

2021 BISHOP'S AWARDS BIOGRAPHIES



California-Pacific Conference
The United Methodist Church

Pre-Recorded
on
Sunday, May 16, 2021
Christ UMC of Honolulu
and
Saturday, June 5, 2021
First UMC of Pasadena



Ceremony Broadcast at
Annual Conference
on
June 19, 2021



Each year during Annual Conference, Bishop Grant J. Hagiya celebrates a list of distinguished clergy and laypersons who have devoted their life of extraordinary service to the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

2021 Recipients

J. André Aldridge
Rev. David O. Beadles
Winifred (Winnie) Ching
Rev. Dr. Roy Lewis Fry, Jr.
Rev. Robert Preston Price, III
Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett
Jose Rodriguez
Joyce L. Zirkle

2020 Recipients

Rev. James Conn
Connee Freeman
Phil Freeman
Dan Gara
Lorraine Kadooka
Rev. Etuini Kelemen
Tupou Seini Kelemen
Rev. David Richardson
Ana-Haydée Urda

2019 Recipients

Rev. Faith Joanne Conklin	Rev. Kenneth E. McMillan (posthumously)
Kenneth Ellis	M. Tyler Pottenger
Rev. Edward A. Hoffman (posthumously)	Tetsu Tanimoto
Rev. Dr. Woong-Min Kim	George Williams

2018 Recipients

Francis Fukumoto	Rev. Dr. Robert Smith
JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto	Rev. Dr. F. Thomas Trotter
Howard Hudson	Rev. J. Irwin Trotter
Rev. Dan Kennedy	Rev. Mark C. Trotter
Rev. Nancy G. Self	

2017 Recipients

Rev. Dr. John Cobb, Jr.	Stephen F. Harbison
Gaunnie Hardin Dixon	Byron Hayes, Jr.
Becky Haase	Rev. James M. Lawson, Jr.

J. André Aldridge

J. André Aldridge (André), attended the University of California at Los Angeles earning a B.S. in Geophysics. André is retired from Lockheed Martin's Advanced Development Products Division after 35 years. While there, he was a Principle Materials Researcher and manager of the Materials Development Labs, where they developed special heat shields for the Space Shuttles and other aircrafts.

André was awarded a number of patents and was named to the company's "Honor Roll of Inventions." In 1996, André received The Engineering '96 Merit Award for Environmental Engineering by The Engineer's Council in California.

André enjoys volunteering and serving in his "home church," Crenshaw UMC and is a "lifetime Methodist." André served as the Chair of SPRC, Chair of the Administrative Board, Co-Chair of the Trustee Board, a member the men's choir and the combined choirs and VP of the UMM. In the West District he is the Co-Lay Leader, a member of the Superintendency Committee, serves on LITFF Board and Grants Committee and the West District Committee. At the Conference level André served on DePAS, New Ministry EMT and The Leadership EMT.

André is married to Peggy and they have three sons, Erikk, Cristopher and Brandan, all college grads, and 8 grandchildren. As a family, the Aldridges have a passion for starting and participating in non-profits serving youths and homeless families.

Rev. David O. Beadles

Reverend David O. Beadles was born on August 1, 1930 in Tacoma, Washington. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Idaho in 1952 and Master of Theology from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California in 1955. He was Ordained as a Deacon in 1953 and as an Elder in 1955 in the Pacific Northwest Conference. Prior to retiring in 1997 after 44 years in active ministry, Rev. Beadles led diverse churches, served in two conferences, and committed an extraordinary amount of time to conference activities.

Appointments:

1955-57	Finley-West Kennewick, Kennewick, Washington, PNW Conference
1957-59	Associate: First Methodist Church, Orange, California
1959-64	Walteria Methodist Church, Torrance, California
1964-70	First Methodist Church, Monterey Park, California
1970-76	First United Methodist Church, Redlands, California
1976-85	Anaheim United Methodist Church, Anaheim, California
1985-89	United Methodist Church, Laguna Hills, California
1989-97	Laguna Beach United Methodist Church, Laguna Beach, California
1997	Retired (44 years in active ministry)

Interim Appointments:

1998-99	Co-Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Orange, California
2000	Interim Pastor, Grand Ave. United Methodist Church, Santa Ana, California (April – June)
2001-2002	Interim, Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Westminster, California (October – January)
2003	Interim, Native American United Methodist Church, Anaheim, California
2007	Interim, Norwalk United Methodist Church, Norwalk, California (January – February)

Conference Activities:

Chair, Conference Sessions Committee and Host Pastor to the California-Pacific Conference,
University of Redlands, 1970-76

Chair, Riverside District Council on Ministries, 1972-74

Design Team: "Homosexuality and Homophobia" 1982-83

Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, 1983-92; 1994-2001

Chair, Santa Ana District Committee on Ordained Ministry, 1994-96

California-Pacific Conference Executive Committee on Orders, 2005-2009

Chair, Elder-Pastors, California-Pacific Conference, 2003-2010

Other Activities:

Lecturer: South Carolina Society of Radiologic Technologist

"The Social and Individual Response to the Dying Patient" 1979-1990

Chaplain, South Coast Medical Center, Laguna Beach, 1989-97

Orange County Salvation Army Advisory Board, 1998-2012

Volunteer of the Year Award, May 2010

Next to his side has been his wife Judith Anne and children Diana, Janice, Phyllis, Bruce, Jennifer, and Jeffrey.

Winifred (Winnie) Ching

One of my favorite Bible verses is 1 Peter 2:9-10: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

I now know that in my early childhood, this marvelous God was wooing me. I am the second child of Richard and Alyce Ching born during World War II. They were born in Hawaii of immigrants from South China. My father was a civilian employee at Pearl Harbor. I remember black out curtains in our home. When I was six, my mother died. Dad, as a single parent decided he needed to move his three children away from the city. He bought a property in the Kahaluu, Oahu and began building a house on the weekends. I was 10 when we moved permanently to the house. To get to Waiahole School, we walked about a mile down Waihee Road to board a bus.

One day God used my classmate, Jean Nakata. She asked if I would like to come with her to her church, which was on the way to the bus stop. I don’t remember how often I attended with her. However, I was 14 when the pastor asked if I wanted to be baptized and join the church. My father, who did not attend any church but had some Buddhist practices, allowed my older brother and I to join the Kahaluu United Methodist Church.

I became fully involved in the church activities. I sang in the choir and taught the preschool and kindergarten Sunday School. After graduating from Castle High School, I attended the University of Hawaii. We parked at the Wesley Foundation and became involved in their activities. In my senior year I became the president and had the privilege of visiting other Wesley Foundations in California. Then as a VISTA volunteer, I was placed in a migrant community in Central California. I worked with the Hispanic and Black communities. I became aware of the hardships and the prejudice they endured. Later I went to work in a Job Corp in Iowa. There I found my calling to serve very young children. So, I obtained a Master’s degree in Child Development from Southern Illinois University.

After a year teaching in a high school outside of Chicago, I got a position in a new child development center in Honolulu. Since then, I have spent nearly 40 years in various roles teaching young children or coaching their teachers. Some of the achievements in this field have been collaborations on children’s books, curriculum and state standards for early childhood teachers. During those years, I raised a son as a single parent, when my husband died in 1990.

The first time I attended Cal-Pac Annual Conference I heard about the Walk to Emmaus. When it came to Hawaii in 1994, I attended the first Women's Walk. My spiritual life was transformed. I realized that I was a chosen race, God's people. I am letting God work through me. The roles I have held in the local church, like council chair, financial secretary, choir member, have been grace filled. Currently my roles have expanded to the District level as chair of the Lay Servant Ministries and member of the Committee on Ordained Ministries and at the Conference level by serving on the Episcopacy Committee.

I have been blessed my whole life to be a blessing to others. My greatest pleasure is teaching adults. Since the Covid pandemic, the use of Zoom has opened classes to the entire Conference. In 2013, I married a retired Lutheran pastor. Together we have 4 sons, 12 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Dr. Roy Lewis Fry, Jr.

Lewis Fry grew up in Waco, Texas, where he was active in the Austin Avenue Methodist Church and graduated from Waco High School in 1961.

He received his undergraduate degree at the Cal Western University in San Diego in 1965 and his doctorate from the Claremont School of Theology in 1969, while appointed part time to the Spurgeon UMC in Santa Ana.

Pastor Fry served UM churches for six years on Maui in Hawaii, 7 years at Van Nuys First UMC, 6 years at St. Mark's UMC in San Diego, 13 years at St. Paul's UMC in San Bernardino, and retired in June 2010 from Simi Valley UMC, where he served the last 9 years of his active ministry.

Lew has been seen around the sound console at the University of Redlands for Annual Conference Sessions since 1966, and has served a number of years on the Sessions Committee.

Lew has been on the Board of Directors for the United Methodist Federal Credit Union for 38 years, and has served in various capacities at the District and Annual Conference levels throughout his ministry, including eight years on Board of Ordained Ministry. He is currently serving as Treasurer on the District Union of the North District, serves on The Annual Conference Sessions Committee, serves on the Boards of the Annual Conference United Methodist Men, and the Kimball Boyd Coburn Ministries. Lew was until recently active with the Channel Islands Emmaus Community, where he has served as a Spiritual Director on most of their weekends. Until his recent move, Lew was active with the Simi Valley UMC Chancel Choir and UMM.

Lew and his wife Mary moved in late 2018 to Pilgrim Place in Claremont, and are loving this change in their lives. Lew has continued his contributions to the Audio/Visual work at Pilgrim Place.

Lew and Mary have two children and four grandchildren, of whom they are, of course, very proud.

Rev. Robert Preston Price, III

R. Preston Price has been married to Jean Price for 54 years. Jean is retired from teaching and being a professional organist. They have two sons. Robert is Dean of the Episcopal Cathedral in Dallas; John is Superintendent of Schools in the city of North Chicago. The family includes two wonderful daughters-in-law and five grandchildren.

Beginning in 1970, Preston lived out his call to ordained ministry by serving seven churches: rural, suburban, urban; one with a majority of members POC, one a new church start, one with two language congregations embedded. During that time, he participated in graduate-level education with Walter Wink, Eric Law, Marie Fortune, Lombard Center, JustPeace, and a two-year Spiritual Direction certification. He took two travel seminars: Palestine and spiritual sites including Taizé and Assisi. He served with ten associates and five seminary interns. He was volunteer chaplain in the emergency room, established a chaplaincy program at a children's hospital, served on the board of a sheltered workshop and Red Cross, co-hosted a weekly radio show, and was a member of a city traffic commission. In every appointment he founded or supported clergy support groups.

Preston's first Conference position was as a member of the Board of Evangelism while he was in college. After ordination as a Deacon, he served as Co-Head Teller. He became a member of the Board of Education. He was Overhead Projectionist for the sessions of Annual Conference for eight years. He became a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry and during that time developed the first Continuing Education Policy for Elders and Diaconal members (with Lois Siefert); he chaired a sub-committee of the Board to begin exploration of issues around LGBT persons in ministry; and he served as Assistant Registrar for Probationary Membership.

Bishop Jack Tuell nominated Preston to be the Conference Secretary in which position he served for seven years. During that time, he transitioned the production of the Journal to fully camera-ready (moving away from costly, yearly typesetting of large sections) and oversaw the development of the first Conference-wide database.

Preston served camping ministries as dean, cabin counselor, and healing advocate. He served, at the pleasure of the Bishop, as host for guests of the Conference. He served two bishops (Sano, Swenson) as Assistant to the Bishop for Matters of Sexual Misconduct. This position offered the opportunity to make a presentation to the Annual Conference that resulted in two clergy surrendering their orders and several victims receiving care and support. He served as Parliamentarian for three bishops (Swenson, Carcaño, Hagiya).

The longest position Preston has held is the more than 20 years assisting the staff of the Board of Pensions in editing (and sometimes writing) the biographical statements for clergy and clergy spouses who have died; and making sure that family or friend or someone else connected to each deceased person is present for the Memorial Service.

After retiring and moving to the Northern Illinois Conference, Preston served three interim appointments of five months each; two with majority of members POC. He then served for six years as a \$1/year associate for Urban Village Church — a United Methodist new church start that aggressively/ assertively welcomes LGBTQIA+ members. He also served as Parliamentarian for Bishop Sally Dyck for four years. He served as Mentor or Courtesy Mentor to 10 students considering Candidacy for Ministry and served for two years as pastoral assistant to Dean of Students Cynthia Wilson at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He also taught for six years as a part of the faculty of the Course of Study program at Garrett.

At the General Church level, Preston was a member for six years of the Dean's Advisory Board for Boston University School of Theology. He was an assistant to the Secretary of General Conference for six quadrennia. Preston served as Clerk of the Judicial Council for 46 months.

Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett

Sharon grew up all over the Western United States, but the one constant in each town was the Methodist Church. It was the place of connection, comfort and challenge. That was particularly true when moving to the Long Beach area after high school graduation and having received a call to ordained ministry. The annual conference, at that time, had many opportunities for young adults to try out their vocational calling which was a deeply grounding experience of faithful exploration of how the church engages with social issues.

She attended Cypress College where she was student body vice president. She transferred to Cal. State University Los Angeles and received her B.A. in Sociology. While at CSULA she was a founding member of the first feminist group on campus, Sisters United.

Sharon received her M.Div. in 1978 from Claremont School of Theology (recipient (first woman) of the Witman Pastoral Care Award), and the D.Min. in 1981, Doctoral Project: “Your Daughters Did Prophecy.” Before and during seminary, she worked at Sage UMC and Placentia UMC in youth ministry.

She was ordained a deacon in 1975 and an elder in 1980 in the Cal-Pac Conference. Sharon’s appointment history includes Northridge UMC (assoc.), Santa Clarita UMC (as both co-pastor with Al and senior pastor), District Superintendent Long Beach District, Westwood UMC, and Claremont UMC. In every position she was the first woman. She retired in 2014 after 39 years under appointment. In each community she served on the local Interfaith Council. At Westwood: PATH: People Assisting the Homeless, Alzheimer’s Association for LA, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and CLUE. At Claremont: Middle East Peace Group, Interfaith Witnesses, Progressive Christians United, and CLUE.

Sharon has served on district and conference boards throughout her ministry including the very first Commission on the Status and Role of Women in 1973. She chaired the Conference Board of Discipleship, served on several iterations of the Conference Leadership Team, and the Board of Ordained Ministry twice. She also valued her time on the Hispanic Mission Council and the Pacific Islands Commission. She also represented the denomination in ecumenical endeavors, including Consultation on Church Union (1982-1988) and the National Council of Churches in Christ (1996-2000). Sharon was elected by the Cal-Pac Conference as a delegate to the Western Jurisdiction Conferences from 1988 to 2004 and to General Conference in 1992 and 1996.

She was a delegate to the World Methodist Conferences in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Brighton, England. She was privileged to visit several countries representing our conference including Tonga, South Korea, and Sierra Leone. Sharon served as adjunct faculty at CST in Field Education, Preaching, and Worship for 14 years.

In retirement Sharon serves on The Board of Trustees for Claremont School of Theology where she chairs the Student Affairs Committee, and also the Board of the Wesley Foundation serving UCLA. She continues to be a part of Clergy and Laity for Economic Justice, Reconciling Ministries and other justice ministries. She mentors clergy colleagues who call upon her. She stepped up to the request of Bishop Hagiya to hold down a small portion of the position of Director of Connectional Ministries, 2019-2020 until the real full-time director could come.

Among the awards Sharon has received: The Mildred Hutchinson Award by MFSA 2018; The Distinguished Alumni Award from CST in 2014; The Mel and Lucile Wheatley Lifetime of Justice Award (with late husband Al) 2009; the Bert All Award (for working for an inclusive church for all LGBTQ persons, 1999). She and her husband Al also received the Care Partner Award by the Alzheimer's Association 2003.

She has two youngish adult children: Ben, who along with his wife Phoebe, work at JPL as mechanical engineers; and Rachel, a social worker in private practice – who with her husband Elliot (attorney) have made Sharon a happy grandma of three amazing grandchildren, ages 8, 8, and 10.

Jose Rodriguez

Jose T. Rodriguez, known to most of us in the church as “Joe,” was born into a Methodist family. His first home church was the Rivera Mexican Methodist Church in what is now Pico Rivera, California. He joined the “Juniors” as a pre-teen where his faith community, under the leadership of Pastor Salomon Munoz and his wife Vivian, taught him to how to serve the church. Later, Pastor B.G. Garcia and his wife Panchita showed him how to love the church. When Joe was 15 years old and active in the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) he attended his first Southern California-Arizona Annual Conference in Redlands, California and has been attending almost every year ever since then. Joe says that when he looks back on his life he clearly sees what Wesleyan Christians describe as prevenient grace.

In 1966 Joe was drafted to the United States Army where he served in the chaplains’ section and worked with Methodists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Catholics, and both Orthodox and Reformed Rabbis. At the time he was drafted, he was employed by Los Angeles County and was serving as Lay Leader of his local church. Joe describes that during this time he and his family were busy serving the church, his parents’ served as great examples of how to be loving and compassionate and work as the hands of Jesus. His Methodist mother was already a prayer warrior when his country called him to serve as a warrior. His mom’s prayers greatly sustained him through those very difficult times.

Currently Joe is serving as a board member on the Living into the Future Foundation of the West District and is especially proud to be a founding board member of the United Methodist Museum of Social Justice. He has served one quadrennium on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and two quadrennium on the District Board of Ordained Ministry and the Conference Committee on Investigation. Additionally he has also served on the committees of Superintendency and Episcopacy; and with great fondness, he recalls serving on the Methodist Urban Mission conference committee (MUM).

Joe has three daughters and is a member of La Plaza United Methodist Church where he is serving on the church council. His wife Sylvia passed away in 2007, and in the last year he experienced a serious health issue (non-COVID). He is grateful to hundreds of members of our faith communities that have offered prayers on his behalf.

Joyce L. Zirkle

Joyce Zirkle is a life-long Methodist. Her parents were married in the First United Methodist Church of La Mesa. When Joyce was 3, her parents and 2 sisters moved to Escondido. She was baptized by Rev. Dr. Ralph Johnson at the First United Methodist Church of Escondido and was confirmed as a teenager. At twenty, Joyce moved to the Los Angeles area for school and work.

Years later, Joyce moved to Sylmar and joined the First UMC of San Fernando. Rev. Dr. Eric Smith was the pastor and asked Joyce if she would help with the youth group. For the next 12 years, Joyce partnered with Burton Smith leading the Youth in their weekly activities. Joyce was blessed by this ministry. She loved the weekly meetings, softball, volleyball, broomball, lock-ins, camps, dances and road trips. Most of all, she valued the relationships with the youth. She still keeps in touch today with several of them.

In November 1995, Joyce was hired to work in the office of the Cal-Pac Conference Treasurer. As part of the Cal-Pac staff, she served the churches and pastors of the conference for twenty-five years, until she retired in September 2020. Her long-time service was a gift to the churches and people of the Conference through her extensive knowledge of both the California-Pacific Conference and the wider denomination.

What started as a job, soon became a ministry in service to the members of the California-Pacific Conference. During two and a half decades of service, Joyce's administrative ministry to the conference was extensive. She was the administrative support to Conference Board of Trustees and Council on Finance & Administration. She helped organize the apportionment reports, assisted churches with Tables, Tables training, and reporting accuracy, organized moves for clergy with new appointments in California, Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan, helped guide churches on property and tax issues, and helped the staff organize for their annual move to Redlands for Annual Conference. An avid baseball fan, Joyce also volunteered as the coordinator of United Methodist Dodger Night for many years.

Though retired, Joyce continues to demonstrate a commitment in service to the United Methodist Church. She is active in her local church as the finance chair and on the school board. On the Conference level she is currently the co-chair of the Conference Nominations Committee.

On the community level, Joyce serves on the board of Brookmore Apartment Corporate owners and managers of affordable housing throughout Los Angeles county.

