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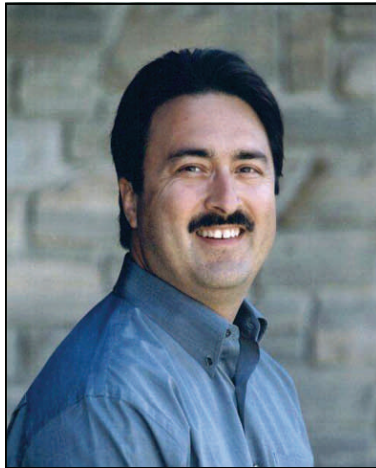
California-Nevada Annual Conference



August 5, 2010

## Bishop Dew Memorial Service to Be Live Streamed

The memorial service for Bishop William W. ("Bill") Dew, Jr. will be broadcast live from First United Methodist Church of Loomis via computer, beginning at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, August 7. To watch, type or paste <http://www.ourchurchvideos.com/livestream/cnumc/> into your web browser – or go to the Home Page of the Conference website at [cnumc.org](http://cnumc.org) and click on the relevant headline.



## Extrum-Fernandez to Head Board of Pensions

OAKLAND, California—The California-Nevada Annual Conference Board of Pensions has announced the election of Paul Extrum-Fernandez to the position of Executive Secretary (Conference Benefits Officer), effective August 1, 2010.

The appointment follows the July 9 announcement of Grady Knowles' retirement. After 31 years of service, Knowles stepped down as Executive Secretary on July 31, but will continue on the staff of the Board as a consultant over the next several months, to assist in the transition to the direct billing of pensions for the Annual Conference. He will retire on April 30, 2011.

Resident Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. said the Conference owes a debt of gratitude for Knowles' "excellent stewardship of the Conference's pension and health benefits programs." He added, "I appreciate his willingness to continue working with us in order to make the change to direct billing and to ensure that the leadership transition goes as smoothly as possible."

Extrum-Fernandez has an extensive history of Conference leadership. He has led the Conference Board of Pensions as President since 2008. 1991-1998, he served as Associate Council Director for the Conference, and served as Director of Connectional Ministries from 1999 to 2002.

For the past eight years, he has been Vice President for Institutional Advancement for Pacific School of Religion.

"I'm excited about returning to the Conference staff and reconnecting with friends and colleagues," he says. "I look forward to working with and serving the retired and active participants in our Conference pensions and health care

benefit plans. My commitment is to continue the excellent service that has been a hallmark of the Board of Pensions.

"Extrum-Fernandez received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master of Science degree in Film from the Boston University School of Public Communication.

He has filled a variety of roles across the United Methodist Church. He was elected the first Lay Delegate to the General Conference three times, has chaired the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, and served with distinction on the denomination's Connectional Table, Commission on the General Conference, General Commission on Communications, and on the Boards of Directors of Samaritan Counseling Center, Fred Finch Youth Center, and Bay Area Interfaith Communications Commission.

"In his interview, Paul exhibited a commitment to collegial, collaborative, and creative leadership," said Search Team Chair Mark Wharff. "We are convinced he is realistically cognizant of the challenges confronting the next Executive Secretary to provide skillful guidance for the Board of Pensions and the Annual Conference through the transitions ahead, and equally confident he is uniquely qualified to offer the requisite counsel."

Bishop Brown said, "I am delighted that Paul has accepted this position. His knowledge of the Conference and his understanding of our pension and benefits program will provide continuity in the excellent service we have come to count on from our Pension office."

Paul Extrum-Fernandez may be contacted at the Board of Pensions, 300 27th Street, Oakland, CA 94612; phone 510.839-8538; fax 510.834.8539; email [paul@bopumc.net](mailto:paul@bopumc.net).

## **PSR Applauds Federal Decision Striking Down Proposition 8**

BERKELEY, California - Pacific School of Religion and its Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry are applauding the decision by U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker, announced this afternoon, that California's ban on same-sex marriage violates the United States Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law.

The decision, along with Judge Joseph L. Tauro's July 8, 2010 ruling in Massachusetts that the Federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional, forms a legal foundation for overturning all discriminatory laws against same-sex couples seeking marriage in states and municipalities throughout the country.

The leadership of PSR, the executive director of the seminary's Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry (CLGS), and clergy from diverse faith traditions celebrated this ruling and reissued a call for marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples in California and across the country.

The Rev. Dr. Hubert G. Locke, acting president, Pacific School of Religion, said, "At Pacific School of Religion we are deeply invested in the effort to achieve equality in all aspects of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, and we applaud the federal court's decision to overturn Proposition 8. Those who believe in justice and equality as foundational principles of American life cannot help but view this decision with extreme gratitude."

Pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco, the Rev. Dr. Karen P. Oliveto, said, "Today, love prevailed over hate and justice prevailed over fear, as this country moved closer to living out its core values of liberty and justice for all. We celebrate this important decision with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families, knowing that where love is, God is there also."

Although the decisions by Judge Walker and Judge Tauro concern the contractual civil marriage framework as regulated by the state, many faith traditions in America also provide religious blessings for same-sex couples, including Reform and Reconstructionist Judaism, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the United Church of Christ, the Metropolitan Community Churches, some congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), some Episcopal churches, and some Baptist churches.

The United Methodist Church, however, to date has maintained its traditional stance that homosexual practice "is incompatible with Christian teaching."

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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).

Founded in 2000, the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry at Pacific School of Religion is the first seminary-based center for the study of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. The Center works to transform faith communities and the wider society by taking a leading role in shaping a new public discourse on religion and sexuality through education, research, community-building, and advocacy. Visit the Center's website at [www.clgs.org](http://www.clgs.org) or call 510.849.8206 for more information.

## **Clergy Sexual Boundary Training to 'Bookend' Mt. Hermon Orders Retreat**

Join your colleagues to explore the many dilemmas pastors, church staff, congregational leaders, and parishioners face in their relationships at a Clergy Sexual Boundary Class, November 17-18, 2011, at the Mount Herman Retreat Center. The training is scheduled to begin at the conclusion of the Gathering of the Orders Retreat.

Do you know the answer to:

- Are gifts from parishioners really gifts?
- Can pastors be friends with parishioners?
- Should a pastor accept a \$500 check at Christmas from a parishioner?
- What about going to a doctor who is your parishioner?

Sexual Ethics Training isn't just about the obvious!

Presenters Elmar de Ocera, Kathy La Point-Collup, and Maggie Mc Naught have been trained by the Faith Trust Institute to lead "A Sacred Trust: Boundary Issues for Clergy and Spiritual Leaders." The training includes a workbook, DVD presentations, and discussion.

All those serving under appointment (elders, deacons, TBAs, provisioners, local pastors, etc), as well as church staff, youth leaders, SPRC members, Sunday School teachers, and others in positions of leadership in church settings and appointment settings are encouraged to attend.

It is sponsored by the Council on Clergy Development of the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

Cost is \$127 and includes Wednesday Dinner, Wednesday night lodgings, Thursday breakfast and lunch, a workbook and .75 CEUs for those serving under appointment (in the area of Sexual Ethics for Clergy).

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

There must be 15 registered by November 8 for training to be held.

For more information, contact Kathy La Point-Collup at [kflc@aol.com](mailto:kflc@aol.com) or (916) 690-2321.

### **Study on Your Own Time: CLayM Applications Now Being Accepted**

On line learning is now an option for those wishing to take part in the Conference Lay Minister (CLayM) program.

The new **CLayM@Home** alternative allows participants to study largely on line or by DVD – making the training easier to accomplish for those with fulltime jobs or other constraints.

Applications are being accepted now – both for the traditional program hosted at the United Methodist Center in West Sacramento (now known as CLayMAway), and also for the new off-site **CLayM@Home**. The same application will be used for both programs.

**CLayM@Home** promo DVDs and brochures are available on request. (Email [claym-home@aol.com](mailto:claym-home@aol.com) to order.)

It is anticipated that the first cycle of **CLayM@Home** will get underway by September 1st, with a second cycle scheduled to begin January 1st.

Here's the timetable:

#### **First Cycle**

Session 1 should be completed in six (6) weeks – September through mid-October

Session 1 Retreat will be held in mid-October

Session 2 should be completed in two (2) months – November through January

Session 2 Retreat will be held at the end of January

#### **Second Cycle**

Session 1 should be completed in six (6) weeks – January through mid-February

Session 1 Retreat will be held in mid-February

Session 2 should be completed in two (2) months – March through May

Session 2 Retreat will be held at the end of May

**CLayMAway**, the program at the UM Center in West Sacramento, is scheduled for November 8-12 and January 17-21 (The January class is a continuation of the November class. There will be no new entries for January CLayMAway except by special request from a DS.) CLayMAway will be in a group setting, with live lectures.

Both programs – CLayMAway and **CLayM@Home** – can result in eligibility for "Certified Lay Minister" assignment, for graduates who believe they are so called.

For more information and to apply, visit the CLayM page on the Conference website at [www.cnumc.org/CLayM](http://www.cnumc.org/CLayM).

## **U.S. Conferences Report Declining Numbers**

A UMNS Report  
By Heather Hahn

United Methodists across the United States rejoiced to see old friends and celebrated their shared faith at annual conference gatherings this spring and summer. But when the time came for reports on membership and attendance, the news was often sobering.

The pews at many churches are emptier this year.

In statistical reports from 39 U.S. conferences, most disclosed declines in membership, worship attendance or church-school participation in 2009. Twenty-six conferences reported losses in all three categories. Thirteen reported membership drops of more than 2 percent. Four conferences gained members.

The 2009 figures continue a decades-long decline in U.S. membership that is drawing the attention of church officials.

**"What we're dealing with is the legacy of what we haven't done in the past," said San Francisco Area Bishop Warner H. Brown Jr., who oversees the California-Nevada Annual (regional) Conference. "What we're doing is addressing the main purpose of the church, which is making disciples."**

### **Steady losses**

The United Methodist Church is growing worldwide. In the decade between 1998 and 2008, for example, overall membership grew by 14 percent for those who come into membership by profession of faith and 27 percent for baptized members. At the end of 2008, the church had approximately 11 million professing members and an additional 2.5 million baptized members in Africa, Europe, the United States and the Philippines.

However, U.S. membership has declined every year since The United Methodist Church was formed in 1968 and dropped by nearly 590,000 between 1998 and 2008, according to the 2010 State of the Church Report commissioned by the Connectional Table.

Earlier this year, the United Methodist General Council on Finance and Administration reported U.S. membership dropped 1.01 percent to 7,774,420 in 2008. It was the largest percentage decline since 1974, when membership dropped 1.06 percent.

Thirty-nine of 62 U.S. conferences reported membership figures for 2009. Because of mergers in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, the total number of conferences has since dropped from 62 to 59. These statistical reports reflect information from some conferences that were part of the merger.

Many conferences reported sharp declines.

The Indiana Annual (regional) Conference recorded the most dramatic decline — a 5.15 percent decrease in membership to 194,495, and a 4.2 percent decrease in attendance to 116,722. The conference's church school attendance plummeted by 9.5 percent to 39,329.

**The California-Nevada Annual (regional) Conference reported its greatest loss in membership since 1981, dropping about 2.3 percent to 80,375.**

In both cases, church leaders attributed the declines in large part to a more thorough cleansing of the church rolls of people who no longer have any United Methodist affiliation.

**Signs of growth**

The numbers reported by U.S. conferences were not all bad. Four annual conferences reported increases in membership, and five reported increases in worship attendance.

The Red Bird Missionary Conference in Kentucky noted that its membership stands at 1,495, up seven members, and its average worship attendance of 711 is up 35.

The North Carolina Annual (regional) Conference so far is the only other conference to also report gains in membership and attendance. Membership increased by five people to 237,495, and worship attendance is up by 400 to 83,452.

That kind of growth, while small, is nothing new for the conference, which encompasses the eastern side of North Carolina.

The conference has seen its membership grow for the past 15 years, said the Rev. George D. Speake, the conference statistician and pastor of First United Methodist Church in Henderson, N.C.

Speake attributed the growth in part to North Carolina's overall growth in population.

The conference also offers periodic leadership training for pastors each year. In addition, the bishop requires all pastors who are moving to a new appointment in a given year to attend a leadership development seminar.

Perhaps most significantly, Speake said, throughout his 30 years as pastor the conference's bishops and cabinet memberships always have emphasized the necessity of evangelism.

**Addressing the problem**

The United Methodist Church long has looked for ways to reverse the trend of dwindling numbers in the United States.

Last week, the Call to Action Steering Team - a group of clergy and laity appointed to address system-wide problems in the church - released a report on "Congregational Vitality."

The assessment, based on an analysis of data from more than 32,000 United Methodist churches in North America, identified four main "drivers" of church growth, attendance, giving and professions of faith. These drivers are: a mix of both traditional and contemporary worship services, small groups including programs for children and youth, inspirational preaching and lay leadership.

Churches of varied sizes, ethnicities and settings all could be characterized as "vital," the report found.

Some U.S. conferences used their yearly gatherings to address the issue of empty pews.

The Indiana conference held its second annual Day of Outreach, where more than 630 churchgoers did community service and told others about The United Methodist Church.

Likewise, some 600 Kentucky United Methodists for the first time took an afternoon off from the usual annual-conference routine to reach out to the community outside the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.

They distributed food and water, visited nursing homes, assembled health kits and wrote words of comfort to missionaries and soldiers. They also prayed with people on walks through Covington, Ky.

"Anytime you can get the name United Methodist out there, it's a good thing," said Cathy Bruce, the Kentucky conference's director of communications. "That's the first step of getting people through the doors. They have to know you're there."

**The Indiana and California-Nevada conferences were among those that made fruitfulness in ministry a major theme of their gatherings. Missouri Bishop Robert Schnase, the author of "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" visited a number of conferences to share the lessons of his new book, "Five Practices of Fruitful Living."**

**"Fruitfulness involves more than keeping everybody we have happy," said Warner of the California-Nevada Annual Conference.**

**United Methodists, he said, need to practice what their faith teaches and invite people to "an abundant life" in Christ.**

## **Wesleyan Leadership Conference Aims to Spark Revival of Church Heritage**

By TIM GHIANNI

NASHVILLE, Tennessee - Steve Manskar says the United Methodist Church can experience revival by rediscovering its heritage.

"In the 19th Century, the Methodist Church decided to go 'mainline' in order to become 'respectable.' During this period congregations began to jettison some of the characteristics that

set them apart as Methodists," says Manskar, Director of Wesleyan Leadership for the General Board of Discipleship.

Manskar says such practices as the focus on lay pastoral leadership and class meetings were pretty much "de-emphasized in order to attract people to the church."

"It worked, because from the middle of the 19th Century into the early 20th Century, the Methodist Church was the largest, most influential protestant denomination in the United States."

The problem was that "it became Methodist in name only. The denomination transformed itself from a missional movement to an attractional church," says Manskar, who is hosting a Wesleyan Leadership Conference Oct. 14-16 in Nashville to help reclaim some of the Wesleyan missional distinctives The United Methodist Church will need as it seeks to reach a post-Christian, post-modern world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Scott Kisker, whose book, *Mainline or Methodist? Rediscovering our Evangelistic Mission*, is the foundation for the conference, will be helping lead the discussion.

Kisker, professor of church history at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., says he hopes the conference will be a step in "rediscovering the identity ..what it means to be a Methodist in a way that can reinvigorate our ministry in ways that are biblically more faithful and evangelistically more fruitful and that we would know Jesus better."

"I think the problem is that we stopped growing, as far as percentage of the population some-time after the Civil War. .. As the middle-class grew, Methodism watered down its message."

Kisker is advocating a return to the "spiritual vitality" sparked by class meetings, field preaching and band meetings.

Class meetings brought lay people together once a week "to inquire after one another's souls .. with the expectation of helping each other to grow spiritually," he notes. Field preaching "was a way in which people who would not darken the door of the church would be engaged with the gospel."

And then there were the band meetings, "which were groups which met to confess their sins to each other so that they might be healed of whatever brokenness was in them and become more holy, not through polishing the image on the outside but becoming more deeply aware of the grace of God working on the inside and our own need for grace, quite frankly."

"The people we want to participate in the conversation are leaders at all levels of the church, lay and clergy, particularly lay people," says Manskar. "We want conference, district and congregational lay leaders, lay speakers, certified lay ministers, licensed local pastors and, of course, ordained elders and deacons."

The schedule calls for Kisker's keynote address on the first day, with that followed by praise, prayer and group discussions led by the author and the Rev. Vance Ross, Deputy General Secretary of the GBOD.

The second day will begin with a presentation by Taylor Burton-Edwards, GBOD Director of Worship Resources, who will discuss what a 21st Century Methodist revival could look and act like. That afternoon will be turned over to Manskar and GBOD Director of Connectional Laity De-

velopment Sandy Jackson, who will conduct a workshop on Covenant Discipleship groups; small groups based on the early class meeting.

Kisker will preach at Saturday morning's closing Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service.

Manskar says he hopes this conference will mark the beginning of "a Wesleyan Leadership Network, a group of leaders who are grounded in the Wesleyan Methodist tradition of missional leadership."

He says this first in what he hopes will be an annual event is filling a need. "The Council of Bishops and other denominational leaders have been saying for the last few years that we need to become more Wesleyan," he says.

"It's the laity from which this is going to happen and emerge. That's the way it happened in early Methodism. They were the ones who were responsible for forming people as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ."

### **Registration information:**

The Wesleyan Leadership Conference will be Oct. 14-16 at West End United Methodist Church in Nashville. Cost is \$95. For more details and to register go to [www.gbod.org/wesleyanleadership](http://www.gbod.org/wesleyanleadership).

For more information, contact Steve Manskar, Director of Wesleyan Leadership at [smanskar@gbod.org](mailto:smanskar@gbod.org) or 877.899.2780, Ext. 1765

*GBOD's mission is to support annual conference and local church leaders for their task of equipping world-changing disciples. An agency of The United Methodist Church, GBOD is located at 1908 Grand Ave. in Nashville, Tennessee. Visit [www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org) for more information or call the Communications Office at 877.899.2780, Ext. 1726.*

## **UMCOR Provides Disaster Training in Cambodia**

NEW YORK (UMNS) - More than 30 representatives of the Methodist Mission of Cambodia participated in a recent three-day workshop on disaster preparedness and response organized by the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Heavy rain, typhoons and flooding are regular occurrences in Cambodia. The workshop helped local church communities acquire tools and resources they need to prepare for, and respond to, such emergencies.

## **Cambodian UM Employee Risks Everything for Christ**

*Editor's Note: In February 2010, the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission team led by Bishop Warner Brown that the California-Nevada conference sent to Cambodia met a young Cambodian woman who worked at the Methodist Mission in Cambodia. She was to leave shortly after the team's visit to attend a leadership training school in Japan, the Asian Rural Institute. This is her story.*

My name is Daneth Him . . . from Cambodia. . . . My mom is a businesswoman in a small grocery store and my father was a policeman. I have four sisters and two brothers. I work with the United Methodist Church in Cambodia as secretary to the Women's Desk.

I decided to believe in Christ in 2000, without asking permission from my parents. . . .

Sometimes they didn't know what I was doing. . . . One day they heard. . . . They decided to call me in for a talk . . . They asked me what I am going to do for this Sunday and I told them that I will go to the church.

When they heard the word "church," they were angry. My mom said to me, "I will not allow you to go anymore and if you continue to go, you have to get out from this house. You will not be my child anymore."

I did not answer anything, because I did not know what to do.

My father said, "If you believe in Christ, then let your Christ give you food; you don't need to eat my food anymore."

. . . I continued to go to the church . . . hiding it from them. . . . I just told them I was going to my friend's house.

One day I told them the truth, that I kept going to church. This time they did not become angry. I wondered why?

. . . I realized that my actions were showing . . . I was really working hard in my studies and housework. . . . I also helped my mom with her business. . . .

I really wanted my family to believe . . . I started to tell them about Christ. They did not say anything, just let me talk. . . . I kept sharing the Gospel. . . . I asked them, "Why don't you believe in Christ?"

They said that they felt embarrassment with relatives and neighbors. All the people in our village know my parents very well and 99.7% of them are Buddhist . . .

The children in our family kept growing bigger and bigger and nobody would help the family to earn money. . . . My parents were very worried. . . . Even I did not have a job . . .

One day, I went to the airport to pick up our Methodist team from the United States. . . . I met a missionary from Kenya, sent by the General Board of Global Ministries in New York.

I tried to speak English with her, but my English was very poor. She asked me, "Did you study? What subject did you study?" . . . She asked, "Do you want to work in the United Methodist Church?"

My answer was, "Yes!"

. . . At first . . . was a volunteer job, but I received the cost of transportation.

I asked my parents, "Please be patient. . . . I will find money to help our family."

In 2005, my dream came true. I was able to receive some allowance from the United Methodist Church. . . . I could support my family in a small way. . . .

. . . But . . . my father had to borrow money from the bank to take care of an illness. . . . We sold our land . . .

Unfortunately, my father died after I started at the Asian Rural Institute in Japan on April 14, 2010. Even though this problem happened in our family, I feel okay now, because my father decided to believe in Christ in December 2009 before he died. I was so happy, for he is living with our Lord Jesus Christ now. . . . Please continue to pray for our family, because most of them do not believe in Christ yet, and one of my brothers always brings problems to our house. Please also pray for my mother's feelings. . . . She married when she was 22-years-old. She is now 63. It is a big loss for her.

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At the Annual Conference Session in June, the Conference adopted a mission emphasis on Cambodia. Aldersgate UMC in Palo Alto and Mt. Tamalpais UMC in Mill Valley have together undertaken \$4000 of mission support for the position and training to which this story relates. Information about opportunities to contribute is available at [cnumc.org/cambodia](http://cnumc.org/cambodia).

There are also upcoming opportunities for church visits from Cambodia missionaries. Daneth Him has been the assistant to missionary **Marilyn Chan**, who is available for itineration from **Sept. 27 to Nov. 8, 2010**, as is the **Rev. Joseph Chan**. If interested, please contact Laddie Perez-Galang, Conference Secretary for Global ministries, at 925.727.1295 or at [laddieg@pacbell.net](mailto:laddieg@pacbell.net).

In other Cambodia mission news, the California-Nevada Annual Conference will host a **National Cambodia Consultation** at a church in the Bay Area **March 31 to April 2, 2011**.

### **Missionary, Response Correspondent to Itinerate in Cal-Nevada This Fall**

An updated Itineration Schedule is now available for United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries' missionary Rev. Paul Jeffrey's visit to the California-Nevada Annual Conference, September 12-14. View [Confirmed Itineration Schedule](#) here.

Jeffrey writes about the work of the church around the world as a correspondent for Response, the magazine of United Methodist Women, and provides coverage of emergencies for Action by Churches Together (ACT), a Geneva-based global alliance of churches responding to disasters. He has filed stories from more than 60 countries, on topics ranging from hurricanes to health care, massacres to indigenous rights, and refugees to ecumenism.

Learn more about Rev. Jeffrey by reading his [biography](#) on the GBGM website. Click here to make an [online donation](#) to support his work.

For more information, contact Laddie Perez-Galang, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, at 510-396-2347 or [laddieg@pacbell.net](mailto:laddieg@pacbell.net).

### **UMs Invited to Hiroshima Observance on Friday**

The Ecumenical Peace Institute, one of the groups the California-Nevada Annual Conference supports through ecumenical grants, is co-sponsoring, with Livermore Conversion Project, a Hiroshima observance, "65 Years After Hiroshima: It's Time to Retire the Bomb," early in the morning on Friday, August 6 at Livermore Laboratory.

United Methodists are invited to join Norman Solomon, a well know columnist on media and politics, Taiko drummers and musicians for a time of solemn remembrance on the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan and to pledge "never again."

To take part, gather at Vasco and Patterson Pass Roads in Livermore, California at 8 a.m. At 8:15 a.m. there will be a moment of silence to observe the time when the atomic bomb was dropped, followed by a procession to the Lab's west gate and nonviolent acts of witness.

Organizers of the observance note that the threatened use of nuclear weapons remains at the heart of the United States' national security policy. President Obama has submitted a plan to invest \$80 billion to modernize the nuclear weapons complex, including facilities at Livermore Lab, and new bomb factories in New Mexico, Missouri, and Tennessee, while Livermore also is the site where "new and modified" U.S. nuclear bombs are presently being developed, they report.

Keynote speaker Norman Solomon, is a longtime associate of the media watch group [FAIR](#) (Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting). His journalistic experience includes many years of free-lance writing for [Pacific News Service](#) and other media outlets. He is the author of several books including *Target Iraq*.

For more information, contact Tri-Valley CAREs at (925) 443-7148.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Anniversary [worship resources](#) are available from the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD). For additional resources, visit GBOD's website at [www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org).

### **Join in First Friday Daybreak Prayer**

August has arrived and it's time to come together for one hour of prayer.

Jones United Methodist Church invites you join them for *First Friday Daybreak Prayer* on Friday, August 6 at 6 a.m. at 1975 Post Street, San Francisco, CA, 94115. Bring your Bible, your family, friends, and co-workers, and a desire to meet the Lord in prayer.

For those of you who are tens, hundreds, even thousands of miles away, please pray along from wherever you are at 6 a.m. Pacific Time, 8 a.m. Central Time, or 9 a.m. Eastern Time.

According to biblical numerology, eight is the number of new beginnings so let this eighth month of 2010 be a new beginning in your prayer life.

Download [flyer](#) (pdf format).

### **Festival at South Hayward on Saturday is Fundraiser for Open Door**

South Hayward United Methodist Church invites you to join them on Saturday, August 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at an 'Open Door' Festival to benefit their Open Door program.

Formed in 2005, the Open Door program is part of the South Hayward United Methodist Church's outreach mission in the community. It is a program of hope for women who wish to improve themselves and succeed in the United States. The women learn English as a Second Language, arts and crafts, and develop the computer skills to allow them to find jobs in the future.

The program's goal is to provide education, empowerment, and tools for employment readiness to women from low-income families and women who are survivors of domestic violence. Open Door offers a safe environment for them to share their experiences and struggles and to offer support to one another.

Admission is free.

Rent a vending space to sell your new or used item (\$10.00 for a 4X4 ft table). For more information or to reserve a vending space, contact South Hayward UMC at 510.780.9599 or [south-haywardumc@gmail.com](mailto:south-haywardumc@gmail.com).

South Hayward UMC is located at 628 Schafer Road, Hayward, CA 94544.

### **'Good Sam' Youth Group From the 70s Holds August 7 Reunion**

A reunion of the Good Samaritan United Methodist Church (Cupertino, CA) Youth Group from the 1970s will take place soon – on Saturday, August 7, at the church affectionately called "Good Sam." Anyone who attended "Camp Celebration" during the early 1970s is invited!

Registration/gathering begins at 4:30 p.m., with dinner at 5:30.

The Youth Group from 1969 to 1975 was led by the Rev. Ernie Bringas, under the direction of senior pastor, the Rev. Roy Dunn – and during its peak, had weekly attendance of 300+ – fed by 12 high schools on three nights each week.

The group reunites every five years, and at the last reunion, in 2005, 105 people attended. The coordinator of this year's event, Ted Larson, projects similar attendance this time around.

For more information and to sign up on line, visit the reunion web site at <http://www.goodsam.info/2010YFReunion/> – or contact the church office at 408.253.0751 or [gsum-cao@prodigy.net](mailto:gsum-cao@prodigy.net).

### **Walnut Creek UMC Families Go 'Hi-Def'**

Join Walnut Creek United Methodist Church for a transformational time of sharing, learning, and laughter, Saturday, August 14, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. at a Christian parenting workshop, *High Definition Family*, featuring family life coach, preacher and author Sayer Strauch.

Wherever you are on your journey - just getting started, a seasoned adventurer, or in the midst of a desert or in a land of milk and honey - you can benefit from this time of renewal, inspiration, laughter, and insight, while learning new tools for spiritual parenting. Gain first-hand experience, develop habits for tuning in to God, and acquire parenting traits in line with the Master's character.

Sayer Strauch is gifted speaker, coach, as well as a friend of Walnut Creek UMC. Learn more about his mission and ministries at [www.highdefinitionfamily.com](http://www.highdefinitionfamily.com).

Registration deadline is August 8. The cost is \$15 per person (reduced rate). Childcare and snacks will be provided.

For more information, contact Jake Ritter, Coordinator of Family Ministries at [jnritter86@gmail.com](mailto:jnritter86@gmail.com) or 925-934-4208.

Download [flyer](#) (pdf format).

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

## UMNS Briefs

### **Lutheran-United Methodist Group Meets**

CHICAGO (ELCA) - A joint commission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The United Methodist Church developed a three-year plan at its inaugural meeting July 15. The commission is charged with assisting the two denominations in fostering their new full communion relationship. The commission appointed two co-chairs: the Rev. Jonathan W. Linman, assistant to the bishop for formation, ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod, and the Rev. Edgardo Colon-Emerie, professor and director of Hispanic studies, Duke Divinity School, Durham, N.C.

### **Wogaman Named Interim Dean at Claremont**

CLAREMONT, Calif. (UMNS) - The Rev. J. Philip Wogaman has been named interim vice president for academic affairs and dean at the Claremont School of Theology beginning Sept. 1. Wogaman is professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington and served as interim president at Iliff School of Theology in Denver from 2004-2006. "With decades of experience in United Methodist theological education, Philip will provide thoughtful leadership for our faculty and students over the next 12 months," said the Rev. Jerry D. Campbell, president of Claremont. The Rev. Susan L. Nelson had served as dean at Claremont since 2006, but resigned this summer for health reasons.

### **Mississippi Marks Katrina Anniversary With Prayer**

JACKSON, Miss. (UMNS) - The fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall on the Gulf Coast will fall on Aug. 29, a Sunday this year. Mississippi Area Bishop Hope Morgan Ward invites churches to pray for those affected by the hurricane. In mid-August, the Mississippi Annual (regional) Conference will post worship ideas and resources to mark the occasion at [www.mississippi-umc.org](http://www.mississippi-umc.org). Mississippi continues to need volunteers in its recovery and disaster response efforts after tornadoes and flooding this spring.

### **Hygh Takes Mission Communications Post**

NEW YORK (UMNS) - Larry R. Hygh, Jr., director of communications of the United Methodist California-Pacific Annual (regional) Conference, will become director of mission communications at the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, effective Sept. 13, succeeding the Rev. Chris Heckert. A native of Marshall, Texas, Hygh serves on the board of United Methodist Communications and, in 1998, was the first recipient of that agency's Judith L. Weidman Racial Ethnic Minority Fellowship in Communication.

### **Retreat set for exploring ministerial call**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) - A retreat is scheduled for United Methodists exploring the possibility of full-time professional ministry. The 2010 Ministry Discernment & Formation Retreat is planned for Sept. 9-11 at the Scarritt-Bennett Conference and Retreat Center in Nashville. The United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry as well as the Board of Global Ministries are sponsoring the event for those who are discerning a call to be an ordained deacon, elder, local pastor, chaplain, deaconess or home missionary. Registration costs \$100. [More information is available here.](#)

**UMCOR Assists Rehab Efforts in Haiti**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (UMNS) - The United Methodist Committee on Relief, the church's relief agency, is helping Grace Children's Hospital build a rehabilitation infrastructure that will provide both immediate care and the foundation for a long-term program to meet the rehabilitation needs of adults and children, including earthquake survivors, in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. The agency also will assist the hospital as it develops a professional force of rehabilitation specialists trained in physical and occupational therapies. [Donations to support UMCOR's work in Haiti can be made online here.](#)

**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.**