



East District Conference

Saturday, May 9th, 2026 at 1pm

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



2026 EAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE
Saturday, May 9th, 2026 at 1:00pm
Agenda and Schedule

Log On, Slideshow

Opening Worship:

Call to Worship

Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading - Psalms 126:1-3

Message

Song

Benediction

Pastor Riju Jayan
Church of the Foothills UMC
Reverend Lily Villamin
Pastor Rafael Rios
LPA Zicong Li
Ontario First UMC
Reverend William deBos
DS Moonyoung Lee

Call to Order

Election of East District Conference Secretary

Adoption of 2026 Agenda

Adoption of 2025 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

Celebration Video

Election of District Leadership

Election of Annual Conference District Representatives

Announcement: Jurisdictional & General Conference Nominations

Conference Videos

Celebration of Pastors and Churches

Commissioned as Provisional Members

Retiring Clergy

New Appointments

Pastors Leaving the East District

Churches: 2025 Apportionment Acknowledgement

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

DS Moonyoung Lee
DS Moonyoung Lee
DS Moonyoung Lee

DS Moonyoung Lee

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2025 EAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE
Saturday, May 10th, 2025 at 1:00pm
Meeting Minutes

Opening Worship began at 1:05 p.m.

Call to Worship – Diane Gin

Opening Song - Meletonga Niuila

Prayer – Annie Solomon

Scripture Reading - Psalms 133:1 by Moreno Valley UMC

Message – Pastor Moon Young Kong

Closing Song Benediction – Church of the Foothills UMC

Benediction – Rev. Jonggoo Lee

DS Moonyoung Lee thanked everyone for leading the worship.

Call to Order – DS Moonyoung Lee called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m.

Rev. Bob Rhodes walked the participants through the meeting platform that is new to our group along with some practice voting questions.

Election of East District Conference Secretary – Cathy Wilson has been nominated as the Recording Secretary (79 YES / 1 NO)

Adoption of 2025 Agenda (75 YES / 0 NO / 0 ABSTAIN)

Adoption of 2024 East District Conference Minutes (77 YES / 0 NO)

Reports from District Committees and Leadership (available in the East District Conference Booklet). DS Lee received the reports with deepest gratitude.

- a. Change Manager
- b. Grant Writer
- c. District Camping
- d. District Lay Servant Ministries
- e. Church Building and Location
- f. District Planning and Strategy
- g. District Committee on Ordained Ministry
- h. District Treasurer
- i. District Union
- j. District Lay Leaders
- k. District Superintendency
- l. District Superintendent
- m. Election of Annual Conference District Representatives

Election of District Leadership

A Nominations Slate of District Committees were presented as follows:

- East District Union, Trustees
 - President, John Yoon ('25 Sierra Madre)
 - Vice President: John Mohl ('23 Claremont)
 - Treasurer: Matthew McPhee
 - Secretary: Unfilled
 - Other Members, Noel Abesamis ('19-First Fil Am), Paige Eaves ('20 Cal-Pac), Craig Lucas ('20 COGS), Lisa Scott ('19 Glendora), Matthew McPhee ('23 SOTV), Denise Tomlinson ('21 Moreno), Gloria Auburn ('25 COTF)
 - Ex Officio, Catie Coots ('20 Change Manager), Eric Schmidt ('23 Grant Writer), Karen Britten ('14 Bookkeeper), Moonyoung Lee ('23 Executive Secretary)
 - Liaison to EDU B & L, Sherri Cort ('24 Moreno)
- East District Superintendency
 - Chairperson, Cathy Wilson (Class of '27 Glendora)
 - District Co-Lay Leader, Annie Solomon
 - Class of '26 – Brenda Kiloni Paongo ('23 Trinity), Min-Kyu Park ('23 La Verne), Eva Thai-Erwin ('23 COGS), Dafry Nesamony ('25 University)
 - Class of '27 – Rubin Domingo ('24 La Verne), Kathy Norris ('24 Fullerton), Jay Campbell ('25 Claremont)
 - Class of '28 – Jennifer Hapton ('25 Chino), Paula Haeane ('25 Colton), Israel Duarte ('25 COTF), Theresa Ellis ('25 Upland)
- East District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM)
 - Chairperson, Soomee Kim (Class of '28 La Habra)
 - Registrar, Eric Schmidt (Class of '27 Placentia)
 - Class of '26 – Ben Ellis ('23 Upland), Hilde Garrison ('23 Temple City), Rafael Deras ('26 New Beginnings), Lily Villamin ('23), Betty King ('24 Hemet)
 - Class of '27 – David Nesamony ('23 University), Lynn Reece ('24 SOTV), Judy Johnson ('25 Brea), Eric Schmidt ('24 Placentia)
 - Class of '28 – Katie Monfortte ('24 Claremont), Jay Hong Jeon ('24 Ontario), Carol Buskirk ('25 Glendora), Soomee Kim ('25 La Habra)
- East District Planning and Strategy Committee (DPAS)/Building and Location Committee
 - Chairperson, Paula Ferris (Class of '22 Fullerton)
 - *B&L Chairperson, Chi Young Jeong ('25 Bell Memorial)

- *Treasurer, Khanh Doan ('19 Grace)
- Class of '26- Ed Hume ('23 Claremont), Doug Purcell ('23 Banning), *Jon Waterson ('23 Whittier First)
- Class of '27- Sherri Cort ('24 Moreno), *Riju Jayan ('23 West Covina), Lita Linchangco ('24 COTF) Karen Tannheimer ('24 La Habra), Paula Ferris ('22 Fullerton)
- Class of '28: Jane Voigts ('25 Palm Springs), Susie Bowman ('25 Palm Springs), Khanh Doan ('19 Grace), Chi Young Jeong ('25 Bell Memorial), Gloria Johnson ('22 La Mirada)

The District Committees were elected as presented. (74 YES / 0 NO)

Do you empower the DS to fill any vacant spots in the District Leadership as needed? (73 YES / 1 NO) This vote is invalid due to Point of Order.

Point of Order – DS Lee called on Rev. Richard Bentley. Rev. Bentley reported that the DS does not have the power to fill vacant spots.

Lay Equalization Members to Annual Conference 2025 was presented.

- Youth
 - Melatonga Niuilā, Sione Niuilā, Kieun Lee, Sammuell Zhao, Ayobola Jesu Ayodele
- Young Adult
 - Drew Patterson, William Dang, Ryan Chow, Maikolo Brown, Hanna Jang
- Young Adult Alternatives
 - Tevita Feaomoeata, Vaimoana Alatini, Falengamonu Ahofaiva, Salote Alatini, Christian Do
- Lay Members at Large
 - Mary Bushong, C-J Conklin, Zicong Li, Laura Perez, Art Richardson, Lisa Scott, Dany Caguin, Kaho Uepi, Sophie Weiss, Myra Richardson
- Alternate Members
 - Elenoa Fonua, Angel Copeland-Wolf, Diane Moala

The lay Equalization Members to Annual Conference 2025 was approved as presented. (73 YES / 2 NO)

Conference Videos:

- Erin Hawkins video on Annual Conference and the theme Cherish was shared.
- Rev. Molly Vetter, Chair of the Conference Finance & Administration, shared a video about a change in the budget and how apportionments were calculated. The change proposed would be that apportionments would be calculated on 10% of church income. DS Lee shared the hope that everyone would sign up for the Learning Labs around the budget to be fully prepared for the Annual Conference.

Celebration of Pastors and Churches

- Pastor Moon Young Kong will be Commissioned as a Provisional Elder.
- Rev. Jonggoo Lee will be Ordained an Elder.
- New Appointments Starting July 1, 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 will move to Ridgecrest UMC in the North District
- Retiring Clergy
 - Rev. Karen Tannheimer (La Habra UMC)
 - Rev. Tom Tseng (Alhambra First UMC)
 - Rev. Valerie Weise

100% Apportionment Giving in 2024

27 Churches in the East District paid 100% of their apportionments.

Closing Prayer by DS Moonyoung Lee

AT 2:07 p.m. DS Lee adjourned the East District Conference.

Meeting Minutes submitted by: Cathy Wilson

Change Manager Report

It has been my privilege to serve the East District for 6 years, starting my 7th this July 1. In 2025, I started assisting Pacific Palisades Community UMC, after their devastating losses in the fires there, and we thus reduced some of my responsibilities with the East District. I continue to do whatever our DS needs me to do, or help any church that contacts me. On any given day, it can be a question about the Book of Discipline, our Conference Rules, our conference processes, historical reference points, leases, contacts to help with specific situations, assistance in assessing a situation. I appreciate how much our pastors and laity continue to try and adapt and thrive. We have been blessed as a district that our volunteers serving on our district committees show true commitment and dedication. Our district staff is a true treasure to work with. While I can't say anything has been easy this past year, the people of East District, be they staff or volunteers, have brought me much joy and hope, and I am grateful to be able to serve alongside these dedicated disciples of Jesus Christ.

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 Change Manager Rev. Catie Coots. This work hopes to assist in building sustainable ministry throughout the East District and the conference. We have completed the initial three-year project.

We are grateful for the past three years of funding from the New Ministries EMT. Our operation is lean. Catie Coots supervises the work as Change Manager. Eric Schmidt serves as the grant writer on a half-time basis. Our only other major expense is for a subscription to Instrumentl, a grant management software tool.

Most of our successes came in the first two years of the project. After an early win in the South District, progress slowed. We did a lot of development work, collaborating with local churches and their non-profit groups in all five Districts. We helped groups apply for several dozen grants, while researching hundreds of opportunities. We also encouraged local networking, as businesses and organizations in our communities are often good prospects for funding.

Funding has become more difficult in 2026. The administration has closed avenues, which has created a great deal of competition. There were 1,200 applicants for a couple of grants. While we did well, making the “top 30”, we were unable to secure funding.

Education and training were successful. We held more than a dozen Grantwriting 101 sessions and presented an 8-week Grantwriting Cohort. This provided hands-on training for thirty-five people, representing the California-Pacific and Oregon-Idaho conferences.

The Grant Writer is part of District staff. We attend the District Union and District Planning & Strategy team meetings as ex officio advisers.

We are grateful for this rewarding work. Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

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

District Camping Report

We have had a lot of exciting changes this year at camp. As you may or may not know, camp program managers are only a part-time position. This brings in people for about a year to two years and then they go away. A new person comes in and changes the direction of how we do camp. So, it was so great to hear we were able to work out a split with Camp ministry and the New Generations ministry to hire Caitlyn Anderson full time. She has been such a blessing to our camp program and is passionate about youth and the programs we offer them. Last year she and the other program managers wrote the curriculum for all the camps last year. She helps hire interns and finds counselors to support the program. Last summer we had over 100 campers and 40 staff and Wintercamp had 75 campers and 20 staff. She helped organize Young Adult Camp, Grand and Me Camp, Family Camp, and a Leadership Camp. She also planned a few Work Days at camp. Honestly, I can't say enough great things about her leadership and commitment to our youth.

There have been many positive changes around the camp as well. Through Kenny Funk's leadership, two of the cabins have been remodeled. Including, new shower, new flooring, window coverings, and new mattresses. They have added a disc golf course to the camp. It's a small 9-hole course played through the trees. Giving campers the ability to explore more of the camp's wilderness. Kenny, through the support of the site committee and the LACOS leadership, are in the process of adding a new tiny house to the property. The contractor has built the pad, but unfortunately, the house is being held up by the ports and shipping problems. Each year the graduating Seniors at Summer camp work on a Legacy project, which adds to the camp in various ways. Last year's seniors moved boulders and rocks, mixed concrete and added new seating to accommodate another 40 to 50 campers in the Outdoor Chapel area. Several small projects were completed through the work days which included the installation of bark to the area in front of the Lodge, painted trim around Smith Hall, and some trail and archery maintenance. We received a grant for the forestry department to come in and clear questionable trees.

As you know this camp is older and we had some issues because of the age of the facility. This year both the walk-in refrigerator and the walk-in freezer went out and needed to be replaced. The entire septic system for Huddle Hut had to be replaced and the sewer line from Smith Hall had to be replaced as well. There was a lot of flooding this year in Wrightwood. Fortunately, the camp was not too badly damaged. On a positive note, we were able to host some volunteers from Team Rubicon which enabled them to help the town's people of Wrightwood.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Lawler
District Camping Ministry

District Lay Servant Ministries Report

Greetings, Lay Servants,

Thank you for your service and dedication, and for stepping up when there is a call for pulpit supplies. Your efforts are vital to the Lay Servants rise-up movement at this annual conference. Through your commitment, Lay Servant Ministries have grown stronger, including the recent creation of Covenant Groups that foster ongoing support and fellowship.

Lay Servants Covenant Groups had been established since October 2025, marking a new chapter for conference-wide connection and safe sacred spaces for Certified Lay Servants, Certified Lay Speakers, and Certified Lay Ministers to meet and share their joys and experiences in their ministries. Each covenant group meets via ZOOM at 7:30 pm on the second, third, and fourth Wednesday, respectively.

This past year, the Lay Servant Committee collaborated with the conference Laity Council to interview and approve numerous Certified Lay Speaker candidates. Qualified Lay Minister candidates were recommended to DCOM for further evaluation. Newly Certified Lay Speakers and Certified Lay Ministers will be honored at Annual Conference during the Laity Council Report. If you have completed all required classes and wish to be certified or need additional information, please feel free to contact me directly or check the Cal-Pac website as information and upcoming classes are updated frequently.

We welcome suggestions that can strengthen Lay Servant Ministries, such as:

- Ideas for new training topics or workshops
- Recommendations for fellowship events or support programs
- Feedback on how to improve communications, resources, or outreach

Your input helps us shape future initiatives, enhance support for lay servants, and build a more connected and effective ministry. Please reach out with your ideas.

Finally, as a friendly reminder, 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

I begin by outlining the requirements of the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2020/2024) regarding church property matters.

When a local church plans to construct, purchase, or remodel a church building, educational building, or parsonage—and when the cost of remodeling exceeds 25% of the value of the existing structure or requires financing—the church must submit its project proposal to the District Board of Church Location and Building for review, consultation, and approval (§§ 2544; see also § 2521).

In addition, when a local church proposes to sell, transfer, lease, or mortgage real property, the requirements of the Discipline (§§ 2540–2541) call for proper review, investigation, and consent, including consultation with the District Board of Church Location and Building.

Paragraph § 2544 further outlines the planning and evaluation process that must be followed prior to approval. Churches are also encouraged to review other related provisions, including §2501 (the Trust Clause), as well as §§ 2521, 2540–2544, and other relevant paragraphs concerning church property.

During this reporting period, the Board reviewed and acted upon the following matters:

- Claremont United Methodist Church – lease agreement with Uncommon Good
- Corona United Methodist Church – purchase and sale agreement with St. Anthony’s Coptic Church
- First Filipino-American United Methodist Church of San Gabriel Valley – application for a conditional grant of \$17,000 and a loan of \$27,000 for playground renovation
- Glendora United Methodist Church – contract with Kidder Mathews
- St. Matthew’s Hacienda Heights United Methodist Church – new lease agreement with Annie Chou (Note: The previous tenant, Tina Rike of Blessings Preschool, transferred operations to Annie Chou.)

The Board also provided consultation and guidance for: First United Methodist Church of Montebello – lease agreement; and West Covina United Methodist Church – lease agreement

St. Matthew’s Hacienda Heights United Methodist Church is seeking Board review and approval for a lease agreement with Hosanna Education Center, which is currently under review.

This has been a very active year for the Board. All decisions were made through email discussions and voting.

I give thanks to the Board members for their faithful service and commitment: Ed Hume (Laity);

Jon Waterson (Clergy); Sherri Cort (Laity); Riju Jayan (Clergy); and Khanh Doan (Laity).

I extend special thanks to Dany Caguin, District Administrative Assistant, for coordinating and forwarding applications and materials for our review, and to Rev. Moonyoung Lee, District Superintendent, for her leadership and guidance.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I express sincere appreciation to the pastors and laity of our local churches for their cooperation and diligence in following the requirements of the Book of Discipline.

Thank you! Blessings!

Respectfully submitted,
Chi Young Jeong
Chairperson

District Planning and Strategy Report

The East DPAS meets five times in the 2025-2026 Annual Conference year, twice on Zoom and three times in extended, in-person meetings.

In our first meeting September 18, 2025, we oriented new members, affirmed the role of DPAS to be a more active and strategic partner with our District Superintendent, the Chief Mission Strategist for the District.

We disbursed funds, per requests from church and from the DS. Full details for these are available in the district office.

We also conducted and reviewed reports of several 213s in our District.

The team felt that we needed a clearer understanding of our role and we needed an approach to our work that didn't just give money to whomever asked first. We decided to spend the first quarter of 2026 in an in-depth series of in-person meetings.

I am grateful to the members of our team (listed below) who drove from all the corners of our district to meet in Claremont, in-person, for three hours each time, to complete this work.

In March, we finalized our work with a document that provides guidelines and considerations for the East DPAS to use in evaluating disbursements of financial support, as well as considering other resources to support our local churches.

Our goal was to avoid simply funding "first come, first served" and to be a more active partner with our District Superintendent. Details (not quite finalized at time of writing) can be had through the District office.

The first quarter of 2026 was a time of intensive work for our team and I am grateful to each of them for their contributions. It was a thoughtful and wise group that did this work.

Our whole team is grateful to our District Superintendent, Rev. Moonyoung Lee; to Rev. Catie Coots who is the District Change Manager, but serves as ombudsman for all our work; and to the wonderful Dany Caguin, without whom none of us would know where we are.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Ferris
Chairperson

District Committee on Ordained Ministry Report

DCOM Members:

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
Ben Ellis	Lynn Reece (Secretary)	Katie Monfortte	Matini Finau
Hilde Garrison	Judy Johnson (Tier 1 Reviewer)	Carol Buskirk	
Lily Villamin	Eric Schmidt (Registrar)	Soomee Kim (Chair)	
		Rafael Deras	

This year has continued to be a period of transition for the East District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) as the Board of Ordained Ministry of California Pacific Annual Conference adjust to the new process. We received a new member, Rev. Dr. Soomee Kim, who agreed to serve as the new chair. Coming off from a staff position at General Board of Higher Education and Ministry she needed time to settle in her new appointment at a local church.

Rev. Dr. Lynn Reece gracefully agreed to be the acting chair during the time of transition for the new chair and led the August DCOM meeting and the orientation sessions for new candidates, local church leaders (pastors and SPRC members/chairs), and new DCOM members. Then, she stayed on the executive committee as the newly elected secretary.

Dr. Julia “Judy” Johnson agreed to serve as the reporter for Psychological Assessment/Tier 1 Reports to DCOM members. As the Assistant Professor; Program Coordinator, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) Program, Department of School Counseling and School Psychology at Azusa Pacific University, Judy brings her expert knowledge and clarity to the DCOM members for this specific responsibility.

Rev. Eric Schmidt continues to serve as the registrar of DCOM. His continuing care for each candidate and accumulated knowledge of the candidates makes it possible for East DCOM to do its work effectively and with graceful attention.

Rev. Dr. Martini Finau joined DCOM and will start participating in the spring interviews from April 28th to 30th, 2026. We have four members completing their terms (class of 2026), and Rev. Dr. Lynn Reece expressed her desire to conclude her work with the DCOM. We are prayerfully anticipating the DS Moonyoung Lee and Bishop Escobedo-Frank to appoint new members to join us for this important and meaningful work.

Candidates and Processes:

Between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the East DCOM will convene four times and conduct a total of 33 interviews with individuals pursuing lay and licensed ministry. For statistical reporting, the August 2025 and January 2026 interviews are categorized as follows:

- In-Person Introductory Interviews: 2
- Certification Interviews: 4
- Recertification/Annual Renewal of Local Pastor License: 3
- Recommendation for Provisional Membership: 4

Additionally, the DCOM will meet again on April 28-30, 2026, to conduct 21 scheduled interviews:

- Certification Interviews: 2
- Recertification Interviews: 4
- Recertification Interviews of those not received appointments: 4
- Renewal of Certified Lay Minister License: 5
- Recertification/Annual Renewal of Local Pastor License: 6

Current candidate statistics for the East District are as follows:

- Certified Candidates for Ordination: 14
- Declared Candidates: 7
- Local Pastor Track Candidates: 8
- Certified Lay Ministers: 11

Of those who applied for the Provisional Membership, we celebrate with Zicong Li who will be voted for Commissioning and Provisional Membership in the Elder's Order at the 2026 California-Pacific Annual Conference.

Riju Jayan will also be presented for a vote as a Provisional Elder by transfer from another denomination at the 2026 California-Pacific Annual Conference.

We recognize the dedication of our candidates as they engage in discerning their call to ministry, participating in both personal reflection and communal evaluation within the faith community. Additionally, we are committed to supporting them throughout their spiritual development. We urge all East District clergy and laity to continue providing guidance, support, and encouragement as candidates deepen their faith, enhance their service, and develop leadership skills.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Dr. Soomee Kim, Chair
The Rev. Eric Schmidt, Registrar

District Treasurer Report

Financial Summary Report for 2025

This report provides an overview of account activity for the Checking and Savings funds for the 2025 calendar year, including income, expenditures, and ending balances.

Checking Account

- Beginning Balance (January 1, 2025): \$6,475.25
- Total Money Received: \$0.00
- Total Disbursements: \$277.18
- Ending Balance (December 31, 2025): \$6,198.07

The Checking account had no incoming funds during the year. Total expenditures amounted to \$277.18. Of this amount, \$252.18 was spent for Administrative Staff Appreciation, representing the primary expense for the year. The remaining \$25.00 reflects a transfer to savings. As a result of these disbursements, the account balance decreased accordingly.

Savings Account

- Beginning Balance (January 1, 2025): \$15,034.31
- Total Money Received: \$62.65
- Total Disbursements: \$0.00
- Ending Balance (December 31, 2025): \$15,096.96

The Savings account experienced a modest increase during the year, with \$62.65 in income, likely attributable to earned interest (as indicated). No withdrawals or disbursements were made from this account, allowing the balance to grow steadily.

Overall Summary

- The organization maintained stable financial management throughout 2025.
- The only significant expense recorded was for Administrative Staff Appreciation, demonstrating an investment in personnel recognition.
- The Savings account continues to serve as a secure reserve, showing gradual growth through interest earnings.

Overall, both accounts remain in good financial standing at the close of the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Art Richardson
District Treasurer

District Union Report

It has been a busy and meaningful year for the East District Union. On a personal note, this year has also been one of growth and learning, as I have had the privilege of serving as the new President of the East District Union. I am deeply grateful to all who have worked tirelessly and faithfully over the past year in support of the Union and the ministries of our churches throughout the East District. This has truly been a team-driven and mission-focused effort, and it has been an honor to serve alongside such faithful, talented, and dedicated individuals.

The East District Union continues to provide care and stewardship of district properties while supporting the ministries of local churches, communities, and the broader district. As stated in our By-Laws, “the purpose of the Union is to engage in planning and implementing goals and objectives for ministry and mission in the East District, and to promote and manage permanent funds and properties held by the Union.”

Below are several reflections and highlights as we look back on the past year and ahead to the coming year:

- Providing ongoing property maintenance and security for church buildings under our care and supervision. (Many thanks to Rev. Eric Schmidt for his work with the Westmont Campus.)
- Exploring potential joint venture opportunities and alternative housing projects for closed church properties, in consultation with Rev. Paige Eaves and Chris Ortigoza of Land Advisors.
- Distributing generous grants and loans to churches over the past year. We will continue to respond to the increasing financial challenges faced by many of our congregations. Providing loans and grants remains both crucial and complex, as it is not always possible to meet every request in full. We continue to encourage congregations to explore additional support through the Conference’s Congregational Loan Office. Nevertheless, we remain committed to offering financial assistance to help our churches navigate these difficult times.
- In the coming year, we will continue to focus on sustainable property use and long-term financial stability, including the development and strengthening of a comprehensive financial policy to guide the Union’s work and decision-making in the years ahead.

We are especially grateful to the former leadership of the East District Union and to our treasurer, Rev. Matt MacPhee, for their diligent work in establishing long-term financial stability. Their efforts have provided vital resources to support both our congregations and the broader ministries of the district.

I would also like to express sincere appreciation to the dedicated members of the East District Union for their ongoing presence, service, wisdom, and commitment. Many thanks to our

bookkeeper, Karen Britten, for her diligent administrative work and faithful recording of meeting minutes throughout the year. We are also grateful to Dany Caguin in the District Office for her role in coordinating Zoom meetings, communication, and the processing of grant and loan applications. Last, but not least, we give thanks for Rev. Moonyoung Lee, our District Superintendent, for her consistent presence, leadership, and guidance in the work of the Union.

Above all, we give thanks to our gracious God, who continues to guide and sustain us. In every meeting and decision, we trust in God's leading grace, calling us to remain faithful to the work entrusted to us.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. John Yoon
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 strive and move towards that direction where laity and clergy can be one in ministry, looking at a shared partnership in developing leadership for the benefit of the congregation.

With that in mind our plans have been quite intentional in bringing that about. This year we have planned quarterly Local Lay Leaders meetings. Our goal is to build relationships with one another, to share ideas, to discuss challenges and concerns as we continue to do ministry in our churches during these unprecedented times. Our get-togethers have centered around discussions: sharing an exciting or unusual event that occurred at your church; Advent Season events; summer kick-off/ VBS events, as well as preparing for Laity Sunday, suggestions are welcomed. As a group we laughed, we cried, and most importantly we lifted each other in prayer. We end with prayer in the hopes of God's provision to surround each of our leaders as they lead their congregations into their ministries.

Our living proximity dictates our interactions with each of our respective communities. As part of the Greater San Gabriel Valley mission area, or the western section of our District we have continued to focus on Mission area events that bring our congregations together; celebrating our uniqueness and gifts but at each event recognizing the goodness God provides for each of our congregations. The churches are close in distance' so we have been able to host a variety of events at different church locations....best thing, you can experience the hospitality given by each of the respective hosting churches! The eastern section of our District continues to work on building positive and supportive relationships within their laity and clergy relationships. Discussions, sharing, listening, and a willingness to cooperative approaches are goals that the leadership are striving towards. The central section of our District concentrates on the Tongan, ethnic congregations that comprise the entire Conference. Often there are cultural events held in the central section of our District where churches gather together to celebrate the youth in their Bible knowledge, cultural dance and singing, as well as their Morning Prayer/and Evening Prayer worships in the early hours or late hours of the first two weeks of the New Year.

As members of the District Leadership team, we are asked to discern laity members who would be able to serve the district in a number of ways. Quarterly meetings are open to discussions as potential lay leaders and clergy names are lifted up for consideration. This year, our District Leadership team will be attending a one-day retreat to refresh, bond, and discern how we will be able to best serve the district. The Conference Laity council is another level of serving, where Annie, Taufa, and I represent the East District as we share all the good things and occasionally the challenging things happening in the EAST District. Preparations are being made for Annual Celebration in June. As part of our responsibilities, we are involved in coordinating the Laity Sessions and attending monthly Laity Council meetings.

As your co-district lay leaders, we are honored to stand beside you as we journey together here, where the “Son always Rises!”

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

District Superintendency Report

The East District Superintendency Committee is grateful for the opportunity to serve the district over the past year. Throughout this season, the committee has remained attentive to its responsibilities and has responded as needed to support the work of the district.

During the year, the committee conducted business through electronic communication, including a vote to authorize the Chairperson to purchase gifts in recognition of staff celebrations. We appreciate the spirit of care and encouragement this action reflects within our district community. We offer our heartfelt thanks to Danyelle (Dany) Caguin, the East District Administrative Assistant, for her outstanding organization, responsiveness, and the many ways in which her work supports the effectiveness of the district's ministry.

We also celebrate the dedicated service of Rev. Eric Schmidt as the East District Union Grant Writer. His skillful work in securing and stewarding resources has expanded opportunities for ministry across the district.

We give thanks for the leadership of Rev. Catie Coots in her role as East District Union Change Manager. Her thoughtful guidance and commitment to navigating change have strengthened our shared work and supported congregations through important transitions all while serving a church.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Rev. Moonyoung Lee, the East District Superintendent, for faithful leadership, steady guidance, and continued commitment to the mission and ministry of the district.

I continue to be 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,

I greet you in the name of the One who has conquered death! It is my hope and prayer that you continue to bask in the wonders of Eastertide.

As I sit down to write this year's report for the District Conference, my heart overflows with a deep sense of gratitude and joy. I am simply astonished by the number of life-giving ministries taking place within and throughout the East District.

There are strong and visible signs of the Holy Spirit at work among us as we faithfully carry out our Conference's God-sized vision to End Spiritual and Physical Hunger. I'm very grateful and excited to share that out of the five districts that comprise the California-Pacific Conference, the East District was the only one to show an increase in its apportionment giving. How much of an increase? A growth of nearly 4% from 2024 to 2025.

Oftentimes when we talk about apportionments, it's easy to simplify them down to dollars and cents. However, this increase means so much more than just numbers. These figures represent a stronger sense of connectionalism and the pure faithfulness of our local churches. I know that many churches gave sacrificially to create a ministry impact that reaches far beyond their surrounding communities, the East District, and even the Conference. I rejoice over this growth as it did not happen because our churches suddenly experienced abundance, but rather through their selfless dedication and commitment to our shared mission and ministry.

Moreover, another joy of the district is the growth seen in one particular congregation, which has recorded the highest number of new members. Close to 200 people have been welcomed into this church's care and fellowship either through baptism or profession of faith throughout 2024 and 2025. Let us celebrate that the East District is bearing a powerful witness to the radical hospitality and life-transforming love of Christ.

I would also like to thank the district for the remarkable generosity shown this year. I am in awe of our district committees that have shared their resources with local congregations and ministries in need. They have demonstrated the beauty of our connectionalism at work and how we are never meant to be in ministry in silos.

As always, I am unable to carry out this work by myself, and God has surrounded me with wonderful partners in ministry. To my amazing staff: Revs. Catie Coots and Eric Schmidt, and Dany Caguin. Thank you for being a dream team! To my district lay leaders: Annie Solomon, Diane Gin, and Taufa Tenisi. Your dedication to the East District is second to none. I am truly blessed to have you as my lay leaders. To all of the committee and board chairs and members, I am grateful to serve our district alongside you.

East District, you astonish me; and you astonish the world! Thank you for a year of vital and vibrant ministry. I look forward to celebrating with you at Annual Conference.

In deepest gratitude,
Rev. Moonyoung Lee

**2026 Proposed Leadership Roster
East District Leaders**

	Members	Email Address
	Superintendent: Moonyoung Lee	dseast@calpacumc.org
12		
	Regional District Co-Lay Leaders:	
	Annie Solomon (Eastern Region)	solomonlouise75@gmail.com
	Taufa Tenisi (Central Region)	ttenisi82@gmail.com
	Diane Gin (Western Region)	dlokgin@aol.com
	District Change Manager: Catie Coots	catiecoots@me.com
	District Grant Writer: Eric Schmidt	umcpastorschmidt@gmail.com
	District Treasurer: Art Richardson	art_richardson@verizon.net
	District Lay Servant Ministries:	
	Khanh Doan (Director)	iamkdoan@gmail.com
	Ray Eckhardt	raylefit@yahoo.com
	Jillian Ericson	jill1945@charter.net
	Marilyn Krieg	frogcat72@gmail.com
	Art Richardson	art_richardson@verizon.net
	Annie Solomon	solomonlouise75@gmail.com
	District Statisticians:	
	Karen Britten	eastdistrictunion@gmail.com
	District Camping Coordinator:	
	Tim Lawler	tlawler227@gmail.com (Moreno Valley UMC)
	District Committee for Youth & YA:	
	Franklyn Shen (Rep for conference council)	fnjshen@sbcglobal.net (COGS)
	Conference JCEMT Representative:	
	Jon Waterson	pastorjon@whittierfirstumc.com
	District United Women In Faith:	
	Elenoa Fonua (President)	efonua51@gmail.com

District Mission Area Leaders and Associate Lay Leaders

Mission Area	Mission Area Leader	Associate Lay Leader
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:	Yiting Wang	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:	Jose Vindel	
Santa Ana Hills:	Eric Schmidt	
Whittier:	Jon Waterson (temporary)	Paul Gardiner

East District Union

	Trustees	Email Address
	President: Rev. John Yoon	
	Vice President:	
	Treasurer: Rev. Matthew McPhee	
	Secretary: Pastor Junbo Zhang	
1.	Noel Abesamis ('19-First Fil Am)	nrabesamis@gmail.com
2.	Rev. Paige Eaves ('20 Cal-Pac)	a.paige.eaves@gmail.com
3.	Craig Lucas ('20 COGS)	clucasarc@gmail.com
4.	Pastor Junbo Zhang ('26 Alhambra)	junbo.zhang1010@gmail.com
5.	Lisa Scott ('19 Glendora)	we44098owl@aol.com
6.	Rev. Matthew McPhee ('23 SOTV)	pastormatt@indioumc.com
7.	Denise Tomlinson ('21 Moreno)	missionprop@gmail.com
8.	Gloria Auburn ('25 COTF)	fr651947@outlook.com
9.	Rev. John Yoon ('25 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
	Chairperson: Cathy Wilson	
	District Co-Lay Leader: Annie Solomon	
	Class of 2027:	
1.	Rubin Domingo ('24 La Verne)	rubincarol622@yahoo.com
2.	Kathy Norris ('24 Fullerton)	norrisffumc@gmail.com
3.	Cathy Wilson ('24 Glendora)	cwilson@calpacumc.org
4.	Rev. Jay Campbell ('25 Claremont)	revjay@claremontumc.org
	Class of 2028:	
5.	Jennifer Hampton ('25 Chino)	mrsmdrm93@yahoo.com
6.	Pastor Paula Haeane ('25 Colton)	phaeane@yahoo.com
7.	Laura Perez ('26 Montclair)	lauratlc271@gmail.com
8.	Theresa Ellis ('25 Upland)	ellis.theresa@gmail.com
	Class of 2029:	
9.	Pastor Yiting Wang ('26 COTF)	pastoryiting@gmail.com
10.	Kumrila Mongzar ('26 La Puente)	kumrila.mongzar@cst.edu
11.	Dafry Nesamony ('25 University)	dnesamony11@apu.edu

East District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM)

	Members	Email Address
	Chairperson: Rev. Soomee Kim	
	Registrar: Rev. Eric Schmidt	
	Class of 2027:	
1.	Rev. Lily Villamin ('23 Covina)	villamin9641@gmail.com
2.	Rev. Ben Ellis ('23 Upland)	pastorbenellis@gmail.com
3.	Judy Johnson ('25 Brea)	dr.judylep@gmail.com
4.	Rev. Eric Schmidt ('24 Placentia)	eastdistrictcom@gmail.com
5.		
	Class of 2028:	
6.	Rev. Katie Monfortte ('24 Claremont)	revkatie@claremontumc.org (BoOM Rep)
7.		
8.		
9.	Rev. Soomee Kim ('25 La Habra)	revsoomee@hotmail.com
10.	Hilde Garrison ('23 Temple City)	hilde3124@gmail.com
	Class of 2029:	
11.	Rev. Matini Finau ('26 BSCP)	revnfinau@yahoo.com
12.	Pastor Rafael Deras ('25 New Beginnings)	rafaelder59@yahoo.com
13.	Rev. Tom Tran ('26 Grace)	usatran4jesus@gmail.com
14.	Dara Johnson ('26 Wesley)	daranoel@aol.com
15.	Rev. Hillary Chrisley ('26 Yorba Linda)	pastorhillary@missioncommunityumc.org
16.	Taufa Tenisi ('26 Colton)	ttenisi82@gmail.com

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

	Members	Email Address
	Chairperson: Rev. Paula Ferris	
	*Chairperson: Rev. Min-Kyu Park	
	*Treasurer: Khanh Doan	
	<i>Board of Congregational Dev. Rep.:</i>	
	Class of 2027:	
1.	*Sherri Cort ('24 Moreno)	westar.sherri@yahoo.com
2.	*Pastor Riju Jayan ('23 West Covina)	rijujayansl@gmail.com
3.	Lita Linchangco ('24 COTF)	lita.linchangco@gmail.com
4.	Rev. Karen Tannheimer ('24 La Habra)	karentannheimer@gmail.com
5.	Rev. Paula Ferris ('25 Fullerton)	revpaf@gmail.com
	Class of 2028:	
6.	Rev. Jane Voigts ('25 Palm Springs)	pastorjane@umcps.org
7.	Rev. John Mark Wang ('26 Cornerstone)	jwang014@gmail.com
8.	*Khanh Doan ('19 Grace)	iamkdoan@gmail.com
9.	*Rev. Min-Kyu Park ('26 La Verne)	mp87602@gmail.com
10.	Gloria Johnson ('22 La Mirada)	gballesteros10@gmail.com
	Class of 2029:	
11.	Israel Duarte-Wang ('26 COTF)	israduar87@gmail.com
12.	*Rev. Moon Young Kong ('26 Victorville)	pastor.moon76@gmail.com
13.	*Jon Waterson ('23 Whittier First)	pastorjon@whittierfirstumc.com
14.	Patty Slough ('26 Palm Springs)	halleslough@msn.com
15.	Zicong Li ('26 Faith)	junbo.zhang1010@gmail.com
	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
	Catie Coots	catiecoots@me.com
	Eric Schmidt	umcpastorschmidt@gmail.com
	(DPAS rep to EDU) to be reported	

District Leadership Team

	Members	Email Address
1.	DS: Moonyoung Lee	dseast@calpacumc.org
2.	Change Manager: Catie Coots	catiecoots@me.com
3.	Grant Writer: Eric Schmidt	umcpastorschmidt@gmail.com
	<i>District Lay Leaders:</i>	
4.	Diane Gin	dlokgin@aol.com
5.	Annie Solomon	solomonlouise75@gmail.com
6.	Taufa Tenisi	ttenisi82@gmail.com
	<i>Youth and Young Adults:</i>	
7.	Jay Campbell	revjay@claremontumc.org
	<i>Communications:</i>	
8.	Dany Caguin	eastdistrict@calpacumc.org
	<i>Discipleship and Education:</i>	
9.	Art Richardson	art_richardson@verizon.net
	<i>Lay Servant Ministry:</i>	
10.	Khanh Doan	iamkdoan@gmail.com
	<i>Members at Large</i>	
11.		
12.		
13.		

Lay Equalization Members to Annual Conference 2026

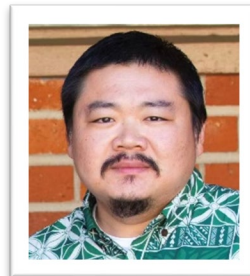
Youth (12-17 years old)	Email	Church
1. Joseph Paulino	ajpaulino91@gmail.com	Yucca Valley UMC
2. Gabriel Cabardo	cabardohomeschool@gmail.com	La Habra UMC
3. Tucker Rhenigans	6kidsmakemewine@gmail.com	Yucca Valley UMC
4. AyobolaJesu Ayodele	ayobola9374@gmail.com	University UMC of Redlands
5. AdegbolaJesu Ayodele	adegbolajesuayodele@gmail.com	University UMC of Redlands
Youth (Alt)		
1. Arthur Paulino	ajpaulino91@gmail.com	Yucca Valley UMC
Young Adult (18-30 years old)		
1. Meletonga Niuiila	niuiila16.07@gmail.com	Colton UMC
2. Drew Patterson	drew.bradley.patterson@gmail.com	Shepherd of the Valley UMC
3. Maikolo Brown	maikolobrown1@gmail.com	Alhambra First UMC
4. Leslie Tomlinson	lesliesvlog@gmail.com	First UMC of Riverside
5.		
Lay Members at Large		
1. LPA Kaho Uepi	kuepi5280@gmail.com	First Tongan of PV UMC
2. LPA Art Richardson	art_richardson@verizon.net	UMC of 29 Palms
3. LPA David Ofahulu	tevitatahau@gmail.com	Yucca Valley UMC
4. LPA Kumrila Mongzar	kumrila.mongzar@cst.edu	La Puente First UMC
5. LPA CJ Conklin	lilysilverheart@yahoo.com	East Whittier UMC
6. Taufa Tenisi	ttenisi82@gmail.com	Colton UMC
7. Juliet Caguin	mommyjcee@gmail.com	Church of the Foothills UMC
8. Lisa Scott	we44098owl@aol.com	Glendora UMC
9. Seluini Tupou	tupouseluini5@gmail.com	First Tongan of PV UMC
10. Sophie Weiss	sophieweiss23@gmail.com	First UMC of Riverside
Lay Members at Large (Alt)		
1. Myra Richardson	myrahalsey@aol.com	UMC of 29 Palms

Clergy Changes

Will be Commissioned as Provisional Members at AC2026:



Pastor Riju Jayan

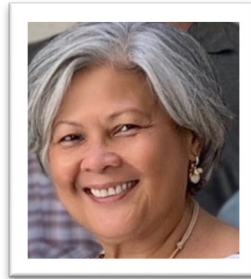


LPA Zicong Li

Retiring Clergy:



Pastor Rafael Rios

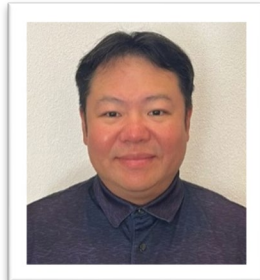


Rev. Lily Villamin

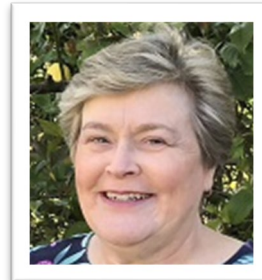


Rev. William de Bos

New Appointments Starting July 1st, 2026:

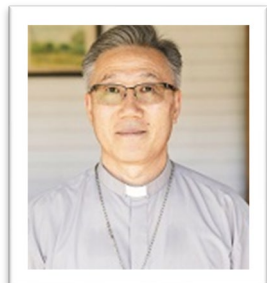


Pastor Joshua Ryoo
to Bell Memorial UMC

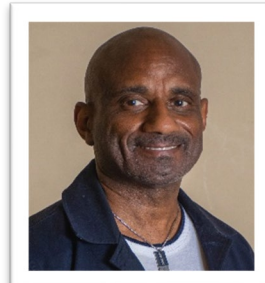


Rev. Hillary Chrisley
to Yorba Linda UMC

Clergy/Leaders Leaving the East District:



Rev. Chi Young Jeong
to Laguna Hills Korean UMC
(South District)



Rev. Darrell Wesley
to Scott UMC
(North District)

100% Apportionment Giving in 2025

Alhambra First UMC

Banning UMC

Chino UMC

Church of the Foothills UMC

Church of the Good Shepherd UMC

Claremont UMC

Cornerstone UMC

Corona UMC

First UMC of Riverside

First Filipino American UMC of SGV

Fullerton First UMC

Glendora UMC

Highgrove UMC

La Verne UMC

Moreno Valley UMC

Ontario First UMC

Shepherd of the Valley UMC

Palm Springs UMC

Pomona Valley Chinese UMC

Redlands First UMC

Rialto UMC

San Dimas UMC

Sierra Madre UMC

Trinity UMC of Pomona

UMC of Twentynine Palms

Walnut UMC

Wesley UMC of Riverside