

Monday

This report is a combination of the ACS Summaries from the Cal-Nevada Annual Conference Communications office and lay delegate Nick Strobel's commentary.

"Good Morning, church!" opened Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. leading the 2022 Annual Conference session in lieu of interim bishop Sally Dyck on Monday, June 13, 2022. Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, president of Claremont School of Theology led the second part of the Romans 12 bible study begun on Saturday. "The kind of charismatic community Paul is talking about is quite ordinary," stated Rev. Dr. Kuan, "and gifts are not reserved for [just the] ordained clergy! These are gifts for each and every one of us... let us claim our charismatic gifts to use as acts of compassion towards one another for the transformation of the world!"

"We have a spiritual blessing, a people blessing!" stated Rev. Lee Neish of Sparks UMC and chair of the Committee on Nominations & Connections Leadership Elections. "We have 375 people letting Love Be for the glory of God for the leadership of this conference!" The entire report and motions from the Committee on Nominations & Connectional Leadership Elections were approved unanimously. [LINK HERE to sign up to serve.](#)

Equitable Compensation Report recommendations and Board of Pensions and Health Benefits report recommendations were approved. Conference Claimants Endowment Board presented a gift of 2 million dollars to the conference and \$106,000 to Retired Clergy Association.

Clergy Wellness Task Force

Item 9 (establishing a Clergy Wellness Task Force) was voted to take off the table and presented as a substitute motion. A friendly amendment was accepted and the motion approved. [Amendment: "...On an ongoing basis, the Task Force shall make recommendations based on their findings to the bishop and cabinet, as well as to the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Annual Conference Session."] The version of item 9 on the Annual Conference website is NOT the new approved one. Here's the text of the approved item 9:

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Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference shall establish a Clergy Wellness Task Force to understand the impact of the mental health crisis among clergy and to make recommendations to address the spiritual, emotional, and mental health of the clergy of the conference.

Annual Conference Session 2022 Monday

The makeup of the Task Force shall include no fewer than eight persons, two of whom should not be employees or members of the Conference, its local churches, or UMC organizations. The remaining members may be lay or clergy. Members will be recruited and selected by the Conference Board of Pensions.

With attention to equity, the Task Force shall include one human relations professional, one member from the Board of Pensions, and two persons with BIPOC and LGBTQ trauma informed mental health training.

It is recommended that the Task Force meet monthly with the goal of producing a report of our Annual Conference responses to clergy and conference staff mental and emotional wellbeing needs along with recommendations for expanding support and resources.

The purpose of the Task Force is not to investigate individual mental health but to assess conference systems responding to mental and emotional health needs of the clergy and conference staff.

An update of their work shall be offered at the annual Gathering of the Orders and a final report shall be presented to the 2023 Annual Conference Session.

In conjunction with the Council on Finance and Administration and the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Task Force shall identify emergency resources to address acute and/or expected needs; these resources may include funding for pulpit supply, temporary mental health leave, etc.

The Task Force shall review existing processes for clergy seeking help and communicating needs related to mental and emotional wellness. The Task Force shall recommend improvements for safe, confidential, and accessible avenues for clergy seeking assistance.

Working with the Communications Team, the Task Force shall create a mental health resources guide for the Conference website.

On an ongoing basis, the Task Force shall make recommendations based on their findings to the bishop and cabinet, as well as to the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Annual Conference Session.

The Task Force shall identify resources for pastoral care for clergy beyond what is currently offered within the existing structure of the Conference.

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Annual Conference Session 2022 Monday

Special awards included:

[One Matters Discipleship Award](#)- [Fale Hufanga Tongan UMC](#), San Carlos, CA; Bay District; Rev. Dr. Siliveinusi Tiueti, pastor. The church had 17 professions of faith, 8 baptisms and sent 13 youth/young adult delegates to ACS.

Bishop Talbert Award- John Reynolds of San Rafael First UMC.

The General Board of Global Ministry shared a report on video. Retiree videos included Pastor Betty Weiser, Rev. Colin Kerr-Carpenter, Rev. Amelia Chua, and Rev. Jola Bortner.

Recognition of **Retirees and Licenses of Local Pastors** to receive medallions included:

Rev. Daniel Sturdivant; Rev. Kathi McShane; Rev. Colin Kerr-Carpenter; Rev. Izuru Arotani; Rev. James Crawford; Rev. Lauren Chaffee; Rev. Margaret McNaught; Rev. Maile Koloto; Rev. Amelia Chua; Pastor Steve Draucker; Rev. Young Gwon Kim; Rev. Jola Boytner; Rev. Craig Brown; Rev. Sharalyn Hamilton; Pastor Betty Weiser; Pastor Pauline Bowen. Also licensed local pastors ending their time of service included Pastor Lisa Brown, Pastor Cynthia Lawler, and Pastor Chuckua Yang. The class of 2022 represented 438 ½ years of service.

“Now is the time to meet our young people where they are,” stated Ryland Fernandez of Sacramento Japanese UMC Garden Church and Worker with Young People at ACS. “Can we help them see that hope?” Youth and Young Adult Conference delegation members were recognized and Rev. Jacey Pickens-Jones at First UMC in Richmond was introduced as the new interim Director of Youth and Young Peoples Ministry.

Episcopal nominations affirmed and recommended by the ACS included: Bener Agtarap; Myrna Bernadel-Huey; Elizabeth Brick; Blake Busick; Staci Current; Jorge Domingues; George Edd-Bennett; Renae Extrum-Fernandez; Shinya Goto; Samuel Hong; Theon Johnson III; Jeffrey Kuan; Ella Luna-Garza; Kim Montenegro; David Niu; Matthew Pearson; Kristen Stoneking; Dale Weatherspoon; Ouk-Yean Kim-Jueng. New bishops elected will start their assignments on January 21, 2023 after the upcoming many months long discernment process. Click [here](#) to see the candidates on our conference website.

Commission on Annual Conference Session report was given by Rev. Gary Pope-Sears of Holy Cross UMC in Stockton. Evaluation reports will be in upcoming emails. ACS 2023 is scheduled for June 9-12, 2023 at the convention center in Sacramento.

ACS 2022 acknowledged:

Annual Conference Session 2022 Monday

The Marshal and Page Team- Myra Cubos; Ivana Heang; Robin Mathews-Johnson; Rajiv Pathik; Anne Schlesinger; Cynthis Tilghman; Charles Tran; Greg Vang; Jer Vang; and Vathanak Heang, Coordinator of Marshals and Pages.

The Teller Team- Susan Foster; Katie Goetz; Tim Gravatt; Romeo Gunzon; Tevita Koroi; Diego Luna; Eun-Joo Myung; Larry Pearson; and Susan Hunn, Lead Teller.

Recording Secretaries- Samantha Blewis; Allison Byerley; Joanne Hull.

Session ended at noon.