

Daily Summary of Plenary Sessions

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Bishop Minerva Carcaño called the 170th Session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference to order. The session began with a communion service.

Out-going Conference Secretary Kristin Sachen was thanked for her 9 years of service to the conference. She will continue to take minutes during this session. She was honored with a gift, then went back to work.

Mark Wharff was introduced and then unanimously and enthusiastically elected as our new Conference Secretary. He then presented the Secretarial Team, who were unanimously elected:

Gordon Barbosa, Diana Bohn, Mark Buenafe, Daniel Garcia, Susan Hunn, Tevita Koroj, Cynthia Stateman, Jim Taylor, Laura Tower, Carol Visitacion, Scott Wylie, Mariellen Yoshino

The Conference Secretary then offered the Organizational Motions:

1. That the bar of the Conference for the 2018 Session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference shall consist of the block of seating between the stage and the stanchions and ropes, the stage, the Page's tables, and the Audio/Visual tables.
2. That the Conference accepts reports and items not requiring action by the Annual Conference Session and that the Secretary makes editorial corrections as required.
3. That we approve Section assignments of recommendations and resolutions as designated in the conference materials, and that we grant permission to the Agenda Committee to make changes it deems necessary.
4. That we suspend the Standing Rules, Division 1, Section C.5.a, to allow Item 11, Recommendation to Deed Orangevale property to Cho-Un Korean UMC, Item 21, Recommendation for Discontinuation of Wasco UMC, and Item 23, Discontinuation of Oak Park UMC, to be considered by the full plenary body without consideration in a Legislative Section first.
5. That where there are presentations scheduled on the agenda invited speakers from outside the California-Nevada Annual Conference membership may address the Conference session.
6. That we adopt the agenda as published, and that we grant permission to the Agenda Chair, in consultation with the Bishop, to make changes it deems necessary.

Each motion was approved.

Tikiko Lesuma, chair of Conference Committee on Religion and Race moved that we suspend Standing Rule Division I.C.7.k(1) to extend time to speak for or against a motion to 5 minutes, so that ethnic persons may speak in his/her language for 3 minutes with 2 minutes for a bilingual translation. The motion was seconded and approved.

The following late items were requested to be admitted:

Resolution in support of Glide Memorial UMC by Howard Parker

Resolution regarding separation of children at the border by Rolland Loomis

Resolution in support of Jerome Abba by Sadie Stone of the Philippine Solidarity Task Force

Resolution opposing separation of children from parents at the border by Beth Snyder

All late items were accepted. The Resolution regarding separation of children at the border by Rolland Loomis was determined to be a Petitionary Procedure document.

Emily Allen, Agenda Chair reviewed the agenda for the day, including a special evening session of Christian Conferencing on The Way Forward.

Lucas Gorman, an 11th grader from Rancho Cordova UMC was introduced as the student assistant to the Bishop for this portion of the plenary.

The Episcopal Report and Laity Address were given as a joint presentation.

Testify to Love: Do All the Good You Can!
Joint Episcopal and Laity Address

BISHOP

My sister and partner in ministry, Conference Lay Leader, Micheal Pope: What a joy it is to serve Christ Jesus with you! The spirit of God within you blesses, challenges and encourages me. I could not effectively serve as the shepherd of the people of the California-Nevada Conference and fulfill my call to be a prophetic witness for justice and unity without your wise counsel. I thank God for you. As the spiritual and temporal leader of the California-Nevada Conference it is a great privilege to be your ministry partner as together we strive to testify to love and do all the good we can!

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

My partner in ministry, Bishop Minerva Carcaño. I too have shared in an odyssey of faith that has inspired me to be the voice of hope and vision for our conference. Serving with you has taught me to be patient and to lead with grace. We have taken the time to know one another and how to build one another up. Together we embraced an attitude of self-less service, kindness and joy as we prayed for God's guidance in our leadership. Our partnership has developed into a friendship that allows us to trust each other with our inner thoughts without judgement while seeking and sharing the heart of our Savior Jesus Christ. Your love for the California Nevada Conference inspires me and your testimony of faith and love will inspire all of our stories as we grow in our faith as a conference. I too am honored and look forward to what God has in store for us.

BISHOP

The partnership we share is truly sacred. A wonderful sacred experience we shared this past annual conference year was to visit Yreka United Methodist Church together. This congregation's witness to the world is truly an exceptional model of the best of United Methodist DNA. They nurture personal holiness and lead God's people out into the world to live social holiness. It was amazing to worship with this full-house congregation and then move out into the streets to feed the hungry and be church with them on main street Yreka! I will never forget feeding the hungry in the woods and praying with them with leaders of the Yreka church. Most of all, I continue to be inspired by the love and joy with which they do all the good they can. I'm also touched by what you have continued to do in support of this congregation.

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

Oh my gosh, Yreka! Thank you for inviting me to go with you. I was overwhelmed with so much joy during and after our visit that I had to share it with my board president who is a professor at Merrit College. He asked me to share my experience with the students and I did. They then decided that the Yreka church would be their mission!. Currently, at the Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay (ASEB) that I administer, we have an office that is filling up with clothes, dog food, and toiletries. In addition, they would love to go to Yreka to perform blood pressure checks, wound care and numerous first aid interventions. Telling Our Story can inspire individuals to serve God.

BISHOP

Thanks be to God for Yreka United Methodist Church, and for the partnerships that you have facilitated with this church as our Conference Lay Leader. I can hardly wait for our next joint visit to another one of our vital congregations!

Last year I reported in my episcopal address that I was concerned about the finances and stewardship of the annual conference. I shared that I would be inviting the Financial Advisory Consulting Team, a ministry of Wespath in collaboration with the General Council of Finance and Administration, Discipleship Ministries and the Council of Bishops, to assist us with a financial and stewardship assessment of our conference. It has been a blessing for the two of us to lead this process with Rev. Kathi McShane, our Conference CORE Team Chair, and our Executive Director of Finances and Administration, Diane Knudsen. In addition to this leadership team of 4, 21 other leaders from throughout our conference also joined us in this important work.

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

A year of engagement with FACT (Financial Advisory Consulting Team) brought us great "light bulb" moments that initiated deeper dialogue. I feel we are guided by our desire to be informed and engaged stewards. The connectional team that worked with us left us with the following challenges to address:

Challenge 1: Church and Conference Roles

Is there a consistent understanding of the roles of the local church and the agencies of the Conference concerning the financial ministry of the California-Nevada Annual Conference?

Challenge 2: Strategic Plan

Has the lack of a strategic plan that is focused on mission distracted the conference from creating a roadmap to achieving its collective vision?

Challenge 3: Financial Transparency

Is there sufficient transparency of all conference assets to allow for optimal utilization of resource to meet the deliverables of a strategic plan and attain the vision and mission of the conference?

Challenge 4: Tithing

Has the shift to tithing resulted in a favorable outcome and/or an unintended consequence of a 10% ceiling, rather than giving through the church at levels that allow for fulfilling the needs of the congregations to advance the mission and ministry?

Challenge 5: Benefit Levels

Has the successful implementation of direct billing and generous benefit levels led to a belief in the conference that its primary purpose is to “take care of clergy”?

Each challenge came with a number of substantive recommendations for addressing the challenge. CORE Team and Extended Cabinet are helping us to engage conference leaders in tackling these challenges over the next annual conference year

It is important that we engage with all of you in this work...your prayers and trust in our conference will fuel the work.

BISHOP

In full transparency I feel compelled to also share the words of those who came to labor among us in the FACT engagement and continue to walk with us. I would quote their report to us:

FACT advises the California-Nevada Annual Conference to first pause before consideration of these recommendations. The reason for this pause is to recognize that—in terms of financial strength and vitality—even if these recommendations are received, affirmed and acted upon, the annual conference is not sustainable if the trend of membership and attendance decreases and subsequent loss of giving is not addressed.

FACT finds that a straight-line projection of these trends indicates that, within a decade, there will not be a critical mass of financial resources to sustain the conference.

FACT advises that “all hands must be on deck” to address these trends. It is our observation that leadership and accompanying resources exist within the conference to address these trends.

I trust the work of the Financial Advisory Consulting Team, but even more, I trust the faithfulness of God as we work to address these serious concerns. The full FACT engagement report will be posted on our conference web page and a progress report will be brought to the 2019 annual conference session.

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

As 2017 came to an end we still were focused on the financial challenges of the future. God blessed us and showed us what we can do with God's help. God showed up through the hard work of pastors and local churches, our district superintendents and our Council on Finance and Administration and all of you, we became one and told our story by being able to fully pay our General Church and Jurisdictional Apportionments. Glory to God! There is no doubt that God is blessing us with the resources we need to do the ministry and mission God calls us to.

BISHOP

I believe that God is also showing us that as a conference of The United Methodist Church we have capacity and ability to be leaders in the church and in the world. One of the places where I am seeing our increased capacity and ability is in our Circuits. The concept of circuits comes from our Methodist history as a movement people. Throughout the years, the people called Methodists have gone where God has led us. We have been a fearless bunch who for the sake of the Gospel have been willing to commit our lives to serving in the world. In our early days we found that being a connectional people – one United Methodist Church connected to every other United Methodist Church – working together striving to do no harm, to do all the good we could, and to staying in love with God has allowed us to do so much more than one congregation

alone can do. Working together and supporting each other enriches and exponentially multiplies our ministries.

We want to recognize the Pentecost Circuit in Sacramento as a wonderful example of a fruitful Circuit. The Sacramento Pentecost Circuit includes Centennial, Chinese, Emmanuel, Faith, First, Japanese, Oak Park, First Taulanga U, Riverside churches, and West Sacramento River Valley Christian Fellowship. They practice mutual accountability and a rich prayer life together. They rejoice in having annual joint Charge Conferences, occasions when they celebrate each other's ministries, and learn from one another. Together they have become a mighty missional force. They have hosted immigration days in English and Spanish to assist their immigrant neighbors. They sponsored a Rise Against Hunger project, that filled 12,000 bags of food that were sent overseas to feed the poor and hungry. Twice they have celebrated a Pentecost Service at William Land Park. The most recent such service welcomed over 200 participants. They have invited Discipleship Ministries to come and lead them in learning how to strengthen their disciple-making skills. And they have made the commitment to support a new church start called *The Movement*.

The Pentecost Circuit is an exceptional witness to what can happen when we serve together. They have also shown us how to take Circuits that were originally organized as clergy circuits to becoming circuits that engage both clergy and lay. I am hoping that other circuits will follow their good example.

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

Attending my first Conference Lay Leader meeting at Epworth by the Sea in Georgia, I learned what is happening throughout the denomination as it relates to circuits. This conference year it is my prayer that we will work together, clergy and lay, within circuits to foster teamwork, ministry visioning, community awareness/engagement and alignment of resources and ministries. It is my prayer to create learning opportunities along with the lay leadership development team that will assist and nurture our circuits to be more imaginative, engaged and present in the community.

I believe that a successful Circuit will mean Clergy and Laity Circuit members will work together and hold each accountable. They will pray, study and be motivators of change within the circuit neighborhoods. Circuits give the conference the opportunity to brand our beliefs

BISHOP

And now for some special recognitions! We know that we all want to express gratitude for the long and persevering ministry of the Rev. Linda Caldwell. She has been a significant leader in the California-Nevada Conference, most recently as our Superintendent for Mission Collaboration. She has also been a leader in the Western Jurisdiction and in the greater connectional church. We are grateful for the many way she has demonstrated a servant spirit in leading, mentoring others, and always encouraging God's people to serve with deep commitment. Many of us have lovingly said that Linda Caldwell has been a faithful and true colleague, friend, sister, and even a mother to the California-Nevada Conference. She is certainly now our conference historian with more conference history in her brain than anyone else we know! We look forward to hearing God's word for us as she preaches at our memorial service tomorrow. We are grateful to God that her retirement only means a change in clergy status. She will still be an important member of this conference and family of faith.

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

As Rev. Caldwell completes her ministry and moves to ministry in retirement we are fortunate to welcome the Rev. Jorge Domingues as our new Executive Director of Connectional Ministries. A clergy person of the Methodist Church of Brazil, Rev. Domingues comes to us after many years of service through the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. He has served on the Cabinet of the Board of Global Ministries and led ministries around the globe. He comes to us with a deep commitment to building a world of justice in which all God's people are included and welcomed.

BISHOP

We are also grateful to God for the opportunity to recreate a position that will focus on congregational development, building on the good work already done in this area of ministry in our conference. We welcome Rev. Craig Brown, as our new Executive Director of Congregational Development. Rev. Brown comes to us after many years of service in the California-Pacific Conference where he most recently led First United Methodist Church of San Diego, helping to transform it into a new and vital congregation whose heart has been turned outwardly with a renewed passion for reaching others with the love of Christ Jesus.

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

Rev. Fel Cao has felt the call to serve as our new Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries and Young People's Ministries. Fel's leadership in our conference, his commitment to the spiritual growth of young leaders, and his love of spiritual formation, will undoubtedly be used by God to lead us to the next level of our ministry with young people and our camping and retreat ministries. It is our hope that under Rev. Cao's leadership we will be able to create a young people's ministry that is even more inclusive of the great diversity of the people in our area and a revamped camping and retreat ministry that provides spiritual formation opportunities for all ages throughout the year. His enthusiasm will be contagious!

BISHOP

As we come to the end of our joint address there are some major concerns that we are facing and will continue to work on into the coming annual conference year. One of these concerns is the relationship of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church to this conference. It is important for you the clergy and lay members of this annual conference to know that at this point, the Cabinet and I with the prayers and support of our Conference Lay Leader and Conference Chancellor, Jay Rosenlieb, are intentionally working on ways to support Glide Memorial UMC's exceptional work of care for the poor and the vulnerable of the Tenderloin District of the City of San Francisco while also seeking to reestablish a United Methodist congregation at Glide. Please pray for these efforts.

Sister Micheal, as two women of color, you and I have consulted, shared concern and even shed tears together about the racism that we experience here in our beloved conference. I certainly have experienced racism as I have received letters from members of our congregations telling me to shut my mouth every time I have called us to care for the immigrant, the refugee, and the poor or when I have challenged unjust laws in this country and the immoral ways of some of our government leaders. It saddens me that as an institutional church we have failed to teach that the reign of God stands above every earthly political structure, and that as Christians we are first and foremost citizens of the reign of God. It concerns me that we have allowed our comfort or in some cases, our insecurity, to turn us away from our brothers and sisters who struggle in this world because of forced migration, unjust economic systems, corrupt

governments, and violence and war in the world. I know that you too have experienced racism even in our California-Nevada Conference churches.

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

Yes, Bishop. Unfortunately the same racism that I face in my everyday life I have also felt among my church family.

A few Sunday's ago, I was asked by an usher to greet the new "colored family"!

I was shocked by the term "colored family" and was left speechless because I knew this person meant no harm but their lack of understanding of the social injustice that word "colored" represents made me conscious of the fact that we as a church have work to do if we truly want to "See all the People"!

Racial hatred and discrimination are more than just glaring social injustices. They're also a direct affront to God and an insult to the entire human family. Racism runs directly counter to everything the Gospel represents. It saddens me deeply to know that you've experienced its toxic effects as well.

We have an opportunity as Methodists to reclaim and be a part of a "Christian Nation". Christ's kingdom knows no national boundaries. It can't submit to national definitions or identifications. It is a timeless, transcendent reality. It's a place where "there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female" and where "all are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Bishop, I know you join me in helping the members of our conference to understand that Racism is as much about impact as it is about intention. Together our intent is to love the diversity of the people that make up our communities without attaching systematic silos of separation. In many cases such as the story I just told people do not recognize their words and deeds are racist. It's simply seen as a part of the American culture! But does it have a place in the life of a Christian/Methodist. I say NO!

Taking the time to examine the history of our sisters and brothers regardless of their race while searching our hearts for our personal truth can be scary. We are called to move beyond our fears to a place of compassion, understanding and love for all of God's creation.

BISHOP

You know that I am returning from having been with the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico. While I was with our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico, I also had the opportunity to visit some of the disaster sites caused by Hurricane Maria. I am so glad that our conference is partnering with the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico through our offerings and through volunteers in mission. In fact, I came home with a special recognition for our volunteer in mission team that traveled to help the recovery in Puerto Rico. I would like to ask that members of that volunteer in mission team who are present today to come forward to receive this special recognition from the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico.

Sister Micheal, I also brought you a gift. As you wear it, remember that you and the people of the California-Nevada Conference are beloved of God and of the people of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico who are praying for us.

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

Bishop, Puerto Rico needs our support. Growing up in New York the Puerto Rican culture was very much a part of my community. I believe growing up in the

Bronx taught me that all peoples can work and live together when they ignore the differences. Puerto Ricans like Cubans come in all hues but when they look in the eyes of their brothers/sisters they see family! Knowing that my brothers and sisters are still suffering in Puerto Rico tears at the fabric of my heart. But, I know we are there, Methodist courageous and strong!

BISHOP

Every time I am with our Methodist brothers and sisters from Puerto Rico I learn something about what it means to be the people of God. As I prayed with them, shared meals with them, and heard their witness and hopes for their future, I was struck by how united they are. In their diversity of Spanish, Indigenous, and Black, liberal, moderate and conservative, they are very united. As I was nurtured by their spirit I realized that they speak a common language and share a common culture. Perhaps this is a blessing that allows them to enjoy the unity of their spirit.

As I was traveling home, I thought to myself, we the people of God in the California-Nevada Conference also share a common culture and a common language. It is the culture of our Christian faith and the language of God's love. We can by God's grace overcome our racism, our sexism, our homophobia, our sin of every kind, and be one. In the language of our communion liturgy: by God's grace we can be one with Christ Jesus, one with each, and one in ministry to the world.

One of the opportunities we have of affirming our unity as United Methodists is to fully engage in the work of the Council of Bishops and the Commission on A Way Forward in the efforts they are making to bring direction to the 2019 Special-Called General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Through our prayers and through our Christian Conferencing, even right here at this annual conference session, we can contribute to the work of the church in determining what we shall look like and who we shall be in the days to come. Our own hope is that in the days to come we will be a church that excludes no one.

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

From December 31, 2017 through January 6, 2018 we all testified to love. We agreed to pray for God's guidance. It is our calling to serve God with the heart of Jesus. Nothing can divide us when we stand courageous as God's servant leaders.

BISHOP

What a joy it is to serve with you, Conference Lay Leader and Sister, Micheal. We are together truly privileged to lead the people of The California-Nevada Conference of The United Methodist Church.

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

Thank, my bishop. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead with you and with the faithful of the California-Nevada Conference.

There is no better way to end our joint address than by joining in the words of the Apostle Paul to the people in Ephesus:

ALL TOGETHER

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Respectfully Submitted,
Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, Resident Bishop
Ms. Micheal Pope, Conference Lay Leader

We then recognized those who have responded to the Roll Call for 50 or more years:

Bob Blaney, 60 years
Marty Murdock, 50 years
John Sublett, 56 years
Phil Hall, 56 years
John Emerson, 60 years
Don Fado, 62 years
Oscar Escamilla, 61 years
John Corson, 60 years
Harry Wood, 55 years
Bob Kuyper, 50 years
Bob Schwartz, 58 years
Jerry Angove, 51 years
Clyde Vaughn, 66 years
Tony Ubalde, 61 years
Chuck Cordes, 60 years
Bill Johnson, 52 years
Mas Kawashima, 54 years
Dick Ernst, 52 years
Bill Beck, 60 years
Gere Reist, 50 years

District Superintendent Debra Brady offered prayer as we departed for lunch break.

Plenary resumed at 2:00 pm

After the opening prayer, Item 2 was withdrawn by Pastor Veisa of the Fijian Council of Vakatawas.

Conference Secretary Mark Wharff then read the instructions for election of General Conference 2019 delegates:

On Thursday, June 22, 2017, during last year's Annual Conference Session, Bishop Carcaño reminded us of the Council of Bishops call for a Special General Conference, February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis Missouri for the purpose of receiving the report from the Commission on a Way Forward. A motion that the California-Nevada delegation to the 2016 General Conference in Portland represent us at the 2019 Special Called General Conference in St. Louis was defeated by a count vote of 231 in favor, 308 opposed.

The Commission on the Annual Conference Session has made preparations for the election of delegates to the 2019 Special Called General Conference during this year's conference session, following our Standing Rules and The Book of Discipline.

In accordance with those procedures, two lay women and four lay men were nominated. There were no clergy who received the twenty votes required in our rules.

Our Standing Rules provide that additional nominations of laity or clergy may be submitted at the opening session of annual conference, if supported by at least twenty votes.

However, on May 7, 2018, the Council of Bishops announced the ratification of three amendments to the church's constitution that take effect immediately. Among them was an amendment to Paragraph 34 which specifies that elections of delegates to General Conference, jurisdictional and central conferences "shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference." The Book of Discipline, thus amended, supersedes our Standing Rule that "at least twenty votes" support adding a nominee at the opening session of the conference.

The Commission on the Annual Conference Session recommends that persons wishing to place additional names in nomination from the floor will, at the designated time, seek to be recognized by the Bishop, go to a microphone as directed by the Bishop and make the nomination. Further, in order to comply with our Standing Rules, each nominee and nominator will complete this simple Delegate Nomination Form to provide contact information and confirm the nominee's willingness to serve if elected. Copies of this form are available at the Pages Table and in the Conference Secretary's Office in Room Sacramento II. Completed and signed forms must be received by the Conference Secretary by 12:00 noon on Thursday, June 21.

Electing delegates to a special General Conference does not appear to be contemplated in our current Standing Rules. Therefore, there is no procedure for electing reserve delegates to a special General Conference. Our rules for electing reserves after the election of General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates direct that "one additional ballot shall be taken for reserve delegates with the first 5 lay persons and the first 5 clergy persons being considered reserve delegates according to the numerical ranking of total votes received." In 2015, we elected 3 lay and 3 clergy delegates to the 2016 General Conference, 7 lay and 7 clergy delegates to the 2016 Western Jurisdictional Conference, and 5 lay and 5 clergy reserve delegates. The 7 lay and 7 clergy jurisdictional delegates and 5 lay and 5 clergy reserve delegates could have been seated during the General Conference.

Corresponding to that process, the Commission on the Annual Conference recommends that, after the election of the General Conference Delegates, one additional ballot shall be taken for reserve delegates with the first seven lay persons and the first seven clergy persons being considered reserve delegates according to the numerical ranking of total votes received. Vacancies which may occur within these reserve delegates shall be filled using the list of nominees appearing on this final ballot according to the numerical ranking of total votes received.

Who is eligible for election as a delegate, and who can vote?

¶ 35. Article IV.—The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who

are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

¶ 36. Article V.—The lay delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional or central conferences.

Voting Instructions: The Tellers will distribute ballots to voting members. Lay ballots are printed on (color) paper; Clergy ballots are printed on (color) paper. As is our custom, we will pause for prayer before we mark our ballots. Be sure to make a clear check mark in the box to the right of the persons for whom you wish to vote. Take care to vote for precisely the number of required nominees as instructed on each ballot. Ballots with fewer or more than the required number will be invalid.

Prior to each ballot, we will be reminded of the number of delegates to be elected, and therefore the required number of nominees for which to vote. Be sure to note on your Ballot Tracker when there has been an election. A vote on a subsequent ballot for one who has been elected will invalidate that ballot. Be sure to note on your Ballot Tracker when someone has received fewer than twenty votes. A vote on a subsequent ballot for one who has been elected will invalidate that ballot.

Example: We are ready for lay ballot number 3. Number 28, Buster Posey, was elected on ballot number 2. Please do not vote for Number 28, Buster Posey. Number 10, Justine Turner, received fewer than twenty votes on ballot number 2, and is there ineligible on ballot number 3. Please do not vote for Number 10, Justine Turner. On the screen are those who remain eligible for election on ballot number 3: (Numbers and Names appear on screen)

Brian Adkins, pastor at Open Door Richmond and representative to the Commission on a Way Forward, was recognized. He moved that we re-elect our 2016 delegation to serve at the special General Conference 2019.

Kelly O'Connor requested that we hear who the delegation of 2016 is? They are:

General Conference Lay Delegates: Emily Allen, Burt Yin, Randall Miller

General Conference Clergy Delegates: Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, Greg Bergquist, Karen Oliveto

Jurisdictional Conference Lay Delegates: Gayle Shearman, Wesley Hingano, Emily Bennett, Emma Kerr-Carpenter, Robert Dunning, Mari Kawaguchi, Ruby Bago

Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Delegates: Siosifa Hingano, Dale Weatherspoon, Odette Lockwood-Stewart, Felicisimo Cao, Elizabeth Brick, Schuyler Rhodes, Bener Agtarap

Reserve Lay Delegates: Katherine Kim, James Eychaner, Kyna McNaught, Nina Klepac, Beverly Pool

Reserve Clergy Delegates: Kathleen LaPoint-Collup, Eugenie-Myrna Bernadel-Huey, Motoe Yamada Foor, Jola Bortner, Jeonghyun Park

For an order of the day, Lay Leader Micheal Pope lead us in prayer for A Way Forward at 2:23 p.m.

Angela Brown, clergy Glide, spoke in support of the motion, saying the relationships have been built and will stand us very well.

Matthew Pearson, clergy Sonoma, asked for clarification of who replaces Karen Oliveto, who is now a Bishop of the church? Bishop Carcaño responded that the Delegation decides.

Jamie Michaels, clergy serving in New England Annual Conference, spoke in favor of the motion. She was the one who made the motion last year to elect a new slate. Voices of LGBTQ persons matter, but she did not intend to imply current delegation could not do this. She wants to support them and encourage them to keep in conversation with those in the Cal-Nevada as they move forward.

Randall Miller, lay delegate to General Conference, rose to a point of information. The Delegation has a long history of affirming the practice of opening seats to reserve and alternates for gender balance during the course of the Conference.

The Vote was taken and passed with overwhelming support. The 2016 General Conference Delegation will serve in 2019.

The plenary was dismissed for Clergy and Lay Sessions.

The full annual conference was resumed after dinner with a time of Christian Conferencing on the topic of A Way Forward. The recommendation of the Bishops' (Number Two) was read, as was the first and third pathways. We focused on The Bishops' recommendation\ by discussing specific questions in groups of 5-6 people.

We then adjourned for the night.

Thursday, June 21, 2018

The plenary resumed with morning music led by Laurie McHugh and the band.

Prayer was offered for Rev. Hajime Yamamoto, past from San Jose Wesley UMC, and his family, especially for his father in Japan who has suffered a stroke.

Marlon Hall, our conference speaker, began with a Teaching moment. He said we were moving into an interesting space – a space of remembering. Memory is essential to imagination. We can do good by remembering why we do what we do. “Do not be weary, in due season we shall reap if we faint not.” Intention: to unearth beauty from brokenness by rooting and remembering. How do we begin – by his book *Unearthing You*. Which is a series of rituals. In the beginning the Spirit of God hovered over the chaos. Never despise chaotic beginnings. There will be challenges, brokenness, to be uncovered. We can only unearth beauty from brokenness by remembering the “why”. The Kingdom is suffering from amnesia. We are traumatic leaders. Jimmy Oganga, in Nairobi, a curator. If we cannot remember who we were, we cannot imagine our future. We need help remembering our future. How does the church have amnesia? We are clogged up with the “what, where, who” and forgotten the “why”. The trauma of what we do, how we do it, is giving us amnesia. “Sankova” bird, means “go back and get”. We need to welcome brokenness, risks, creativity.

Ritual is Amnesia Therapy (remembering our why). Hemingway’s story in six words: For Sale: Baby Shoes Never Worn. Verb, noun, preposition and noun. Touch Truth With Love. Excavate beauty from brokenness.

Pure beginnings can be unearthed from unhappy endings. If you are going to embrace the future, you will need to embrace unhappy endings. We need gray hair now more than ever. Be listeners, investigators and anthropologists of your community. We need your partnership to help discern our “whats” and “hows”.

The plenary showed its appreciation for Marlon Hall’s words.

Erin Harden from Temple UMC, San Francisco, was introduced as the young person assisting the Bishop in this portion of the plenary.

The Agenda Chair, Emily Allen, reviewed the Agenda for the day. We have legislative sections this morning and important work this afternoon.

Robin Wells, co-chair of Legislative Sections, introduced the process. We will have five sections and parliamentary rules of plenary apply to the section as well.

Videos from this year’s retirees were prepared to show during the entire plenary, rather than just at the Clergy Session. Three questions were asked of them: What has brought the greatest joy to you in the local church? What advice would you give to colleagues just starting? What else would you want to share with the conference? Linda Caldwell, Ron Dunn, and Alpha Goto were shown with their responses.

After announcements, we had a closing prayer and then were dismissed to Sections, followed by the lunch break

We returned to the plenary and began with the Memorial Service of Clergy and Clergy Spouses who have died during the past year. Linda Caldwell, retiring Executive Director of Connectional Ministry, was the preacher. Those remembered were:

Clergy – C. Ray Alderman, Susan Berges, Wayne Leroy Bouck, A. Allen Bryan, Arturo Doctolero Capuli, Lawrence H. Doyle, Clyde Holtzman Frazier, Christine C. Haynes, James Yeend Horton, James Donald Hougland, Earl L. Langguth, Robert McCallister, David DeLeon Rodriguez, Alpha H. Takagi, John William Taylor, and Lloyd K. Wake.

Clergy Spouses – Grace C. Ahn, Ruth L. Darling, Jean E. Davis, Sarah Gaxiola, William Hartman, Louise Livers Hoffman, Celia Pangan Rodriguez, Juanita Will Swedenburg, Mary H. Thomas, Priscilla Tremayne

After the service and a time to greet the families, we resumed with our business portion of the conference.

Report of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented by Chair Jeffrey Hall. He began with recognition of members of Board. Then the following were presented:

Commissioned toward Deacons orders: Alyss Marie Swanson, Salamasina (Sina) Vuna

Commissioned toward Elders Orders: Andrew Davis, Sungrae Kim, Sanghyun Lee

Approved for ordination and full connection:

Vathanak Heang
Burke Van Deventer Owens
Jay C. Parr III
Jose Manuel Ramos
Sandra Michele Robbins
Sandra Valeria Sanders-West
Hae-Jeong Yoon

Bishop Carcaño mentioned her day apart with the ordinands and how they renewed her spirit greatly. The Bishop affirms that each and everyone of them has been called, and they are already servant leaders. We give God thanks for this class! She then presented the 19 traditional questions to which they responded appropriately.

Those receiving license as local pastor for the first time are:

Peter Suh, Peter Hyun Ho Park, Daniel Jong Sik Kim, Eduviges (Vicki) Flores, Tevita Koroï, Cynthia Lawler, Vaitafa Heimoana, Falamao Samate, Roland Loomis, Emily Pickens-Jones, Jacey Pickens-Jones, Hwapyoung Henry Kang, Susan King, Tevita Koroï, Tara Macy, Alison Maki (3 will begin licensing school next week)

Celebration of retirements. The following were honored with medals and certificates upon their retirement:

Elders in Full Connection:
Linda Delain Caldwell
Pamela D. Cummings

Ronald G. Dunn
Alpha Dean Goto
Neal Roger Harrell
Linda A. Holbrook
Linda Marie Kelly
Jeffrey K. Kunkel
Vaionekesi Lea Loumoli
Michael B. Love
Helen E. Mansfield
Karen Agalia McClintock
John Allen McLaughlin
Lorraine McNeal
Alice Marie Oberg
Lawrence G. Patten
Monique-Cheri Teresa Pierre
Victoria Schlintz
Naomi P. France Southard
Donna M. Van Maanen
Florence Faith Whitmore

Associate Members:

Juan Manuel Saavedra

Local Pastors:

Kien Srey
Wanda Windsor

Re-Voting on a Constitutional Amendment from the 2016 General Conference. The Bishop read the eligibility to vote list. Those eligible are:

Clergy and Deacons in Full Connection, Conference Lay Ministers assigned to a church, Certified Lay Ministers assigned to a church, Lay Members to ACS, Youth and Young Adults.

The vote was taken by written ballot and given to the Tellers for tally.

Core Team Report, presented by Chair Kathi McShane. The Core Team members joined her on stage. The Core Team has been at work since 2012. They meet 4 times a year and work on a number of things. Their task is to hold the work of the conference in their hands and make interim conference decisions between conferences. The conference has 4 mission area conveners:

Leadership development Mission Focus Area, George Edd-Bennett, convener
Compassion and Justice Mission Focus Area, Ani Missirian-Wilson, convener
Congregational Development Mission Focus Area, Samuel Hong, convener
Connectional Resources Mission Focus Area, Ruby Bago convener

Highlights from the year were presented:

Campus Ministry Starrla Franks from Delta College reported on the Delta Wesley campus ministry. The ministry focuses on first generation college students who are especially need help, information and guidance. At Delta we help each other with life skills as well as managing school. Lately we have been focusing on healthy ways to manage stress. We cook meals together, have a fitness challenge, and spiritual guidance. Delta Wesley is a group that has become a family. We see the light at the end of that long tunnel.

Missionary Video and Blessing Howard Parker, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, reported for the Compassion and Justice Area, presenting a brief video of missionary Paul Jeffrey's photo journalism. We support missionaries from everywhere to everywhere. There are four missionaries from our conference: Marilyn Chan serving in Cambodia; Claudia Genung, serving in Japan,; Katherine Parker in Nepal, and Josh Van serving in Malaysia. Elizabeth Morero is serving in Sacramento as jurisdictional staff for the Hispanic National Plan Either present or on their way to our conference are Global mission fellow Maggie Lohmeyer; Joanne Cho, representing local Korean-American missionaries; Judy Chung, Global Ministries Associate General Secretary for Missionary Services; Missionary Jim Perdue who came to speak at the luncheon on migration. The Bishop blessed these persons involved in missionary work and the conference showed their appreciation.

Partners in Ministry Ruby Bago, Convener. The primary function of this area is to connect with and engage local churches and the Conference in embracing diversity and inclusiveness; to build and encourage partnerships with other faith communities. There are 4 Commissions within this area:

Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations
Status and Role of Women
Reconciliation
Religion and Race

CONAM Derrick Rainbow thanked David Samelson and Linda Caldwell for their support and help with CONAM and presented them with abalone shell, sage, and a blanket.

Retirement video presented interviews with Neal Harrell, Linda Holbrook and Linda Kelly. The afternoon session was closed with prayer.

7:30 pm

Leslie, a Young Adult who works as a Substitute middle school teacher in Pittsburg, was introduced as the young person assisting the Bishop for this evening session. She is from Los Rios District.

The report from the vote on the Constitutional Amendment was given. It has been completed and returned to the General Conference Secretary. We do not report the result to our conference so as not to influence other conferences.

The Agenda Chair announced that Consent Calendar has been distributed. Please review and let the legislative team know if there are any errors. To withdraw an item from the Consent Calendar, need 10 persons to sign a withdrawal petition within 24 hours from now. Item 20 and 26 have so far been removed from the Consent Calendar.

Question regarding Item 24. Shouldn't it be on the Consent Calendar since it received 85% of the vote, even though it was negative? Shouldn't it be on the Consent Calendar as a recommended "no" vote? The answer wasn't immediately clear, will be researched, and presented tomorrow morning.

Core Team report, continued with Linda Caldwell. Mission Area of Justice and Compassion. Part of the work is disaster response. Earlier this year we began to take stock of that, especially our capacity to respond. We wrote a grant request for a position that would last one year which would have the goal of closing down our existing projects and build our capacity for one year. Just at that point, the wildfires in Santa Rosa came up and the job expanded to two years. We recruited a very well skilled person to come and be the staff person for Disaster Response in our conference. She is Sonja Edd-Bennett. What do we need to do about disaster preparedness – for ourselves, for our community, for our church? Sonja wants to help build capacity. We have a grant for \$1.3 million. Volunteering is rated at \$30/hour. We want to help rebuild 50 homes in Mendocino County. We have a partnership with a group in Lake County so we can help there. We are also supporting recovery in Lake Isabella (fire 2 years ago) where only 3 homes have been rebuilt. There will be trainings for Circuit Disaster Response Recovery Coordination. Sonja will come out and train.

A Video was shown of a recent Puerto Rico VIM trip. Leslie Carmichael was the team leader from Los Altos. "We thought it would be an early response team but by the time we got there they were beginning rebuilding. We split our team into two needs. Rebuilt one home, and replaced roof on another and cleared debris. It will take years and years. Electricity is a huge issue. We could see them putting in power lines, but it is a huge project. A lot of structures haven't been touched yet. The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico has several sites set up for volunteer teams. They have construction supervisors, case managers, and infrastructure for teams. We need more teams. We will return later this year. This is an opportunity to go and make a difference in families' lives, help with looking forward. "United Methodist Rebuild"

Kathi McShane – major focus in coming year: FACT Report – number of challenges. One – has the lack of a strategic plan that is focused on mission distracted the conference from creating a roadmap to achieving its collective vision? We have committed to work on visioning and strategic planning that is bold enough and big enough to inspire us. We need better goals, and accountability to make that vision happen. We've been so focused on fixing the church that maybe we have missed God's work in the world: Transformation. We think our work is to discern God's movement in the world and align ourselves with that.

1. We will listen.
2. We will use the strategic planning expertise that is among us.
3. We will affirm the values that we have already been working on.
4. We will align this conference with the values and 4 mission areas of the UMC.
5. We will make a plan that each local congregation would find a place in it.
6. We will set free each local church to do the work that God is calling it to.
7. We will rediscover the importance of the unity of the church. What is the work we are uniquely qualified to do?

Holly Hillman, courtesy chair, introduced representatives from our General Agencies:

Judy Chung, from General Board of Global Ministries. The UMC has 350 full time missionaries. Through generous giving and Volunteers in Mission it is possible to respond to disasters around

the world. We are engaged in global health, and support health projects around the world. The Advance is giving 3 awards today (looking at top 10 conferences). We received awards for being in the top 10 conferences for Advance giving for missionary support; top 10 supporter of mission initiatives; and top 10 support of international disaster response. The Bishop received the 3 awards.

Letitia Reed, member of Cal-Nevada, brought greetings from General Secretary Thomas Kemper.

Greg Bergquist, member of Cal-Nevada and serving at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in the area of Ordination, greeted us by saying it's always good to come home. He was very proud to be in clergy session yesterday to hear what we are doing. He shared a video of greetings from the General Secretary, Kim Cape.

Bener Agtarap, member of Cal-Nevada and serving at the General Board of Discipleship, brought greetings from Junius Dotson, General Secretary. This Board equips the church for its mission. They are our partners in ministry and mission.

Report from Committee on Religion and Race Rev. Tikiko Lesuma, chairperson, brings the report. They work with the ethnic caucuses and groups. They revisited some of the conversations that we have hoped to accomplish in the past 2 years. They have monitored the Annual Conference Sessions and noted that limited English speaking people have trouble coming to the microphone to speak. Thank you for allowing the expansion of time for speaking so that we can have translation time. Working with District Superintendents to compile all the churches with language ministries in order to explore best practices, honor diversity, and work for inclusion. They continue to be supportive of the call to prayer and repentance by CONAM. Full inclusion of all people!

Fixing of Appointments, Northern District, Dave Samelson, outgoing District Superintendent

Recognition of youth and young adult delegates Karla Lundin, chair of youth and young adults, asked the delegates to stand. We also recognized chaperones and organizers.

Recognition of Kelly Peterson Cruse, who labored in California-Nevada for 10 years, and is now serving with General Board Of Discipleship, resourcing camping and additionally serving the western jurisdiction as representative. She was given a gift and our thanks.

Retirement video presented interviews with Jeff Kunkel, Vaionekesi Lea Loumoli, and Helen Mansfield

Anne Loy Chau led us in closing prayer.

Friday, June 22, 2018

Music once again brought us together for the work of the day.

Marlon Hall spoke about remembering the future of discomfort.

“To unearth the future from the ecotone of discomfort” An ecotone is a bio system between two ecosystems. Eco means life, tonos means tension. Life Tension. A place where ecological life grows in tension.

Comfort can be the enemy of creativity. The church did not begin with comfort. We need to redefine the meaning of comfort. Forgetting those things which are behind ... Philipians 3:13-16.

Without friction there is no movement. You have to go through something to get there. We were invited to talk with partner about discomfort.

Failure, fear, confrontation, change, not being liked - Sometimes our capacity to create is directly proportionate to our willingness to embrace discomfort.

“Comfort isn’t that dis-comfortable” You’ll be vexed if you aren’t fulfilling your call. We have so much comfort and yet so much depression and addiction. Our intuition will be unsettled until we are about what we need to do.

The ecotone is where organisms are biodiverse; where the soil is fertile. The integration of two bio-communities. God is in the yucky marsh on the way to the pond. Soil in ecotone is so fertile even when so yucky. The kingdom is diverse, fertile, and integrated.

Our Landmark (brick and mortar) has become our Landmine.

Invite you into the tension between what we want for the church and what we have. We are in the infant stage of the church, not the geriatric stage: Rohr. Church work is in its infancy.

What do we do to deal with a baby’s soiled diaper? Change it.

Embrace the crap that is happening, not to go around, over or under – but the only way out is through.

Marlon – lost 92% of congregation when starting Eat Gallery. Need to create messy spaces. When people leave you are doing something right. What messy spaces are you creating that God can create something in?

Our world is dying and we Methodists have a way/means to transform it with God.

He is Methodist because of John Wesley. He Planted a church, people gave money and the DS wanted them to build a building. The DS told him he was too messy. But we need to be in the dirt business.

Dante was introduced as the Young Adult invited to assist the Bishop this morning. He is from Central UMC, in Stockton and is a Senior at University of the Pacific.

Agenda review, Emily Allen announced that there were two more items to be removed from the Consent Calendar – Items 20 and 26.

There was a friendly amendment to Item #14: p.26 line 17 after conference lay leaders ... add: "Active deaconesses and home missionaries, District lay leaders"
And in Item #25 line 25, change "demand" to "demand that it immediately be ended"

It was announced that Item #24 is appropriately placed on the Consent Calendar as a negative recommendation.

Reports from District Superintendents – Debra Brady, Dean of the Cabinet

Central Valley District. Item 21, Discontinuation of Wasco United Methodist Church (please see Journal page 242), was presented to the plenary by DS Debra Brady. This item calls for the discontinuation of the Wasco UMC congregation. Lay Leader Bill Peck and pastor Martha Milk were present. The final service was December 31, 2017. The recommendation is to discontinue as of June 30, 2018. First UMC Bakersfield has received the transfer of their membership. The property title will be transferred to the Kern Missionary & Extension Society. Net assets will be used for new church development in collaboration with the Cabinet's mission strategy. Motion is before the body: Unanimously approved. Prayer of gratitude. What will God do with the assets of this church?

Bay District. DS Staci Current noted that the district contained 51 churches and 6000 members. Mission is to grow. We must capitalize to reach out to growing population that is so diverse. The structure in place now to do so. Structure is bones for doing our work, mission and ministry. Will work with Craig Brown in congregational development. It's all about reclaiming the 'why'.

El Camino Real District. DS Shinya Goto spoke of First UMC San Jose where the church asked the neighborhood "in what ways can the church be helpful to you?" They responded they need help with food. Every week, there is a delivery of grocery bags to families. Started with 15 families and today 77 families are served. They receive donations from 16 places. Other donation programs ask for "sign up" but these people are afraid to give information.

Great Northern District. DS Dave Samelson said that this district is made up of 102 mostly scrappy small churches. Small can be very beautiful.

Los Rios District. DS Schuyler Rhodes brought Item 23, Discontinuation of Oak Park UMC in Sacramento (please see Journal page 243). This congregation was founded in 1895 and served the community. But today, membership is 29, the church has declined. Item 23 was unanimously approved.

DS Schuyler then brought Item 11, Deed Orangevale Property to Cho-Un Korean UMC (please see Journal page 235). The Orangevale church was abandoned in 2005 and the property was transferred to the Conference Board of Trustees. Cho-Un UMC has occupied the building ever since. Approved unanimously. Request from Ginger Foster to hear more about Cho-Un UMC . Pastor Doosik Kim responded that they had 39 new members last year.

Rest break for 12 minutes

Fixing of Appointments - Appointments beyond the Local Church – Debra Brady, Dean of the Cabinet

Legislative Section Reports

Robin Wells and Hae-Jung brought Items 8, 20, and 26 from Section B

Dave Bennett was chair of section.

Item 8, Resolution for United Methodist Church Unity had 2 amendments. It was recommended that it not be adopted.

Item 20, Inviting Local Congregations to be Pro-Active in Interfaith Community, was also amended. Recommended unanimously by the section.

Alan Jones, the presenter of Item 20, was recognized. Level of hate crimes is rising, particularly against Jews and Muslims over past 2 years. This resolution invites churches to intentionally reach out and build bridges. Develop a plan to make relationships.

Speaker from Davis UMC – strongly in favor. We already do many of these things. It is so important because it is easy to not understand each other.

Santa Clara UMC – pastor – in favor

Pastor From Congo – in favor

El Sobrante UMC lay. There was change line 20 p 39 “both of those” to “all”

Vote on Item 20 was unanimous yes.

Item 8. The Section recommends a No vote. Reasoning: unity wasn't our highest priority in the ongoing conversation about our church. If we make unity our highest priority there would still be those left out.

For the “no recommendation: Charles Smith Turlock First. Empathy with spirit of Item, nevertheless, it would be counterproductive to the discussion needed at General Conference.

For: Lee Neish – unity, liberty, charity – three struggling values/tensions. Item doesn't help us get to all of those.

Epworth Lay Member – not an important Item if it goes nowhere. Other conferences are doing this.

Question – would like to hear from Brian Adkins of the Commission on a Way Forward or from the Queer caucus.

Brian Adkins – appreciate the spirit. A consideration to think of – to bring to GC, it may be overwhelmed. We may not be of one mind about unity as a value, and we have never defined it.

Voice against the recommended “No” vote – we are *United Methodist*.

In favor – appreciate the spirit and concerns but when we say “let's set aside our differences” it erases who we are (I am).

Against – definition of united is in the background. This is an aspirational statement. We want to go to GC in the spirit of unity and not division.

Green card – we don't have to agree on everything to be united and love each other. We need to respect the Commission on the Way Forward's work.

Against – Sees difference between background and resolution.

For – my church has a wide spread of beliefs and there is a great deal of love and respect. In present political situation, it is often the case that people are being judged by exterior

expressions, prejudice, injustice. I would like to see that we do not do anything that inhibits expression of feeling.

Vote: in favor of section recommendation: the ayes have it. Resolution #8 is set aside.

CFA presentation of the budget. Kristin Stoneking, chair, addressed the plenary saying that they are looking forward to working on challenges from FACT concerning our work. They have a healthy, transparent financial structure. All financial reports are on the conference Website.

How is our AC budget constructed? Inputs from:

- Core Team to support conference mission
- Apportionments from the General and Jurisdictional conferences
- Salaries and expenses of conference and district staff
- Clergy development and support
- Connectional and Administrative support

Largest share of the budget is salaries, expenses, and district staff. General and Jurisdictional apportionments our second largest area. The assumption is that all churches will fully tithe. We are not quite there. We need to go beyond the full tithe.

Mind the Gap – seeks to close the gap between full apportionment and full tithe. Are we on track? Ask the treasurer of the church.

Martinez UMC went from \$4,000 to \$24,000. Video presentation.

Vote will be taken on the budget tomorrow morning, after a time of questions.

Diane Knudsen, Executive Director of CFA; Introduced Brittany from GCFA. General Connectional Representative. Come to thank us for faithful giving supporting the general church with 100% payment. May God continue to bless you!

Retirement video presented interviews of retirees Karen McClintock, John McLaughlin, and Alice Oberg

Prayer was led by Barbara Horikoshi-Firebaugh.

Lunch break

Return 2 pm

Agenda Review – Emily Allen

The Young Person to assist the Bishop is Amy Wise, a 3rd year UCB student and member of Tracy First UMC.

Board of Pensions and Health Benefits Report - Gary Grundman

Good afternoon, I am Gary Grundman, the chair of our Annual Conference Board of Pensions. I am a retired clergy member of our Conference living in Woodland, California. The United Methodist Book of Discipline designates that every Annual Conference of our United Methodist Church shall have a Board of Pensions.

The responsibilities, actions, and work of the Board of Pensions are Disciplinary.

Overview: Investments, Pensions, Health Insurance, Disability and Staff

The Board of Pensions manages investments of nearly sixty million dollars.

The vast majority of these funds are invested in Wespath.

Wespath was formally known as the United Methodist General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. Wespath manages over 22 billion dollars invested on behalf of Annual Conferences, clergy and churches.

Our Board and Annual Conference are blessed to have a staff of three talented individuals.

Our staff may be some of the folks at the Annual Conference level with which you may have the most contact. It could be a matter of payment for health insurance or pension. Or assistance for an insurance payment or lack thereof to be resolved.

Andrea Winchester serves as our Office Manager. Brian Grimmer serves as the Assistant Benefits Officer. And Paul Extrum-Fernandez is our Annual Conference Benefits Officer.

These three individuals bring many years and a broad range of knowledge and years of experience to our Board of Pensions office as well as our Annual Conference.

I am also pleased to introduce to you Manuel Vargas, our California-Nevada Annual Conference liaison from Wespath. Manuel attends our Board of Pensions meetings and has been present for our Annual Conference Session. We are blessed to have Manuel as a part of our team.

Pensions Plans – Pre-1982, Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP), Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), and 733 retirees receive over \$10,200,000/year

In our United Methodist Church, we have three different pension plans that are in effect.

The Pre-1982 is the plan that was in effect prior to 1982. The Ministerial Pension Plan or MPP was in effect from 1982 to 2006. In 2006 the Clergy Retirement Security Program or CRSP began and continues as the pension plan in place today. In our Annual Conference 733 retirees receive over \$10,200,000/year. Almost all of the pensions have a built-in annual cost of living increase so those amounts increase each year.

Pension Plans: CNUMC Liability and Assets

Pre-1982 Liability: \$36,926,522

Pre-1982 Assets: \$45,477,966 (123%)

MPP Liability: \$118,860,053

MPP Assets: \$124,803,056 (105%)

CRSP Liability: \$23,124,821

CRSP Assets: \$24,743,559 (107%)

It costs a great deal of money to continually pay out over 10 million dollars each and every year. A problem that can develop with any pension plan is when required dollars are not allocated to fund pensions. When there is not enough money to fund the pension obligation – This is called unfunded liability.

The first time I ever heard of unfunded liability was 40 years ago. Our former Conference Treasurer and Benefits Officer, the Rev. Harry Shaner was speaking to our Annual Conference about the unfunded liability of the United Methodist Church. We have heard in the news of unfunded liability for cities, municipalities and states. CalPERS and PERS in NV both have unfunded liability.

This graphic shows that each of our three pension plans are presently funded at a rate greater than 100%. Praise God! And thanks to the sound financial management of our Annual Conference, our Board of Pensions, Wespath, and the Conference Claimants Endowment Board. We are aware that another financial downturn as experienced in 2008 could change those numbers. That is why we are not at all uncomfortable being in an "over-funded" position.

Pre-1982: was in effect prior to January 1, 1982; supports over 400 participants (almost \$4 million a year); Past Service Rate: \$887 for 2019; Outstanding Liability is not apportioned/conference tithe; annual payment from BOP Reserve funds and CCEB gift

Our Pre-1982 plan supports over 400 participants. Two of those recipients are the Rev. Norman and Ardith Callaway. Each year the Board of Pensions recommends to you a past service rate. For 2019 we are recommending \$887. Each year when we talk and vote on the past service rate, I am thinking of Norman and Ardith, who faithfully served churches in this Annual Conference for 40 years. The past service rate directly affects their monthly pension check.

I am currently serving as the Intentional Interim Minister of the Woodland Church. Each Sunday Norman and Ardith are in their pew. I could wish for every pastor to have a Norman and Ardith in their congregation. There is not a better cheer-leader than Norman. And each and every Sunday Ardith greets me with a warm smile and hug and thanks me for what I am doing for our congregation. For me the past service rate is very personal and there are 400 other similar stories in our Conference and churches. The cost for our Pre-1982 plan is funded totally by the annual gift of the Endowment Board and Board of Pensions reserves. This funding is NOT apportioned to local churches. None of your Annual Conference Tithe is used to fund this or any of our pension plans.

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

In effect from January 1, 1982 to December 31, 2006; Currently serves over 530 participants (about \$5,350,000 per year).

The 1980 General Conference tackled the issue of the unfunded liability within our United Methodist Church. The result was the Ministerial Pension Plan which began in 1982. 530 participants in California-Nevada receive over 5.3 million MPP dollars.

Clergy Retirement Security Plan

In effect since January 1, 2007; over 135 participants receive \$568,000 a year; Direct bill; UMPIP match; Disability (over \$360,000/yr).

As we began a new millennium there was concern that the cost of the very fine MPP program was not sustainable into the future. The 2004 General Conference passed the Clergy Retirement Security Program or CRSP. It is a hybrid defined benefit/defined contribution plan.

United Methodist clergy have always been encouraged and even required to fund personal savings. The CRSP program brought more incentive for personal savings. Each active clergy person in CRSP is encouraged to contribute at least 1% of salary to UMPIP, the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan. When a pastor contributes at least 1%, that first 1% is matched. The pastor's contribution is doubled! If a pastor fails to contribute 1% then they forfeit the match. They are leaving money on the table and losing out! More importantly, that could add up to fewer dollars in retirement. That 1% match each and every year along with compounding interest will grow significantly. To you pastors, if you are not contributing your 1% - do it! Talk to your SPRC and the Board of Pensions staff about making this change to your compensation package. And laity, check to make sure your pastor is contributing at least 1%.

A related part of CRSP is a disability program for our pastors. In cases of severe medical situations, disability is available. I am serving today as an intentional interim minister at the Woodland UMC because of pastoral illness and the resultant disability. Obviously, a concern for the Woodland congregation was the health situation of their former pastor as well as pastoral finances. It was most re-assuring for the congregation to learn that our pastor receiving disability benefits would receive full-health coverage, full pension credit, and 70% of pastoral salary and housing. That information lowered the anxiety level of the congregation.

Additionally, the Woodland church received a gift of \$2,000.00 from our Conference Board of Pensions to assist with pulpit supply expenses during the three months before disability was approved. This was unexpected and greatly appreciated. More important than \$2,000.00, was the support and encouragement those dollars represented from the Annual Conference. Three months during which one's appointed pastor is ill and unavailable is a drain and worry for a congregation. That Board of Pensions gift was a wonderful expression of love and support.

Health Insurance Overview

Retiree Participant Health Insurance: 221 covered by our plans (45%); 4 Group Options, with expanded options for individual coverage coming in 2019; Premiums paid by Retirees; Supported by CCEB gift.

Active Participant Health Insurance: 123 covered by our plans (53%); 2 Group Options (Kaiser and Blue Shield); Premiums paid by congregations and participant (cost share)

Pensions for our clergy is the primary role for our Board of Pensions – But a vital secondary role is Health Insurance. This is health insurance for both our active and retired clergy. These are separate issues because it is assumed that all retired clergy are covered by Medicare and the insurance offered is a Medicare supplement policy.

Available to retirees today are four group plans. The premiums for these plans are paid by the retiree. But the Board of Pensions does subsidize each of these plans which reduces significantly the cost of these supplemental plans. This subsidy is made possible by the Endowment Board annual gift. This is an important contribution the Endowment Board gift makes for our Annual Conference and clergy.

Our Board of Pensions is preparing to expand this program effective January 1, 2019. In addition to a subsidy for retiree health care a health reimbursement account will be made available. We are seeking to offer more choices and to make retiree health care benefits

available to more of our retirees. These plans are still in development. We will be communicating with our retirees sometime this Fall.

Retiree health care is built around the foundation of Medicare.

This creates a more stable and sane marketplace.

Unfortunately, that is not true for health insurance for persons under the age of 65.

And I know that is not news to you.

Presently just over one-half of active clergy and their families are covered by one of our two group plans.

Blue Shield and Kaiser are the plans offered.

Kaiser is less expensive but is limited geographically.

A challenge for our Annual Conference is we must have health insurance for clergy serving in Crescent City and Ely, NV and Tehachapi and all points in-between. Blue Shield of CA has been our "go to" supplier of this coverage through out the entire geography of our Annual Conference. In fact, in Blue Shield's book of business, their oldest and longest relationship is with our Annual Conference. The length of that relationship is about the same as my age. Believe it or not, that actually means something to Blue Shield. Over the years, over the decades, Blue Shield has come back to us and renegotiated contracts to lower the costs.

Premiums are paid by local churches and in small part by participants. But the cost for this coverage has become so expensive that it has become prohibitive for some congregations. This becomes a challenge for churches and our Bishop. Health insurance or the cost thereof may become a determining factor in pastoral appointments. That frustration for the Bishop, Cabinet, local churches and clergy increases each and every year.

Health Insurance

CNUMC Challenges: one of the most expensive health care environments in USA; Expansive geography with dispersed population areas; Limited competition among insurers

CNUMC Values: Balance costs to church, participants, and conference; Right to health care (Par.162 of the Social Principles); Cabinet practice

Our Annual Conference has some unique challenges in managing the costs of health care, which are shared on this slide. Nonetheless, our Annual Conference is strongly committed to health care for our clergy and families. This has been the practice and the policy of our Cabinet and Bishops.

Health Insurance: CNUMC Standing Rules

Eligibility: All clergy members; Fulltime Local Pastors; Fulltime Lay Conference Staff; Fulltime Staff of Local Churches; Fulltime Staff of Affiliated Agencies; Spouses and Dependents

Coverage paid by Conference if enrolled in Conference plan at time of disability

Coverage paid for up to 3 years for spouse and dependents if enrolled in conference plan at death of active clergy participant

Our Conference Standing Rules relating to active clergy health care are quite sparse.

First is eligibility. Secondly, coverage if a disability occurs. And lastly, coverage for survivors upon the death of an active clergy.

Health Insurance: Why does it cost so much?

USA health care expenditures in 2008: \$2.3 trillion; \$3.3 trillion in 2016 (\$10,348 per person), 18% of GDP; \$5.6 trillion by 2026 (\$16,008 per person), 20% of GDP

We hear from all areas of our society about the high costs of health care in our nation. We can see the tremendous effects upon our national economy. The instability injected into the entire arena of health insurance by Washington in the past 18 months may mean that 2026 figure may be low.

These are five major actors in the high cost of health care in the United States: hospitals, medical groups, insurance industry, federal and state Laws (ACA Uncertainty), and big pharma.

66% of increases in health care: lifestyle choices
Chronic diseases: 70% of deaths and 75% of costs
In 2010, chronic diseases cost \$1,700,000,000,000
Over 80% of the US population uses prescription drugs
Almost 40% of the premium cost

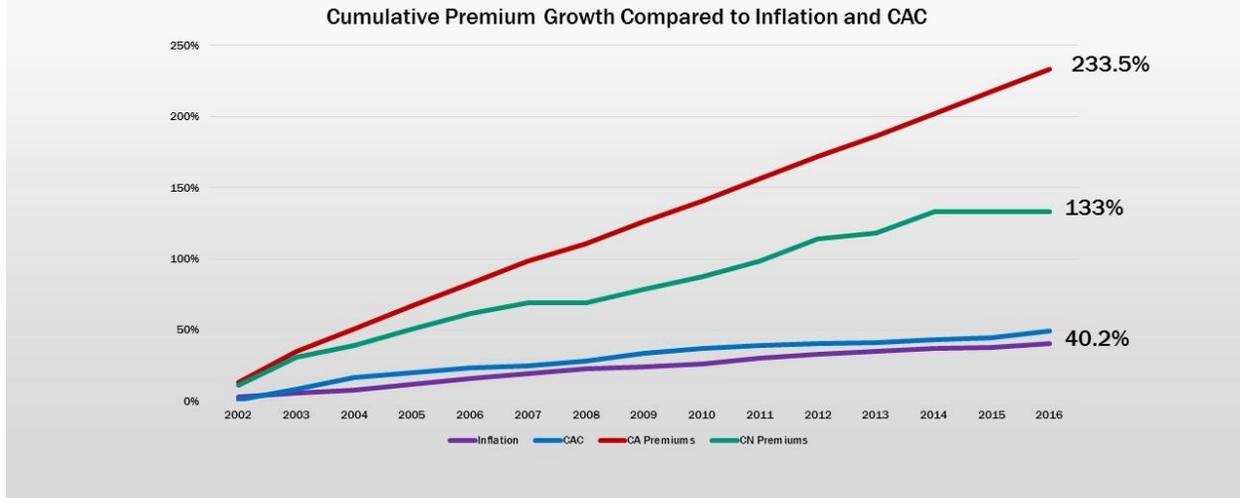
As a nation, our lifestyle contributes to the high costs of health care. Our lifestyle choices might account for as much as 2/3 of cost increases. Additionally, high prescription drug use accounts for 40% of the costs of health care premiums.

Overall health of US workforce: not particularly good.
Obesity rate is the worst in the world.
Lack of physical activity
Smoking
Aging population: 80 million baby boomers

As a society, we have the highest rate of obesity in the world.
Lack of physical activity, smoking and an aging population all add to costs.

CNUMC factors:
Average age of 57 (about 90% increase to premiums)
Moderate to High Risk Profile
High Stress Levels
Low Activity Levels
Poor utilization of preventative care
Increases to premiums

Why Does it Cost So Much?



This particular graph compares inflation and the costs of health care premiums over 14 years. The bottom lines are inflation and Conference Average Compensation.

The uppermost red line is the percentage rise in health care premiums for the general population in all of California- That increase was 233%.

Below that is the premium increase for California-Nevada Conference insurance premiums - An increase of only 133%.

While 133% is a tremendous increase – And this has been difficult for local churches- It is nearly ½ of the increase in the wider society.

Health Insurance: What Are We Doing?

Launched robust Wellness Program in 2012; partnered with Blue Shield and Virgin Health Miles; Seeking new bids from other Health Insurance Carriers; Significantly increase Participant Cost Share? Eliminate Health Reimbursement feature of current plan? Eliminate Dependent Coverage? Potential policy changes to Standing Rules (eligibility modifications? Mandatory enrollment?)

The Board of Pensions has supervised these cost increases through careful management and negotiations with our carriers. At times we have also used reserve funds to moderate the increase in premiums.

As we look to the future, what other steps should we as a Board of Pensions take to address the difficult and expensive issue of health care? Options include other ways to significantly increase the participant cost sharing. That means moving a greater cost of health insurance directly to the pastor. That personally concerns me as it means taking more of the pastor's salary from other areas of the family budget and moving it to health care.

Changes would potentially require additions to our Annual Conference Standing Rules- Such as requiring mandatory enrollment. This would mean that every active clergy under Episcopal appointment would be required to be in the Conference health plan. The health plan offered by Wespath, Healthflex, is such a mandatory program. In the past we have sought bids from Healthflex and they have not been able to offer us significant savings to warrant such a drastic change.

Questions

What does the local church have to pay? Current practice is Fulltime Appointments receive full coverage for pastor and dependents.

Change to disability Standing Rule

Do we have to stay in the conference health plan?

Can our pastor purchase insurance through the ACA exchange?

Will we save money by our pastor buying through the exchange?

What's fair and equitable?

As we move forward there are many questions that we as an Annual Conference will need to address. These issues will need wider input than just that of the Bishop and Cabinet and the Board of Pensions. These issues are many and varied but all come down to costs.

Can our pastor purchase insurance through CoveredCA or the Health Care Exchange in Nevada? For many clergy and congregations that is a no brainer. The difference in cost may be as much as \$20,000.00 or more! And as a Connectional Church – With an itinerant system of deploying clergy – With every clergy being available to serve any and all congregations – What is fair and equitable?

What is in the Future?

What does the future hold?

It is difficult to foresee within the politically contentious issue of health care in our nation.

What will be the result of the 2020 presidential election?

Will that election result in further volatility in the health care arena?

Or will a consensus develop in our nation and politics to seek a more rational and equitable health system for every American?

We do not know.

But as citizens we have a voice and we have a vote.

In the days ahead, your Board of Pensions will continue to operate with our best information and judgement as we seek to encourage and enable the ministry of our clergy and congregations.

This has been our mandate and goal for the past 62 years and we will continue—

Even into the challenging years ahead.

I thank you for your attention and consideration of these issues.

If you have further questions regarding your pension or health coverage, you are welcome to speak with one of our Board of Pensions staff members.

They are present here at Annual Conference.

Our table is located in a hallway.

That table is on the road well-traveled - near the restrooms!

Please feel free to stop by.

Order of the Day - Praying our Way Forward — Conference Lay Leader led us in prayer.

Fix appointments Central Valley – DS Debra Brady

Conference Claimants Endowment Board Report – Kim Smith, chair with Cory Parish, CEO of CCEB. Video presentation (The faces behind the Board). Fast facts – 127 years. How we support local churches – 157 churches invest thru the Board. \$111,000 to Retired Clergy Association. This year, giving \$1.7 million to the Board of Pensions.

Fixing of Appointments Bay District - DS Staci Current

Report from Conference Committee on Religion and Race – Derrick Rainbow chair of CONAM. Since 2016 seeking acts of repentance concerning atrocities committed against native Americans. Call for grace and renewal. We call for prayer and action in the coming year. Led us in prayer. May our prayers lead to action.

Retired Clergy Association Scholarship: Three Local Pastors currently serving local churches and attending Course of Studies were awarded \$1,500 from the Memoria Scholarship Fund. They are: Randal Bolen, Jeffrey Holder, and Greg Vang. Alice Ann Glenn is the new chair of scholarships. She invites additional gifts to the Fund. Helen Kim received a scholarship 7 years ago, now has her PhD, and is teaching Church History at Candler. She is in ordination process in Cal-Nevada now.

One Matters Award – Motoe Yamada, board member of Board of Discipleship. The One Matters Award is given to Hope United Methodist Church, South San Francisco. They Moved from 0 baptism/confession of faith to a significant rise. Receive \$1,000. Think about what they are doing to turn things around. Each one matters.

John Current, pastor at Hope said the congregation began to move in 2013 when a family lost its home to fire and the congregation reached out in love. This family, once in need, has acted as the primary evangelist. Recent growth due to opening itself to the surrounding neighborhood. Absorbing members from churches caught in conflict and strife. Samoan worship is at 8:00 a.m. Everyone at 10:00 a.m. with a meal after service. Midweek bible study, and 6:00 a.m. daily prayer service in Lent and Advent. They offer the primary service to homeless in downtown South San Francisco. The spirit of God is released and moving forward.

Bishop Melvin G. Talbert Award – Tikiko Lesuma, chair of CORR, presented the award. The recipient has a vision of fusing diversity into one in Christ. A Fijian group seeking Fijian a language ministry but wanting the Fijian ministry equal to Anglo ministry. The recipient is growing the Anglo congregation by placing Fijian's into leadership positions. Certification of 3 Fijian members in 2017. Training in Lay Preaching and CLM. The pastor has put the congregation in a position to survive as a church in/of the future. Award given to Barbara Horikoshi-Firebaugh. Her response - It is God's divine appointment that brought the Fijians to Faith church, Sacramento, in 2012. My "why" is – learned that Jesus loves the little children, and God loves everyone because God created each one. As a 4 year old I learned that I was to love, too, and that no one is better than another. Thank original members of Faith UMC for welcoming Fijian. We were one church, no "them and us". Together they lit unity candle. We try to live that out in everything we do at Faith, Sacramento. Thank you to those who nominated me.

Bishop Warner H. Brown Jr. Leadership Award – Kathi McShane, chair of the Core Team. 2018 Award for excellence in innovation and collaboration. This year's awardee has served 26

years on the Conference Staff. Bishop Brown affirmed these two values through his tenure and Linda Caldwell has embodied them: Collaboration, and honoring diversity by working with every part of the conference. She has been the center of innovation in our conference – some have succeeded and some of those not so much. Linda goes on and continues to do it. She has answered the roll for 48 years. Persistence of faith, being grounded in the gospel, through the body of work that is sometimes a slog. Hope – always, never cynical. Linda: thank you very much. I have felt your support for doing good work in the name of Jesus Christ. Give it a try, so we can be relevant – sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. Been a privilege to have your trust. Appreciate being a steward of the gospel in this context.

Fixing of Appointments – Los Rios District – Schuyler Rhodes

Bishop's Awards – led by Cabinet. Dave Samelson: Yreka started 4 years ago a tailgate ministry in the street with feeding for the hungry. Then they developed a Multi-Free store, and an overnight shelter in the church. One of the recipients serves as chair of the ministry team and one as chair of the youth ministry team. Congratulations to Deb and Pete Bein.

Debra Brady: presents an award to a new United Methodist with an impactful presence. This person has skillfully led the congregation to share passion for immigration justice rights. Introduced Las Posadas to a primarily Anglo congregation. Shares the message of “know your rights” for immigrants. Gave a place for undocumented immigrants to learn and be assisted. Mother of 4, wife, empathetic, tireless leader/worker. Her faith sustains her. A member of Merced UMC, she is a convener and liaison. She is Arlette Flores. Arlette gave thanks and appreciation to the church who embraced her, encouraged her, and healed her broken places. Her dream is that our AC will go outside of our open doors to meet and empower people and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Dream is for us to have an open heart. United in the holy spirit, we are invincible and not invisible.

Staci Current honors a lifelong member of UMC, starting in NY and coming here 2006. Served in many capacities, Trustees and SPRC and community outreach. Always ready to step in. Teaches Sunday School and serves the Oakland Chinatown community. Committed to young people. Chinese-American Alliance. He is Richard Fong, member of the Chinese Community Church in Oakland. He could not be here, as he is caring for his grandchildren in Ventura.

Staci Current also honors an 82 year old disciple of Christ, known as the Church Angel. Serves people all around her life. Past 7 years has been part of building 5 homes for Habitat. Her faith is core to who she is and what she does. I just need to be who I am. At the end of the Vietnam War she processed refugees, volunteers in her city delivering meals and groceries, shops once a week for shut ins; co-leads teaching Sunday School. Involved in congregational care in her church, VIM projects, organizes, and brings in others. Eager to see what comes next. She is Pat Ravicz of Novato UMC. She thanks God for the strong spirit he gave her, and the people who are giving this to me.

Retirement video presented interviews of retirees Victoria Schlintz, Kien Srey, Donna van Manaana, and Juan Saavedra

Personal Privilege for Kalatini Ahio – from Tongan Caucus. Tongan community is so excited to donate \$10,000 to take to the Tongan Annual Conference Session. Our Bishop is going to this meeting of the Wesleyan Church in Tonga, along with others from Cal-Nevada conference next week. Travel Sunday night. She will be taking the gift from them.

Nominations Report announcement from Sunae Cho. There is an addendum to the Nominations report on line tonight. Please look at it.

Closing Prayer was led by pastor Bob Hollis.

After the Dinner Break we reconvened for the Service of Commissioning & Ordination. Bishop Carcaño was the preacher.

Saturday, June 24, 2018

As we gathered, we warmed up our singing voices with the Annual Conference Band.

Marlon Hall gave his last talk to us, focusing on *Doing good by remembering risks!*

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. Gal 6:7-10

His Intention for this talk is to unearth the power to do good with risks. And how do we do that? See www.MarlonHall.com and buy his book!

Marlon showed a picture of the Sankofa bird (from the Twi language) which means go back and get it. It is safer to be risky, and it is risky to be safe. Jesus was a risk taker. This is a beautiful moment – we are in a vacuum when it comes to spiritual leadership. Curiosity is high but rituals of the institution need help. To feel the vacuum, we have to risk it. Give what you can't keep and gain what you can't lose. You can have liberty and lack of freedom at the same time. Need to engage in new set of disciplines that are rooted in "safer to be risky/risky to be safe."

John 3:16 – God risked his only son. This is the biblical model for us to give our all to get our all. He showed a video of the Houston Innovators, who incubate their passion to purpose a plan to change the city. They first deconstruct to reshape. Innovate means do something new.

When I read a poem, I don't have information, I have an experience – Eugene Peterson

Relationship between poetry and reading. With partners, we talked about the first big risk we took in ministry and why. We get what we want, so want more and better. Power of want is powerful. Risk for what you want – want bigger. Don't limit your imagination. Transform your world one block at a time. We get what we want. Prov 23:7 As a person thinks, so are they.

Our task is to create innovators out of our churches and not deadness. "I am sensitive to my context but not passive in it." Zaha Hadid – architect.

Turn irritation into intrigue and intrigue into innovation. Find what perturbs you and turn it into a place of something new. Find what irritates us and turn it into inquiry and then into innovation. Be problem chasers in the kingdom. Celebrate the humanity not the celebrity.

A simple poem format: verb, noun, preposition, noun – create a 4 word poem.

Giving his life for a larger story. We hold on to our life, waiting for the world to heal up. Risk everything to gain everything. *Surrender your life as the church to gain the world.*

The conference's appreciation was heartfelt.

To begin our business of the day, we were introduced to Darrel Boyd, a young adult who works in a school in Eureka. He is assisting the Bishop in this portion of the plenary.

Conference Treasurer Diane Knudsen announced that we had raised over \$80,000 for UMCOR's rehabilitation work in post-hurricane Puerto Rico. This is twice as large as any previous conference offering, and appreciation was expressed.

Emily Allen reviewed the Agenda for the day. We are doing well in keeping time! Thank you.

Greetings from UM seminaries and other UM-related institutions. Holly Hillman, Courtesy Chair, introduced:

Mary Elizabeth Moore Dean, Boston University Theological Seminary

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan, President, Claremont School of Theology

Wanda Scott, Advancement Officer for PSR.

Dr. Wallace Gingles, campus manager, Perkins School of Theology

Rev. Laura Steed Interim Director of Religion and Spiritual Life at U.O. P.

Videos from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta and United Theological Seminary in Dayton were viewed.

Committee on Nominations, Sunae Cho, chair, with David Niu and Linda Caldwell. Sunae moved the following:

1. I move that the Conference Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the election of the Conference Board of Trustees and to fill vacancies as listed.
The motion was approved and a unanimous ballot for the Conference Board of Trustees was cast.
2. I move the election of the new officers and members on all Conference boards, commissions, committees, and agencies.
3. I move the confirmation and acknowledgment of the Boards of California-Nevada Methodist Homes, Clergy Spouse Association, Conference Claimants' Endowment Board, Fred Finch Youth Center Committee, Glide Foundation, Retired Clergy Association, Sierra Service Project, United Methodist Foundation, United Methodist Men, and Conference United Methodist Women.
4. I move the election of the Board of Directors for the UC Merced Wesley Foundation.
5. I move to receive the entire 2018 Nominations Report as printed and amended.
6. I move that the remaining vacancies and other occurrences following the adjournment of the Annual Conference Session may be filled by the Conference Committee on Nominations and Connectional Leadership Development in consultation with the appropriate conference leadership.

Motions 2-6 were approved individually. Sunae then asked all listed anywhere on the Nominations and Connectional Leadership report as amended to stand and close with prayer for their work.

We then affirmed the affiliated groups' boards of directors, including Glide Foundation, and the Conference Foundation.

Legislative Section Reports: Item 26, Justice for Jerome A. Corrections were made by Sadie Stone, maker of the Item: Mr. A. was held for 22 hours and detained for 28; USCOP stands

for United States Customs and Order Protection; change invited to invite; replace “of” with “about”. The Section approved the Item 89 yes, 1 no. It was placed on the Consent Calendar and then removed by those who wanted the full plenary to hear it. It was then before the body.

Fel Cao spoke to say that Jerome Aba is a young adult who became a subject of torture and oppression. dehumanization. Every year since 2006 we have been acting as a conference against the oppression in the Philippines. He is in support of the Item.

Another spoke in favor.

Move the question: the body voted to proceed. The Item is before us and approved.

The Conference Secretary, Mark Wharff, moved to accept the Consent Calendar and it was done so unanimously.

Michael Yoshii rose for a point of privilege to express appreciation to Sadie Stone, Janelle Ablola, and Fel Cao for the work they have done on the Philippine task force, including presenting Item 26 for our consideration. They are representing us very well.

Conference Finance and Administration, chaired by Kristin Stoneking, put the 2019 budget before us for questions and consideration.

Colin Kerr-Carpenter, chair of mission service committee, spoke in favor. Thanking CF&A for making the decision to pay our apportionment in full. May we continue.

Kristin Stoneking, responded that we were able to pay 100% due to a combination of operating reserves that we could not keep due to Standing Rule. Also the conference underspent its 2017 budget.

Vote: the 2019 budget is approved unanimously.

Fixing of Appointments, El Camino Real District, DS Staci Current.

Personal Privilege – Jeffrey Kuan and Emily Allen, on behalf of delegation to General Conference gave their deep appreciation for the affirmation of the work they will be doing on behalf of the Annual Conference at the 2019 General Conference. They want us to know the seriousness with which they take this work and will be in conversation with a lot of us in the next few months. Thank you.

Report from Conference Commission on Religion and Race – Connie Hunter, member of committee, spoke. The work is near and dear to hear heart. Issue of racial justice is something UMW works on every year and permeates all their mission work. We dream of the day when all people are embraced as equal. We want to be diverse and inclusive. Challenge to you and your church to begin building the beloved community right where you live. Why? Because that is what Jesus did. We are followers of Jesus. At this time it has become more acceptable to call people names, to insult them – we need to prayerfully enter the messy space of racism. Will your church intentionally engage in the work of building the beloved community right where you are?

A summary Video of the children and youth at conference was included in the closing worship, Thanks were given by outgoing Chair Bob Chicou of the Commission on Annual Conference Session.

A closing liturgy with music included a wrap up video by Larry Hygh.

Bishop Minerva Carcaño declared the 170th meeting of the California-Nevada Annual Conference adjourned. Our next Annual Conference Session will be held June 18-22, 2019 in Modesto, California.