

**SOUTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE**  
**California-Pacific Conference**  
**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
MAY 9, 2026

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Resident Bishop  
**Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank**

South District Superintendent  
**Rev. Luis A. Garcia**

Assistant Director  
**Rev. Dr. Lui Tran**

District Lay Leader  
**Michael Mitchell**

Administrative Assistant  
**Emilie Penuelas**

**South District Mailing Address**

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**South District Conference  
May 9, 2026**

**AGENDA**

- 9:00 a.m. Log On, Slides - Announcements, Chat Questions, Music**
- 9:05 a.m. Easter Slideshow**
- 9:10 a.m. Gathering Worship**
- Be Still Ministry, Worship Video
  - Opening Prayer and Scripture Reading
  - Devotional
- Michael Mitchell**  
*District Lay Leader*  
**Rev. Luis A. Garcia**  
*District Superintendent*
- 9:30 a.m. Call to Order** **DS**
- Election of South District Conference Secretary** **DS**
- Adoption of the 2025 Minutes District Conference Minutes** **DS**
- Reports**
- Assistant District Director **Rev. Dr. Lui Tran**
  - South District Union **Jason Tucker**
  - District Youth **Pastor Jennifer Scott & Rev. Matt Hambrick**
  - District Mission Committee **Pastor Jeri Newell-Davis**
  - Superintendency Committee **Rev. Drew Davis**
  - District Committee on Ordained Ministry **Rev. Lori Leopold**
  - District Planning & Strategy Committee **Rev. Brent Ross**
  - District Building and Locations Committee **Alan Hay**
- Elections**
- District Leadership **DS**
  - South District Lay Members to Annual Conference **LL**
- 10:30 a.m. Annual Conference Videos**
- 10:45 a.m. Recognition of South District Clergy & Laity** **DS & LL**
- 11:00 a.m. Closing Prayer – Adjourn** **ADD**

## ***South District Conference Minutes - May 10, 2025***

*District Conference began with announcement slides and music before beginning at 9:10 a.m.*

*The time of worship began with music from Be Still Ministry of Santa Ana UMC.  
District Lay Leader, Michael Mitchell opened with prayer and a scripture reading.  
DS Luis Garcia shared a devotional.*

*DS Luis Garcia called the conference to order at 9:26 a.m.*

*A vote was taken to elect Emilie Penuelas, South District Administrative Assistant, as District Conference Secretary.*

*VOTE APPROVED.*

*A vote was taken for the adoption of the 2024 District Conference Minutes.*

*VOTE APPROVED.*

*Video reports were given by South District Leadership*

- District Lay Leader Michael Mitchell*
  - Assistant District Director Rev. Dr. Lui Tran*
  - South District Union, Jason Tucker*
  - District Youth, Pastor Jennifer Scott & Rev. Matt Hambrick*
  - District Mission Committee, Pastor Jeri Newell-Davis*
  - Superintendency Committee, Rev. Drew Davis*
  - District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Rev. Lori Leopold*
  - District Planning & Strategy Committee, Rev. Kristie Grimaud*
- REFER TO 2025 DISTRICT BOOKLET FOR WRITTEN REPORTS*

*Elections*

*DS Luis Garcia presented the District Leadership Nomination Slate*

*VOTE APPROVED – REFER TO 2025 DISTRICT BOOKLET FOR FULL NOMINATION SLATE*

*Michael Mitchell presented the South District Lay Members to Annual Conference*

*Youth Lay Member Slate – VOTE APPROVED*

*Young Adult Lay Member Slate – VOTE APPROVED*

*At-large Lay Member Slate – VOTE APPROVED*

*REFER TO 2025 BOOKLET FOR NOMINATION SLATE*

*Two videos from the Conference were shared. The first was an Intro to Annual Conference and the second was the Budget Overview.*

*DS Luis Garcia and Michael Mitchell recognized South District Clergy & Laity.*

*The 2025 South District Conference closed with prayer.*

***Respectfully submitted by Emilie Penuelas, District Secretary***

## **SOUTH DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Lay Leader Report**

**Michael Mitchell**

It has been a continued blessing to serve as the South District Lay Leader this past year. I am deeply encouraged by the faithfulness of both laity and clergy across our district as they continue to live out the mission of the church in their local communities.

This year, my focus has remained on strengthening connections between churches, supporting and developing lay leadership, and creating intentional spaces for spiritual growth. I have continued to emphasize the importance of a Spirit-led laity working in partnership with clergy to lead and shape the future of our churches.

A key area of impact has been ongoing investment in lay leadership development. We have continued to encourage participation in Certified Lay Minister and Lay Servant Ministries, equipping individuals who feel called to deeper service. It has been encouraging to see more laity stepping forward to lead, preach, and serve in meaningful ways within their congregations.

In collaboration with District Superintendent Rev. Luis Garcia and local church leadership, I have also been engaged in strategic work within the Imperial Valley, including Calexico, Brawley, and El Centro. Together, we have been working to clarify mission and vision through the development of concise, context-driven mission statements. This work is helping lay a strong foundation for future ministry, communication, and outreach efforts.

Throughout the year, I have supported the district through regular meeting participation, church engagement, and one-on-one connection with lay leaders, particularly during times of transition. I have also continued to advocate for stronger communication across the district and for the intentional development of young, bilingual, and culturally diverse leaders who reflect the communities we serve.

Our monthly South District Prayer Gathering, held on the first Tuesday of each month, continues to be a meaningful rhythm of connection, encouragement, and shared prayer among laity and clergy.

In addition, I remain engaged in connectional leadership beyond the district, helping to bring broader insights back to our churches while representing the strength and needs of the South District.

Looking ahead, I remain committed to equipping and encouraging the laity as we continue to discern where God is leading us. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and stand ready to support our churches in the year ahead.

Michael Mitchell  
South District Lay Leader

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

I respectfully submit this report of my work as Assistant South District Director. During this reporting period, my work has focused on four interrelated areas: (1) congregational development, including strategic visioning retreats; (2) property development; (3) administration and governance; and (4) the equipping of clergy, laity, and congregations through practical ministry resources.

In each of these areas, I have sought to support our congregations and district entities with practical guidance, strategic planning, and faithful connectional accountability so that our ministries may be strengthened for the mission of the church.

### **1. Congregational Development**

Our ministries continue to navigate significant stress arising from the affordability crisis, disaffiliations, natural disasters, and ICE enforcement activities. In the face of these challenges, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to equip, sustain, and strengthen our local churches. Congregational development in this season has required not only encouragement, but also practical intervention, financial support, leadership formation, and theological clarity.

One important aspect of this work has been financial and leadership support for congregations facing acute pressure. We are actively disbursing Vital Ministry grants, including recent financial support to help cover deficits at Jucumba UMC, while also making coaching scholarships available to empower local leaders and build capacity for sustainable ministry. In settings where churches or affiliated ministries are under serious financial strain, I have worked with leaders to move beyond short-term crisis management toward longer-range planning and institutional stability.

This has included strategic support for entities facing persistent deficits. For example, Christ Ministry Center has been operating at a monthly deficit after the loss of multiple grants. In response, we are requiring and assisting with the development of a comprehensive three-to-five-year organizational plan. My aim in such cases is not merely to address immediate financial pressures, but to help ministries clarify their mission, strengthen leadership, improve planning, and move toward greater long-term sustainability. In this way, congregational development is not only about helping churches survive a difficult season, but about equipping them to reimagine ministry and serve their communities more faithfully in the years ahead.

This work has also included direct leadership in congregational discernment and future planning. During this reporting period, I led strategic visioning retreats at Garden Grove UMC, Santee UMC, and Shepherd of the Hills UMC. These retreats were designed to help clergy and lay leaders reflect on their ministry context, clarify priorities, discern future directions, and strengthen their capacity for faithful and realistic planning. In each setting, the goal was not

simply to generate ideas, but to help congregations align their vision, leadership, and resources more intentionally with the mission of the church and discern God's will for their future.

## **2. Property Development**

A second major area of my work has been property development. We are heavily engaged in leveraging district properties for community impact, affordable housing, and the revitalization of our ministries. In this area, I have sought to help our churches and district bodies approach property not simply as an asset to be preserved, but as a trust to be stewarded faithfully for ministry and mission.

Much of this work has centered on affordable housing initiatives. At Imperial Beach, plan check is nearly complete, funding for the housing is fully in place, and demolition of the existing building is the next stage. At Park Hill UMC, conversations are back in place, an updated Ground Lease Agreement is in process of being signed, and the project now contemplates 68 affordable units with Wakeland as developer as discussions continue with the City of Chula Vista. At Chapel of the Valley UMC, I have been involved in conversations with a developer as contacts transition to me, while additional assessment and discernment continue around the Shalom Village concept. These projects reflect a growing conviction that district property can and should be used creatively and responsibly to serve both the church's mission and the needs of the wider community.

At San Diego First UMC, the focus has been on a continuing feasibility study for possible ground lease housing development. That process has included analysis of the church's mission, the needs of the surrounding community, projected demographics, and consultant findings indicating strong potential for development on the portion of the site immediately east of the sanctuary. The Buildings and Location Committee approved the continuation of that feasibility study, and my work in this matter has been directed toward ensuring that the church and district proceed with clarity, order, and alignment between mission and property stewardship.

In addition to development projects, I have also been engaged in asset management and property transactions. Hemet UMC's property remains on the market at a reduced asking price. At Surf City, environmental testing indicated no leaks, due diligence continues, and District Union voted to move forward with the sale under the renegotiated terms. At St. Marks UMC, discussions continue regarding the possible sale of three houses while retaining the house currently used as a food pantry. At Nestor UMC, following a recent charge conference, the Buildings and Location

Committee approved the sale of a donated property in San Diego, with the proceeds to be directed toward future pastoral housing options subject to remaining approvals. At Santee UMC, the sale of a house had already been approved and will be removed from the Buildings and Location project list. Across these matters, I have sought to ensure that property decisions are approached with legal clarity, strategic foresight, and connectional responsibility.

## **3. Administration and Governance**

A third major area of my work has been administration and governance. In a season of rapid change and institutional strain, ensuring structural integrity, sound risk management, and clear operational procedures across the South District remains one of my primary responsibilities. Good governance is not an obstacle to ministry. Rather, it is one of the ways the church protects trust, accountability, and faithful decision-making.

One important aspect of this work has been risk management and organizational clarity. In matters involving district assets, property oversight, and related ventures, I have sought to encourage structures and procedures that reduce unnecessary exposure to liability and provide clearer legal and operational frameworks for decision-making. Careful attention to these matters helps safeguard the district's resources while enabling ministries to move forward responsibly.

I have also been attentive to procedural integrity. In matters involving property, finance, and district oversight, I have emphasized the importance of clear workflows, defined approval thresholds, and sound rules of practice and procedure. Clarity of process helps avoid confusion, reduce conflict, and support more transparent, disciplined, and accountable decision-making across the district.

Beyond individual matters, I have also sought to strengthen strategic planning and governance capacity more broadly. To that end, I have developed and distributed a boilerplate strategic planning template to guide our committees and local congregations in their future planning. Drawing on my background in church law, I have also been conducting webinars on various topics of church law, so that clergy and district leaders may have the legal and procedural clarity necessary to govern effectively in the years ahead.

#### **4. Equipping and Resourcing Clergy, Laity, and Congregations**

A further dimension of my work has been equipping and resourcing clergy, laity, and congregations with practical ministry tools through my website, [UMChurchLaw.com](http://UMChurchLaw.com). In a time of significant transition and complexity across the church, I have sought to make accessible resources available that help leaders navigate ministry, governance, and connectional life with greater clarity, confidence, and faithfulness.

This work has included the publication of my five-part series, "Constitutional Grace in the Regionalized United Methodist Church," published on *Ministry Matters* and syndicated by *ResourceUMC*. That series was written to help church leaders think theologically and structurally about the changing shape of the denomination and to provide a framework for faithful leadership in a regionalized church. It has also included my three-part webinar, "Preparing for Appointment Season," which was designed to offer clergy and church leaders practical guidance for navigating the appointment process with wisdom, clarity, and connectional understanding.

Through these and other resources, I have sought to extend the district's work of support beyond meetings and consultations by providing durable, practical, and theologically grounded tools that clergy and congregations can use in their ongoing ministry.

## **Conclusion**

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the South District in this season. The work is complex and, at times, demanding, but it is also deeply meaningful. Whether in congregational development, property stewardship, administration and governance, or the equipping of clergy and congregations through practical resources, my goal has been to help our district act with wisdom, order, and faithfulness so that our churches may be better positioned for ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you to our district superintendent, Rev. Luis Garcia, for his kind support and leadership, to all district leaders, clergy, laity, and congregations for your partnership, trust, and shared commitment to the mission of the church. I look forward to continuing this work with humility, diligence, and hope.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dr. Lui Tran Assistant South District Director Assistant Chancellor for Church Law

## **South District Union**

**Jason Tucke**

Dear members of the South District,

The South District Union has been very busy this year! In addition to providing strategic and emergency grant funds to churches, as well as educational scholarships for pastoral candidates, we also function as a property and asset holder for the district. Often times, this includes church properties where congregations have been discontinued and are awaiting new opportunities. This includes property sale or redevelopment, but also opportunities for new ministries. We've been learning more and more over the last several years and I wanted to share a few updates.

First, we are proud to announce that the Imperial Beach Neighborhood Center and affordable housing project is moving forward and ready for construction. This is in large part due to the tireless efforts of Rev. John Griffin-Attil and his team. They have been working diligently for years to raise funds and jump through all the hoops with multiple municipal agencies, and this work is indeed bearing fruit in the property side.

Next, in April, the District Union finally closed on the sale of Surf City property in Huntington Beach. This congregation was discontinued several years ago, and it has been a difficult process to convert this property into funding for other district projects that have been waiting much more time than expected. We give thanks to consultant and Conference trustee David Sears for guiding us through this complex and trying transaction!

Lastly, I would like to highlight an opportunity for rebirth at the former Point Loma UMC campus in the Ocean Beach area of San Diego. This past year, the District Union received the property via transfer from San Diego First UMC and began working on the vision for a new ministry life there at the direction of Bishop Dottie. This new vision soon coalesced around the passion and willingness of Rev. Steve Petty to jump in with both feet to create something new there in that community. Under the new identity of OB Joyfull, that site is moving forward engaging the community and planning new life and worship for the Ocean Beach neighborhood.

We are especially grateful for two of our outgoing board members, Marian Folkner and John Folsom. Both have served the DU for over a decade, Marian as our Treasurer and John as our investment guru. These two have been absolutely stellar in their service and stewardship here in our district. They leave large shoes to fill and we are grateful to Kent Raysin, who has stepped up as treasurer moving forward.

Finally, all this work is impossible for us volunteers to do without the help of our staff leadership, DS Luis Garcia, Assistant District Director Lui Tran, and Administrative Assistant, Emilie Penuelas! A special shout out also goes to Rev. Paige Eaves, Assistant to the Bishop. Although she has technically been appointed out of our district, Rev. Eaves has been instrumental in most of these complex property transitions.

Blessings to you all and I look forward to chatting with you at Annual Conference!

Jason Tucker

Chair, South District Union

## District Missions

Pastor Jeri Newell-Davis

Over the past year, the South District Missions Committee collaborated with local churches and Conference committees to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. United as the body of Christ, we offered support to communities at the local, regional, and binational levels. With our partners, Volunteers In Mission, United Women of Faith, and Border Ministries, we accomplished a variety of initiatives and also had some fun.

Border Ministries and Volunteers in Mission Donations – Local churches and individuals have gathered and delivered supplies to support those waiting in Tijuana for immigration and asylum appointments. The donations include clothing for infants, children, and adults, diapers, various toys, toiletries, hygiene kits, as well as food, water, and warm blankets.

While this work is not as extensive as it once was, it remains essential for people living on the margins. Help is still needed to collect and bring items into Tijuana. If you would like to participate, please reach out to the District office.

Community Support – Over the past year, a number of District churches have engaged in weekly immigration demonstrations at the Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse. The United Women of Faith has organized this work. Participation continues to increase among church members and clergy who advocate for the judicial protection of families and individuals seeking asylum.



On July 19, 2025, seven churches from the South District took part in the San Diego Pride Parade, showing support for our LGBTQ+ community. These representatives of the UMC South District enjoyed the connectionism of our District in showing God's love to all those in attendance. We welcome you to join us at this year's Pride Parade, which will be held in San Diego on Saturday, July 18th.



On May 2, 2026, multiple District churches participated in the annual Faith and Family Night organized by the San Diego Padres. This event provided an enjoyable experience for church members and friends to connect with one another and root for the home team.



On May 7, 2026, the District's Interfaith National Day of Prayer Service was hosted and live streamed by San Carlos UMC. This worship service united numerous faith leaders who prayed for

our nation, centered around the theme “Be Still And Know I Am God” from Psalm 46. We appreciate San Carlos for both hosting and broadcasting this important event.

Working alongside the dedicated members of this committee for the last three years has been a privilege. Their efforts to foster hope and healing demonstrate their steadfast faith in God, who sustains us in every situation. Thanks be to God for their open hearts.

Submitted by:

Pastor Jeri Newell-Davis

Missions Committee Chair

### **District Superintendency Committee**

**Rev. Drew Davis**

Over the past calendar year, the superintendency committee has been working hard to stay connected with our district superintendent, Luis Garcia. I ensure that he has a reliable avenue for conversation and expression of concerns as he navigates moments of stress related to his responsibilities.

Our district superintendent carries a unique weight, and many of these burdens are confidential. It is a blessing to be part of a group that allows DS Garcia the opportunity to process his responsibilities while respecting the confidentiality required. This support also enables him to address his personal journey as he deals with situations he may not be able to discuss openly.

We have been focusing on the significant events coming up in the district superintendent's calendar, such as the district conference and self-district responsibilities at the California Pacific Annual Conference. It has been our responsibility to support DS Garcia in a way that allows us to serve as hands and feet to meet his needs and to provide him with a sounding board as he processes what is required.

In my conversations with DS Garcia, it has been a personal blessing to review the needs he can discuss and to help him navigate moments in his own personal and family life. This support is essential for helping him maintain some balance during this stressful journey.

## **District Committee on Ordained Ministry**

**Rev. Lori Leopold**

I share this report with deep gratitude to the DCOM members who give so generously of their time and wisdom, to the individuals who allow us to come alongside them in their ministry journey and to God who continues to call individuals to do the work of extending Christ's transforming and life-giving love to and for God's beloved world.

Currently the South DCOM is made up of 18 elders, deacons, licensed local pastors and certified lay ministers. The South DCOM has within its care:

- 9 Exploring and Declared Candidates
- 9 Certified Candidates
- 16 Licensed Local Pastors under appointment
- 14 Certified Lay Ministers

DCOM meets 6-8 times per year. We provide introductory meetings for exploring candidates, meet with candidates for certification and recertification, and interview those seeking to be recommended to the Board of Ordained Ministry for provisional membership. In addition, we meet annually with licensed local pastors and bi-annually with certified lay ministers.

I want to say a special thank you to our District Superintendent, Rev. Luis Garcia, for his presence and leadership, to Rev. George Hooper for his meticulous and detailed work as DCOM's registrar and to Rev. Hannah Ka for serving as our tech coordinator, getting us connected via Zoom whenever we gather.

The work of DCOM holds joy and challenge. I know I can say on behalf of the committee that we feel the honor and the gravity of the work that is ours to do. We seek God's guidance in the midst of that work and welcome your prayers as we do our best to listen, guide and support each individual who comes into our care.

## **District Planning & Strategy Committee**

**Rev. Brent Ross**

The District Planning and Strategy Committee (DPAS) has begun to shift our focus this year to prepare ourselves to be a more proactive and strategic group in hopes of being a greater resource to not only the District Superintendent, but also to our local churches here in the South District. To this end, we are revising our grant cycles and seeking to offer greater clarity on the purposes and goals of the grants we award including the Georgia Lynch and microgrants. It is our hope that a more concise explanation of the grant priorities will lead to even more funds distributed long-term and greater impact of these funds.

In addition to our grant work, we are also currently working on a church-focused support structure where DPAS Committee members will come alongside churches and pastors to learn from them where we might better resource them and filter that information up to the resources we might provide. We are incredibly hopeful for this new process.

I am deeply grateful for the people on this committee and their diligent and faithful work.

In summary, since our last District Conference, we have approved the following grants:

### **Microgrants:**

This year we awarded a micro-grant for \$2,560 to St. Paul of San Diego for their Video Production and Music Program. On the organizational side, we are moving the microgrant application process to be a twice a year funding cycle in order to both streamline the process, and to increase awareness of the grant program. Please note, however, emergency grants can still be submitted at any time through Superintendent Garcia.

### **Georgia Lynch Grants:**

We were also able to award Georgia Lynch Grants totaling more than \$38,007 to support ministries for women, children, and youth in the district, and have also re-opened the application in order to distribute more funds this year.

### **Equitable Comp Grants:**

We recommended 5 Equitable Comp proposals to the Equitable Comp Committee.

Gratefully,  
Rev. Brent Ross

## **District Buildings and Locations Committee**

**Alan Hay**

It is my privilege to be the Chair of Buildings and Location committee for the South District, now in my second year. We are a dedicated group of elected and ex-officio Lay and Clergy members who meet every 2 months on Zoom and as necessary, holds emergency meetings if a decision is needed quickly.

In the past year, we have dealt with numerous property related issues in our District including sale of local church owned properties / houses, affordable housing developments from the start through completion, and leases, all in line with Book Of Discipline (BOD) requirements.

South District churches, in line with CalPac and UMC in general, are typically property rich, but cash poor, it is a challenge, and a great responsibility, to be able to work to enhance mission and ministry in these churches.

Recently, a CalPac B&L District-Leader's meeting has started. We meet every 3 months to share best practices, and our first goal is to ensure that all local church owned property is accounted for in CalPac and insurance documentation.

We are always looking for new members of the Committee, if interested, contact DS Luis or myself.

Thank you for the honor of leading this particularly important committee.

Alan Hay, Chair, South District B&L

**SOUTH DISTRICT LEADERSHIP**

<b>Assistant District Director</b> – Rev. Dr. Lui Tran	<a href="mailto:lui.tran@gmail.com">lui.tran@gmail.com</a>
<b>District Board of Ordained Ministry Liaison</b> – Rev. John Griffin-Atil	<a href="mailto:johngriffinatil@yahoo.com">johngriffinatil@yahoo.com</a>
<b>District Building and Locations Chair</b> – Alan Hay	<a href="mailto:alanjhay55@outlook.com">alanjhay55@outlook.com</a>
<b>District Chancellor</b> - Karl Lindegren	<a href="mailto:klindegren@fisherphillips.com">klindegren@fisherphillips.com</a>
<b>District Committee on Ordained Ministry</b> – Rev. Lori Leopold	<a href="mailto:loril@pbumc.org">loril@pbumc.org</a>
<b>District Hispanic Committee Chair</b> – Rev. Baldwin Avendaño	<a href="mailto:pastor.avendano@gmail.com">pastor.avendano@gmail.com</a>
<b>District Lay Leader</b> - Michael Mitchell	<a href="mailto:sdlayleader@gmail.com">sdlayleader@gmail.com</a>
<b>District Associate Lay Leader</b> – Will Tupou	<a href="mailto:willtupou002@gmail.com">willtupou002@gmail.com</a>
<b>District Lay Servant Chair</b> – Susan Jeffries	<a href="mailto:susanormanjeffries@gmail.com">susanormanjeffries@gmail.com</a>
<b>District Mission Taskforce Chair</b> – TBD	
<b>District Superintendency Chair</b> – Rev. Drew Davis	<a href="mailto:pastordrewdavis@gmail.com">pastordrewdavis@gmail.com</a>
<b>District Youth Coordinators</b> - Pastor Jennifer Scott	<a href="mailto:jennifer@92104church.org">jennifer@92104church.org</a>
- Rev. Matt Hambrick	<a href="mailto:pastormatt@costamesafirstumc.com">pastormatt@costamesafirstumc.com</a>
<b>District UWF President</b> – Lynette Hayes	<a href="mailto:lyn.hayes123@gmail.com">lyn.hayes123@gmail.com</a>
<b>District Union Chair</b> – Jason Tucker	<a href="mailto:jasonedwardtucker@gmail.com">jasonedwardtucker@gmail.com</a>
<b>District Planning and Strategy Chair</b> – Rev. Brent Ross	<a href="mailto:dpaschair@gmail.com">dpaschair@gmail.com</a>
<b>District SD Wesley Foundation Co-Chairs</b> – Rev. Brent Ross	<a href="mailto:brent@nhunited.org">brent@nhunited.org</a>
- Rev. Molly Lorden	<a href="mailto:molly@nhunited.org">molly@nhunited.org</a>

**DISTRICT UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
<b>Jason Tucker (chair)</b>	Rev. J.T. Greenleaf	<b>Rev. Christian Dement</b>
Doug Gillen	George Harris III	<b>Pastor Ruben Torres</b>
Rev. Julie Elkins	Kent Raysin	<b>Sam Nason</b>
Nancy Turk		

*EX-OFFICIO District Lay Leader, DPAS Rep, UMW President, District Superintendent, Assistant District Director, Bldg. & Locations Chair, District Chancellor*

**DISTRICT PLANNING & STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Lynn Nguyen	<b>Rev. Brent Ross (chair)</b>	<b>Dakota Koenig</b>
Rev. Broghan Hunt	Rev. Baldwin Avendaño	<b>Rev. Mark Maddix</b>
Todd Vosper	Rev. Kim Ports	<b>Rev. VJ Cruz-Baez</b>
Rev. Steve Petty	Tim Fritts	

*EX-OFFICIO: DLT Chair, Bldg. & Locations Chair, District Superintendent, Assistant District Director, Lay Leader*

**BUILDING & LOCATIONS COMMITTEE**

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Jim Geddes	<b>Alan Hay (chair)</b>	Rev. Sylina Kidd
	Eric Naslund	Jesse Roxas

*EX-OFFICIO: District Union Chair, DPAS Chair, District Lay Leader, District Superintendent, Assistant District Director*

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY**

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
<b>Rev. Lori Leopold (chair)</b>	Rev. Cathie Capp	<b>Rev. Richard Annett</b>
Rev. Khuong Chau	Rev. Diane Davis	<b>Rev. Ben Camp</b>
Rev. Dr. Joel Hortiales	Rev. Josh Zuleta	<b>Rev. Adiel DePano</b>
Rev. Michelle Andrews	Rev. Donnie Bae	<b>Rev. George Hooper</b>
Pastor Jeffrey Grant	Rev. Craig Dorval	<b>Dr. Laurie St. Gean</b>
<b>Susan Naslund</b>	<b>Johnnie Braxton</b>	

*District Superintendent, BOM rep appointed by Bishop: Rev. John Griffin-Atil*

**SUPERINTENDENCY COMMITTEE**

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Polly Petersen	Rev. Jaime Pangman	<b>Barbara Eveland</b>
Johnnie Braxton	Rev. Jeanette Bragunier	<b>Gaye Fisher</b>
<b>Rev. Drew Davis (chair)</b>	Pamela Reynon	

**SOUTH DISTRICT HISPANIC COMMITTEE**

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Rev. Dr. Joel Hortiales Park Hill UMC	Rev. Saul Montiel Fallbrook UMC	<b>Rev. Baldwin Avendano</b> <b>Calexico UMC</b>
Pastor Nelly Schettler Brawley UMC	LPA Vidal Garay Exodus UMC	<b>Pastor Ruben Torres</b> <b>First UMC Escondido</b>
<b>Pastor David Jaimes</b> <b>Extension Ministry</b>	<b>LPA Samuel Cruz</b> <b>El Getsemani UMC</b>	<b>Marco Salinas</b> <b>Chollas View (Lay)</b>

*EX-OFFICIO: Associate Lay Leaders and District Superintendent*

**LAY SERVANT COMMITTEE**

2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Barbara Eveland	Melissa Basch	Susan Jeffries (chair)
Johnnie Braxton	Dakota Koenig	Will Tupou

*EX-OFFICIO: Lay Leaders and District Superintendent*

**MISSIONS TASK FORCE**

Kitione Tu'itupou	Randa Krakow	Diane Starnes
Susan Harriss	Rev. Rick Malec	Jeanne Bauer
Karl Ports	Jackie Powell	Laddie Perez-Galang
Deaconess Sharon McCart		

*EX-OFFICIO: District Superintendent*

**SOUTH DISTRICT LAY MEMBERS TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026**

**YOUTH LAY MEMBERS (5)**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>
Timothy Tran	Garden Grove UMC
GiaHan Chau	Good Shepherd UMC Westminster
Honor Liebold	First UMC of San Diego
Harold Camp Romero	First UMC of Orange
Alicia Hortiales	Park Hill UMC

**YOUNG ADULT LAY MEMBERS (5)**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>
Carmen Julia Hortiales	Park Hill UMC
Serena Jones	First UMC of Chula Vista
Joseph Chun	Shepherd of the Hills UMC
Christy Watkins	Murietta UMC
Catarina Paton	Laguna Beach UMC

Alternate: Ellie Chun – Shepherd of the Hills UMC

**SOUTH DISTRICT LAY EQUALIZATION MEMBERS (10)**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>
Jeff Lashmet	Chapel of the Hills UMC
Alan Hay	First UMC of Chula Vista
Sue Ryan	Vista UMC
Will Tupou	Santa Ana UMC
Emilie Penuelas	Shepherd of the Hills UMC
Samantha Nason	Shepherd of the Hills UMC
Marco Salinas	Chollas View UMC
Tim Ta	Garden Grove UMC
Pamela Fisher	Sun City UMC
Josh Ryoo	University UMC of Irvine

Alternate: Jeanne Graham – Community UMC Huntington Beach