara, Conference Treasurer, **moved** that the Board of Pensions bring back to the 2009 Annual Conference the proposals brought to this Annual Conference with revisions, as necessary, after consultation with the Leadership Team, the Cabinet, and other parties submitting written concerns to the three groups. **It is supported.**

Bishop Jordan recognized a milestone in the church. Ferro Neputi from Guam was the first Shamaro delegate in the history.

**Board of Camping, Outdoor, and Retreat Ministries.** Paul Cogger and Sam Yun bore witness that the cup is overflowing one camper at a time. By the numbers, the finance had improved by 72% and this year they hoped to have a balanced budget. Also in 2007, there was an 18.8% increase in UM camper usage. All camps have been experiencing reconstruction and improved maintenance. For the full report, please refer to the Preliminary Report p.4. In conclusion, Sam pleaded for four things from the local church: (1) Prayers, prayers, prayers, especially for the volunteers and the campers; (2) Identify a camping retreat advocate in every local church; (3) Log onto [www.calpaccamps.org](http://www.calpaccamps.org) often to see what is happening; (4) Partner with camps financially.

**Consent Calendar.** Karen Ristine moved to accept the Consent Calendar. **It was approved.**

### Consent Calendar

#### For Concurrence

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

#### **Recommendations**

Equitable compensation standards (p. 16-21) **98%**  
 Board of Pensions Recommendation #1 Past Service Rate (p. 39) **100%**  
 Board of Pensions Recommendation #2 2009 Funding Plan for Supplement One (p. 39) **100%**  
 Board of Pensions Recommendation #4 Comprehensive Protection Plan (p. 40-41) **99%**  
 Board of Pensions Recommendation #5 UM Personal Investment Plan (p. 41-42) **100%**  
 Board of Pensions Recommendation #6 Rental/Housing Allowance (p. 42) **100%**  
 Personnel Policy Committee Recommendation #1 2009 Salary Ranges (p.43) **98.5%**  
 Personnel Policy Committee Recommendation #2 Staff Salary Increases for 2009 (p. 43) **91.5%**  
 Personnel Policy Committee Recommendation #3 DS Housing Task Force (Arrival) **100%**  
 Rules Committee Item #1 Holidays (p. 45) **100%**  
 Rules Committee Item #4 Individual Treatment of District Admin. Assts. (p. 48) **100%**  
 Rules Committee Item #7 Evaluation & Supervision of District Admin. Asst. (p. 48) **100%**  
 Rules Committee Item #8 CEC – Median Cash Salary (p. 48-49) **98%**  
 Rules Committee Conference Hispanic Committee (Arrival) **94%**

#### Resolutions

Recommendation 08-1 Conference Relocation Task Force (Arrival) **100%**  
 Resolution 08-2 Availability of full paper copies of Conference Journal (p. 63) **86%**  
 Resolution 08-4 Local Congregation Global Warming (Arrival) **92%**  
 Resolution 08-5 Human Rights – Philippines (Arrival) **96%**

#### For Non-concurrence

Resolution 08-8 Military Aid to the Philippines (Arrival) **94%**

\*\*\*\*

Terry Van Hook **moved** to direct the Commission on Religion & Race to provide materials for dealing with racism in political campaigns (through the website and e-mail) within the next 30 days. **It was supported.**

**Conference Lay Leader's Address.** Ken Ellis offered his report. He spoke of the joy of being present at another Annual Conference. He spoke also about how the "cup has overflowed" with love as they have ministered at Camp Gulfside, victims of Hurricane Katrina. He read from Acts 1: 6-8. He called us all to

be witnesses to our churches, our communities, and beyond, even including our own “Samaritans.” He led the session in a reaffirmation of our vows of membership.

**Point of Personal Privilege.** Rick Malec requested prayer for J.T. Greenleaf’s co-lay leader, Roberta Fawlklin, who was taken to the Loma Linda Hospital for extreme dizziness.

Faaagi Taufete’e closed the Plenary with prayer.

### **Youth Worship Service Saturday, 2:00 p.m.**

Greetings from Susan Faber, consultant for Conference Youth and Young Adult ministry.

She celebrates the very active Conference Council on Young Adults Board, resourced by Angelica Greenleaf. Their retreats have grown in number with every beach, fall, and ski retreat. Hawaii District is hosting the upcoming Young Adult Convention which already has a registration of 70+.

Conference Youth programs this year included “Spirit Quest”, a junior high camp, and “Youth Alive!” in February at the Riverside Convention Center. Thanks to Catherine Caroline for leading this event, and to the Bishop and the extended cabinet for attending to see the marvelous youth and their leaders in action! The stained glass windows on the stage today were made by the youth at “Youth Alive”.

Susan Faber expressed appreciation that our Conference continues to honor youth by having them lead worship at Annual Conference, since not every Annual Conference does this!

Camille Mattick, Conference Youth Coordinator, was introduced and thanked for her hard work organizing this Youth Day at Annual Conference. She was also being commissioned as a probationary member tonight!

Every year the Conference Youth Council gives a **Susana Wesley Scholarship** to a graduating senior. This year \$500 awards were given to Sara Gonzales of First UMC of Ventura and to Pearl Fernando of First UMC, Reseda who will attend UC Davis. A \$1,000 scholarship was given to Taylor Underwood, who had been involved on every level of CCYM, including serving on the Conference Design Team.

The “**Youth Worker of the Year**” award was given to Pat King. She leads the UMYF Council, prepares the weekly lesson, and cooks the dinner, to fashion a youth program, which includes foster youth and youth recovering from violence. She drives youth to Urban Kids Camp and other Conference Events. She even left her job, so that she could give back more! She is a loving and down to earth faithful disciple of Christ. She was greeted with wild applause and a big smile!

**Gathering Music.** The Youth Worship Service began quietly and reflectively with the song, “Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”, followed by the upbeat “How Can I Keep from Singing from Singing Your Praise”.

**Call to Worship** was led by Brooke Howard, President of Conference Council on Youth Ministries, of Santa Margarita UMC

**Opening Prayer** was led by Mille Faber of Fullerton First UMC, Santa Ana District

**Songs of Praise** “Nothing But the Blood”/”Hosanna”

**Scripture Reading** I Thessalonians 5: 16-18 was read by Olivia La Salle of Los Altos UMC of Long Beach in the Long Beach District

**Message** “Joyful Minds” by Hope Hutchinson.

*Hope is the daughter of Richard Bentley and Ruth Hutchinson. She teaches Sunday School at Alhambra First UMC, and has completed her first year on the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, serving as its secretary. Passion for social justice helps us be the true church.*

Hope pointed out that St. Paul’s advice, “Be joyful always”, spells out how God wants us to live, but how can we be joyful always? She gave many personal examples of how having joy is a choice you make to change your negative thinking. Our mind is a powerful tool God gave us, to change our lives for the better, to follow God’s call, and to live our lives joyfully.

**Song of Praise** “Savior King”

**Scripture Reading** – Matthew 7: 7-9 was read by Ian Clardy from First UMC of Fullerton, Santa Ana District

**Message** “Joyful Doors” by Viliami Koli

*One of two middle schoolers on CCYM, Viliami, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, joined CCYM after enjoying Youth Day last year at Conference. He brings a wonderful sense of openness and freshness.*

A closed door is a barrier and represents fear. The joyful door is an open door, a symbol of people who have opened their hearts to Christ. The joyful door is his church where he has joy as he helps feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. Whoever walks into the joyful door at his church encounters the One God and Savior Jesus Christ. There is a blessing in God’s presence. Don’t we need this!

**Anthem** – “Every Season” solo by Katie Perry of First UMC of Fullerton, Santa Ana District

**Scripture Reading** – Psalm 100: 1-2 was read by Dean Contreras, lay member from Westwood UMC.

**Message** “Joyful Heart” by Alicia Dominique Suddoth

*Alicia is from St. Mark’s UMC, Los Angeles in the Los Angeles District. She will be a senior at Los Angeles Honors High School. She has attended the Global Gathering in South Africa and has served on the General Board of Discipleship for several years.*

The joy we express causes happiness, and comes from God. The loving heart is a joyful heart. When you have joy, you see things from a different perspective. A person with a sincere joyful heart does a lot, but expects nothing in return. A selfish heart makes for unhappiness. A joyful heart shows gratitude. Her pastor, LLC Hammond once said, “Don’t focus on someone else’s gift, because you may miss out on your own gift.” When you are having a difficult time, think of the things that give you joy and turn the frown upside down to make it a smile

**Offering** was taken for the “Nothing But Nets” mission program to prevent malaria in Africa. Taylor Underwood challenged us to raise \$10,000. The youth have already raised \$5,000!

**Offering Prayer** was given by Ben Weiss of First UMC of Riverside in the Riverside District

**Offertory** - “Joy” by Newsboys interpreted by the Santa Margarita Liturgical Dancers

**Scripture Reading** – Psalms 30: 7-12 was read by Moulton Tuuholoaki, of the Long Beach District

**Message** “Joyful Me” by Taylor Underwood

*18-year-old Taylor wanted to be a part of CCYM to learn more about the connectional ministries of the church. Serving for the past 6 months as CCYM Vice President, he exuded a heart for ministry, shared laughter, did the tasks he was given, and provided great help with “Youth Alive”.*

There are many opportunities to have joy in our lives, and it is important to focus on the joy inside of us. In high school he has grown to become a joyful person. He asks, “Where does the joy in me come from?” There are days when joy doesn’t seem possible. We could ask God for an instant solution, but sometimes we have to find our own solution. When he was applying for college, after four rejections he entered a void of frustration, anger, and hopelessness. His family and church assured him “God always has a plan”. In the end, through his joyful, positive attitude when visiting the university, an impressed admissions counselor personally advocated for him to be taken off the wait list to enter in the fall. His cell phone rang with the news as he entered the gates of Disneyland, and Taylor danced with joy all the way down Main Street! God indeed has a plan, and joy is a gift from God.

**Benediction** was given by Andrew Hill

**Song of Praise** “God of This City”

*The Youth Worship Service Praise Band who led the music was formed by members of various Korean United Methodist Churches in Los Angeles. Members are: Ranier Kim, Edward Park, Heidi Kim, Dan Chae, and Daniel Ahn.*

## **Plenary Session #7 Saturday Afternoon**

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson called the Plenary to order at 3:35pm. She welcomed Joy Fuller back on stage to provide “Holy Humor” as the body was gathering in the Chapel.

Bishop Swenson asked Cindy Abrams to offer the Prayer for Peace and included a blessing for Eunice Musa Iliya who was returning to Nigeria. The Bishop recognized Wilma Ryder, Lay Leader of the Long Beach District.

**Orders of the Day.** Agenda Chair Tonya Harris moved the Orders of the Day. It was approved.

**Connectional Ministries.** A video of the Aerobics Ministry of the Baldwin Park UMC was shown. Tonia and Rafael Rios, community developers shared the vision of the ministry and how it reaches out to the community. Another video displayed the ministry of The Bridge at First Church Santa Monica. Bridge Fellowship, a young adult study group, meets every Wednesday to study and discuss various books and the Bible, led by the members and enjoying fellowship together.

Bishop Swenson recognized the Bishop Daniel Romero, retired pastor for the United Church of Christ, who was invited to be an ecumenical presence to join in the ordination worship service. Bishop Romero, who is a lawyer working on Immigration Law, greeted the body and affirmed the importance of the ecumenical Christian voice today on issues of peace and justice, which is needed more than ever.

**Courtesies.** Peggy Hallock, manager of the Pasadena Cokesbury Store, greeted the assembly and offered Bishop Swenson a t-shirt. Cokesbury is part of the United Methodist Publishing House. She recommended the “Feast of fruitful congregations”, and pre-orders for the new *Book of Discipline and Resolutions* (free postage). She was happy to present to the Bishop a \$13,137 check made out to the California-Pacific Annual Conference. Dan Gara, Conference Treasurer explained that all of this money was designated for the Central Conference Initiative, to fund pensions around the world, many of whom have no pension whatsoever.

Mary Elizabeth Moore brought greetings from Candler School of Theology. She expressed joy for the various ways Candler School of Theology is working to empower the church. She emphasized that Candler is re-envisioning leadership for a hope-filled future. She also reminded the body how our apportionment monies support all 13 United Methodist Seminaries.

Won-Kie Kim, Western Jurisdiction Korean Methodist Church Mission Superintendent, expressed deep appreciation for the care and leadership provided for the various Korean ministries and congregations in the Western Jurisdiction. They are developing start-up ministries and nurturing Korean congregations in their tradition in 37 congregations in the Western Jurisdiction, of which 21 are within Cal-Pac. He thanked the various ways the Conference has been of support.

**Point of Personal Privilege.** Ken Heflin expressed appreciation to the Board of Pensions' staff persons. He also invited the body to express appreciation for the hard work of the officers and workers of the Pensions' Office. Ken also recognized the dedication of the chair and expressed primary gratitude for the work of Bud Wrisley, the outgoing chair of the Board of Pensions. He also announced that Ken McMillan would be the new chair of the board.

**Welcoming Task Force.** Mary Elizabeth Moore thanked the body for their reflections in the Wesley Circles this morning. She explained the next phase in the process of discussing the ruling from the Supreme Court regarding same-sex marriages. Scott Imler shared that the responses from the Wesley Circles were very heartfelt. He and the Bishop read several of the responses from the Circles. Mary Elizabeth invited three persons from the body to share their various perspectives on the questions before us. She invited the body to listen to these persons with open minds and open hearts: Jim Hill, North Clairemont UMC, Cherrye Cunnigan, Magnolia Park UMC, and Ed Hansen, retired.

The body was then instructed to turn to one neighbor and share their experiences of ministry, followed by silent prayer, and singing, "Here in This Place".

**General Conference Video** showed some highlights of worship, preaching, and the wide diversity of delegates from around the world. Some changes included: Reducing the number of Bishops by 2012, hymnal revision and a development of an African songbook, and to reconstitute who may be authorized for sacrament.

**Welcoming Task Force Reflection and Discernment.** Mary Elizabeth Moore reminded us that we have different views on things. How are we going to respond faithfully and pastorally to the Supreme Court ruling the past week? Several responses from the body were expressed and read by Scott Imler and Bishop Swenson.

Jim Conn affirmed the way the discussion had been framed. He noted that the issue of these discussions is NOT about the morality or the theology around homosexuality. He reminded the body that five years ago, the Cal-Pac Conference decided to be a welcoming Conference. In other words, we would not be on the side of homosexuality, nor would we be on the side of old standards. We love and welcome all people.

The issue before us now is, "How do we as a church respond to the action of the Supreme Court stating that this was a civil rights issue for gays and lesbians?" "How do we respond as congregations to this civil rights' issue, rather than the issue of immorality, ethics, biology, philosophy of homosexuality?"

Diane Rehfield, chair of Board of Ordained Ministry, spoke to the question of "What is the church going to do?" by sharing her story of her daughter, a lesbian. If one day she would ask her mother to perform a marriage ceremony for herself and her partner, what would happen to Diane if she did this?

Two other persons also shared their personal experiences from the floor.

Mary Elizabeth Moore offered prayer and the body sang “Hear Our Prayer.”

**Items Not on Consent Calendar:**

**Resolution 08-14 v.1 “Pastoral Response to Legality of Same-Gender Marriage in California”**

As part of our Holy Conferencing Rules, Mark Ulrickson invited the body to show respect for one another by refraining from applause during the debate.

After the minimum number of alternating speeches for and against the resolution had been reached, the Bishop called for the question (whether the body was ready to vote). **It was supported.** She called for the vote on the resolution. **It was supported.**

Preston Price noted that his understanding of the Welcoming Task Force’s work might include discussion pertaining to how clergy in our church may be able to come up with alternative means of wedding unions.

**Announcements:**

Clergy Special Session will meet tomorrow at 8:05 a.m. instead of at 8:15 a.m. with the Plenary # 8 at 8:30 a.m. instead of at 9:00 a.m.

Richard Bentley moved to change the agenda schedule for Sunday. Clergy session would begin at 8:05 and Plenary would begin at 8:30. **It was supported.**

Richard Bentley moved to suspend the rule and limit two speeches for and two speeches against legislative resolutions. **It was supported.**

Jim Standiford closed the Plenary at 5:45 p.m. with prayer.

**The Ordering of Ministry Worship Service  
Saturday Evening, 7:00 p.m.**

**Prelude.** Ty Woodward, organist, played “Sonata No. 4 in B flat” by Felix Mendelssohn.

**Processional Hymn.** “Lift High the Cross”

**Call to Worship.** Phyllis Ashe and William Hitt led the congregation in the Call to Worship.

**Introductions.** Bishop Mary Ann Swenson introduced Bishop Charles Jordan and Bishop Daniel Romero to the congregation before introducing Bishop Hope Morgan Ward of the Mississippi Annual Conference to be our preacher for the evening.

**Scripture Lessons.** Linda Robison read Psalm 27: 13 and Galatians 5: 22-23 in English and Yuko Uesugi read the passages in Japanese.

**Sermon – “Joy Overflowing”**

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward reminded the congregation and the candidates that we have all fallen into the goodness of the Lord. This is a holy place and a holy moment, thus we give thanks for it. She told a story of a pastor who reaffirmed the call to ministry on the very same day he decided to quit. In the midst

of ministering to a crying child, he faced his powerlessness, but experienced the grace that comes from God. She also told of an experience of meeting a leper during a mission trip in the Amazon. At the end of the visit, she asked what gift he would like for his hospitality and he requested a pair of binoculars to see beyond his own cot, in order to look past ourselves. Bishop Ward challenged the candidates to see their true calling in ministry overshadowed by God's grace, so much so that they themselves disappear. How good it is to be able to disappear in the stream of the goodness of God.

**Prayer Response to the Sermon.** Bill Johnson led the congregation in singing a musical version of the Lord's Prayer, arranged by Al Oppenheimer.

**Offering.** Andrew Hill of Grace UMC in Los Angeles announced that the evening's offering will go to the Conference Young People's Endowment Fund. Lee Carlile offered the Prayer of Dedication. Greg Norton led the Annual Conference Choir in singing the offertory, "Spirit Now Live in Me" by Leech, arranged by Bock.

**Presentation of Candidates.** Diane Rehfield presented the candidates:

Commissioning for the Order of Deacon – Camille Mattick

Commissioning for the Order of Elder – Stephen Kim, Sunyoung Lee, Siosaia Tu'itahi, Sung Joseph Yoo

Ordination as an Elder in Full Connection - Phyllis K. Ashe, Lee Ann Carlile, William H. Hitt, Mary J. Hollifield, Linda Hansen Robison, Karen Ann Tannheimer, Yuko Uesugi

Recognition of Orders from another denomination – Gordon W. Marchant

**Laying On of Hands.** Bishops Charles Jordan, Hope Morgan Ward, Daniel Romero, and Mary Ann Swenson asked the candidates the disciplinary questions. Family and friends stood in support of the Ordinands as the Bishops laid hands on them.

**Dismissal with Blessing.** Bishop Mary Ann Swenson

**Recessional Hymn** "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

**Postlude** "Final" from Symphony No. 1 by Louis Vierne

## Jurisdictional Pool Nominees

### General Conference Delegates

Clergy: Molly Vetter, Bau Dang, Grant Hagiya, Mary Elizabeth Moore, Patricia Farris

Laity Ken Ellis, Larry Hygh, JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto, Dan Gara, Mele Maka

Asian American: Lily Villamin (clergy), Woong-Min Kim (clergy)

African American: Cedrick Bridgeforth (clergy), Charlene Zuill (clergy)

Hispanic American: Leah Switzer (lay), Ana-Haydée Urda (lay)

Native American: Winnie James (lay)

Pacific Islander: Fuimaono Lauolefiso Aliifuo (lay), Poese Vatikani (lay)

Clergy: Frank Wulf, Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Mark Ulrickson, Nestor Gerente, Mark Feldmeir

Laywomen: Eva Thai, Debbie Haustedt

Laymen: Steve Harbison, Orville Benjamin

Youth: (13-16 yrs. at present): Viliami Koli, Millie Faber

Young Adults (17-30 yrs. at present): Angelica Greenleaf (lay), Jenee Elkins (lay), Candie Odell (lay),

Paul Elkins (lay)

Older Adults: Norma Kehrberg (lay)

Persons with Disabilities: Diana Elizabeth Jordan (lay), Mary Larson (lay), Lupita Alonso-Redondo (clergy)

7 clergywomen  
8 clergymen  
9 laymen  
14 laywomen  
7 Asian-Americans  
5 African-Americans  
3 Hispanic Americans  
1 Native American  
4 Pacific Islanders  
18 Caucasians

---

### IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION Legislation Status Update

The Annual Conference Parliamentarian, Chan-Hie Kim, retired, requested that Bishop Mary Ann Swenson rule out of order Petition #08-2 Opposing Same-Sex Marriage and Ordaining Gay Pastors. Here is the text of his request:

“This petition is actually a resolution asking that not we, the California-Pacific Conference, but the Holtville UMC petition our Annual Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, and General Conference to put to rest the issue surrounding homosexuality. Consequently it is impossible for us to take any action on this petition. Bishop, I request that you declare this motion out of order.”

Bishop Swenson concurred with his request.

## Sunday, June 22, 2008

### Clergy Session #2

Bishop Swenson called the Clergy Session to order at 8:10 am.

Derek Nakano gave the opening prayer.

Diane Rehfield, Board of Ordained Ministry chair, reminded the body that during this session only the Disciplinary Questions regarding the Administrative Review would be addressed. Kathey Michelle Wilborn led the session's business.

Preston Price made an inquiry.

Kathey Michelle Wilborn moved the *discontinuance* of Patty Hodges by personal request. **It was approved.**

Rev. Wilborn moved for the *discontinuance* of Song Jacob Sohn made by personal written request. **It was approved.**

Rev. Wilborn moved the *discontinuance* of Ruy Mizuki, who had timed out.

Preston Price, chair of the Administrative Review Committee reported that the Committee had found no errors in the process of the removal of Ruy Mizuki.

**It was approved to remove Ruy Mizuki.**

Rev. Wilborn moved the *discontinuance* of Kyu Woo Nam. **It was approved.**

Preston Price, chair of the Administrative Review Committee reported that the Committee had found no errors in the process of the removal of Kyu Woo Nam.

**It was approved to remove Kyu Woo Nam**

Rev. Wilborn moved the *discontinuance* Flora Obayashi Wayman.

Preston Price, chair of the Administrative Review Committee reported that the Committee found there were actions that could be construed as irregular, but that these actions worked to the advantage of Flora Wayman. No actions were taken that were improper.

**It was approved to discontinue** Flora Obayashi Wayman.

John Woodall offered prayer for those who had been *discontinued*.

Rev. Wilborn moved question D.Q. 21b with the addition of Wayman and Gutierrez. **It was approved.**

Rev. Wilborn declared this completed the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry for this session.

Clergy session was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

### **Plenary Session #8**

Opening Singing was led by Greg Norton as the laity and clergy gathered in the Chapel.

**Call to Order** - Bishop Mary Ann Swenson called the session to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Pastoral Concerns.** Mark Ulrickson and Catie Coots lift up the following for prayer: (1) *Rollin Dexter*, who started Atascadero UMC, died yesterday. He started that church as a way to empower laity and to help them discover their passion for ministry. We honor his legacy of love, justice, and mission. (2) The Wilhelm family, whose son died yesterday from complications resulting from a motorcycle accident, and (3) Paddy Padilla, who flew to the Philippines to be with his mother who passed away. Mark Ulrickson led the session in prayer.

**Personal Privilege.** Barbara Ripple rejoiced when our Conference at the 2002 Annual Conference passed a Resolution by Emmanuel UMC in Saipan to support the request of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to have a voting delegate be admitted to the U.S. Congress with committee level membership and vote. The delegate had been seated this year.

Jim Bodine extended appreciation on behalf of the conference to Greg Norton for leading the music at Annual Conference

**Prayer for Peace** was led by Ana-Haydée Urda, who ended by singing “Let There Be Peace on Earth”.

**Orders of the Day.** Tonya Harris moved the orders of the day. **They were approved.**

Glen Haworth, clergy from Chino UMC requested that the Bishop *make an Episcopal ruling*, before the end of our Annual Conference, to determine and declare whether Resolution 08-14, which was passed on June 21, 2008 was legally permissible as it relates to Paragraphs 341.6 and 2702.1 of the 2004 *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church. He further requested that the Bishop report back to the Annual Conference her decision of law before the conclusion of the 2008 session. The *Book of Discipline* gives the Bishop 30 days after the close of the Annual Conference to make a decision of law and was not required to report back at this session. The Bishop responded that she would try to get back to him as soon as possible. Wayne Walters, Conference Leadership Team, said the Leadership team would prepare a letter to have ready by next Sunday to help local pastors provide clarification, interpretation, and guidance for their congregations regarding this action.

**Courtesies.** Susan Juergensen/Linita Moa

1. Andy Hale – Scoutmaster, Troop 25 and Scouting Coordinator for the Long Beach District.
2. Kathey Michelle Wilborn, Dawn King, and Lisa Santiago, on behalf of Cal-Pac Clergywomen presented a check to Rev. Eunice Musa Iliya for \$ 2,500 and over \$100 in cash to help her as she journeys home. She thanked them by singing “Jehovah Take Care of Me.”

**Nominations Report.** Gilbert Stones, Chair, presented an “imperfect report” to the Annual Conference, even after four meetings at breakfast and five meetings since already today. There would be many editorial corrections. Additional corrections need to be made to the new Committee Chair in writing.

Bob Stimmel, Rules’ Chair, moved to suspend the rules to receive the Nomination Committee’s report. At least 17 groups in the report were not in harmony with the Conference rules. The Rules’ Committee would work with the Nominations’ Committee and the affected groups to bring harmony between the Conference rules and the membership. **It was approved to suspend the rules.**

Gilbert also invited Chairs of Committees, Boards, and Agencies to inform the Chair of the Nominations’ Committee of other inconsistencies of the rules which they may find.

Randy Johnson asked if there were policies of replacing members of the committees who did not attend meetings. Gilbert said, “Yes.” After three unexcused absences, the Chair of the Committee should forward the names of those to be replaced to the Nominations’ Chair.

A Clergyman from Guam requested that Guam UMC have representation on Annual Conference Boards and Committees, as this had not happened since commissioning 60 years ago. There had been leadership representation from the Philippines. Gilbert responded that video conferencing was being explored to facilitate participation by Guam and Hawaii, as well as Saipan.

Colleen Chun encouraged Annual Conference to get the best technology, to ensure that persons would be able to be seen and heard, which was difficult with less sophisticated equipment.

Keith Hwang agreed that this would be a top priority, especially with rising fuel costs. Bob Rhodes, Conference IT consultant had been involved in the research for this technology.

Ilse Peetz, chair of Hunger Committee, recently learned her committee was a part of the Board of Global Ministries as per the *Book of Discipline*. Church and Society Committee had voted to release the Hunger Committee to go home to the Board of Global Ministries.

Three persons were lifted out of the Nomination Committee’s report and would be voted in special: Conference Co-Secretaries (Leanne Nakanishi & Dan Lewis), Conference Lay Leader (Ken Ellis), and Conference Statistician (Per Martin). The *Book of Discipline* says the Conference Lay Leader is elected in consultation with the District Lay Leaders, but nominated by the lay members of the Nominations’ Committee who had unanimously *nominated* Ken Ellis. Chair Gilbert Stones moved the election of these 4 individuals for these 3 offices. Motion **was approved** by the body.

Gilbert announced persons would collect Talent Bank forms in the narthex at the end of the Session. He also announced his retirement, and introduced the new Chair of Nominations' Committee, Rev. William Hitt, Riverside District representative. Gilbert thanked those who served on the Nominations' Committee. Members leaving the Committee were Joyce Zirkle, Kent Fromer, and David Camphouse.

Arlene Brewster noted the Conference Treasurer must also be elected each quadrennium. Gilbert therefore nominated Dan Gara as our Conference Treasurer. **It was approved** by the body.

**Nominations for Jurisdictional Pool.** Molly Vetter, Jurisdictional Delegation Chair, announced that the list of nominees had appeared in the UM Daily on Saturday, June 21. These persons *might* be called upon by the Jurisdictional Nominating Committee to serve on Jurisdictional Committees. She explained that the list may be confusing, because of the way the rules for representation were written. She moved the pool members. **It was supported.**

### Jurisdictional Pool Nominees

#### General Conference Delegates

Clergy: Molly Vetter, Bau Dang, Grant Hagiya, Mary Elizabeth Moore, Patricia Farris

Laitiy Ken Ellis, Larry Hygh, JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto, Dan Gara, Mele Maka

Asian American: Lily Villamin (clergy), Woong-Min Kim (clergy)

African American: Cedrick Bridgeforth (clergy), Charlene Zuill (clergy)

Hispanic American: Leah Switzer (lay), Ana-Haydée Urda (lay)

Native American: Winnie James (lay)

Pacific Islander: Fuimaono Lauolefiso Aliifuo (lay), Poese Vatikani (lay)

Clergy: Frank Wulf, Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Mark Ulrickson, Nestor Gerente, Mark Feldmeir

Laywomen: Eva Thai, Debbie Haustedt

Laymen: Steve Harbison, Orville Benjamin

Youth: (13-16 yrs. at present): Viliami Koli, Millie Faber

Young Adults (17-30 yrs. at present): Angelica Greenleaf (lay), Jenee Elkins (lay), Candie ODell (lay), Paul Elkins (lay)

Older Adults: Norma Kehrberg (lay)

Persons with Disabilities: Diana Elizabeth Jordan (lay), Mary Larson (lay), Lupita Alonso-Redondo (clergy)

7 clergywomen

8 clergymen

9 laymen

14 laywomen

7 Asian-Americans

5 African-Americans

3 Hispanic Americans

1 Native American

4 Pacific Islanders

18 Caucasians

Affie Joye asked for prayers for Mark, the husband of Judy Weaver who had been quite ill after several surgeries, and Judy had to leave Conference early.

#### Cabinet Matters. Mark Ulrickson

Closures, mergers, and discontinuances: Guidelines were established last year (Resolution 40) on how to handle the property of churches in these situations.

**Churches Discontinued:**

Riverside District. John Valles stated Fontana UMC voted to close effective June 30, 2008. That resolution, which followed Resolution 40, was passed out on Thursday. The resolution **was supported**.

Jurupa UMC was closed in 2005. A resolution was distributed on Thursday. The resolution **was supported**.

The new start at French Valley was discontinued.

Santa Barbara District. Catie Coots stated St. John's in the Valley voted on January 20, 2008 to discontinue. That resolution, which followed Resolution 40, was distributed. The resolution **was supported**.

*Catie Coots moved the discontinuance of Pacoima: El Mesias UMC. Resolution 40 pertains to when you are disposing of assets. They were not planning of disposing of any assets at this time, so none of the language of Resolution 40 was included. On Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, the church voted to discontinue. Given the historic nature of that congregation, they have been in consultation with the new Director of Hispanic Ministries and the Trustees in order to look at how best to use that property. This resolution seeks to approve the discontinuance of the Corporation, but they are planning to come back next year with a resolution in regards to the disposition of the assets. The resolution **was supported**.*

Name Changes which were approved by the body:

North Clairemont UMC (San Diego) name was changed to "Clairemont Christian Fellowship, A Spirit Filled UMC"

St. Luke's UMC (Los Angeles) name was changed to Immanuel UMC

The Bishop's Cabinet offered a statement (see below) regarding the decision by the State of California allowing same gender marriages. They reminded the body that while this is legal in the State of California, it was against our UMC's *Book of Discipline*.

*LETTER FROM THE CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM AND CABINET*

*Friday, June 27, 2008*

*Dear Members of the California-Pacific Annual Conference:*

*Last week, following sessions of prayer and Holy Conferencing held during the 2008 Annual Session, members of the Annual Conference approved three resolutions concerning same-gender marriage. The text of each resolution can be found at [www.cal-pac.org](http://www.cal-pac.org). Each resolution offers support to same-gender couples who enter into the marriage covenant and encourages both congregations and pastors to welcome, embrace and provide spiritual nurture and pastoral care for these families.*

*The Conference Leadership Team and the Cabinet offers this initial letter of guidance for understanding and interpreting these resolutions. Adoption or approval of resolutions at Annual Conference means that the annual conference has identified common ground from which we seek to live faithfully. It doesn't mean that all conference members personally agree with the action or that members of local congregations must agree. What it does mean is that this is the current statement of our annual conference.*

*With that background, we offer our understanding of the effect of the Annual Conference resolutions:*

*1. The resolutions acknowledge the legality of same-gender marriages in the State of California, and that*

*the gospel calls us to be in pastoral care with same-gender couples who seek to marry.*

*2. The resolutions call upon our churches to be welcoming and embracing of same-gender couples and to reject heterosexism.*

*3. The resolutions call for compassion and understanding in dealing with any charges brought against pastors in our annual conference who conduct same-gender marriage ceremonies.*

*4. The resolutions calls upon United Methodists to work to defeat the California Marriage Protection Amendment on the November 2008 ballot*

*5. The resolutions do not change any aspect of church law or policy in The Book of Discipline (2004 and 2008,) which state in &341.6 that “ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.”*

*In this regard, the Episcopal office and its extension through the District Superintendents fulfill two roles, pastoral and supervisory (presidential). In their pastoral role they want to affirm that the Bishop and cabinet are available for counsel, encouragement, support, and reflection. In the supervisory or presidential role, they are officers of the church and responsible for upholding the order of the Discipline. Despite their diverse individual perspectives, they are obligated to process complaints arising from breaches of these provisions in a manner appropriate to the circumstances.*

*Our covenant with each other to obey the provisions of The Book of Discipline may lead to the filing of charges against any pastor who violates provisions of the Discipline. The Book of Discipline does not mandate particular punishments for particular offenses so the consequences for violating the Discipline would be up to the deciding body dealing with the charge.*

*In considering pastoral care, rituals and celebrations, pastors and congregations will need to understand the rules, risks and the scope of consequences as well as recognizing the continuum of possible ministries which can be offered.*

*In adopting these resolutions, our Annual Conference has acted in its prophetic role to declare our conviction that the gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to support and embrace men and women who love someone of the same gender and who seek to pledge their love and commitment in a public way.*

*We recognize the diverse perspectives shared on this issue within our community of faith. Therefore, we remain committed to be in conversation with each other about our beliefs and our desire to “Do no harm,” as Wesley describes it. We invite your faithful participation in this work of discernment and leadership.*

*May we, as covenantal members of the California-Pacific Annual Conference, respond with compassion and understanding as we live out our faith in this time and place.*

*The Conference Leadership Team and Cabinet*

### **District Superintendency Changes**

Los Angeles District. Grant Hagiya completed 8 years as DS. Cedrick Bridgeforth would be the new DS for Los Angeles. A celebration of Grant’s 8 years of service was held last year. Today, Cedrick presented him with a scrapbook of appreciation.

Riverside District. John Valles completed 7 years as DS. The new District Superintendent would be Bau Dang. He expressed his sense of honor that as a refugee from Vietnam 33 years ago, he would be seated at the table with the District Superintendents.

Long Beach. Lily Villamin completed 6 years as DS. The new District Superintendent would be Kathey Michelle Wilborn. She announced a coming celebration of Lily’s ministry, and invited gifts for her new ministry.

**Items Not on the Consent Calendar.** Karen Ristine

Items Amended During Legislative Sections

- 1) **Rules #3 Leaves of Absence (p.45-48)** 95%. **Approved as amended.**
- 2) **Res. 08-6 “Disability Awareness Sunday”:** Bob Stimmell moved to refer this matter to CFA. Dan Gara pointed out that we did not need to refer, for this Sunday was approved by the *Book of Discipline*. Motion was withdrawn. **Resolution was approved as amended.**

Items Removed from the Consent Calendar

- 1) **Advance Specials:** Karen moved this item be amended to include the Cal-Pac camps. An amendment was also moved that Frazee Community Center be added to the Advance Specials, as this had already been approved by the Council. **Both motions to amend were approved.**

**The amended main motion was approved.**

- 2) **Pensions Recommendation #3 Clergy Retirement Security Program (Prelim. p. 40):** Jim Butler moved an amendment, p. 40, #6 lines 65 & 66: line 65 to delete “not”; on line 66 after the letters CRSP, add “and can enroll between July 1 and October”; and on line 66, change the word “however” to the word “or”. The purpose of this motion was to allow those engaged in extension ministries to request to be enrolled and eligible for the clergy retirement security plan.

Bud Wrisley, chair of the Board of Pensions responded that this subject was reviewed last year in early October as per a request from Jim Butler. The Board concluded, after discussion with legal counsel of the General Board of Pensions that there are only two types of Extension Ministry entities that could be covered were (1) affiliated entities (Wesley Foundations) and (2) controlled entities. It was also pointed out that this amendment would obligate the Conference to a liability that we have no ability to cover.

Jim Butler responded that he received different information from the General Board of Pensions. He wanted clarification on if they are eligible or not?

Bishop called for the vote on the amendment. **It was not supported.**

Vote on Recommendation No. 3 **It was supported**

- 3) **Res. 08-12 Support of U.S. Troops:** Bishop reminded the body of the limitation of two speeches for and two speeches against. Those in favor spoke of concern for the 300,000 troops in Iraq suffering from depression and post-traumatic stress syndrome. This war was very different from previous military engagements as there was constant danger and no clear objectives. The purpose of this Resolution was to remove troops immediately. Those in opposition expressed the military’s concern of not to be responsible for a resulting genocide if the troops left Iraq.

An amendment was **moved**, with the support of the legislative section, who considered this Resolution, to change the wording “immediate and safe withdrawal” to “safe withdrawal.”

**Amendment was approved.**

**Amended Res. 08-12 was supported.**

**Res. 08-11 Marriage Equality in California:** Parliamentarian recommended that the resolution be ruled out of order.

Wayne Walters **moved** on behalf of the Leadership Committee, that Resolutions 11 and 13 be referred to the Welcoming Task Force. **It was not supported.**

It was **moved** to amend the main motion by changing “celebrate” to “acknowledges”. It was explained that the reason for the amendment is that this Resolution encouraged local churches to support those who marry in a civil ceremony. The Resolution was not intended to address the issue of marriage within the church.

**Resolution 08-11 as amended was supported.**

**Resolution 08-13** was moved by Karen Ristine.

**Resolution #08-13 Opposing California Equal Protection Amendment:** An amendment to the motion was suggested that we delete the word “all” in the “Therefore, let it be resolved” section of the resolution, and add after the words “United Methodists,” the phrase, “in favor of the defeat of this act.” **The amendment was approved.**

A second motion to amend specified that the words “through public venues such as newspapers, periodicals, radio and television” be removed from the “Be it further resolved section.”

**The second amendment was not approved.**

**The resolution, with the first amendment only, was approved.**

**Welcoming Task Force:** Mary Elizabeth Moore summarized the goal of the work of the Task Force during this Annual Conference:

- 1) Give tangible guidance to those who want to be married, those wrestling on whether to be married, and those not sure what they think about marriage and want to discuss it further.
- 2) Provide documents to the Conference Welcome Committee Team, to carry on their work on our behalf. “Love, listen, study, and respect” is our commitment.
- 3) Provide a packet of examples of how to respond to the new gay marriage legislation to be made available to the body through the Leadership Team by e-mail or post. The Leadership Team had created a framework for discussions at the local church based on the vows that we take when we join the United Methodist Church.

**Claremont School of Theology:** Jerry Campbell, President, reported a balanced budget for last year, this year, and a projected balanced budget for next year. This Annual Conference is co-owner of CST, and as CST was making big changes, our Annual Conference needed to be informed about the changes. Prelim. Report p. ii has an ad on the crisis of younger clergy. In addition, seminaries were seeing a declining number of students. CST’s solution was to expand into a university of 6 schools, related to CST, in order to grow the base of students. More information of forming this University will be found on the CST website.

**Sessions Committee:** Eric Smith, Chair reported the next Annual Conference session would be June 17-21, 2009. Bishop asked for a vote on coming back to University of Redlands in 2009. **It was approved.** Eric introduced the members of Session Committee, and their tasks during Annual Conference. He mentioned that Bob Wickerts was in ICU a few months ago, and it was amazing he is alive and able to be at work at Annual Conference this year!

**Lay Ministry Academy:** Judy and Doug ran a silent clip to honor the first graduating class of 2008 during their report. The Lay Academy had been received with enthusiasm in its two years of existence, fulfilling education requirements leading to certification for lay ministry.

**Awards:** Julie Elkins, Chair, introduced “Joy Fuller” to present the awards, along with a surprise guest, “Rev. Pentecost” (played by Rick Uhls) who helped make “joyful” presentations of special awards.

Lay Man of the Year: Donald Howald (Camarillo UMC)

Lay Woman of the Year: Virginia Terry (Huntington Beach First UMC)

Lay Family of the Year: The Hunt Family (Del Rosa UMC)

Most Accessible Church Award: Honoka’a UMC

Distinguished Service Awards: Dorothy Biggs (Emmanuel UMC – San Bernardino) and Rev. Benjamin Valencia

Campers of the Year: Tracey Brown (Yucaipa UMC), Janice Somers (San Luis Obispo UMC), and Debbie Tallant (St. Andrew UMC – Santa Maria)

Frank Wulf presented the Francis Asbury Award to Rev. Dr. DarEll Weist for extraordinary service to campus ministry.

Verne Cooney Award: Beth Field (Norwalk UMC)

Youth Worker of the Year: Patricia King (Faith UMC – Los Angeles)

Youth of the Year: Taylor Underwood

Top Missionary Supporting Church: Rolling Hills UMC

Highest Per Capita Giving Missionary Supporting Church: Native American UMC

**Closing Remarks:** Dan Lewis and Leanne Nakanishi, Conference Co-Secretaries reminded those who have materials to be printed in the 2008 journal, must be submitted by **July 31, 2008**. We had submitted the journal to the printer in mid-November and it was at the printers for 3 months. Please read our preliminary report that has to do with a future of ecologically friendly secretarial business. They encouraged Conference members to turn in their evaluation forms for use by the Sessions Committee to plan Annual Conference for next year.

*Tom Griffith reminded the Bishop to acknowledge any Episcopal Rulings that she had made and if she would be reading any appointments. Bishop said that during the Worship Service, she would publish the appointments. Bishop received one request from Glen Haworth. Tom Griffith said that he turned in a request for an Episcopal Ruling regarding Pensions Recommendation #3. Bishop did not receive yet, but asked that he make sure that she receives them.*

*Bob Rhodes, lay young adult from the Santa Barbara District and our Conference IT person, thanked our Conference Co-Secretaries. In their preliminary report, we read of their commitment to God’s creation, to ecological responsibilities and to environmental integrity. They are committed to reducing the production and perpetuation of excessive paper waste. He would also like to express thanks to our Commission on Archives and History for reminding us that we must make available information to all, including those who are gifted in ways other than technological expertise. This year over 100,000 sheets of paper were collated into our arrival packets, to say nothing about the number of items that were distributed on the floor. The arrival packet alone equated to more than 12 full trees. We also recognize our duty to practice good stewardship as faithful persons depend on this Annual Conference to practice all the good we can. The production of the 2007 journal amounted to \$ 35,000 and the production of the 2008 Preliminary Report amounted to over \$ 14,000. Considering these items, he **moved** that the Conference Co-Secretaries develop a specific and achievable plan over the next year, for the distribution of information prior to and during Annual Conference, including the use of simple current technology.*

**It was supported.**

Gilbert Stones commended our Conference Co-Secretaries for working all day and night long.

**Nothing But Nets Results:** \$9,500 was raised towards the \$10,000 goal. See Susan Faber or Camille Mattick to finish last \$500!

**Noted:** Lesa Smith celebrated our Bishop appointing the first African American woman as a District Superintendent in our Jurisdiction, Kathey Michelle Wilborn!

Bud Wrisley lifted up Floyd McKeithen who was in an auto accident after leaving today.

Bishop prayed for the country of Zimbabwe during its runoff for a deeply contested national election. After the prayer, it was announced on the news this morning that the opposition leader pulled out of the election because of the threats of violence from the regime.

**Connectional Ministries Video** showed scenes from the (1) Los Feliz United Methodist Church with worship services in many languages, and (2) the Easter re-opening the new sanctuary at San Luis Obispo, which was burned seven years ago.

Session was closed with prayer at 11:45 a.m.

### Closing Worship 12:00 noon

Prelude “Rigaudon” by André Campra was played by Greg Norton, organist

Choral Call to Worship: “An Outburst of Joy” by Butler, was sung by the Conference Choir and the Foothills UMC Chancel Choir, and accompanied by the Harmony Ringers of Foothills UMC, led by Carol Paton, Director of Music Ministries

Words of Greeting were led by Marcia Hartsock

Processional Hymn “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Opening Prayer was led by Eunice Musa Iliya

Anthem “This is My Word” by Choplin, was sung by Foothills UMC Chancel Choir

Choral Reading of Scripture “For You Shall Be Led Out in Joy”

Sermon “The Word Is Now” by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson

The Bishop thanked the churches for their marvelous “60” gifts for mission in celebration of her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday last year. [Video crew showed a brief summary of our past week at Redlands]

Now is the moment for us to leave this home to go to our other home and places of ministry, taking with us the love for Jesus we’ve experienced. We were being sent to a culture and world dominated by two words: 1) **Competition** to be the “ultimate winner” or “survivor”; 2) **Consumption**: Credit card debt leading to risky mortgages, with banks encouraging this harmful behavior. The cost “stuff” we buy and store, exceeds the total revenues of all of Hollywood.

There are wolves out there in the world. The reality of the mission that we live and our ministry is daunting. What can we teach that is a different way from competition and consumption? Our Wesleyan words: 1) **“Connection”**: Jesus is the embodiment of our connection with God through our neighbor 2) **“Compassion”**: Competition and consumption are powerful words, but they are not the final words. The lives of those who witness and testify to God’s Word are the final words. God has spoken us into life, and we will succeed for the purpose for which we were intended.

Litany of Response was led by Rev. Peggy Rubel

Hymn “For You Shall Go Out in Joy”

Bidding Prayer led by Diane Davis (Names were raise aloud after each bidding).

Offering was introduced by Ken Ellis. The offering will go to a home for orphaned children, Corri Winanka, in Bolivia to build a farm so that the home will be self-sustaining.

Offertory “Delight Yourself in the Lord” by Hayes, was sung by the Annual Conference Choir and the Foothills UMC Chancel Choir

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer were led by Helen Staley, Sherman Oaks UMC

Celebration of Appointments and Litany of Sending Forth by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson

Hymn “The Trees of the Field”

Dismissal with Blessing by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson & Ken Ellis


Response to Blessing “An Outburst of Joy” by Butler, was sung by combined choirs

Postlude “God of Grace” by CWM Rhonnda, arr. by Paul Manz, was played by Greg Norton, organist

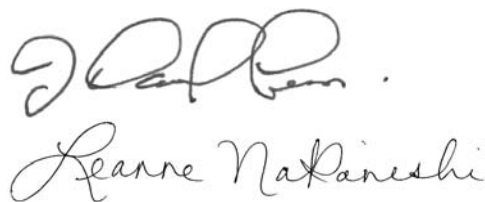
---

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify and declare that the Daily Proceedings of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference, meeting in Redlands, CA June 18-22, 2008 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 of  
The United Methodist Church