



Resident Bishop
Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

North District Superintendent
Rev. Garth C. Gilliam

Change Manager
Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon

District Lay Leaders
Norman & Patty Kelsey

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

– John 14:12-14

NORTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE
May 09, 2026



9:00 a.m.	Log On, Slides, Announcements	
9:10 a.m.	Opening Worship Videos	
	Opening Prayer – Pastor Vernon Kemp	
	Music – Pacoima UMC	
	Scripture John 14:12 Spanish, Korean, English	
	Message – Rev. Sam Park	
	Music – Van Nuys UMC	
9:30 a.m.	Call to Order	Rev. Garth C. Gilliam North District Superintendent (DS)
	Election of North District Conference Secretary	DS Garth
	Approval of 2025 District Conference Minutes	DS Garth
	Astonish – words from our DS	DS Garth
	Astonish – words from our District Leaders	Video
	District Committee Updates	Video
	Conference Videos	Video
	Election of District Leadership	DS & Lay Leaders
	Election of Annual Conference District Lay Members	DS & Lay Leaders
	Celebrating the North District	DS Garth
11:00 a.m.	Closing Prayer	Rev. Garth C. Gilliam
	Adjourn	

CAL-PAC UMC – NORTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE

MAY 10, 2025

Welcome by DS Rev. Garth Gilliam at 9:15 am. CHERISH is our theme and emphasis – focus for the Conference in the coming year is to love one another as described in John 13:31-35.

Spirit-filled worship presented by different churches and leaders in the North District:

- o Rev. Mina Nau Mahe / First UMC of Pasadena
- o Magnolia Park UMC Worship Team
- o Rev. Ralph Kwon / Northridge UMC & Woodland Hills UMC
- o Rev. Martin Finau / University Isla Vista UMC
- o Pastor Jaime Torres / Bardsdale UMC
- o Rev. Kate Hunter / Eastern Sierra Cooperative Parish
- o Rev. Adrian Garcia / First UMC of Pacoima

Meeting called to order by DS Rev. Garth Gilliam at 9:38 am

Jason Takagi introduced process for online voting and helped everyone adapt to and learn the new technology/system.

North District Office Jan Newton elected as Conference Secretary.

Vote on Minutes from last year's meeting May 11, 2024 – Voted and approved as presented.

DS Garth welcomed everyone and sang a little Kool & the Gang "Cherish the Love we have" and then shared spoke of how we can all cherish and nurture and love one another. DS Garth asked everyone to answer for themselves – "What do YOU cherish deeply about our church?"

Two videos discussing Annual Conference 2025 were presented

1. What it means to Cherish in the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.
2. Budget process introducing a new rule to be introduced at Annual Conference, moving apportionment calculations to more of a tithing (10%) model.

North District Co-Lay Leaders Norman and Patty Kelsey shared via video plans for the upcoming, "Still Here, Still Strong" event to honor and support the members of Altadena affected by the Eaton fire. It will be a day of community and celebration and is going to have an opportunity for the lay leaders and certified lay speakers to gather, listen to ideas to help strengthen the local church and continue to grow together – to "be a rock to your flock".

North District Committees and Leadership was presented by Norm & Patty Kelsey as an entire slate of leaders serving in 3 different classes from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. All newly recommended individuals were voted upon as a group and approved/affirmed for service.

CAL-PAC UMC – NORTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE

MAY 10, 2025

A separate vote was taken allowing the District Superintendent to add/change/remove members as needed between this and the next District Conference. It was approved.

North District Lay Delegates – Youth, Young Adult, and Adult nominees were lifted up for vote, The entire slate was voted and approved as one complete delegation of Lay Members. All individuals listed were approved and will convene as North District Lay Members to Annual Conference 2025.

A separate vote was taken allowing the District Superintendent to add/change/remove lay members as needed prior to the start of Annual Conference 2025. It was approved

DS Rev. Garth Gilliam celebrated clergy in the North District who are receiving their fully ordained Elder orders at AC25:

- o Rev. Sam Park
- o Rev. Kate Hunter
- o Rev. Ralph Kwon

There are 3 North District Clergy members who are entering the retired relationship, effective July 1, 2025:

- o Rev Mary Birgelaitis
- o Rev. Seung-il Whang
- o Rev. Wesley B. Elmore

Clergy changing appointments in the North District were announced, and 4 North District clergy who passed away in the last year were highlighted and thanks given for their service:

- o Rev. Gilbert Stones
- o Rev. Davd Burgeson
- o Rev. Dr. Lydia Waters
- o Rev. Dr. Afrie Songco-Joye

Announcements and news was shared by Lay Leader Patty Kelsey:

- o Lay Servant Ministries – classes open and all are encouraged to participate
- o Spanish language Lay Servant Ministry classes have begun!
- o Upcoming learning labs to help navigate Annual Conference
- o Camping & Retreat Ministry opportunities
- o Encouragement for all to attend the Still Here! Still Strong! event from 10:30 to 3:30 on May 31 at Glendale UMC

DS Garth shared his personal mission statement for the North District is to reach the next generation at ALL COSTS and is excited to announce that there will be a Pastor & Lay Leadership Academy focused on reaching young people coming in Fall of this year. The DS

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encouraged everyone to move their thinking from a Blockbuster to Netflix mentality. Things are changing, church is changing, and we need to be ready to do things differently if we are going to be able to excite and encourage the next generation to be part of it.

District Conference closed in prayer by Rev. Garth Gillam at 10:32 am.

District sent forward in peace by DS Rev. Gilliam at 10:34 am.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jan Newton – North District Office



Lay Leader Report

North District Conference

May 9, 2026

It has been a full and exciting year in the North District, and we have enjoyed connecting with and participating in many different events that have taken us to different areas within the wide territory of the North District. Some of our highlights and adventures include:

- **Friends & Family Event on Sunday, September 28 at SLOUMC – Supercharged Leadership! Purpose, Passion, and Vision: Finding Your Why (Fall 2025)**
Launched the first Pastors and Lay Leadership Academy Zoom course, held October 27 and November 3, 10, and 17, equipping leaders to identify their purpose and lead with clarity, passion, and vision.
- **Beyond the Walls: Outreach that Connects (Winter 2025)**
Hosted a second Academy Zoom course on Mondays in February and the first Monday in March, focusing on equipping leaders to engage their communities through meaningful and relevant outreach.
- **Young People’s Academies (Summer–Fall 2025)**
Hosted three youth-focused events—“Who Am I?” (August 16 at Crenshaw UMC), “Where do I Fit?” (September 20 at FUMC Arroyo Grande), and “What Difference Can I Make?” (October 18 at FUMC San Fernando)—to support identity, belonging, and purpose in young people.
- **Jammin for Jamaica Fundraiser and ND Christmas Party at North Hollywood FUMC**
Festive Christmas party with Icebreakers, photos, hygiene kit assembly. Omar the Great comedian and magician performed. Fun Bingo games DS Rap, Music from Van Nuys UMC youth and dancing.



- **North District Connection Zooms (2025–2026)**

Co-Lay Leaders hosted connection Zoom gatherings in November and December 2025, and January and February 2026, fostering communication, encouragement, and collaboration among district laity.

- **Collaboration Between Clergy and Laity**

Fostered a spirit of partnership by encouraging open communication and shared leadership between pastors and lay leaders across the district

These are a few of the highlights, and there was so much more happening at the local church level every week! We are grateful for the participation of so many in this district and look forward to the coming year of events and opportunities to connect and grow together!

Warmly,

Norman Kelsey & Patty Tokahuta-Kelsey, North District Co-Lay Leaders



Change Manager Report

North District Conference

May 9, 2026

It has truly been a pleasure serving as your North District Change Manager this year. I'm honored to have had the opportunity to support District Superintendent Garth Gilliam, Jan Newton, laity, clergy, and churches across our District. I'm deeply grateful for the collaboration, and dedication we all share. Together, we've made a real impact, and I'm inspired by the remarkable ways we continue to drive change and make a difference in the world. Below are highlights of the work we've shared together.

Congregational Support & Ministry Development

- Attended and participated in Still Here Still Strong event at First Church Glendale to support Altadena UMC rebuild.
- Helped plan and participated in the Youth and Young People's Academy on Aug. 16 and Sept. 20.
- Co-led one of the Pastor & Lay Leadership Academy Seminars, "Who's My Neighbor". Preparing the Seminar with Paige Eves and pulling three different Mission Insite reports for 24 Churches.
- Participated in Visioning Retreats: Facilitated one-day retreats for several North District Churches using MissionInsite, and an Appreciative Inquiry type approach to provide information for future ministry direction.
- Offered individual and congregational coaching to strengthen leadership and ministry planning.
- Working with Rev. Jim Powell on the Coaching component to the Pastor & Laity Academy.
- Conflict Transformation: Provided conflict support and mediation services to some North District churches.
- Preschool Director Meetings: We had our first in-person staff development day hosted by Ojai UMC's preschool, Noah's Ark Preschool. An engaging speaker



from Lakeshore presented on the topic of Collaborating with Families for Difficult Conversations. We continue to meet via Zoom to resource each other.

- Leading the Transition Team for North Oxnard UMC after they voted to close their charter. This means working with ministries already on the campus and discern future ministries.
- Continued to guide ministry candidates through certification, licensing, and ordination.
- Pulpit Supply: Preached at various churches to provide pastoral coverage during leaves and periods of spiritual renewal.
- Supporting innovative ministry and strategic planning for the future by attended and participated in North District Committees; North District Union, District Planning and Strategy, North District Hispanic Committee, Santa Paula Endowment.

Seminars & Trainings

- Attended the Pastor & Lay Leadership Academies
- Attended a class on code of ethics for coaching by the International Coaching Federation
- Finished the PCC Coach Training

Resource & Data Support

- Pulled MissionInsite reports for multiple churches wanting to know their neighborhoods better and to assist in strategic planning and community engagement.
- Helped churches identify and apply for grants to support new and ongoing ministry.
- Supported Charge Conferences, either assisting or presiding at the request of the District Superintendent.

Property Development & Oversight

- College Ministry Center project: An architect sent his generate ideas of what needs to be done to updating the building for future ministry. Shared his report with Rev. Eric Iki, chair of DPAS and DS Garth Gilliam. On going coordinating with facility use groups and dealing with property issues. Also, working with People Self Help on the ongoing development of affordable housing project, which broke ground last year.



- Continued guiding several churches exploring property development opportunities.

Fire Recovery for Altadena UMC

- Altadena UMC Fire Recovery (25% appointment):
 - Celebrated the city's resiliency at a one-year anniversary by attending a wonderful Altadena Strong Gathering with the whole community. Altadena UMC celebrated on the burn site with an Up From the Ashes service.
 - Continued supported Pastor Andre Wilson and the congregation in navigating fire recovery processes, which includes insurance, FEMA, administrative needs and strategic planning for long-term recovery.
 - Helped the Congregation settle into their new temporary home at San Gabriel UMC.
 - We celebrate the huge step forward of having chosen an architect to start the rebuild.

Thank you for the opportunity to work alongside of you in this transforming and astonishingly holy work.

Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon, North District Change Manager



North District Union Report

North District Conference

May 9, 2026

I am honored to present the written report of the North District Union, where we are stewards of district resources so that we can nurture and equip vulnerable ministries in partnership with other entities to ensure all have a place to learn and know God's love. The District Union members respond to requests for funds concerning property, insurance, and legal circumstances in our District, as well as emergencies in our local churches — and occasionally to requests from the District Superintendent and Annual Conference.

The District Union also serves as the legal entity holding and administering the funds for North District Planning and Strategy, and acts as a Board of Trustees for the properties under our direct responsibility: College Ministry Center UMC, North Hills Mission Center, South Pasadena UMC Ministries, and new this year, the property of Garden Church in North Oxnard. This past year has been one of faithful, sometimes unglamorous, stewardship. We are grateful for every moment of it.

Among the highlights of our work together:

- We approved funding for the Youth and Lay Leadership Academies launched by DS Garth. It was an investment in the next generation of leaders across our district. We are excited to see this vision continue to take shape. I was blessed to be an input speaker at one of their gatherings.
- We responded to the ongoing needs at North Hills Mission Center, approving flooring repairs and continuing to address pest control and property management matters, including the promising progress on a solar grant through LADWP that could eliminate up to \$50,000 in annual utility costs. It is also of note that we have been advising the conference and campus of the Mission Center after an ICE action on campus during their feeding ministry earlier this year.



- We continued our partnership with Pastor Melissa MacKinnon in her role as Change Manager, whose work across College UMC, Altadena Fire Recovery, and Claremont School of Theology has been nothing short of remarkable. The groundbreaking at College UMC in May 2025 was a milestone worth celebrating, and the ongoing discernment around Pruitt Hall for a preschool program is a sign of new life.
- We welcomed new members to the board — Kim Brush, Rev. Darren Cowdrey, and Rev. Stephanie Rice — and confirmed our officer slate for the 2025–26 appointment year.

All NDU funds are held at Interfaith Federal Credit Union and the California-Pacific United Methodist Foundation. Questions about account balances may be directed to our co-treasurers, Rev. Dr. Lew Fry or Charles Laing. Churches seeking funding should contact Jan Newton in the North District Office for the request process and form.

Finally, it must be named that like many of our district unions, we find ourselves tightening the belt as total funds for assistance tighten. It has led to deep, complicated questions and triaging to determine how best we can use our funds to live into our missional identity named in my first paragraph.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to responsible stewardship and creative partnership — asking not just what needs fixing but what God might be building through these properties and ministries. There is much yet to be astonished by. It is an honor to serve with this board and on behalf of this district.

Be well,

Rev. Andy Mattick, Chair, North District Union

North District Union Account Balances*

**per bank statements as of April 30, 2026*

Interfaith Federal Credit Union

North District Union	\$	201,756.18
Primary Savings	\$	44,902.10
Church Corporate Checking	\$	2,528.83
Money Market	\$	154,325.25
NDU North Hills UMC CNTR	\$	17,538.59
Primary Savings	\$	75.00
Church Corporate Checking	\$	14,571.98
Money Market	\$	2,891.61
NDU Latino Ministry Fund	\$	16,657.57
Primary Savings	\$	442.97
Church Corporate Checking	\$	1,702.79
Money Market	\$	14,511.81
NDU District Ministries	\$	20,538.26
Primary Savings	\$	81.77
Church Corporate Checking	\$	3,326.45
Money Market	\$	17,130.04
NDU Woodland Hills Campus Mngmt Acct	\$	25,520.32
Primary Savings	\$	75.00
Church Corporate Checking	\$	2,232.92
Money Market	\$	23,212.40
NDU Fillmore Mgmt Acct	\$	125,315.20
Primary Savings	\$	29,406.06
Church Corporate Checking	\$	31,427.90
Money Market	\$	64,481.24
South Pasadena NDU UMC Ministries	\$	8,190.58
Primary Savings	\$	100.27
Church Corporate Checking	\$	5,543.84
Money Market	\$	2,546.47
NDU DPAS	\$	112,933.66
Primary Savings	\$	497.10
Church Corporate Checking	\$	96,847.73
Money Market	\$	15,588.83
NDU Santa Paula UMC Center	\$	212,328.44
Primary Savings	\$	6,372.87
Church Corporate Checking	\$	19,469.39
Money Market	\$	186,486.18
College Ministry Center UMC	\$	91,477.59
Primary Savings	\$	5.00
Church Corporate Checking	\$	3,134.88
Money Market	\$	5,054.36
6-month CD	\$	83,283.35

Outside Investment Accounts +

+ these totals are as of 3/31/26

NDU Cal-Pac Foundation: ND Union	\$	400,792.55
NDU Cal-Pac Foundation: DPAS	\$	382,296.35
NDU Vanguard: Santa Paula Endowment	\$	364,667.82
GRAND TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$	1,980,013.11



District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM) Report

North District Conference

May 9, 2026

The North District Committee on Ordained Ministry represents the congregations of the District in guiding, supporting, evaluating, and approving candidates to interview with the Board of Ordained Ministry in the California-Pacific Annual Conference. The Committee—a team of clergy and lay members—also approves and meets regularly with local pastors, lay persons assigned to serve local churches, and Certified Lay Ministers.

This year, the committee commends Gary Holmen and Patti Kelsey for their years of service on the dCOM. Both of these highly effective lay people are rotating off the Committee and will move on to new opportunities to serve. Rev Elaine Shin-Paull remains on the Committee but is stepping down from her role as Registrar. The Registrar's workload is enormous, and her diligence is much appreciated. Thank you to Gary, Patti and Elaine! The new Registrar is Rev. Dr. Elbert Kim, and Rev. Ralph Kwon is also joining the Committee this year. Welcome to the team, Pastors Elbert and Pastor Ralph!

Each year, the Committee encourages those in our midst to discern the call of God in their lives. For some, the call leads to faithful service as a baptized Christian and lay person within the local church, perhaps teaching Sunday School, feeding those who are hungry, or visiting those who are sick. For others, the call leads toward ordained ministry or a formal, specialized ministry such as a Certified Lay Minister. How does God call you to live out your faith in concrete ways?

For those who feel a call to ordained ministry, the first step is to have a conversation with the pastor of their own local church. While we do hear the call of God inwardly, we also know that the larger community of the church must affirm that call. The Committee encourages clergy to help the people of the local church to make sense of the call, and to discern whether that leads toward ordained ministry or in another direction. More information is available from the Board of Ordained Ministry:

<https://www.calpacumc.org/bom/>

Rev. Eric Scott, Chair, North District Committee on Ordained Ministry

The Committee on Ordained Ministry members can be found in the District Nominations Committee report.



District Planning & Strategy (DPAS)/Location & Building Committee Report

North District Conference

May 9, 2026

Greetings siblings in Christ,

It has been a true blessing and honor to serve as Chairperson of the North District Planning and Strategy Committee (DPAS) over the past year. As a committee composed of both clergy and laity, our shared mission continues to be partnering with and supporting the churches of the North District in their ministry efforts and future visioning.

As many of our churches continue navigating seasons of growth, transition, and discernment, DPAS remains committed to walking alongside congregations and district leadership to provide guidance, resources, and support. Through equitable compensation assistance, microgrants, congregational vitality grants through the conference, collaboration with our NDU, lease support and review, and strategic planning efforts, DPAS seeks to support churches in whatever journey they may be embarking upon during this coming year.

If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to view our informational video about the work of DPAS. (www.youtube.com/watch?v=pES39jWILV8) If you or your congregation would like to learn more about any of these opportunities, please do not hesitate to reach out so we may continue journeying together in ministry.

Throughout the past year, our committee has worked alongside North District churches exploring affordable housing initiatives in partnership with Reverend Melissa MacKinnon. We continue to encourage congregations discerning this important ministry opportunity to connect with us as they begin conversations and planning for the year ahead. We have also worked alongside churches as they discern their next steps in ministry such as North Oxnard. We've been able to offer microgrants in support of the Pastor's and Lay Leadership Academy and Young People's Academy. Additionally, DPAS has continued supporting churches through equitable compensation requests, lease reviews, and ongoing conversations surrounding church



sustainability and ministry development. Over the course of this past year, we also helped facilitate discussions regarding continued support and resourcing for Altadena UMC during their ongoing fire recovery efforts. Finally, we have walked alongside churches throughout the Paragraph 213 process, seeking to provide care, guidance, and faithful partnership every step of the way.

As we look forward to the upcoming conference year, we want to announce an upcoming conference wide initiative from congregational vitality that aims to help churches discern next steps in their ministry season. We hope that this initiative can be used to better equip our churches to make disciples and transform their communities around them.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Eric Iki, Chair, North District DPAS + Location & Building



Lay Servant Ministries Report

North District Conference
May 9, 2026

While discerning my call to ministry, the District Superintendent, Rev. Garth Gilliam approached me to lead the LSM program. At the time, I was uncertain about the role, but through my participation in LSM, I learned that we are all called to ministry, with each spiritual gifted by God.

The vision and purpose of the Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) is to equip and encourage the laity to discern their spiritual gifts, affirm and proclaim the Good News. LSM plays a vital role in equipping laity to partner with pastors and church leaders in guiding the church.

Along with the Cal-Pac Conference LSM Director, Cathy Wilson and all the five LSM District directors, we offered LSM courses throughout the year and are listed on the Cal-Pac website. Interested individuals may register online and participate in these courses virtually before being awarded their certificates. Additionally, there are courses available for those seeking Certification as Lay Ministers or CLM. We also support Laity Sunday, typically observed on the third Sunday in October, when lay members are invited to take leadership roles in worship, preach and celebrate the ministry of all laity.

This year, we are grateful for the leadership of our DS, Rev. Garth Gilliam and the North District Pastor's and Lay Leadership Academy and Young People's Academy, that focused on outreach, evangelism and reaching young families, young people and youth with new ways to effectively ministry to all people.

Moreover, one of the most exciting and joyful developments for our LSM North District is the growing strength of the "*LSM Spanish Program*." This program continues to expand and thrive, offering courses in both Spanish and English under the leadership of Pastor Ervin, North Hills UMC and the Hispanic Ministry LSM committee.



Please take a moment to watch the attached video, which features testimonies from participants who have completed LSM courses in both languages. Their stories highlight how the program has helped shape their leadership, empowering them to “Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously” within their local communities and across global networks.

<https://youtu.be/Y9EXZoAzA9c?si=bNU4dluQKTnEj5Fp>

Please click this link to watch this video: as the LSM Promotion: Classes for Local Servers, Preachers, and Pastors.

Vaha Fisi'ihoi, North District Co-Director, Lay Servant Ministries

As Co-Director of Lay Servant Ministries, I have learned quite a lot this past year. Until Pastor Kalesita spoke to me about this Director position I had never heard of it before. I have attended Laity Council meetings and participated in interviews for Certified Lay Servants. I have taken classes to aid me in learning more and growing in my faith. I have also learned that I should be visiting Lay Servants at other churches in the North District, which I plan to undertake in the upcoming year. I look forward to continuing to serve and carry on the work of the Lord.

Faithfully,

Sheryl Paul, North District Co-Director, Lay Servant Ministries



District Superintendency Committee Report

North District Conference

May 9, 2026

Greetings in Christ,

The Role of the District Superintendency Committee is to support and uplift the ministry and strengths of the District Superintendent. It is with great joy and a spirit of collaboration that we share this update on the vibrant work happening across our district. Under the leadership of our District Superintendent (DS), Rev. Garth Gilliam, the North District has leaned into a bold mission: *Reach the Next Generation at All Costs!*

This mission is reflected in all the new programs and initiatives taking place.

- **Empowering Clergy and Lay Leadership:** The Pastors and lay Leaders are invited for support and training to the Academy: *Discipleship in a New Generation*. This Academy provides critical training in modern ministry tools, including the use of AI and social media. This program is still active now and on Zoom. Registration: <https://gqr.sh/HXXg>
- **Investing in Young People:** The creation of the Young People's Academy has been a major highlight. Season 1 focused on Identity, Belonging, and Purpose, while the upcoming Season 2, *Faith in an Anxious World*, aims to help middle and high school students manage stress and build resilience through faith. (Aug.15, 2026, 10am-3pm, @ St. Paul's UMC, Oxnard CA)
- **Fostering Community and Connection:** While the Young people are learning, the rest of the community is invited to attend the *Live, Love, & Laugh Festival*. This festival brings our community together for a day of fun, learning workshops like parenting seminars, and building deeper relationships. (Aug.15, 2026, 10am-3pm, @ St. Paul's UMC, Oxnard CA)
- **Nurturing Future Leaders:** Rev. Garth recently served as the keynote speaker for the Cal-Pac Youth Leadership Retreat @ Lazy W. Ranch (April 17-19, 2026). His



involvement helped youth in grades 9-12 develop essential skills in servant leadership.

- **Equipping Men for Purpose:** We are also excited about the launch of *Grace Notes & Game Plans*, a North District United Methodist Men gathering. This program provides a relaxed space for men to engage in real conversations about life, faith, and their role in the church. (TBD)
- **Strategic Growth:** To ensure our churches thrive, the DS has introduced new discernment tools like the Book, *Choosing the Faithful Path*, and is launching a *Continuous Optimization Dashboard*. These resources help our congregations track their journey toward renewal and spiritual growth. Leaders are also encouraged to join Rev. Garth in attending the School of Congregational Development Aug. 2-5, Columbus OH. The theme is *Rise Up Together: Shaping the Church We're Becoming*.
- **District Superintendent Training & Committee:** Hosted by the Council of Bishops, this training supports new and returning leaders on adaptive leadership, emotional intelligence, managing legal issues, personnel and supervision @ Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat center, NC (July 26-20, 2026) The District Superintendency Committee is evolving into a strategic sounding board for the DS, assisting with clear communication and the expansion of ministry.

We are deeply grateful for Rev. Garth's dedication to the North District; under his leadership, more than 50 United Methodist churches have engaged in leadership and support groups. Additionally, he has implemented a new texting initiative to streamline communication. We hope you and your congregation find meaningful ways to connect through these District ministries.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Angela Galanis Price, Chair, North District Superintendency Committee

Committee: Rev. Neil Platon, Rev. Michelle Park, Rev. Rachel Tabutol, Rev. Martin Finau, Rev. Mina Nau-Mahe



United Women in Faith Report

North District Conference

May 9, 2026

Our Mission: United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

On September 20, 2025, the North District United Women in Faith gathered at Camarillo United Methodist Church for our Annual Celebration and Recognition of our Quiet Disciples where a slate of officers was elected and our annual budget was accepted. Rev. Dr. Joel Hortiales, our speaker, informed us of his work at the US-Mexico border where he serves as a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries. Rev. Hortiales, also, extended an invitation to come to the border for an immersion experience to foster a deeper understanding of those affected by migration. In this program year of 2025-2026, we have embarked on a journey of providing program for the women of our district organization in a different way. It has become increasingly difficult for us to gather in a central location due in large part to the vastness of our district. The members of our Leadership Team have developed programs that can be taken to individual local units as well as Soul Care retreats to be offered to clusters of local units this fall. In this way, we believe we can better serve our district United Women in Faith.

As 2600-plus United Women in Faith from across the country gather in Indianapolis, Indiana, from May 15-17, 2026, for our quadrennial Assembly, we will be inspired to *Dream it! Believe it! Do it!* This charge will carry us through the months ahead with renewed fervor as we continue to be in mission to women, children and youth. I am grateful for the dedicated members of our District Leadership Team as they carry out the work of our district organization. Those members include DeeAnna Duncans, Vice President; Ruth Dempsey, Secretary; Crystal Ward, Treasurer; Kim Smith, Communications Coordinator; Marilynne Wilander, Program Resources Coordinator; Debi Bates and Carolyn Harrington, Membership, Nurture and Outreach Co-coordinators; and Rosalie Niemann, Labarbara Madison and Lona Seymour, members of the Committee on Nominations. We are always looking for women who want to learn and grow with us. You, too, can dream, believe and do it!

Dreaming it!

Diane Garner, North District UWFaith President



Hispanic Committee Report

North District Conference

May 9, 2026

The District Hispanic Committee acts as a local, regional support body that develops, resources, and advocates for Hispanic-Latino ministries within United Methodist congregations. We focus on identifying new ministries, training leaders, fostering bilingual worship, and addressing social concerns like immigration.

The North District is graced with a vibrant and growing community, and through the work and partnership of its leadership, we have been able to support the following ministries and activities in the past year:

- *Spanglish \$2000 grant*
- *Van Nuys English Class program \$1600 grant*
- *Press Conference regarding North Hills Immigration Raid*
- *2026 Hispanic Celebration planned*
- *Pastor Adrian Garcia is coaching pastors who wish to begin a Spanish-language ministry in their church*
- *Exploring potential Hispanic ministries in the Santa Paula and Camarillo areas*
- *11 Spanish-speaking participants completed Lay Speaker Ministry courses*
- *Held "Oasis de Luz" for the Pacoima and surrounding community in October*

This committee continues to grow and stretch in finding new ways to connect with the communities we serve, and to find new communities who are looking for a loving church home. We praise and celebrate all who love and serve – Gloria a Dios.

In service with all,

Preacher Leah Gallardo Switzer, Chair, North District Hispanic Committee



District Superintendent Report

North District Conference

May 9, 2026

Beloved,

I am astonished at the way God moves through his people in the North District. I have witnessed the Spirit moving mightily through a young people led traditional Tongan "White Sunday" Worship at Knollwood UMC that brought me to tears. I have witnessed the Spirit moving through a magnificent choir of senior citizens worship with vibrant Joy at Bishop UMC and grow a worm ranch business to transform gardens and thrill fishermen. I have witnessed the Spirit moving through the people of Altadena UMC and seen them continue to thrive and be the "the home of Abundant Life!", even adding to their staff a youth minister and continuing to remain undaunted and resilient recently hiring an architect to design an even better Worship facility where their physical Church, destroyed by fire, once stood. I have witnessed the Spirit moving through vibrant young adult communities growing almost organically at both Isla Vista University UMC and Santa Barbara First UMC. I have witnessed the Spirit moving through the spectacular creative expressions of theatrical musicals at Valencia UMC in support of burned churches in our conference. I have witnessed Hispanic Ministries thrive and grow new young leadership at Pacoima UMC, Van Nuys UMC and North Hills Hispanic Mission – even in the midst of ICE crackdowns. I have witnessed the Spirit moving through the "Godly Play" Sunday School Children of Saint Andrew UMC and the Praise Team Band of Atascadero UMC.

These are but a few of the astonishing things I have witnessed as your district superintendent, and therefore I have great hope and great joy and believe the best is yet to come!

I hope that we have all heard or at least have some knowledge of the fact that our North District mission statement is to **"Reach the next Generation at all costs"**. In support of this mission, we have just completed the first season launch of are **"Young People's Academy" (YPA)**, where we asked the young people three important questions at three different half day events, about identity, belonging and purpose. The

District Superintendent



overarching theme of YPA is **"You are a Masterpiece with a Mission"**! This next season we are hoping to strengthen young people's mental health and spiritual vitality by growing their resilience and leadership through the theme of **"Faith in an Anxious World"**. In conjunction to this, we will also be launching an online district wide parenting seminar based on the best-selling book, **"The Anxious Generation"**.

In further support of our mission, we are halfway through our two-year **"Pastors & Lay Leadership Academy"**, which not only impacts many of our North District Churches but also involves a growing number of churches through all the districts that make up our Cal-Pac Conference. Our upcoming seminar in this Academy is entitled **"Discipleship in a New Generation"** and is one that should not be missed.

In conjunction with this Academy, we want our North District family churches to be on the lookout for the launch of a simple digital **"Continuous Optimization Dashboard"**, that will help support churches in tracking their incremental journey towards revitalization, growth, deeper discipleship and expanded community impact.

To further support churches, we are also growing leadership to help churches discern their next steps through a Conference ministry called **"Choosing the Faithful Path"**.

In the fall of 2027, at the conclusion of our Pastors and Lay Leadership Academy, we also have plans to develop a **"Next Level Leadership Academy Intensive"** for those leaders who want to elevate their impact to the next level.

Finally beloved, I want to share with you the three vision/value priorities that I would like for us to keep continually before us:

1. Reach the next generation of Young People, Young Adults & Young Families at all costs.
2. Develop next level leaders to embrace their divine purpose and create a seismic shift in extending GOD's Kingdom and making disciples who transform the world.
3. Help plateaued and declining churches revitalize, renew and re-vision their Mission in a faithful, faith-filled, and fruitful manner.

District Superintendent



Again, I am so thankful to have the partnership and leadership of the North District Co-Lay Leaders, Patty and Norman Kelsey and our wonderful associate district lay leaders (JP Harris, Wanda McNeal, Gloria Wright., Kim Brush); DPAS Chair, Rev Eric Iki; DCOM Chair, Rev Eric Scott; NDU Chair, Rev Andy Mattick (including their gifted teams); Change Manger, Rev Melissa MacKinnon; and our amazing North District Administrative Assistant, Jan Newton. Special recognition and appreciation go to our retiring, but irreplaceable, North District Union Treasurer & Historian, Rev Lew Fry.

As I come to the close of my second year in this role, it has truly been an honor to serve as your astonished, awed and humbled DS. My enthusiasm continues to grow and be astonished at what God is doing through our local churches in the North District!

Be encouraged beloved, be encouraged!

Wishing You Peace and Blessings from Christ our Saviour,

Rev. Garth Gilliam, District Superintendent, North District



NORTH DISTRICT LEADERSHIP 2026-2029

North District Position	Name	E-Mail
Assistant District Director	Rev. Melissa MacKinnon	mmackinnon@calpacumc.org
District Committee of Ordained Ministry Chair	Rev. Eric Scott	northdcomchairperson@gmail.com
Chancellor	Lori Meaders (Conference level)	chancellor@calpacumc.org
District Hispanic Committee Chair	Preacher Leah Switzer	leahs2037@earthlink.net
District Co-Lay Leaders	Norman Kelsey Patty Tokahuta-Kelsey	noribat@hotmail.com pattyfumc@gmail.com
District Associate Lay-Leaders	JP Harris Gloria Wright Wanda McNeal Kim Brush	jpthenvgtr@gmail.com accountant@pumchurch.com shadyhaven@aol.com brushkei@yahoo.com
District Lay Servant Co-Chairs	Vaha Fisi'ihoi Sheryl Paul	vaha0428@gmail.com curlylocks13@att.net
District Superintendency Chair	Rev. Angela Galanis-Price	pastorangelagp@gmail.com
District UMM President	Vaha Fisi'ihoi	vaha0428@gmail.com
District Union Chair	Rev. Andy Mattick	revbigdog@gmail.com
District President United Women of Faith	Diane Garner	rdgarner47@hotmail.com
District Planning & Strategy + Location & Buildings Chair	Rev. Eric Iki	pastorcwumc@gmail.com

NORTH DISTRICT UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Sherry Perry	Kimberly Brush <i>SECRETARY</i>	Rev. Ruy Mizuki
Andrea Wang	Rev. Darren Cowdrey	Rev. Andy Mattick <i>CHAIR</i>
	Rev. Stephanie Rice	Charles Laing <i>CO-TREASURER</i>
<i>CO-TREASURER</i>	Rev. Michelle Park <i>VICE CHAIR</i>	Rev. Sang Lee

EX-OFFICIO: District Lay Leader, DPAS Rep, District Superintendent, Assistant District Director, L&B Chair, District Chancellor, Property Manager

DISTRICT PLANNING & STRATEGY / LOCATION & BUILDINGS (+)

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Rev Eric Iki + <i>CHAIR</i>	Rev. Kate Hunter +	Karen Flock
Rev. Michelle Park <i>NDU REP</i>	Patty Kelsey	Rev. Sam Park <i>SECRETARY</i>
Rev. Adrian Garcia +	Rev. David Jamir +	Jonathan Laciste
Andrea Mills + <i>EQ REP</i>	Rev. Alex Powell	

EX-OFFICIO: NDU Chair, District Superintendent, Assistant District Director

Those listed in RED will be voted upon at the District Conference



NORTH DISTRICT LEADERSHIP 2026-2029

NORTH DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENCY COMMITTEE

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Rev. Neil Platon	Rev. Rachel Tabutol	Greta Gilmore
Rev. Michelle Park	Rev. Martin Finau	
Rev. Angela Galanis-Price – Chair	Rev. Mina Nau-Mahe	

EX-OFFICIO: District Superintendent

DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Rev. Eric Scott – Chair	Rev. Kalesita Tu’ifua	Rev. Mark Sturgess
Rev. Anna Mulford <i>CONF LIAISON</i>	Rev. Camille Mattick <i>DEACON REP</i>	Rev. Ralph Kwon
Kim Bell	Rev. Jim Powell	Rev. Elbert Kim <i>REGISTRAR</i>
Rev. Stacy Brooks	Rev. Melissa Roux-MacKinnon	

EX-OFFICIO: District Superintendent

NORTH DISTRICT HISPANIC COMMITTEE

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Norma Navas	Rev. Adrian Garcia	Rev. Rey Guevara
Victor Tapia	Leah Switzer – CHAIR	Rev. Ana Mulford
Sandy Liddell	Pastor Jaime Torres	Rev. Ruy Mizuki

EX-OFFICIO: District Superintendent, Assistant District Director

LAY SERVANT COMMITTEE

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Rev. Kalesita Tu’ifua	Kristi Shertz	Rev. Greg Pittman
Norman Kelsey	Cristina Barrientos	Carolyn Anderson
Samaithra David	Vaha Fisi’ihoi – Co-Chair	
Sheryl Paul – Co-Chair		

Names listed in **RED** are to be voted in during the District Conference



NORTH DISTRICT LEADERSHIP 2026-2029

NORTH DISTRICT LAY MEMBERS TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

YOUTH LAY MEMBERS (5)

NAME	CHURCH	EMAIL
SitaTu'ifua	Knollwood UMC	sitauluave@gmail.com
Fangailupe Tu'ifua	Knollwood UMC	kutuifua@yahoo.com
Kyle Pinto	Valencia UMC	99071894@my.hartdistrict.org
Addison Rivera	Valencia UMC	addisonrivera29@gmail.com
Micah Rivera	Valencia UMC	micahjrivers31@icloud.com

Alternate:

YOUNG ADULT LAY MEMBERS (5)

NAME	CHURCH	EMAIL
Emma Blanck	St. Matthew's Newbury Park	emmajblanck@gmail.com
Sun (Sam) Kim	Tujungua UMC	skkim8014@gmail.com
Hae In Lee	Crescenta Valley UMC	haeinlee@cst.edu
Hanna Jang	Ojai UMC	pastorhannajang@gmail.com
Lauren McPhee	Santa Clarita UMC	laurenmcPhee845@gmail.com

Alternate: **Nehemiah Gilliam**

NORTH DISTRICT LAY EQUALIZATION MEMBERS (10)

NAME	CHURCH	EMAIL
Greg Switzer	Magnolia Park UMC	gregs2037@earthlink.net
Julieta Salazar	Knollwood UMC	los_salazar1@yahoo.com
Kevin Kang	Crescenta + Tujungua UMC	kevinkangxix@gmail.com
Kimberly Brush	FUMC Paso Robles	brushkei@yahoo.com
Leah Switzer	Van Nuys UMC	leahs2037@earthlink.net
Sheryl Paul	FUMC Reseda	curlylocks13@att.net
Vaha Fisi'ihoi	Knollwood UMC	vaha0428@gmail.com
Wanda McNeal	Santa Clarita UMC	shadyhaven@aol.com
Young Mae Kim	Holliston UMC	youngmaekim@gmail.com
Nicole Pearson	San Luis Obispo UMC	sloumcfamilyministry@gmail.com

Alternate:

Names listed in **RED** are to be voted in during the District Conference

DISCIPLESHIP IN A NEW GENERATION



Required reading: *Followers Under 40* (contact District Office for a discounted copy)
AI and the Church






JUNE 1

**Rev. Rachel Gilmore
& Rev. Kris Sledge**
Followers Under 40



JUNE 8

Tanita Maddox
Showing Up for Gen Z



JUNE 29

Rev. Nicole Reilley
*From Social Media to
Social Ministry*



JUNE 22

Jason Moore
Using AI Tools in the Church

ALL SESSIONS ON ZOOM



<https://gqr.sh/HXXg>

5:30 - 8:00 PM PDST

All Seminars in the series - best value!



\$50/person or \$150/church

Clergy CEUs & LSM Advanced Course Credit eligible





MORE TO COME IN THE PLLA

- 10/05/26 - Worship Design
- 10/12/26 - Preaching that Connects
- 10/19/26 - Power of Music
- 10/26/26 - Interactive Music



WORSHIP THAT RESONATES

Connecting Across Generations



\$50/person
or
\$150/church



- 02/01/27 - Digital Engagement
- 02/08/27 - Digital Hospitality
- 02/22/27 - Branding & Quality
- 03/01/27 - Creating Belonging

Clergy
CEUs & LSM
Advanced
Course
Credit
eligible



RADICAL WELCOME

Hospitality for Today's Church



ALL SESSIONS ON ZOOM

5:30 - 8:00 PM PDST



REGISTER TODAY



Forming *Fully Alive* Kids IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD

Practical Wisdom. Real Hope.



Next attachment

A 4-PART SERIES FOR PARENTS

Biblical wisdom + practical hope for raising kids who know who they are and whose they are.



UNDERSTAND

What's really going on with screens, social media, and childhood today.



DISCOVER

How anxiety develops and why play, sleep, and connection matter.



LEARN

Practical, realistic strategies to set boundaries, build resilience, and foster independence.



BUILD TOGETHER

Because stronger families happen in community, not in isolation.

RAISING KIDS WITH FAITH. HOPE. PURPOSE.



- Session 1, Kick-off in person: Saturday, 8/15/26
- Session 2, Zoom: Monday, 8/17/26, 7:00-8:00pm
- Session 3, Zoom: Monday, 8/24/26, 7:00-8:00pm
- Session 4, Zoom: Monday, 8/31/26, 7:00-8:00pm

**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE
INTER-GENERATIONAL
LIVE, LOVE, LAUGH FESTIVAL**



North District & Cal-Pac United Methodist Church Family & Friends

There is Always Time to:
LIVE, LOVE & LAUGH
even in an Anxious World!

SAT • AUG 15TH • 10AM - 3PM
A DAY OF FUN FOR ALL AGES!

LEARN • PLAY • EAT • CONNECT • COMPETE • CREATE

ENTERTAINMENT

- COMEDIAN
- LIVE JAZZ & RAP ARTIST
- TAIKO DRUMS SHOW

GAMES & SPORTS

- WATER BALLOON FIGHT
- LASER TAG & VIDEO GAME TRUCK
- PICKLEBALL • BASKETBALL & MORE!

GOOD FOOD

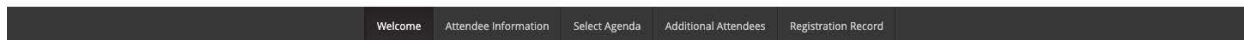
- STREET TACOS
- FATBURGER TRUCK
- HAWAIIAN ICE & CHURROS

LEARNING & WORKSHOPS

- PARENTING SEMINAR
- YOUNG ADULT FINANCE CLASS
- KIDS' CRAFTS & GODLY PLAY

BUILD COMMUNITY • MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

SATURDAY • AUG 15TH • 10AM - 3PM



Welcome to SCD 2026

We are thrilled to introduce **SCD 2026 – RISE UP: Love, Serve, Lead**, building on the success of the SCD Laity Bootcamp (SEE // CREATE // DISCIPLE) held in Kenosha, WI, which united church leaders and laity from across the globe for a meaningful time of learning, worship, and renewed inspiration.

Hosted in **Columbus, Ohio**, SCD 2026 equips and empowers leaders to build communities where people truly belong and, together, become more like Christ—loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously for the sake of the world.

Event Overview

Legacy of Excellence: More than twenty years of fostering growth, learning, and networking with United Methodist Church leaders.

Visionary Leadership: A focus on shifting from “fixing churches” to embracing the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations (Junius Dotson).



Love

Boldly seeing, valuing, and reaching all the people Christ has called us to engage with openness, compassion, and courage.



Serve

Joyfully cultivating a renewed United Methodist movement marked by joyful service to the present age and generations to come.



Lead

Courageously inspiring and equipping participants to lead with clarity, faith, and boldness as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

What to Expect

- **Workshops:** Practical tools, processes, and frameworks for discipleship formation.
- **Immersive Learning:** Hands-on insights from episcopal leaders, ministry cultivators, and practitioners across the worldwide United Methodist connection.
- **Networking:** Connect with ministry leaders, share experiences, and build lasting relationships.

We encourage churches to send leaders to this upcoming School of Congregational Development event

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=857313&>

***WE WILL SOON BE LAUNCHING A
NORTH DISTRICT UM MEN GATHERING***

**UNITED METHODIST
MEN**



GRACE NOTES & GAME PLANS

"No Pulpit, No Pews, Just People & Purpose"

Grace Notes & Game Plans is where the smooth sound of jazz meets the energy of the game, the aroma of a fine cigar, and the power of real conversation. No church clothes. No religious performance. Just brothers talking life, faith, and the plays we need to make to win – on and off the field.

***A NEW DISCERNMENT TOOL
FOR ALL FAITHFUL FWD CHURCHES***

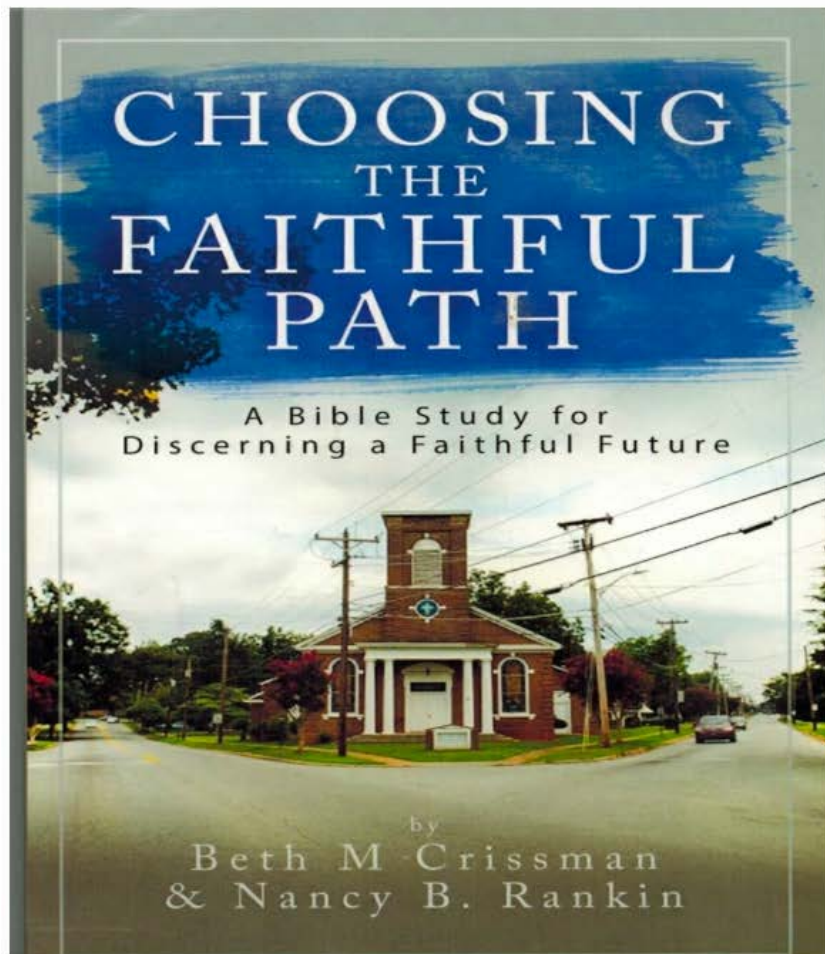


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FALL 2027
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY INTENSIVE

COMING TO THE NORTH DISTRICT • FALL 2027

**NEXT LEVEL LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY - INTENSIVE**
Where Eagles Fly



This intensive course is designed for ministry leaders ready to elevate their impact. Over 8 weeks, you'll gain practical tools and spiritual insights to lead with excellence.



What You'll Master

- Coaching/Mentoring
- Going Deeper Spiritually & Spiritual Practice
- Honing Vision & Purpose
- IDEA Model
- Superior Church Systems
- Leveraging the Power of AI
- Emotional Intelligence & Health
- Hispanic Ministry Strategy
- Lay Ministry Leadership Development
- Church Growth
- Conflict Mediation