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# Instant Connection

California-Nevada Annual Conference



June 24, 2010

## Bishop Brown Calls 'Gathering of the Orders' for November

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. invites all the Orders to gather with him at Mt. Hermon Retreat Center, November 15-17, for "Bridging the Covenantal Divide" – "a time of retreat, learning, and strengthening relationships."



It is by tradition and the encouragement of the *Discipline* that this annual gathering takes place.

This year, those attending will spend some time exploring their similarities and differences, and how those things impact the ways in which ministry happens. There also will be continued development of connectional strengths, as they "build a shared vision" of their future and prepare for doing ministry in changing times.

[On line registration](#) is open now (you may pay on line at the time of registration, or mail in your check later).

Several levels of registration are available, including [scholarship assistance](#).

Click on the Registrations tab on the Home Page of the Conference website at [cnumc.org](http://cnumc.org) to register for the 2010 Gathering of the Orders.

Early Bird registration ends July 31st and the deadline to register is November 1, 2010.

Download [flyer](#) (in PDF format).

## California-Nevada Annual Conference Session Report

**By Cate Monaghan**  
**Interim Communications Director**

The emphasis was on fruitfulness when members of the California-Nevada Annual Conference gathered for their 162nd annual conference session, June 16-19, 2010. "We must be accountable for the fruit that we give," said Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. in his State of the Conference Address. "Mr. Wesley had a thing about fruit. Jesus had a thing about fruit. I guess it's in my DNA to have a thing about fruit."

After citing reductions in the numbers of churches reporting professions of faith, baptisms, and confirmation classes in 2009, the bishop read aloud Luke 13:6-9, the parable of the fig tree, and added, "It's not a numbers game – it's a Scripture game."

His message was reinforced by the conference's guest speaker, Missouri Area Bishop Robert Schnase, who taught from his *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* and *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*.

Dr. Marcia McFee led the assembly in inspirational worship focused around the concepts of radiating joy, initiating relationship, and "co-creating the Reign."

Bishop Schnase and Dr. McFee conducted workshops for guests of the conference on Thursday morning, while members participated in legislative sections. That afternoon Jennifer Rodia, director of Igniting Ministry for United Methodist Communications, conducted a Rethink Church workshop for youth delegates to Annual Conference Session.

The youth showed themselves to be truly "the church of NOW," fully engaging in the parliamentary process as well as in the battle to eliminate malaria from the continent of Africa by 2015. The bishop's annual reception this year was given over to a basketball-themed fundraiser, "Slam Dunk Malaria," in which the Youth Delegation raised \$4,681.53 for Imagine No Malaria – \$1,040 of it through texting.

At Conference Secretary Kristin Sachen's urging to "Let's go viral to end this disease," those assembled and those watching from home through live video stream texted the word "malaria" to donate \$10 to the Imagine No Malaria campaign. Jennifer Rodia reported that she was able to assist someone in sending the first text of his life to participate in the text donation process!

Several key pieces of legislation were approved. Among them: a proposal to direct bill active clergy pension costs; a resolution reducing the number of districts from seven to four; and a recommendation to suspend Division V of the Standing Rules for a period of two years, "for the purpose of allowing flexibility and innovation in re-aligning the work of the Annual Conference with the four areas of mission focus."

The conference approved resolutions in support of "humane" state budgets for California and Nevada; in support of a bill that would exclude offenders under the age of 18 from being sentenced to "life without possibility of parole"; and a resolution calling for local churches to become bases for "confronting unjust heterosexist structures."

The conference also approved recommendations requiring active clergy to maintain an active email address, local churches to maintain an Internet presence in some form, and local churches to create and maintain a "communications coordinator" position.

It approved a resolution supporting self-determination and independence for the people of East Turkistan, established a Committee on Pacific Island Ministry, and agreed to designate all or part of the 2011 Conference Offering to the Methodist Mission in Cambodia.

The 2010 Conference Offering was taken on behalf of the Gilead Center for Children and the Ethelou D. Talbert Shelter for Girls in the Philippines.

Jurisdictional connectionalism was highlighted when David McPherson, Director of Connectional Ministries for the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, reported that Operation Resurrection

2010, the Western Jurisdiction's Lenten campaign on behalf of Haiti, generated more than \$2 million in contributions and more than 44,000 health kits.

The conference closed on Saturday following the Ritual of Commissioning and Ordination, "A New Heaven and a New Earth," in which nine persons – five women and four men, with an average age of 45 – were ordained.

Conference Statistician J. Scott Allred reported membership gains by 118 churches, compared to 115 in 2008. However, 2009 also saw the greatest loss in overall membership in a single year since 1981. Membership stands at 80,375, down 1,854 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 37,424, down 718. Church school attendance stands at 8,150, down 1,025.

### **Bishop's 'State of the Conference' Address Draws Standing Ovation**

"We have a responsibility to respond to the challenges that are before us - and if we move as a people of faith, we have the assurance that God is with us," Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. said, to begin his State of the Conference address this (Wed. June 16) morning, at the opening plenary for Annual Conference Session for the California-Nevada Annual Conference. If we choose not to respond, he said, we may miss the opportunity to shape our preferred future: "That's the tipping point."

"Finances have a way of getting our attention. But ... it's really not about the money!" he said. "That's not the issue. The question is, can we work together in a spirit of trust and adaptability and responsibility to use the resources that we have been given, to empower ministry for all? That becomes our challenge.

"My friends, I assure you: there is no hidden agenda to do you harm," the bishop said, adding that his "love affair" with this Annual Conference still is very much alive. But he said Scripture instructs us to tell the truth in love, even though some will listen and some will not.

The bishop went on to point out that while the population in the region has grown by 10 million, UMC membership has shrunk by about 25%, to around 80,000. He discounted the idea that the dwindling is the natural result of an aging populace. People "are falling out in charge conferences - which means to me that we're falling out of relationship with people we already know," he said.

But, he said, "If they thrive in their spiritual journey we will not lose connection with them."

The bishop acknowledged that some people, "who are already anxious, have asked the question, 'does the bishop have a secret agenda to close churches?' I just heard that pin drop! The answer is 'no.' I have a 'secret agenda' to call local churches to find out what is the most significant way that they can create an environment where disciple-making can occur, and then find a way to do it!"

"Your ability to minister is directly related to the whole," the bishop said, stating that the Annual Conference leadership has "missional oversight responsibility for this geographic area that we serve ... and is responsible to hold one another accountable for doing the work."

"All Christians are called through their baptism to this spirit of ministry," he said. "None of us are our most effective best when we try to operate as lone rangers, in isolation. None of us are self-sufficient. None of us. We are all strengthened when we have the support of a community ... for

then we can lead at our best. That's what the circuits are about: to invite clergy into a relationship in which we take strategic responsibility for the areas we serve ... for us to share our practice of ministry intentionally together," he said, adding that it is directly related to the work of superintendents, that the superintendents are directly connected to those circuits through two-way communication.

The bishop said, "The goal is to empower lay and clergy to release their gifts in ministry ... until we're all doing holy dances together!" to which the body responded with enthusiastic applause.

He said what we're called to do is watch what happens when the Holy Spirit works. If Christians are seen as self-righteous, "look-down-their-noses" people, our job is to "engage the world in love and hope and help," he said, and stated that if we do that, we will be welcomed.

Returning to the many changes underway or under consideration in the Conference, the bishop said, "Friends, our state is Flux. We're like the Hebrew people wandering in the desert. Everyone thought it was a good idea to leave Egypt, until they got there in the desert and things got a little 'flux-y.' But we don't want to go back, we're headed to the Promised Land. What twists and turns we'll make along the way, we'll see."

The bishop said, "We must be accountable for the fruit that we give. No, it's not a numbers game, it's a Scripture game." He read aloud Luke 13:6-9, the parable of the fig tree. "Friends, Mr. Wesley had a thing about fruit. Jesus had a thing about fruit. I guess it's in my DNA to have a thing about fruit."

He quoted statistics regarding the number of churches holding confirmation classes in the Conference, and the number of baptisms, and said he finds them troubling.

"It makes me think that we aren't being fruitful.

"And what does fruit-bearing look like? It looks like people are enthused."

He did note the "greying" of our congregations, pointing out that 1975 was the last time that the average age of our church was the same as that of our society.

"We cannot just continue as we have. It's time to 'rethink.' Not because it's a cute slogan, not because it's the next program idea, not because the bishop thought of it," he said. "We need the wisdom and the adventuresomeness of each one of us to be working in the places *that we are to be disciples*," so that people will be inspired by what we do and who we are, not just by what we say.

"We are called to be a people of faith, the bishop concluded," and drew a standing ovation when he said that it's not enough to go through the motions, but that if we "lay our bodies on the wounds and the sickness," of the world, and if we say to those who have lost hope "that God will not let you down, that Jesus Christ came that you may have life," we will be witness to "the transforming power of God."

Watch [video of the State of the Conference Address](#).

## Bishop Robert Schnase Outlines 'Practices of Fruitful Congregations' at Thursday Afternoon Plenary

Bishop Robert Schnase of the Missouri Conference, author of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, outlined those practices and what churches' unspoken messages say about them, during the Thursday afternoon plenary session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference Session.

Churches that practice Radical Hospitality invest as much energy, time, and prayer for those who are *not* a part of the church as for those who *are* a part of the church, he said, noting that "radical" means "radiating out," and saying churches which practice radical hospitality push themselves to *do more*.

In Passionate Worship there is an air of anticipation. Whether the style is traditional or contemporary is not important: What is important is discerning what God intends to say to us through the music, the prayer, and the message. "It is in worship that we begin to see the world through God's eyes," the bishop said.

We learn in community because the essence of faith only can be learned in "the rough-and-tumble challenge of getting along with other people, of knowing what it is to be loved, and to forgive and to be forgiven." Just two people can start an effective Bible study - sometimes we make it too difficult, he said, in explaining the concept of Intentional Faith Development.

The bishop said Mission and Service are the things we do to make a positive difference in the lives of others, whether or not they ever will be a part of our congregation, "which we do because Christ asks us to do it, because He demands that we do it. We do it to follow Christ." Adding "Risk-Taking" to the mix takes that mission and service beyond our comfort zones. It means loving those for whom it is not natural, for whom it's a stretch, a challenge - but which we do out of allegiance to Christ and His Way, the bishop explained.

Even stories we don't normally associate with giving are stories of Extravagant Generosity, the bishop said, using the story of Zacchaeus as an example. Our affluence shapes us more than our faith, he said: Our issues are not financial, they are spiritual.

If you missed the live broadcast, watch for the video of Bishop Schnase's address to be uploaded to REEL Witness, the video library on the Conference website. You'll find the link to **REEL Witness** under the "Areas of Interest" menu on the right-hand side of the Home Page.

Bishop Schnase will speak again at the 8 p.m. plenary session today, and will "take the conversation to a much deeper level," he said. Please join our [live coverage](#) to hear him LIVE.

When new material from the Annual Conference Session is uploaded, a notice will be posted on the **2010 Annual Conference Session News** page (a sub-page of "2010 Annual Conference Session." You'll find the link to it on the right side of the main 2010 Annual Conference Session page).

## Youth Reporter Shares Reflections on ACS

*(Editor's Note: There were 26 Youth Delegates to the 2010 Annual Conference Session, representing 15 churches. In the course of the week the young people participated in Legislative Sec-*

tions, attended District Dinners, attended a Rethink Church/Imagine No Malaria workshop, and raised \$4,681.53 for the Imagine No Malaria campaign. We asked a member of the delegation to share her reflections on the experience.)

**By Megan Hillmon  
Woodland UMC**

I feel very blessed to be chosen to represent the youth at my church even though this was my first year attending Annual Conference Session.

Annual Conference was not at all what I was expecting – which was meetings and just listening to people talking; nothing very interactive. I was pleasantly surprised when we got in and there was music! It made it feel not just like a meeting, but like a church service, as well.

I had a lot of fun learning new things about being Methodist, the issues, and John Wesley. This year's fundraiser, Slam Dunk Malaria, was something that I had never done before. I have never been part of some kind of fundraiser that was that large. I am very excited about how much money we were able to raise.

I met new friends, and had a great time while learning about the work of the church.

## **Talbert Award, Legislation Spotlight Cultural Competency at This Year's ACS**

Cultural competency training twice drew the focus at this year's California-Nevada Annual Conference Session.

The 2010 Bishop Melvin Talbert Award for Racial Justice was presented to Dr. Lucia Ann ("Shan") McSpadden, who devised the Conference's program to provide support and mentoring to clergy who are appointed cross-culturally and cross-rationally. She leads workshops for clergy and congregations in these appointments, as well as training other clergy and laypersons to lead cultural competency workshops (and in fact, conducted such a workshop at First UMC, Sacramento, on the day before ACS began).

"This year's recipient ... has spent her entire life and career working tirelessly toward racial justice for all of God's people," said the Chair of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race, the Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, in making the announcement.

"She also planned for and carried out a four-year research project for GBHEM on the experiences of clergy appointed cross-culturally/cross-rationally. This project resulted in the publication of *Meeting God at the Boundaries*, followed by a manual for training and reflection activities for clergy, congregations, and cabinets.

"Along with two other colleagues, [she] designed and led a project to understand how ethnic minority pastors were being incorporated into the United Methodist, American Baptist, and Roman Catholic denominations in Northern California, a project funded by the Fund for Theological Education," he added. (Read complete text of Dr. Kuan's [presentation announcement](#) in PDF format here.)

Cultural competency came to the forefront later in the week, too, when members approved Item 29, Resolution Supporting Shared Facilities Through Cultural Competency Training.

The item, submitted by the Commission on Religion and Race, noted that in the Cal-Nevada Conference "a significant number" of congregations of different ethnic backgrounds and/or traditions are worshipping in the same facility, and that shared facility situations were raised as a major concern during the Conference audit by the General Commission on Religion and Race.

It calls for the Annual Conference to develop and provide joint cultural competency training for the clergy and local church lay leadership in shared facilities, beginning in 2011, and for clergy and congregations currently in shared facility appointments to participate in cultural competency training prior to the 2012 ACS. It also mandates cultural competency training as a condition for approval of any new shared facility arrangement.

The resolution was approved in its section and adopted as a part of the Consent Calendar.

### **Four Bishop's Awards Are Presented – One by Phone!**

Four Bishop's Awards were presented during the 162nd California-Nevada Annual Conference Session – and when a family emergency prevented one recipient from being present, Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. waived the element of surprise in favor of participation and pre-arranged a conference call to "deliver the news."

It was the second Bishop's Award, to Billie Hall of Smith River United Methodist Church, which was presented in absentia on Friday morning. Bishop Brown spoke with Ms. Hall through a telephone conference call which was broadcast to the assembly, and her pastor, the Rev. Steve Pudinski, accepted the award on her behalf.

The first Bishop's Award of the 2010 session was presented on Thursday to David Haynes, Lay Leader of the Shasta District (who distinguished himself, later in the conference, by making repeated free throws at the Slam Dunk Malaria event!).

The third and fourth Bishop's Awards for 2010 were presented to Mollie Epperson of Visalia UMC and Haati Nai of Salinas UMC, respectively.

### **See, Hear All of the Annual Conference Session Action**

Videos from live coverage of the California-Nevada Annual Conference Session last week (June 16-19, 2010) are being uploaded to [REEL Witness](#), the Conference video library, as time permits. (A direct link to REEL Witness is located in the Home Page menu on the right, under "Areas of Interest.")

Featured videos added to date:

ACS - Opening

Bishop's State of the Conference Address

The Laity Address

Laity Session, Part 1

Laity Session, Part 2

Laity Session, Part 3

Communion Service (Wednesday)

Celebration of Life and Reaffirmation of Baptism Service (Thursday)

Thursday Morning Plenary Session

In addition, Candidates for Ordination (a video shown at the Wednesday Clergy Session) and Youth 2011, a promo for the Youth 2011 Conference being held in Sacramento next year (shown during Wednesday morning Plenary) also are available to view and download.

Photos from Wednesday through Saturday morning, taken by Paul "Spud" Hilton and Lisa Warner-Carey, have been added to the Photo Galleries area of the website. Just type or paste <http://www.cnumc.org/galleries> into your web browser to go directly there.

(Photo Galleries are housed under "News." You also can navigate to them by clicking on "News" on the main navigation bar at the top of the Home Page. When the main page of the News section opens, click on "Photo Galleries" in the menu on the right.)

### **Map of New Districts, New Circuits List Are Available on Website**

A map showing the four new districts of the California-Nevada Annual Conference has been posted, along with the 2010 Circuits list, to a "Circuits & Districts" page on the Conference website.

"Circuits & Districts" is a Quick Link on the right side of the Home Page at [cnumc.org](http://cnumc.org).

The change in the number of districts (from seven to four) was approved by the Annual Conference Session last week. Boundaries and names for the districts were determined by Bishop Brown and the Cabinet.

### **Teens – Sign up for United Youth Conference, July 9-10 in San Jose**

Teens in the California-Nevada Annual Conference are invited to ENCOUNTER, ENGAGE, and EVOLVE at the United Youth Conference, July 9-10 at Genesis United Methodist Church in San Jose:

ENCOUNTER God in new and relevant ways through meaningful messages, heartfelt music, and creative media;

ENGAGE with one another in D-Groups to discuss and discover God's Word;

EVOLVE through the Holy Spirit, to become more like Christ!

\$10 per person. Register on site on Friday (July 9), 5:30-6:30 p.m., before the first General Session at 7 p.m. Conference ends Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

Genesis UMC is located at 1620 Oakland Rd., Suite D103, San Jose, CA 95131.

Download [flyer](#) (in PDF format).

For more information contact Sifa Hingano at 408.613.5005.

## **One-Day Conference for Young Adult Leaders Is Being Planned for August 14**

Young Adult Leaders of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church are invited to take part in a special event, being planned for Saturday, August 14.

Too often, people in their 20s and 30s feel lost in the age gap that exists at their local churches. Too old for youth groups, they move on when they find few people near their age who are at the same place in life – whether they're first-timers looking for a church home, or in their childhood congregations. Attrition rates are high, and many congregations are aging.

It is for this reason that the California-Nevada Annual Conference is supporting a one-day conference geared toward engaging and supporting those in their 20s and 30s who are Methodist or who are interested in joining the United Methodist Church.

The goal of the conference is to enable connections among these young adults, to help them build faith and commune together, and to set them on the road to establishing their own place in the Church.

The purpose is not to make younger members feel obligated to become more active in their churches! Rather, it aims to encourage a sense of belonging and to renew faith in those who are feeling less connected. It also seeks to give a voice to those younger adults who want to use their leadership skills within the Conference.

To find out more, contact Kelsey Papst, Coordinator of the UMC Young Adults Conference, at [umcadults@gmail.com](mailto:umcadults@gmail.com), or Kelly Newell, Conference Director of Young Adult Ministries, at [knewell@calnevumc.org](mailto:knewell@calnevumc.org).

## **Disney Institute Hands out 'Keys to Excellence' at August Modesto Event**

The renowned Disney Institute wants to hand you The Disney Keys to Excellence – at a one-day workshop by that name being held at Centenary United Methodist Church in Modesto, Thursday, August 12, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

EXPERIENCE successful Disney processes and the organizational structure that supports them, EXAMINE the strategies Disney leaders employ to keep their teams constantly improving and reaching new goals, and EXPLORE values and behaviors that can make you a leader of strong character!

Develop leadership action steps that will assist you in analyzing your organizational vision and individual leadership behaviors, learn how to effectively communicate your vision and examine personal methods for inspiring others, and explore the results of involving people and positive partnering among teams.

Cost: \$50/person. Attending this seminar qualifies for one Continuing Education Unit (CEU).

Centenary UMC is located at 1911 Toyon Avenue, Modesto, CA 95350.

For more information download [flyer](#) or call 209.527.5441.

## Mid-Week Transformational Leadership Course Scheduled for August

Transformational leadership is the art of living life in such a way that each day you become more fully alive in God. It is about *being made different*, rather than making a difference. It is about *being God's*, rather than being "gods." It is about radical discipling – because it is, fundamentally, about love.

So writes Anne Dilenschneider, D.Min., who is offering a two-session mid-week course in Transformational Leadership for Pastors and Leaders, August 3-4 and August 17-18 at Nevada City United Methodist Church, 433 Broad St. Nevada City, CA 95959. (Tuesday times are 6-9 p.m. and Wednesday times are 9 a.m.-6 p.m.)

Cost is \$100 per person. Three (3) CEU credits available.

For more information download:

[Course Description](#) (in PDF format)

[Brochure](#) (PDF)

## Family – in High Def! Sign up for August 14 Retreat at Walnut Creek UMC

Walnut Creek United Methodist Church invites you to attend a retreat that "could transform your life, your parenting, and your children": The High Definition Family Retreat for Parents, Saturday, August 14, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Led by Pastor Sayer Strauch of Vancouver, Washington – speaker, coach, and author of *The High Definition Family* – the retreat offers you the chance to grow in your own adventure of knowing, experiencing, and participating with God. You are invited to "Let your family's story be joined with God's, for the world."

For more information or to register, download [brochure](#) (in PDF format).

To spread the word, download printable ["invite" cards](#) (PDF).

Walnut Creek UMC is located at 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94597.

## Free Tuesday Night Talks at PSR Feature Renowned Authors, Scholars From Summer Session Courses

**BERKELEY** – Pacific School of Religion is offering a series of free talks by its most recognized Summer Session teachers. Attendees will soak up wisdom from some of the premiere authors and scholars of religion today, through lectures followed by questions, and continued conversation during a free reception.

The following talks, conversations, and receptions will take place on Tuesday nights from 7 to 9 p.m., July 13-August 10 at Pacific School of Religion's campus, 1798 Scenic Avenue in Berkeley:

**Speaker:** Rev. Dr. James Forbes

**Title:** Preaching the Gospel of Holistic Health

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, July 13, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Pacific School of Religion Chapel, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley

**Bio:** Rev. Dr. James Forbes is the founder and president of the Healing of the Nations Foundation and senior minister emeritus of Riverside Church in New York City.

**Speaker:** Dr. Sharon Bray

**Title:** Writing as Healing Ministry

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, July 20, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Pacific School of Religion Badè Museum, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley

**Bio:** Sharon Bray is known for her innovative work around writing and healing. She is the author of *When Words Heal: Writing through Cancer*.

**Speaker:** Bishop John Shelby Spong

**Title:** Eternal Life: A New Vision Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, July 27, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Pacific School of Religion Chapel, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley

**Bio:** John Shelby Spong is the retired bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and author of *Eternal Life: a New Vision Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell*, among numerous other books.

**Speaker:** Pat Schneider

**Title:** Tell Me Something I Can't Forget (film screening and discussion)

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, August 3, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Pacific School of Religion campus (building TBA), 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley

**Bio and Program Description:** Pat Schneider is founder of Amherst Writers and Authors, and author of nine books, including *Writing Alone and with Others*, and *Wake Up Laughing: A Spiritual Autobiography*. This 23-minute film features Pat Schneider's work with low-income women, and will be followed by a discussion on using writing as a tool for the empowerment of under-served populations.

**Speaker:** Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper

**Title:** Sacred Chow: Some Holy Ways to Eat

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, August 10, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Pacific School of Religion Badè Museum, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley

**Bio:** Donna Schaper is senior minister of Judson Memorial Church in Greenwich Village and author of *Living Well While Doing Good*.

For more information about the Tuesday Night Talks, see <http://www.psr.edu/summer-session-2010-Tuesdays>.

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*A multid denominational Christian seminary in Berkeley, California, Pacific School of Religion has been preparing bold leaders for historic and emerging faith communities since 1866. PSR's graduates are known for innovative ministries of compassion and justice around the world – in urban and rural parishes, on city streets and college campuses, in the arts, public policy, and*

*many other fields. PSR is a member of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), an interfaith consortium of seminaries and institutes in the Bay Area. For more information, visit [www.psr.edu](http://www.psr.edu).*

**The Instant Connection is published each week by Jane Horstman on behalf of Cate Monaghan, Interim Director of Communications for the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.**

**The physical address for this eNewsletter is 1276 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691.**