



## **East District Conference**

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 1pm via Zoom

**Resident Bishop**

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**East District Superintendent**

Rev. Moonyoung Lee

**Change Manager**

Rev. Catie Coots

**Grant Writer**

Rev. Eric Schmidt

**Administrative Assistant**

Dany Caguin



**2025 EAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE**  
**Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 1:00pm**  
**Agenda and Schedule on Zoom Webinar**

Log On, Slideshow

Opening Worship:

Call to Worship

Opening Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading - Psalms 133:1

Message

Closing Song

Benediction

Diane Gin

Meletonga Nivila

Annie Solomon

Moreno Valley UMC

Pastor Moon Young Kong

Church of the Foothills UMC

Reverend Jonggoo Lee

DS Moonyoung Lee

Call to Order

Election of East District Conference Secretary

Adoption of 2025 Agenda

Adoption of 2024 East District Conference Minutes

Reports from District Committees and Leadership:

Change Manager

Grant Writer

District Camping

District Lay Servant Ministries

Church Building and Location

District Planning and Strategy

District Committee on Ordained Ministry

District Treasurer

District Union

District Lay Leaders

District Superintendency

District Superintendent

Election of District Leadership

DS Moonyoung Lee

Election of Annual Conference District Lay Members

DS Moonyoung Lee

Conference Videos

Celebration of Pastors and Churches

Commissioned as Provisional Member: Pastor Moon Young Kong

Ordained as Elder in Full Connection: Reverend Jonggoo Lee

New Appointments

Clergy Leaving the East District

Retiring Clergy

Churches: 2024 Apportionment Acknowledgment

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

DS Moonyoung Lee

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# EAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Minutes  
May 11, 2024

1. Slideshow of East District events began at 1:00 pm.
2. Opening Worship videos began at 1:05 pm.
  - a. Call to Worship – Rev. Dr. Mazvita Machinga
  - b. Opening Prayer – Diane Gin, East District Co-Lay Leader
  - c. Message – Rev. Jae Hong Jeon
  - d. Music – Placentia UMC
  - e. Benediction – Rev. Eric Schmidt
3. District Superintendent, Rev. Moonyoung Lee, called the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m.
4. Designation of District Conference Secretary –Karen Britten elected 2024 East District Conference Recording Secretary (53 YES / 0 NO / 0 ABSTAIN).
5. Adoption of 2024 East District Conference agenda with no additions.
6. Adoption of 2023 East District Conference Minutes:  
Approved as presented/ seconded/ carried (50 YES / 0 NO / 2 ABSTAIN).
7. Reports from District Committees (available via link on East District Website: CURRENT RESOURCES)
  - a. Change Manager
  - b. Grant Writer
  - c. Camping
  - d. District Lay Servant Ministries
  - e. District Leadership Training
  - f. Church Location and Building
  - g. District Planning and Strategy
  - h. District Committee on Ordained Ministry
  - i. District Treasurer
  - j. District Union (Trustees)
  - k. District Lay Leaders
  - l. District Superintendent
    - D.S. Lee noted that it has been a wonderful first year with the East District and added a Thank You to District Lay Leaders and District Staff, with special Thanks to the District Superintendency Committee for working together the past year without a chairperson.
8. Video: Cal-Pac Disaster Response Task Force
9. Election of District Committees - Nominations presented
  - East District Union  
Noel Abesamis, Paige Eaves, Craig Lucas, John Mohl, Lisa Scott, Matthew McPhee, Denise Tomlinson, Jane Voigts, Phillips Whang
  - East District Superintendency Committee
    - District Co-Lay Leader, Annie Solomon
    - Class of 2025 - Matini Niponi Finau, Myra Richardson, Art Richardson
    - Class of 2026 –Brenda Kilioni Paongo, Min-Kyu Park, Eva Thai-Erwin
    - Class of 2027 – Rubin Domingo, Kathy Norris, Cathy Wilson
  - East District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM)
    - Class of 2025 –Lincoln Galloway, Betty King, Alena Uhamaka, John Mark Wang

- Class of 2026 – Anthony Boger, Ben Ellis, Hilde Garrison, Tom Tseng, Lily Villamin
- Class of 2027 – David Nesamony, Lynn Reece, Brenda Simonds, Eric Schmidt, Hee Jung Yu

- East District Planning and Strategy (DPAS) / Building and Location Committee

- Class of 2025 – Khanh Doan, Paula Ferris, Gloria B. Johnson, Jaime Nieves
- Class of 2026 – Ed Hume, Doug Purcell, Jon Waterson, John Yoon
- Class of 2027 - Sherri Cort, Riju Jayan, Lita Linchangco, Karen Tannheimer
- East District Leadership Team

Moonyoung Lee, Catie Coots, Eric Schmidt, Diane Gin, Annie Solomon, Taufa Tenisi, Jay Campbell, Miya Kim, Art Richardson, Khanh Doan

Motion to close nominations / seconded

Call for vote - nominees elected (59 YES / 0 NO / 0 ABSTAIN)

#### 10. Election of 2024 Annual Conference East District Lay Members

Nominations presented:

- Youth Members

Salote 'Alatini, Vaimoana 'Alatini, Maikolo Brown, Christian Do, Hehenga-moseai 'Esau

- Youth Alternates

David Bounthavlang, Eueli Uhamaka

- Young Adult Members

David Fakava (no contact information), Liah Haeane, Tupou Holani, Hanna Jang, Ellen Koloa

- David Fakava, Tupou Holani, Ellen Koloa did not register to attend

- Alternates Sevaughn Do and Lesieli Vao attended as Members

- Young Adult Alternates

Sevaughn Do, Tevita Fe'aomoeata, Fe'ofa'aki Manako, Vusenga Moa, Lesieli Vao

- Members At Large

Karen Britten, Marcia Galland, Hilde Garrison, Dara Johnson, Zicong Li, Akum Mongzar, Melissa Pryor, Myra Richardson, Art Richardson, Alma Roberts

- Members At Large Alternates

Sione Kisepe, Taufa Tenisi, Katherine Wilson

Motion to Close nominations/ seconded

Call for vote- nominees elected

#### 11. Nourishment Poll (Describe in one word how you find nourishment for your soul)

#### 12. Conference Videos

- General Conference Wrap-up
- 2025 Budget not yet available, perhaps Special Annual Conference in the fall
- Bishop's Message
- AC2024 – Burbank, CA

#### 13. Ordinands to be recognized at 2024 Annual Conference

- Rev. Jae Hong Jeon - Elder
- Rev. Dr. Margaret Mazvita Machinga – Deacon
- Rev. Eric Schmidt – Elder

14. 2024 Retirees

- Pastor Betty King
- Rev. Robin Rhodes
- Rev. Karen Tannheimer
- Rev. John Wen-Pin Wang
- Rev. Dr. Son-Pom Ye

15. In Memory

*A prayer for those saints who have gone before us, alive now in the body of Christ*

- Rev. M. Guadalupe Alonso-Redondo
- Pastor James Edward Brooking
- Rev. Robert Bryant Davis
- Rev. Emelito Sanchez Hernandez
- Rev. Dr. George R Martzen
- Rev. Joseph S Nunziato
- Rev. Nancy Grissom Self

16. Recognition of churches with 85-100% 2023 apportionment paid ... 37 churches having paid at least 85% of their apportionments were recognized by GCFA with 100% achievement.

17. Closing prayer by Rev. Moonyoung Lee

18. Thank You expressed to Cal-Pac Media Team, Rev. Matt McPhee, Cathy Wilson, Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, staff and members of Church of the Good Shepherd UMC for assistance in successful Zoom Webinar.

19. 135 Registrations were received for this Zoom Webinar.

20. Motion to Adjourn at 2:29 p.m.

Moved, seconded, carried.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Karen F. Britten

## **Change Manager Report**

I have now been the East District Change Manager for 5 years. Every year has been completely different, with different tasks and priorities. The first year was focused a lot on Covid Protocols. The second was helping a new District Superintendent get oriented to our district. Saia's second year, my third, we traveled around the district quite bit, trying to help churches get the advice and resources they need. My 4th year, I helped a new District Superintendent get oriented: Moonyoung Lee is a wonderful DS. Her experience in Hawaii has been helpful, and her focus, care and attention has been so helpful to our churches. This year, I have focused a lot of care on one particular situation, but have also spent time on a variety of others, including legal issues, insurance issues, other property concerns. I continue to work with the East District Union and DPAS. I appreciate so much working with Eric and Dany in addition to working with Moonyoung.

Report submitted by,  
Rev. Catie Coots  
Change Manager

## **Grant Writer Report**

The Grant Writer project is a project for the East District with the support of District Superintendent Rev. Moonyoung Lee and East District Change Manager Rev. Catie Coots. This work is intended to assist in funding sustainable ministry throughout the East District and the conference. We have completed year two of the three-year project.

We are grateful for the past two years of funding from the New Ministries EMT. We have a lean operation. Catie Coots supervises the work as part of her role as Change Manager for the East District. Eric Schmidt serves as the grant writer on a half-time basis. Half of his salary and benefits are covered by the New Ministries funding. Our only other major expense is for a subscription to Instrumentl, a grant management software tool.

We have had some successes to date. The best intended outcome has been the funding received by the Imperial Beach Neighborhood Center, who received a \$35K grant from the Alliance Healthcare Foundation for capacity-building. This was a South District project.

The next best outcome was an 8-week Grantwriting Cohort which we held from July-September 2024. Thirty-five people participated, representing all five districts of the Cal-Pac conference.

An unintended outcome was the participation of a delegation from the Oregon-Idaho conference, including the special assistant to the Bishop. Our new assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Paige Eaves, was one of our presenters. We held a 6-week check-in in October 2024. We are still following up with the teams in 2025.

We regularly work with local churches and their non-profit groups. We helped submit ten grant applications in 2024, while researching dozens, if not more than a hundred opportunities.

The Grant Writer is part of weekly staff meetings and participates in DPAS meetings to provide transparency and collaborate with District initiatives. This project serves as a pilot for the greater church. We are happy to share the resources and learning with any group interested in this work. In March 2025, the Oregon-Idaho conference asked for us to share our resources and presentations, which we are happy to do. This is a good sign our work is of value.

One note: in the currently changing environment, competition for funding is stiff, and some funding sources are taking a cautious approach. Nevertheless, we will continue to help churches seek funding and provide training to those who are interested in developing these important sustainability skills.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Catie Coots  
Rev. Eric Schmidt  
Grant Writer



## District Camping Report

In 2024, Camp Wrightwood challenged our campers and Counselors to truly step out of their comfort zones and imagine something different for themselves. Imagining what it truly means to matter, to be loved, to belong, to make a difference, and to create change in this world. And we were met with enthusiasm:

- We had over 100 campers and 45 staff this summer. We received campers from all four mainland districts, with a large concentration in the East District.
- Before the 2024 Summer, we hosted two work days where we cleared out the outdoor chapel into usable space, removed fencing, cleared ground brush, and built community between 7 churches. Work days offer a way for families of churches to raise money to offset camp funds for their campers. We hosted two more in the spring of 2025, restoring and maintaining our site for this summer.
- Each year our Graduating seniors pick a project around camp to leave as their legacy. This has been a tradition since 2016 and has added some of our favorite elements to our site. This year the Graduates transformed two platforms that have not been accessible for use into stable and usable space. We plan on integrating prayer stations there this summer for small groups to move through throughout the week.
- In January, we hosted 12 young adults in the huddle hut who took a weekend to discuss their faith journeys and how to move through theological conflict together instead of avoiding it. They moved through this time together with Grace and understanding, while still challenging each other to live deeper into Christ.
- Over Presidents' Day weekend, Camp Wrightwood buzzed with the energy of more than 100 campers, staff, and volunteers, all coming together for an unforgettable winter retreat. From kindergarteners to high school seniors, campers explored faith through the elements of earth, light, and air while making memories that will last a lifetime. This is to prepare them for Summer and Waves of Faith
- Waves of Faith is a curriculum that we decided on and worked with each site team to create a curriculum focusing on Water and Faith.
- We are proud of the community we have built over the years, and especially from our counseling staff. We get to celebrate school graduations, weddings, new additions to families, big moves, and new jobs. We also stood alongside some deep losses in the camp community. We often also hear from campers' families when they need prayers and support. Connecting between seasons drives our program!

If you have youth in your church please promote camp. We have a work day on May 10th. As I mentioned earlier, this is a great opportunity for youth and parents to see the camp and meet some of the staff. We start around 10am and finish up before 3pm. Lunch is included and you can earn scholarship funds toward camp fees.

July 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>: Elementary Camp

July 11<sup>st</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>: Grand and Me camp

July 13<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>: Jr./Sr. High Camp

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Carmean & Tim Lawler  
East District Camping Ministry

## **District Lay Servant Ministries Report**

Greetings, Lay Servants,

First and foremost, on behalf of DS Moonyoung Lee, the people of Twenty-nine Palms UMC and Montebello UMC, we thank the Lay Servants who shared the pulpits over the past year. Your dedication is crucial for their ministries.

The Cal-Pac Conference Lay Servant Ministries have been flourishing, providing a wide array of advanced classes year-round. Although most of the classes are conducted in English, we have recently introduced classes in various languages, including Tongan, Spanish, Cambodian, and Vietnamese across conferences. A variety of Advanced Classes are presently available, with additional courses scheduled for the summer and fall sessions. For further details, please refer to your email or visit the conference website. We will also have a table at the Annual Conference; we encourage you to visit us and engage in a discussion.

This is a reminder for the CLM candidates that the District Planning and Strategy (DPAS) will provide \$1000.00 to assist candidates in covering some of the costs associated with the psychological evaluation for Certified Lay Minister. Kindly let me know if you require further information.

All lay servants at any certification level are required to submit an annual report to the church/charge conference for the church where they hold membership. For any questions or concerns, please contact me.

May you and all your ministries continue to receive blessings.

Blessings,

Khanh Doan

District Director, Lay Servant Ministries

## **Church Building and Location Report**

East District Building and Location had another busy year of reviewing and approving local church leases and property sales. We faithfully adhere to the guidelines of the Book of Discipline for our work. (Paragraph 2520, 2521, 2524 and 2541)

This past year, we reviewed and approved the following churches' requests:

- Shepherd of the Valley UMC and Desert Preschool Academy
- Banning UMC and Renu-Hope Foundation
- FUMC of Fullerton and Vine Church Orange County who will sublease some of their space to Vineyard Fullerton Church
- Property Sale of Church of the Good Shepherd in Long Beach
- Glendora Parsonage lease to former pastor
- Brea's lease with Korean Church.
- La Verne UMC lease with HeadStart
- Hesperia Vacant Lot Sale
- West Covina UMC Leases, La Habra UMC
- Victorville UMC request to sell Old Barstow UMC Campus and the Hinkley Lot
- Yucaipa UMC lease with Renu Hope (Head Start)

We continue to work with the churches in the district who are exploring the opportunities to utilize properties in the coming year in new leases and sales of properties. We are grateful for their faithfulness to the stewardship of our resources. When reviewing leases and sales, we want to ensure the churches are not overreaching and that they are protected. We want to ensure the terms of the leases are reasonable and protected for our local churches.

FYI: Guidelines for Property Development Projects and Lease Agreements and the process.

### Property Development Projects:

If your church is considering property development projects, please be aware that there are specific procedures in place. It has recently come to our attention at the district office that some churches within the East District have received misleading information suggesting they can bypass the district and our UM procedures. I want to clarify that this is not accurate. If your church wishes to explore property development projects, I kindly request that you contact Rev. Catie Coots, East District Change Manager ([catiecoots@me.com](mailto:catiecoots@me.com)), or Ms. Sandee Furuta, CalPac's Associate Director of District Properties and Congregational Loans ([sfuruta@calpacumc.org](mailto:sfuruta@calpacumc.org)). Initiating these contacts and

engaging in subsequent conversations will reflect our shared commitment to transparency, cooperation, and a collective vision for our church properties.

Lease Agreements:

In accordance with Paragraph 2541 of the Book of Discipline, the local church needs to be approved by its charge/church conference in order to lease or rent church property for a duration of 30 days or more. Furthermore, the consent of the District Superintendent and approval from the District Board of Church Location and Building are also required. While these requirements may seem cumbersome, it is a crucial step in the process to ensure that the lease aligns with the district's mission and values while also safeguarding the best interest of the local church.

Once again, I want to thank our District Superintendent, Rev. Moonyoung Lee and the Change Manager, Rev. Catie Coots who have provided leadership, resources, vision and guidance. I would like to thank Dany Caguin, Administrator of East District Office for dealing with correspondence and setting up ZOOM meetings, etc. And of course, my deep appreciation extends to our members: Rev. Jon Waterson, Ed Hume, Khanh Doan, Rev. Riju Jayan and Sherri Cort for their faithful work, expertise and dedication.

We look forward to serving local churches as we work together in fulfilling our shared mission in the coming year in God's Grace.

Faithfully Submitted,  
Rev. John Yoon  
Chairperson

## **District Planning and Strategy Report**

I am grateful to our wonderful, faithful, thoughtful team. And the whole team is grateful for the Rev. Moonyoung Lee, our District Superintendent, and the Rev. Catie Coots, our District Change Manager. We are here to support the District Superintendent in her role as Chief Mission Strategist. This year, that involved the following:

We met three times by zoom, and voted on one matter by email.

We approved \$327,364.71 worth of funds in support of four local churches, and provided a modest sum to provide pulpit supply for one clergy renewal leave.

In August of 2024, we sent a team of clergy to the School of Congregational Development. They were asked to report back to the DPAS on their learnings, and how what they learned might help the district. We received on report.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Dr. Paula Ferris  
Chairperson

## **District Committee on Ordained Ministry Report**

In accordance with ¶666.1 of *The Book of Discipline*, "the district committee on ordained ministry [DCOM] shall be amenable to the annual conference through the board of ordained ministry." The East District Committee on Ordained Ministry is charged with interviewing and evaluating candidates who believe they are called to serve in various expressions of lay and licensed/ordained ministry.

Between July 1, 2024, and April 15, 2025, the East DCOM convened five times and conducted a total of 33 interviews with individuals pursuing lay and licensed ministry. For statistical reporting, the interviews were categorized as follows:

- In-Person Introductory Interviews: 5
- Recertification/Annual Renewal of Local Pastor License: 19
- Recommendation for Provisional Membership: 6
- Renewal of Certified Lay Minister License: 2

Additionally, the DCOM will meet again on April 29–30, 2025, to conduct 12 scheduled interviews:

- Certification Interviews: 8
- Recertification Interviews: 3
- Renewal of Certified Lay Minister License: 1

Current candidate statistics for the East District are as follows:

- Certified Candidates for Ordination: 20
- Declared Candidates: 31
- Local Pastor Track Candidates: 10
- Certified Lay Ministers: 9

This year has marked a significant period of transition as the Board of Ordained Ministry has worked to ensure the implementation of revised requirements in the updated *Book of Discipline*. In addition, there has been a renewed and collaborative effort to create a more collegial and meaningful ordination process. The East DCOM continues to work closely with the Board of Ordained Ministry to provide candidates with resources and tools that will support their development throughout the discernment and credentialing/ordination process.

We are encouraged by the dedication and faithfulness of our candidates as they continue to pursue the ministry to which they are called. It is our sacred responsibility and privilege to accompany them on their spiritual journeys. We hope that all East District clergy and laity will continue to support, guide, and uplift our candidates as they grow in faith and service.

As I conclude my term as Chair of the East DCOM in June, I am grateful for the opportunity to have served in this role. I look forward to continuing my involvement as a committee member in the coming year. I would also like to extend heartfelt thanks to the Rev. Eric Schmidt, who has served with distinction as our DCOM Registrar. His work has been marked by efficiency, grace, and deep commitment.

We offer our sincere gratitude to the DCOM members who will be rotating off this year—it has been a pleasure and a blessing to serve alongside you. We also warmly welcome the incoming members who will be joining us in this important work.

Finally, we **celebrate Pastor Moon Youn Kong, who will be received as a Provisional Member** at the 2025 California-Pacific Annual Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Lynn Reece, Chair, East DCOM

The Rev. Eric Schmidt, Registrar, East DCOM



## District Treasurer Report

Two events were hosted in 2024 by the East District Ministries Team that were processed through the East District Ministries checking account.

On January 14, 2024, a Pastor's Appreciation Dinner was held for all East District pastors and spouses at Wesley UMC in Riverside. A total of 102 pastors and spouses attended the event, plus 12 additional people who helped with the event management and provided entertainment.

The total cost of the event was \$4,068.23. Contributions of \$785.00 were received, and the East District Superintendent paid for the remainder of the balance due. There was no cost ascribed to the checking account.

Stone Fire Grill in Rancho Cucamonga catered the dinner. They received many praises for the quality and serving of the main dish of tri-tip and lemon garlic chicken breasts.

On August 12, 2024, a retirement celebration for Karen Britten, Administrative Assistant to the District Superintendent, was held by Zoom. Gifts were collected by members of the East District that amounted to \$1,070.00. That amount was sent to her at her new residence. A bouquet of flowers was also sent to her, as well as a gift certificate for lunch, which she used during the celebration. The cost for the flowers and gift certificate was \$188.13.

Fund	Balance on January 1, 2024	Total Money Received During Year	Total Disbursements During Year	Balance on December 31, 2024
Checking	6,679.38	5,137.62	5,341.75	6,475.25
Savings	14,910.67	123.64 *	0.00	15,034.31

\*Interest

Respectfully submitted,  
Art Richardson  
East District Treasurer

## **District Union Report**

The East District Union continues to be a dynamic, mission-driven team committed to empowering and revitalizing the churches within our care. With a strong focus on collaboration and service, the Union operates at the intersection of real estate, legal matters, and ministry—three critical areas where many of our churches face ongoing challenges. By leveraging the team’s diverse expertise and working in close partnership with District leadership, the Union has once again upheld its mission in 2024: to assist congregations in financial need and to help ensure that worship and ministry can continue in safe and inspirational spaces.

After several years of thoughtful deliberation and strategic planning, the Board moved forward in early 2024 with new investment initiatives. Edward Jones, Charles Schwab, and Premier Bank were selected as financial partners, tasked with generating sustainable revenue. In less than a year, these investments yielded an impressive return—approaching a quarter of a million dollars—a milestone that marks a significant achievement in our pursuit of long-term financial stability.

This commitment to rigorous financial stewardship stems from a clear and pressing goal. Many of our churches are grappling with growing maintenance and repair costs. Operating on lean budgets, congregations often struggle to cover these essential expenses, and traditional property insurance alone is not a feasible solution. The District Union is stepping in to bridge this gap—providing the financial support necessary to preserve the functionality and integrity of our church buildings.

As we look ahead, the East District Union remains steadfast in its vision: to ensure that every church under our care has the resources it needs not only to survive but to thrive. By pursuing financial sustainability today, we are investing in the future of ministry in the East District for generations to come.

The East District Union is pleased to announce that the annual budget for the 2025 calendar year has reached a historic milestone of \$540,000—doubling the size of previous budgets due to a unique and pressing need. A significant portion of this year’s budget has been designated to support a church within our District facing an acute financial crisis. While such an allocation would have been beyond our capacity just a few years ago, we are deeply grateful to now be in a position where we can respond decisively. This progress is a clear reflection of how far we have come—evidencing not only our growth but our increasing self-sufficiency as a District Union.

We are especially thankful for the unwavering support of the South District. In our own time of great financial difficulty, the South District extended a generous hand of partnership. Their anticipated contribution this year will provide additional momentum as we work toward our next phase of financial sustainability and expanded service.

For congregations in need of financial assistance to address building-related issues, both loan and grant applications are readily available at the District office. We also encourage churches to explore support through the congregational loan office of the Annual Conference, which offers both loans and conditional grants. While available funds may not always allow us to cover 100% of the costs, the District Union remains committed to doing everything within its power to equip and empower churches to thrive in their ministries.

Together, with continued stewardship, collaboration, and faith in our shared mission, we look forward to another year of impact and growth throughout the East District.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Phillips Whang  
President

## **District Lay Leaders Report**

The East District believes that a true partnership exists when both laity and clergy are committed, equipped, and willing to work together to build the Kingdom of God. Our goal is to continue to strive and move towards that direction where laity and clergy can be one in ministry, looking at a shared partnership in developing ministries and leadership for the benefit of their congregations.

Earlier in the year we orchestrated ourselves and divided our district into three distinct areas. It was decided among ourselves that we would each take an area; reach out to them via the district directory, to listen, to participate, and pray over their Church concerns, desires, and events.

As a result, Annie, Taufa, and Diane are a TEAM of Three! Annie Solomon represents the Eastern area of the East District, Taufa Tenisi represents the Middle portion of the East District, and Diane Gin the Western area of the East District. We work collaboratively when representing our District at all Conference led events and committees. This year our theme was "Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger Flourish!"

Throughout our planning we continued to look at the word 'Flourish' to highlight our district events. One such attempt was made for a February 8<sup>th</sup> event. Alongside our DS Rev. Moonyoung Lee and the District Leadership Team, we were planning a Laity Appreciation Brunch to show our appreciation to ALL of our local lay leaders and leadership teams. However, the Pacific Palisades and Altadena Fires took precedence, and we were forced to postpone this event until a later date.

In addition, we are involved in Mission Area meetings within our respective areas. We are asked and invited to attend those mission area meetings when they are convened. This allows us to meet those churches and people who comprise our area of concentration. This year the Greater San Gabriel Mission Area was able to coordinate a list of Holy Week activities from the various churches around the mission area of the Greater San Gabriel Valley. An additional Summer Kick-off event is scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup> at Shepherd of the Hills UMC starting at 11:30 a.m. to announce the various summer events available for our youth, young adults, in addition to our adults and seniors!

Youth and young adult events have occurred throughout our district. In particular, many friends and families attended the Mana Youth Tongan event and the Annual Youth and Children Young Adult Day event.

Providing leadership skills and opportunities for those interested in pursuing their interests in working with God in a closer, discerning relationship have been instituted through the Conference Laity Council. We are currently receiving Lay Leadership Ministry opportunities information by way of the Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker, and Certified Lay Minister opportunities. What a fantastic way to receive the training we need as we discern our path in serving the Lord! Our goal as a district is to combine our resources and provide opportunities to gain experience and equip our laity to thrive and contribute to the theme "Flourish!"

Individually, we have been asked to contribute articles to the EAST District Newsletter

As members of the Conference's Laity Council, we work diligently under the leadership of Mele Maka, Conference Lay Leader. Our monthly meetings involve all five districts of the Conference. We are currently involved in the planning and implementation of the Laity Retreat, the Outstanding

Lay Leader of the East District and Laity Luncheon for the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Annual Conference that will be held between June 11-14, 2025, at Indian Wells.

The EAST District continues to strive for more volunteers who are willing and have interest in promoting the countless leadership and ministerial opportunities ...we are a wonderful team to work with. We welcome all to join us! So come on board and you will have the best time of your Life as we continue to serve the Lord.

May God continue to Bless our EAST District...."Where the SON Rises!"

Report Submitted by,  
Annie Solomon, Taufan Tenisi, and Diane Gin  
Co-Lay Leaders

## **District Superintendency Report**

The East District Superintendency Committee worked together to transition the East District Office Administrative Assistant position this last year. After 10 years in ministry, we said goodbye to Karen Britten. The send off was a wonderful celebration of thanks for her faithful service.

We also were delighted to welcome our new East District Administrative Assistant, Danyelle (Dany) Caguin, who began her ministry with us on August 12, 2024. Dany has been a wonderful addition to the East District. She has already shared her experience in administration, her heart for service, and her strong commitment to supporting the ministries and mission of the California-Pacific Conference to the East District office.

The East District Superintendency Committee is especially grateful for our District Superintendent, Rev. Moonyoung Lee. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for her faithful leadership, encouragement, and support throughout this past year. Her guidance has been a source of strength and inspiration for our ministry, helping us navigate challenges and celebrate the joys of our work together. Thank you, DS Lee, for walking alongside us with wisdom, grace, and vision. It is a blessing to serve alongside your leadership.

Today, we also give thanks for the dedicated service of those who are rotating off the East District Superintendency Committee. Rev. Matini Niponi Finau, Myra Richardson and Art Richardson, we are grateful for all you have offered and pray God's blessings on your continued ministry in new ways.

I have been blessed to serve with these East District leaders and am looking forward to another year of serving in ministry together.

Report submitted by,  
Cathy Wilson  
Chairperson

## **District Superintendent Report**

Dear East District,

May the peace and grace of the risen Christ be with you!

As I complete my second year serving alongside you, my heart is full: full of the beauty, faithfulness, and grace that are very evident in the life and ministry of our district. I've also had the privilege of witnessing the strengthening of our shared faith and identity as United Methodists as we journey forward into the current landscape of ministry following the 2024 General Conference.

This year, I had the pure joy of presiding over most of our charge conferences within Mission Area clusters. These meetings weren't merely just another annual meeting. It was a time of holy conferencing, as well as to share the joys and challenges of one another's ministries, and most importantly, to be reminded that we are one body in Christ. Ministry was never meant to be done in isolation, although the nature of our work can sometimes feel that way. That's why these moments of unity and togetherness are very meaningful as they remind us of our shared mission in Christ.

I was also deeply inspired to see just how resilient and strong we are as the church. For the past five years, we've weathered some of the most unexpected storms such as a global pandemic, season of disaffiliation and yet, our churches continue to bear fruits to the life-giving work of God and diligently raise up disciples of Christ.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to give thanks for Dany Caguin, who joined our East District Office last year. Her presence, gifts and graces have made the transition seamless, and she has been a tremendous blessing to our team. I am also grateful for Rev. Eric Schmidt, whose leadership in the 213 assessments and guidance around single-board governance have been a vital resource to many churches throughout the district and beyond. To Rev. Catie Coots, whose faithful and fearless leadership coupled with her grace and wisdom to handle both large and small matters that arise in the district, her dedication to the ministry of the East District have allowed me to live more fully into my role as the chief missional strategist, and for that I'm truly thankful.

To our District Lay Leaders, committee and Board chairs and every member: it's through your faithful service that we continue to flourish in ministry. The East District and I are blessed to journey together in faith and ministry with you.

As we look ahead to the coming conference year, I am excited to live into the theme of Cherish. Now, may we cherish one another as God's beloved children, and also teach others that they, too, are cherished by our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Thank you for another fruitful and faithful year in ministry.

In Christ's service,  
Rev. Moonyoung Lee

## EAST DISTRICT 2025

### East District - Leaders

Members	Email Address
<b>Superintendent:</b> Moonyoung Lee	dseast@calpacumc.org
<b>Regional District Co-Lay Leaders:</b>	
Annie Solomon (Eastern Region)	solomonlouise75@gmail.com
Taufa Tenisi (Central Region)	ttenisi82@gmail.com
Diane Gin (Western Region)	dlkgin@aol.com
<b>District Change Manager:</b> Catie Coots	catiecoots@me.com
<b>District Grant Writer:</b> Eric Schmidt	umcpastorschmidt@gmail.com
<b>District Treasurer:</b> Art Richardson	art_richardson@verizon.net
<b>District Lay Servant Ministries:</b>	
Khanh Doan (Director)	iamkdoan@gmail.com
Ray Eckhardt	rayleft@yahoo.com
Jillian Ericson	jill1945@charter.net
Marilyn Krieg	frogcat72@gmail.com
Art Richardson	art_richardson@verizon.net
Annie Solomon	solomonlouise75@gmail.com
<b>District Statisticians:</b>	
Karen Britten	eastdistrictunion@gmail.com
Ana Maria Fultz	banningumc@aol.com
<b>District Camping Coordinator:</b>	
Tim Lawler	tlawler227@gmail.com (Moreno Valley UMC)
<b>District Committee for Youth &amp; YA:</b>	
Franklyn Shen (Rep for conference council)	fnjshen@sbcglobal.net (COGS)
<b>Conference JCEMT Representative:</b>	
To Be Reported	
<b>District United Women In Faith:</b>	
Annie Solomon (President)	solomonlouise75@gmail.com



### District Mission Area Leaders and Associate Lay Leaders

<b>Mission Area</b>	<b>Mission Area Leader</b>	<b>Associate Lay Leader</b>
Box Springs:	Matini Niponi Finau	Len Johnson
Greater San Gabriel:	Eva Thai- Erwin	Marcia Galland/Bob Gin
Claremont:	Min-Kyu Park	Alma Roberts
East Desert:	Jane Voigts	Annie Solomon
East San Gabriel:	Lily Villamin	Lita Linchangco
High and Dry Desert:	Moon Young Kong	
Ontario:	Alena Uhamaka	
Puente Hills:	Dae il (David) Choi	Julie Asuncion
Redlands:	Phillips Whang	
Riverside:	J.T. Kim	
San Bernadino:	Rafael Deras	
Santa Ana Hills:	Eric Schmidt	
Whittier:	Jon Waterson (temporary)	Paul Gardiner

### East District Union

	Trustees	Email Address
	<b>President:</b> John Yoon	
	<b>Vice President:</b> John Mohl	
	<b>Treasurer:</b> Matthew McPhee	
	<b>Secretary:</b>	
1.	Noel Abesamis ('19-First Fil Am)	nrabesamis@gmail.com
2.	Paige Eaves ('20 Cal-Pac)	a.paige.eaves@gmail.com
3.	Craig Lucas ('20 COGS)	clucasarc@gmail.com
4.	John Mohl ('23 Claremont)	mohl2@msn.com
5.	Lisa Scott ('19 Glendora)	we44098owl@aol.com
6.	Matthew McPhee ('23 SOTV)	pastormatt@indioumc.com
7.	Denise Tomlinson ('21 Moreno)	missionprop@gmail.com
8.	Gloria Auburn (COTF)	fr651947@outlook.com
9.	John Yoon (Sierra Madre)	yohan6063@aol.com
	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
	Catie Coots ('20 Change Manager)	catiecoots@me.com
	Eric Schmidt ('23 Grant Writer)	umcpastorschmidt@gmail.com
	Karen Britten ('14 Bookkeeper)	eastdistrictunion@gmail.com
	Moonyoung Lee ('23 Executive Secretary)	dseast@calpacumc.org
	<i>Liaison to EDU</i>	
	B&L: Sherri Cort ('24 Moreno)	westar.sherri@yahoo.com
	DPAS: To Be Reported	

### East District Superintendency

	Members	Email Address
	<b>Chairperson:</b> Cathy Wilson	
	<b>District Co-Lay Leader:</b> Annie Solomon	
	<b>Class of 2026:</b>	
1.	Brenda Kiloni Paongo ('23 Trinity)	kilionibrenda@yahoo.com
2.	Min-Kyu Park ('23 La Verne)	mp87602@gmail.com
3.	Eva Thai-Erwin ('23 COGS)	eva.thai@gmail.com
4.	Dafry Nesamony (University)	dnesamony11@apu.edu
	<b>Class of 2027:</b>	
5.	Rubin Domingo ('24 La Verne)	rubincarol622@yahoo.com
6.	Kathy Norris ('24 Fullerton)	norrisffumc@gmail.com
7.	Cathy Wilson ('24 Glendora)	cwilson@calpacumc.org
8.		
	<b>Class of 2028:</b>	
9.	Jennifer Hampton (Chino)	mrsmdrm93@yahoo.com
10.	Paula Haeane (Colton)	phaeane@yahoo.com
11.	Israel Duarte (COTF)	israduar87@gmail.com
12.	Theresa Ellis (Upland)	ellis.theresa@gmail.com

### East District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM)

	Members	Email Address
	<b>Chairperson:</b> Soomee Kim	
	<b>Registrar:</b> Eric Schmidt	
	<b>Class of 2026:</b>	
1.	Ben Ellis ('23 Upland)	pastorbenellis@gmail.com
2.	Hilde Garrison ('23 Temple City)	hilde3124@gmail.com
3.	Rafael Deras (New Beginnings)	rafaelder59@yahoo.com
4.	Lily Villamin ('23 Covina)	villamin9641@gmail.com
5.	Betty King ('24 Hemet)	beeking@att.net
	<b>Class of 2027:</b>	
6.	David Nesamony ('23 University)	dnesamony@verizon.net – BoOM Rep
7.	Lynn Reece ('24 SOTV)	eastdcomchairperson@gmail.com
8.	Judy Johnson (Brea)	dr.judylep@gmail.com
9.	Eric Schmidt ('24 Placentia)	eastdistrictcom@gmail.com
10.	Jay Campbell (Claremont)	revjay@claremontumc.org
	<b>Class of 2028:</b>	
11.	Katie Monforte ('24 Claremont)	revkatie@claremontumc.org
12.	Jay Hong Jeon ('24 Ontario)	jayontariofirst@gmail.com
13.	Carol Buskirk (Glendora UMC)	carol.vanbuskirk@gmail.com
14.	Soomee Kim (La Habra)	revsoomee@hotmail.com
15.		

**East District Planning and Strategy Committee (DPAS)/ \*Building and Location Committee**

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
	<b>Chairperson:</b> Paula Ferris	
	<b>*Chairperson:</b> Chi Young Jeong	
	<b>*Treasurer:</b> Khanh Doan	
	<b>NMEMT Rep.:</b> Jaime Nieves	
	<b>Class of 2026:</b>	
1.	Ed Hume ('23 Claremont)	edward.hume@verizon.net
2.	Doug Purcell ('23 Banning)	dougnb012@gmail.com
3.	*Jon Waterson ('23 Whittier First)	pastorjon@whittierfirstumc.com
4.		
5.		
	<b>Class of 2027:</b>	
6.	*Sherri Cort ('24 Moreno)	westar.sherri@yahoo.com
7.	*Riju Jayan ('23 West Covina)	rijujayansl@gmail.com
8.	Lita Linchangco ('24 COTF)	lita.linchangco@gmail.com
9.	Karen Tannheimer ('24 La Habra)	karentannheimer@gmail.com
10.	Paula Ferris ('22 Fullerton)	revpaf@gmail.com
	<b>Class of 2028:</b>	
11.	Jane Voigts (Palm Springs)	pastorjane@umcps.org
12.	Susie Bowman (Palm Springs)	artqueen1@aol.com
13.	*Khanh Doan ('19 Grace)	iamkdoan@gmail.com
14.	*Chi Young Jeong (Bell Memorial)	chiyoungj@hotmail.com
15.	Gloria Johnson ('22 La Mirada)	gballesteros10@gmail.com
	<b>Ex Officio</b>	
	Catie Coots	catiecoots@me.com
	Eric Schmidt	umcpastorschmidt@gmail.com
	(DPAS rep to EDU) to be reported	

## Lay Equalization Members to Annual Conference 2025

<b>Youth (12-17 years old)</b>		
1. Melatonga Niuila	milesizgay@gmail.com	Colton UMC
2. Sione Niuila	niuilacharlie@gmail.com	Colton UMC
3. Kieun Lee	kieunlee0811@gmail.com	Victorville UMC
4. Sammuel Zhao	gloriix12@gmail.com	Pomona Valley Chinese UMC
5. AyobolaJesu Ayodele	ayobolajesu@gmail.com	Redlands: University UMC
<b>Youth Alternatives</b>		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
<b>Young Adult (18-30 years old)</b>		
1. Drew Patterson	drew.bradley.patterson@gmail.com	SOTV UMC
2. William Dang	w.dang519@gmail.com	Mission Community UMC
3. Ryan Chow	rchow723@gmail.com	SOTH UMC
4. Maikolo Brown	maikolobrown1@gmail.com	First UMC of San Gabriel
5. Hanna Jang	pastorhannajang@gmail.com	First UMC of Upland
<b>Young Adult Alternatives</b>		
1. Tevita Feaomoeata	tevifeao05@gmail.com	Colton UMC
2. Vaimoana Alatini	vaimoana.alatini1@gmail.com	Colton UMC
3. Falengamonu Ahofaiva	vaialatini06@gmail.com	Colton UMC
4. Salote Alatini	salotealatini482@gmail.com	Colton UMC
5. Christian Do	dochristian933@gmail.com	Colton UMC
<b>Lay Members at Large</b>		
1. Mary Bushong	giant_desert_rats@yahoo.com	Yucca Valley UMC
2. C-J Conklin	lilysilverheart@yahoo.com	East Whitter UMC
3. Zicong Li	lizicong.umc@gmail.com	Faith of SGV UMC
4. Laura Perez	lauratlc271@gmail.com	La Mirada UMC
5. Art Richardson	art_richardson@verizon.net	Riverside: Wesley UMC
6. Lisa Scott	we44098owl@aol.com	Glendora UMC
7. Dany Caguin	eastdistrict@calpacumc.org	East District Office
8. Kaho Uepi	kuepi5280@gmail.com	First Tongan of PV UMC
9. Sophie Weiss	sophieweiss23@gmail.com	First UMC of Riverside
10. Myra Richardson	myrahalsey@aol.com	Riverside: Wesley UMC
<b>Alternate Members</b>		
1. Elenoa Fonua	efonua51@gmail.com	First Tongan of PV UMC
2. Angel Copeland-Wolf	amazinggracelove@aol.com	Victorville UMC
3. Diane Moala	dianemoala17@gmail.com	First Tongan of PV UMC

## Clergy/Leaders Changes



**Commissioned as Provisional Member at AC2025:**  
Pastor Moon Young Kong - Victorville UMC



**Ordained as Elder in Full Connection at AC2025:**  
Rev. Jonggoo Lee – Hesperia UMC

## New Appointments Starting July 1st, 2025:



Rev. Cate Luehr  
to La Mirada UMC



Rev. Soomee Kim  
to La Habra UMC



Rev. John Yoon  
to Sierra Madre UMC



LPA Ted Whitford to  
Community UMC of  
Wrightwood

## Clergy Leaving the East District:



Rev. Jae Duk Lew to Ridgecrest UMC  
(North District)

## Retiring Clergy:



Rev. Karen Tannheimer  
La Habra UMC



Rev. Tom Tseng  
Alhambra First UMC



Rev. Valerie Weise

## **100% Apportionment Giving in 2024**

Baldwin Park UMC  
Banning UMC  
Chino UMC  
Church of the Foothills UMC  
Cornerstone UMC  
Corona UMC  
First Filipino American UMC  
First Tongan of Pomona Valley UMC  
First UMC of Riverside  
Fullerton First UMC  
Glendora UMC  
Grace UMC of Riverside  
Highgrove UMC  
Ontario First UMC  
Palm Springs UMC  
Pomona Valley Chinese UMC  
Redlands First UMC  
Rialto UMC  
San Dimas UMC  
Shepherd of the Valley UMC  
Sierra Madre UMC  
Trinity UMC of Pomona  
UMC of Twentynine Palms  
University UMC of Redlands  
Walnut UMC  
Wesley UMC of Riverside  
Yucca Valley UMC

**Thank you!**