

2026 DELEGATION NOMINEES

General and Jurisdictional Nominees from the 42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference

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INTRODUCTION

This document was compiled and edited by the Conference Secretary Team after nominees were invited to submit information in accordance with Rule IV.B of the 2025 California-Pacific Conference Journal. All persons whose names were put forward, including floor nominations during Plenary 1 of the 42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference, were invited to use an online form to submit demographic information, district and annual conference experience, and a statement of call to serve on the delegation. Information was not received from all nominees, so the full list of nominees is listed below.

FULL LIST OF LAY NOMINEES

Maikolo Brown	Young Mae Kim	Dione Taylor
Frederick "Rick" Cook III	Sonya Lee	Guillermo Torres
Gaye Fisher	Mele Maka	Monalisa S. Tu'itahi
Rosie Guadarrama	Sharon McCart	Ana-Haydeé Urda
Erin Hawkins	Michael Mitchell	Connor Walden
Ana Goar Johnson	Rachel Rhodes-Wickett Gipson	Cathy Wilson
Kevin Kang	Jason Takagi	

FULL LIST OF CLERGY NOMINEES

Sunny Ahn	Drew Davis	Mary Ann Pickard
Amy Aitken	John Finau	Bob Rhodes
Israel Alvaran	Hannah Ka	Stephanie Rice
Richard Bentley	Brian Suk-Boo Lee	Brent Ross
Lea Booth	Moonyoung Lee	Molly Vetter
Thomas Choi	Melissa MacKinnon	Won-Seok Yuh
Jonathan Chute	Allison Mark	Charlene Zuill
Christy Ann Clark	Brian Parcel	

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LAY NOMINEES

MAIKOLO BROWN

District: East

Church: Alhambra First UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Young Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Tongan & African-American

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Young People's Council Youth President (2020-2023) while serving on the Connectional Table. Also Young People's Council Communications Coordinator (2024-2025) and currently At-large Conference Council for Young Adults. Youth Lay for Holy groups at First Tongan of Pomona for 3 years. Youth Choir director for White Sunday and Tongan quarterly meetings. Tech person for San Gabriel UMC (2023-2025). Shared the Benediction for Closing Worship of AC21. Youth speaker for Youth Opening Worship of AC22. One of the representatives that presented Signs of Episcopal Ministry for Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank installation service 2023. Involved in coordinating Youth programs and worship with the director of YPC during 2020-2024. Occasionally Liturgist and Youth speaker at First UMC of San Gabriel and Alhambra. Assisted as worship leader (baptism, call to worship, scripture reading, reflection) various years between Annual Conference of 2020 to 2025. Organized and led Youth events within the Conference with YPC (Back to School drives for Sherman Indian High School and Hawaii Relief Task Force at First UMC - Riverside, First UMC - Redondo Beach, First UMC - Westminster; Youth Retreats).



Call to Serve as a Delegate

Growing up in the Cal-Pac conference I have learned that this world needs our voice. Voices of the unjust, voices of those discriminated against, voices of the Indigenous communities, and more so voices of the youth and next generation. As I have grown my faith in Christ and my ties into our conference I have been blessed the opportunities to represent the body of youth, the body of Pacific Islanders, the body of African-Americans, and the body of followers of Christ. From being appointed on committees as an officer, reciting scriptures, blessing care packages for the underprivileged and hosting Back to School drives, I have learned that our voices can uplift communities and it reflects the love that we have for one another as Christ's love for us as his children. At times I have wondered if my purpose in these roles were because I was a Pastor's kid, or if I wasn't rooted in the church would I be granted these same opportunities, but the principle of this aspect is that it brings change to the table. Change for hope, change for the positive, change that our congregations do not have to fear of being shut out due to their skin tone, who they love, or their birth of origin. I hope as a delegate that I will be at the table in efforts to bring change to our churches and our communities that hear the voices of our people and uplift one another in unity.

FREDERICK "RICK" COOK III

District: South

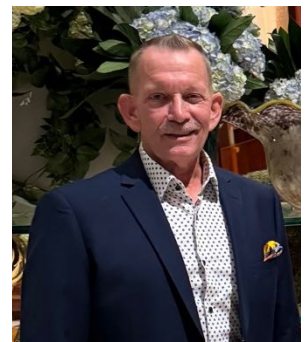
Church: First UMC of San Diego

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity: White

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Frederick "Rick" is a current voting member of annual conference representing First UMC San Diego. Rick serves as Lay Leader for FUMCSD and participates in



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Administrative Council. Rick is a Certified Lay Minister primarily serving at the church level today but has been an active representative at annual conference for his church and for South District prior to Covid shutdown.

Rick currently serves on the Property Transition task force working toward affordable housing. That project is monitored by District Leadership. Rick serves on Finance, is a board member for our after school ministry Dream School of the Arts, is a Sunday School Teacher and has served as a Stephen's Ministry Leader. Rick was away from California for a period of time living in Texas. Rick is now seeking South District and Cal-PAC Conference level service opportunities.

Rick is a disciple of Jesus Christ through the Wesleyan tradition. Rick is engaged in learning of Racial disparities moved to eliminate them when able. He has watched with dedication the transformation of Cal-PAC into the Reconciling Conference it is and is moved by its sustained commitment to this reality. This inspires him to grow in the ways he may affect positive change for the BIPOC community and others.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Rick is called to be a presence supporting growth, change, and inclusion for all. Rick is motivated by the progress made in prior years at General Conference to bridge differences and find the way forward. Rick brings a heart of compassion with a sound mind to work with others, appreciating and valuing our differences, while achieving common goals and meeting needs.

GAYE FISHER

District: South

Church: Community UMC of Huntington Beach

Age Group (at time of election): Senior

Ethnicity (self-identified): white

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Greetings in peace. My name is Gaye Fisher. I am a white female who has been a United Methodist for over 37 years. For 30 of those years, I have attended Community United Methodist Church, Huntington Beach. I attended Lodi First UMC in the California-Nevada Conference for the other 7 years.



I have attended both the District and Cal-Pac Annual Conferences as an elected delegate for Community United Methodist Church, Huntington Beach for more than 9 years.

I volunteered for General Conferences 2016, 2019, and 2024, serving as a greeter, page, marshal, and "go-for". I served as a volunteer at the Western Jurisdictional Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, and have had the pleasure of attending Western Jurisdictional Conferences in Scottsdale, Arizona and Spokane, Washington.

I find joy in conferencing with folks across our United Methodist connection; meeting with persons from local churches and even worldwide. I especially appreciate being informed to date on what is happening in our denomination and what the projected course will be for future.

I have been invited and elected to serve on the District Superintendency Committee for the coming term.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

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Through much prayer, I have discerned a call to make myself available to serve on the Western Jurisdiction Delegation. I experience this call in the sense of love God has given me for the church. I have a gift in note taking as evidenced in my roles on Church Council, Trustee's, and as Charge Conference secretary for several years. I understand and have upheld the structures of The UMC and am aware of how the connection works. I know its polity and doctrine and am hopeful for our future.

Something I've always loved about The UMC is: from the first time I walked into a United Methodist Church, I loved the openness of the congregation, the wiliness to help my family explore The Church and the Bible. There was never a "my way or the highway" expressed when I asked questions.

Something that currently excites me about The UMC is: The Leadership is trying to teach how to faithfully discern what we are taking and receiving from the world. I am reminded it is not just my little area of the world I need to worry about, it is the entire planet, our global community, all of creature and creation that call this earth home.

Something I hope for The UMC is: more partnerships within the United Methodist Church and beyond, will form to do God's work through the church collectively.

My great love and excitement for our church compels me to put my name forth to serve as a delegate for the Western Jurisdiction to General Conference.

I believe my passion, insight and experience would be asset in representing the local church. I am ready to be a voice. I am able to understand what is being asked by the General Church of local churches and I am capable to give suggestions on how decisions will affect The Church at the local and Conference levels. Most of all, I am hopeful and excited for the future of God's work through the UMC.

ROSIE GUADARRAMA

District: East

Church: First UMC of Upland

Age Group (at time of election): Senior

Ethnicity (self-identified): Mixed-Taino Indian, Hispanic and Black

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Western Jurisdiction-

Appeals Committee

Just finished term as PAG (Program Advisory Group) for UWF 2025

Annual Conference-

Committee on Higher Education and Campus Ministry

Certified Lay Ministry

CON Member for UWF

National Level-

Deaconess

NACEC (National Association Commission on Equitable Compensation)



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Call to Serve as a Delegate

Having served on numerous committees in the past 25 years for the district, conference, western jurisdiction and nationally has allowed me to get a wide scope as to how the church functions and its many moving parts. I've been privy to experience just about every aspect of the church, legal, property, education, new ministries, salaries...As a Deaconess I advocate and go beyond the church to be of service and ensure things happen and get done. As a graduate of Claremont School of Theology with my Doctorate in Ministry, I have been prepared with scholarly analyses, to be able to interpret the Bible, and bring our piety to light.

Finally, for the past 26 years I've served as an Arbitrator for the Federal Government and I would be an asset in representing our Conference at General Conference with the training and expertise gathered to analyze the facts. In reviewing all angles and eliminating the unnecessary, decisions are made based on facts, not emotions or friendships. Aiming to always keep an open heart, to embrace newness, and boldly finding new solutions to old problems. Without a doubt, keeping those most in need at the forefront.

ERIN HAWKINS

District: West

Church: Saint Mark UMC of Los Angeles

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Black

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Erin, a lifelong United Methodist and member of Cal Pac, has served the connection in various capacities since her youth. These experiences have deepened her faith, strengthened her leadership skills, and expanded the network of relationships she holds across the global connection.



A Member of St. Mark Church in Los Angeles, Erin has served as Associate General Secretary and General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race, a Board member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Erin has worked as a consultant to the Council of Bishops, the Northeast Jurisdiction and numerous Annual Conferences in the UMC as well as the Coordinating Committee of the American Baptists and the 4th Episcopal District of the AME Church on matters related to institutional change, diversity and inclusion, and leadership development.

She is currently the Executive Director of Connectional Ministries for Cal Pac, and 1st Lay Alternate of the judicial Council.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Like many United Methodists, Erin's call to leadership emerged from a deep love for the people of God and a conviction that the Church matters.

Over the years, Erin has served in a variety of roles across our connection. She has worshiped alongside faithful disciples in local churches where they care for one another and offer ministries that transform lives. She has worked alongside clergy and lay leaders navigating the challenges of ministry in changing communities. She has witnessed extraordinary courage, creativity, and grace, as well as disappointment, conflict, and the painful consequences of decisions that have left people wounded.

Yet through it all, Erin has remained convinced that The United Methodist Church is worth loving. She has seen what becomes possible when ordinary people across cultures and continents join together in the work of

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God's transforming love. Despite its institutional frailties and failures, she continues to believe in the unique witness and potential of our connection.

The 2028 General and Jurisdictional Conferences represent an important moment as our denomination continues to emerge from a painful chapter. For many, the decisions on inclusion made in 2024 marked the beginning of a new day in The United Methodist Church. In many respects, that is true. Yet Erin believes that if the Church is to become truly vital and transformative in the years ahead, much work remains before us.

She understands that legislation and restructuring are responsibilities of General Conference. At the same time, she recognizes that renewal depends on more than policy and organizational change. Lasting transformation requires trust, strong relationships, spiritual formation, shared learning, and collective discernment. The future of the Church will be shaped not only by the decisions we make, but by how we learn to live, lead, and discern together.

As the world faces polarization, ecological instability, technological disruption, loneliness, economic inequality, and cultural fragmentation, Erin believes the Church is called to release what no longer serves God's mission while nurturing new possibilities for faithful witness. She understands that the challenges before us require courage and humility.

What distinguishes Erin's leadership is her ability to hold together conviction and curiosity, tradition and innovation, hope and realism. She approaches difficult conversations with both an open mind and an open heart. She honors inherited wisdom while remaining attentive to the new possibilities God is unfolding among us and listens across differences as an expression of her commitment to the Gospel and the unity of the body of Christ. At the heart of Erin's leadership is a desire to work collaboratively with others so the Church can participate more fully in God's ongoing work of renewal. She trusts that if we follow where the Spirit leads,

ANA GOAR JOHNSON

District: West

Church: Crenshaw UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Tongan

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

2026, 2022 Assembly, United Women in Faith Conference

2024, 2025 Annual Conference, Lay Delegate

2025 On-boarding Certification for United Methodist Leaders for Cal-Pac

2024- Present West District Lay Leader, Laity Council, DCOM, West District Union Board, Nominations, District Planning & Strategy Committee and the Location & Building Committee

2026 BMCR

2019 West District Training Conference

2016 World Methodist Conference

2012-2016 Potungau'e 'Ae Fafine (United Methodist Women), Vahefonua Los Angeles Treasurer

2016 Mission u Assistant Dean (started planning in 2015)

2012-2014 Membership, Nurture & Outreach (MNO) for UWF, Long Beach District



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Call to Serve as a Delegate

My call to serve as a delegate to the General and Western Jurisdictional Conferences of The United Methodist Church arises from a deep well of faith, prayer, and a lifelong commitment to the ministry of Christ's church. This call has been shaped by my service in my local church, my leadership as the West District Lay Leader, my advocacy for vulnerable children and youth, my ministry of presence across the district, and my work on committees that help guide and strengthen the life of the church. Through seasons of joy, challenge, discernment, and transformation, I have come to understand this call as God's invitation to bring my gifts, voice, and heart to the table where the future of our denomination is shaped.

To serve as a delegate is to step into a sacred responsibility. The General Conference is the highest policy-making body of The United Methodist Church, gathering every four years to consider the business, mission, and direction of our global connection. Delegates revise church law, adopt resolutions on moral and social issues, and approve budgets that guide the work of the church worldwide. They worship, pray, and discern together, carrying the hopes and concerns of the people they represent. They do the hard work of legislation, but they also do the holy work of shaping the witness of the church.

I feel called to this work because I understand both its weight and its promise. Decisions made at General Conference affect real people-pastors, congregations, families, and communities. Policies shape how we live out our mission, how we care for one another, how we steward resources, and how we respond to injustice. I approach this responsibility with humility and reverence, aware that every vote, every conversation, and every decision carries consequences for the people of God.

My call is rooted in prayer. Prayer has always been the grounding force of my life and ministry-the place where I listen for God's voice, seek clarity, and surrender my assumptions so I may be guided by the Spirit. I trust that God is present in our discernment, even when the work is difficult. I trust that the Holy Spirit moves through conversations, relationships, tension, and grace. When we gather as a church-across cultures, languages, and perspectives-I trust that God is in the midst of us.

Collaboration is another foundation of my call. I believe deeply in shared leadership and have witnessed how the church flourishes when clergy and laity work together, when diverse voices are welcomed, and when decisions are made in community. Collaboration is not simply a leadership style for me; it is a spiritual practice rooted in the belief that every member of the body of Christ brings unique gifts. I feel called to help create spaces where every voice is honored and where listening is as important as speaking.

This collaborative spirit is central to my work as the W

KEVIN KANG

District: North

Church: Tujunga UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Korean

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Lay person assigned at Tujunga UMC. The last year, I have been involved in advocacy for our immigrant neighbors on the streets with protestors, pastoral accompaniment to court hearings, visitations to detainees at Adelanto, community organizing and fundraising for the release of detainees, and housing released immigrants in our church spaces.



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Facilitating church revitalization. Prior to being assigned at TUMC, the church went through the a 213 assessment process due to dropping attendance, strained finances, and the church pursuing disaffiliation. Church is now going through a spiritual revival and in the last 6 months has tripled in attendance (mostly young adults and people under 40). This was after they finally accepted the church needs to change to reach the community more effectively. We began our transitional housing program, monthly dinner church gatherings, wrestling events, and became more intentional in our food pantry program aiming too meet the spiritual needs of our people.

I am currently on part of the committee for PATH 1, a church planting and innovative ministry arm of the UMC and will likely join the Cal-Pac Board of Pension and Benefits (will be nominated) this coming year.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

God is at work in our conference and denomination as a whole, and I am excited to take part in anything I am called to join. The General and Western Jurisdictional Conferences set a precedent and steer the direction of all our annual conferences and churches. As I am getting more and more involved in our connectional work, I would be honored to be selected as a delegate to help steer legislation to represent the diverse perspectives in our conference.

YOUNG MAE KIM

District: North

Church: Holliston UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Senior

Ethnicity (self-identified): Korean



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Currently I am serving the position of the North District lay member to the Annual Conference. I have been serving as my church's lay member to the Annual Conference for many years, as well as the District lay member. I served for 7 years on the North District Committee on Ordination in the past (approximately 2008-2015?).

My involvement in the annual conference at this point is minimal. I have not had an opportunity to get involved in various tasks and teams of the Annual Conference as a lay person due to my personal limitation i.e. running a store full time from which I am now retired, and to the overall Korean ethnic churches' cultural atmosphere. However, as an officer of the United Women in Faith Cal-Pac Conference and as Program Advisor of the United Women in Faith representing the Western Jurisdiction, I keep myself immersed and aligned with the work of the Annual Conference. A recent example of that cross-over would be the ratification advocacy of the constitutional amendment from the position of the United Women in Faith Western Jurisdiction Team of Program Advisory Group and Board of Directors. Our team of 9 fiercely loyal and loving ladies of the jurisdiction all jumped in to study, strategize and pray for the promotion of the constitutional amendment and the ratification voting for several months prior to our each Annual Conference of 2025. The result is now history, Praise the Lord.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I've been a Methodist throughout my whole church life. My friend invited me to her church when I was in fifth grade in elementary school. It was a Korean Methodist Church. My husband and I moved to the United States with our two young children thirty plus years ago. It was because of my husband's work

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situation, and in ten year's time all of us obtained a legal status to stay and eventually became US citizens. From coming to the States and to getting situated and acclimated, the whole process was smooth indeed. I didn't think we were particularly lucky because I wasn't aware of the pains and hardships people endured trying to find employment, housing, and other necessary and basic things that allow one to live in a society, not because I was a 'bad' person, but because I was a badly informed Christian. All of my youth days I lived in a triangle of home-school-church. My adult life was also a triangle replacing school with work so home-work-church. I used to joke that "All I Really Need to Know I learned in Church" as a way to express my love and respect for the church. But I didn't know what I was lacking. I didn't know that working on improving myself requires me to look into the system and society as a whole, and to look at people in it not as 'others' but as myself in different life circumstances. My faith was not full. It was partial and one dimensional. I was only interested in the spiritual side of faith; the blessing and redemption of the Cross, my personal relationship with Jesus, my journey as a follower of Christ. My eyes were open once I began to get involved in United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith) district and conference work. Social justice priorities taught me to look at society with eyes wide open to the neighbors who do not look like me, who do not believe like me, who do not speak like me. Not pity, but commonality. Not advice, but listening. I attend a Korean church which means there are things happening in church that only the Koreans understand. I am pretty sure this is the case for a lot of ethnic churches. Culture, language, customs share that exclusiveness at its core. But that is why diversity is beautiful and powerful. I would like to be considered for the Lay Delegate to help my beloved Korean church friends to see the beauty of serving the Church where different means blessed. I also want to help women, youth, children and anyone seeking safety and comfort in the church. Being a Lay Delegate means a big responsibility which frankly is quite intimidating. But if I am given the opportunity, I know I will be working alongside fellow Christians who will embrace the joy and pain of others as their own. That is how we become united, in my mind.

SONYA LEE

District: Hawaii

Church: Hawaii District Office

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Korean-American

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Hawaii District: Communications Team, District Resiliency Team, and UWF

Conference: Korean Ministry Council

As the Hawaii District Administrative Assistant, Sonya plays a vital role in the life and ministry of her district, while also blessing the Conference with her gifts and graces. Because she works closely with our various boards and committees to support them in their work and ministries, she has built authentic and strong relationships with both clergy and laity. Sonya's heart for the local church is second to none, and the way in which she serves her district faithfully is no secret to the Hawaii District and those who are familiar with her work.



Call to Serve as a Delegate

In her role as both conference and district staff, Sonya has come to understand how decisions made at the higher levels of the church impact our local congregations. Over the years, she has demonstrated her gifts in building relationships and connecting with people across all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. If elected, she will bring an important perspective as a lay person from the Hawaii District to the Cal-Pac delegation team. I have full confidence that she will serve the team well as a clear communicator and natural bridge builder.

Sonya wishes to be considered only for the Jurisdictional Conference.

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MELE MAKA

District: North

Church: Camarillo UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Tongan

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

In faithful response to God's call. I have been blessed to serve as District lay leader for the North District for 12 years. During this time I prayerfully helped guide and support the redistricting of the Santa Barbara District into what is now the North District, seeking always to discern God's will and strengthen the connection among our churches and communities. For the past six years I have continued this journey of servant leadership as Conference Layleader, striving to uplift, equip and encourage the laity in discovering their call in ministry. I remain committed to walking alongside others in faith, fostering unity, and serving with humility as we seek to live out Christ's mission in the world.



Call to Serve as a Delegate

I have had the honor of serving as a delegate to General Conference six times, an experience that has deepened both my understanding of the General Church and my commitment to its mission. Through these opportunities, I have developed the wisdom, grace and relational skills necessary to navigate the complexities of the legislative process while building meaningful connections that help move important work forward. In this season, when the California Pacific Conference's representation has been reduced from three lay and three clergy delegate to two lay and two clergy, I feel a strong sense of calling to ensure our voice continues to be faithfully and effectively represented. I remain especially attentive to the needs and priorities of our conference, trusting in God's guidance for such a time as this. Additionally my more than eight years of service on the Standing Committee on Regional Conference Matters has given me a deep familiarity with the structure, history and ongoing work of the General Church. I approach this work with humility, discernment, and a steadfast commitment to serve with integrity and faith.

SHARON MCCART

District: South

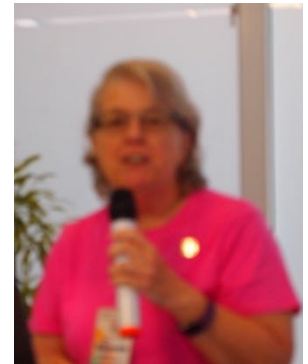
Church: University UMC of Irvine

Age Group (at time of election): Senior

Ethnicity (self-identified): White

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

As a deaconess, I have been a voting member of the annual conference since 2018. I have attended every annual conference for about 18 years and all but one district conference.



I am serving on the Disability Ministries Strategy Group, representing this group and also the Philippines Strategy Group on the JCEMT.

I am living out a conference resolution to be in partnership with the Philippines Regional Conference by building relationships with deaconesses and other leaders both in person and by electronic means. I have secured funding for the PRC Board of Women's Work and for other UM-related entities, both grants and also donations, including a total of \$85,000 from the now-closed Santa Ana First United Church of Christ last fall, which is supporting the new nationwide multi-agency Disability Ministries program, the work of

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Rise Up for Life and for Rights, Asuncion A. Perez Memorial Center, Inc., and the two Deaconess/Home Missioner training colleges, Southern Philippines Methodist Colleges and Harris Memorial College. I have also written and published a book entitled, "Journey of the Heart: What I Have Learned from Deaconess/Home Missioners in the Philippines," which grew out of 28 interviews with deaconess/home missioners in several places in the Philippines. This and so many more interactions, in person and on-line, have built and strengthened my relationships there in the seven trips I have made beginning in 2017.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I have been involved in writing legislation and resolutions for the annual conference and General Conference since 2012, and I attended General Conferences in 2008, 2016, and 2024. In 2016 I tracked legislation and worked to pull an item off the consent calendar to be voted on in plenary.

My relationships with deaconess/home missioners and people involved in Disability Ministries throughout the US in addition to my interactions with people in the Philippines have exposed me to many different ways of being in ministry, the variety of needs that the church can serve, and the diversity of thought and practice. I bring an openness to whatever table I sit at.

God has called me to grow and do many things I have never done before since I made the decision to attend seminary in 2004. I believe that being a delegate is one more step in becoming the person God is creating me to be. I understand the work involved in being a delegate and I am committed to do that work to the best of my ability, as I have done everything for many years. I would be grateful to God to serve in this way.

MICHAEL MITCHELL

District: South

Church: San Luis Rey Valley UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): African American



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

I currently serve as the South District Lay Leader, where I work to strengthen connections between churches, support lay leadership, and encourage spiritual growth across the district. In this role, I regularly bring clergy and laity together, helping build alignment, improve communication, and move ministry forward with shared purpose.

At the conference level, I serve on the Conference Nominations Committee and the Conference Laity Council, helping identify, develop, and place leaders across the conference. I am also actively engaged with Congregational Vitality through the CV EMT, where I support churches and ministry leaders as they discern, launch, and strengthen new expressions of ministry. This work has given me a clear understanding of how innovation, structure, and faithful discernment must work together in the life of the church.

Within the district, I am involved with the South District Planning and Strategy (DPAS) team, South District Union, and the South District Buildings and Locations Committee. Through these roles, I contribute to strategic planning, leadership alignment, and the stewardship of church resources, always with a focus on long-term sustainability and mission impact.

In addition, I serve as Project Manager for the Imperial Valley Strategic Plan, working closely with church leaders in Calexico, Brawley, and El Centro. This work is centered on helping congregations clarify their

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mission, align their vision, and take concrete, actionable steps to strengthen their ministry in their local context.

I also serve on the Board of Directors for the General Board of Global Ministries, which provides me with a broader perspective on the global church and how it connects directly to the work of local congregations.

Through these experiences, I bring a leadership approach that is grounded, strategic, and action-oriented. I am comfortable navigating complexity, working across diverse perspectives, and helping groups move from discernment to clear direction. I value collaboration, faithful listening, and the essential role of the laity in shaping the future of the church.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I feel called to serve as a delegate because I care deeply about the future of the United Methodist Church and the role our conference plays in shaping that future. This is a time that calls for thoughtful leadership, spiritual discernment, and a willingness to engage faithfully across a diversity of perspectives.

Through my service as South District Lay Leader, I have had the opportunity to walk closely with both clergy and laity, supporting leadership development, strengthening connections between churches, and helping create space for prayerful discernment. I have seen firsthand both the challenges and the opportunities facing our congregations, and I believe those experiences have prepared me to represent our conference with clarity and care.

My work at the conference level, including service on nominations and involvement in Congregational Vitality through the CV EMT, has helped me understand how leadership is cultivated, supported, and deployed across the connection. In addition, my role as Project Manager for the Imperial Valley Strategic Plan has required me to listen deeply, navigate complexity, and help align diverse groups around a shared mission and practical next steps.

Serving on the Board of Directors for the General Board of Global Ministries has also given me a broader perspective on the global nature of our church. It has reinforced the importance of remaining grounded in our mission while being open to where God is leading us as a connectional body.

If selected, I would approach this role with humility, a strong sense of responsibility, and a commitment to do the work faithfully. I am willing to listen carefully, engage thoughtfully, and represent our conference with integrity. I believe in the importance of both structure and Spirit, and I would seek to contribute in a way that reflects our shared calling as the people of God.

2026 DELEGATION NOMINEES

RACHEL RHODES-WICKETT GIPSON

District: West

Church: Westwood UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): white



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

2020/2024 General Conference: first reserve, training for queer support team, co-operation and oversight of queer support team

2022/2024 Jurisdictional Conference: delegate

2026 Council of Bishops Leadership Gathering: invited attendee

Cal-Pac Conference: Trauma and Community Health Coordinator

Connectional Table, presentations and trainings for local churches on becoming congregations affirming of gender identity

Local Church (Westwood UMC) experience: Lay Leader, SPRC, Church Council, started prayer shawl knitting ministry

Non-church life: Licensed Clinical Social Worker working as a therapist and consultant, mom of three teenage boys, always singing and making something with yarn

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I felt called into broader church service in the midst of longstanding frustration and disillusionment in the face of exclusionary policy in 2019. I kept saying I was done, but after a lifetime of Methodism (due, in large part, to having two clergy parents) I found myself frozen at the idea of actually walking away from the church. Especially my local church where I was confirmed, met and married my husband, memorialized my father, and baptized my three kids. I decided that I just couldn't walk away from the church without going all-in to see if things could change.

I can't say I knew what I was getting myself into when I joined the 2020 delegation, and I confess I didn't bring a great deal of hope. But I did bring enthusiasm and commitment, and I was able to borrow hope from my fellow delegates as we imagined and worked toward an inclusive vision of God's world.

And the craziest thing happened. It worked. The All Belong legislation I had the honor of working on was adopted, with the result being the removal of harmful and exclusionary language from the Book of Discipline. Having just the tiniest part in this institutional shift will be one of the most meaningful contributions I have made in my life.

Another crazy thing happened. I realized I liked the work. Creating, reading, and evaluating legislation was genuinely engaging, and rolling up my sleeves to dig into the nitty gritty was satisfying, not burdensome. I was able to find places where I could be of service using my training as a therapist, like developing the training for a queer support chaplaincy team at GC2024.

So I feel called to return to General and Jurisdictional Conference, but this time with experience, established relationships, and (most importantly) hope. This time I would not be attending with a guarded heart, giving

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my church one last chance to keep me. This time I could begin with openness and gratitude for my church and the work before us, thankful for the opportunity to co-create our future with each other and the Holy Spirit. And hopefully lend my fellow delegates some hope if they need it.

JASON TAKAGI

District: North

Church: San Luis Obispo UMC

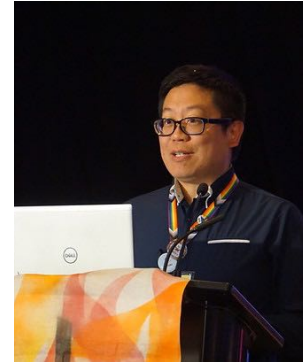
Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Japanese

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Associate North District Lay Leader (2010-2014)

-Represented the North District at multiple charge conferences to help engage local churches in the ministries of the annual conference.



Justice and Compassion Essential Ministries Team (JCEMT) Financial Secretary (2014-2020)

-Wrote and led resolutions to annual conference.

-Worked with the rest of the JCEMT executive team to oversee the ministries of the JCEMT.

Jurisdictional Delegate (2019-2026)

-Led webinars to assist discernment of values and qualities the conference wanted to see in episcopal candidates.

-Reviewed General Conference legislation and wrote summaries for the rest of the delegation.

-Represented the Western Jurisdiction on the leadership team of the Queer Delegates Caucus (QDC) and assisted with coordinating the response of queer delegates through General Conference. Also, ensured that the Western Jurisdiction was working with QDC during organizing for General Conference.

-Assisted with shepherding the Acts of Repentance resolution from Cal-Pac's Hawaii district to approval by General Conference.

-Was nominated to serve on the jurisdictional Administrative Review Committee from 2022-2026.

Western Jurisdiction LGBTQ+ Ministries (2022-2026)

-Wrote and helped to pass the jurisdictional resolution founding the Western Jurisdiction LGBTQ+ Ministries.

-With other leadership team members helped to organize at presence at General Conference 2020/2024, providing care packages for all queer delegates and all Western Jurisdiction delegates.

JCEMT Chair (2020-2021)

-Rewrote the conference rules for the JCEMT.

Equitable Compensation Committee Chair (2025-present)

-Led discussions of equitable compensation and vital presence grants.

-Calculated the Median Clergy Salary for 2026.

Legislative Chair (2025-present)

-Part of the conference secretary's team assisting with voting and usage of meeting software.

-Presented legislation to the annual conference.

-Worked with the agenda chair to estimate the time needed for debate on legislation.

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Call to Serve as a Delegate

Jason first answered a call to social justice work in college, when he authored resolutions supporting the full inclusion of LGBTQ people in the church at the United Methodist Student Forum. Since then, as part of Cal-Pac RMN, being a lay member to annual conference, and being a jurisdictional delegate, he has continued to push for the full inclusion of LGBTQ people in the church, decolonization around the world, support of the oppressed, and other social justice issues. He assisted and coached white majority and historically Japanese-American churches to become reconciling churches. He also wrote and helped to pass the legislation that formed Cal-Pac's LGBTQ taskforce. Through writing and working on church resolutions for over 25 years, Jason has seen the power well written legislation has to change the church and ensure the church supports grassroots organizing, social justice, equality, and radical inclusion.

During the last term as a delegate, Jason served as the fundraising chair of the Western Methodist Justice Movement (WMJM). He assisted in WMJM's work coordinating the fundraising efforts of the Western Jurisdiction to support the development of and organizing around regionalization legislation. WMJM funding assisted in fostering relationships between progressive United Methodists and delegates from Africa. In 2023, Jason was invited as an observer to one of the founding conferences of the United Methodist African Forum. African United Methodists inviting openly LGBTQ people and progressive organizations as observers was a huge breakthrough in WMJM's efforts to increase relationships with delegates from Africa. There he saw how varied the African discussions about LGBTQ people and their understandings of LGBTQ people are and how different their context is from the discussions in the US. This understanding strengthened his conviction that regionalization was the way forward for the church. The regions of the church needed to be able to contextualize the ministries of the church to their cultures and legal systems. Last year Jason was able to continue this work by being one of the hosts of the first officially invited representatives from the central conferences to RMN's Convocation.

As the church decides what a US regional conference looks like, Jason hopes to bring his extensive church legislative knowledge to ensure that Cal-Pac's values of radical inclusion, multi-culturalism, and social justice are central to the discussions. As one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse annual conferences in the worldwide church, Cal-Pac needs a strong voice that can represent our values at the highest levels of the church. Through his work through WMJM, the QDC, and Cal-Pac RMN, he brings the cultural sensitivity needed to represent Cal-Pac's values in the many contexts that the discussions of equality and inclusion have around the world.

DIONE TAYLOR

District: South

Church(es): First UMC of San Diego

Age Group (at time of election): Senior

Ethnicity (self-identified): African American

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Good afternoon,

My name is Dione Taylor. As a 3rd generation United Methodist, my family members have been active in the life of the church and have embodied and lived into the way faith in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ can shape and inform our lives. I have followed their examples and am also a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. As a lay member of the First UMC San Diego, and like my grandmother, who preceded me, I have been active in the life of the



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church which, over the years has nourished my desire to serve where I can, and become a more engaged Christian, guided by the Holy Spirit.

It has been a great pleasure to be involved with our First United Methodist Church of San Diego and the South District and California Pacific Jurisdiction in several rewarding ways. For example, I have been blessed to have served as South District Lay Leader, South District Superintendency Chair, South District Union Board member, South District Laity Council member, Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) Advocate to General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference delegate (twice), First UMC San Diego delegate to Annual Conference, Church Council Chair, Sunday School Coordinator and teacher, lay member on the Board of Ordained Ministry (current) and liturgist (current). Please see below for the order in which I served in each of these positions:

- 1) Sunday School Coordinator and teacher
- 2) Church Council Chair
- 3) Served as the South District Lay Leader when appointed by John Farley (2015-2022)
- 4) South District Superintendency Chair (2022)
- 5) South District Union Board Member (2015-2024)
- 6) Cal-Pac Conference, Laity Council Member (2014-2016)
- 7) Appointed to the Board of Ordained Ministry (2014- Current)
- 8) Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) Advocate to General Conference (2016)
- 9) Jurisdictional delegate (2020-2024)
- 10) First UMC San Diego delegate to Annual Conference (2025- current)
- 11) Liturgist (2020-current)

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Hello,

I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to join many others who, like me, feel called to serve the church. With gratitude and following much prayer to become deeply involved in the United Methodist Church, I have been joyfully engaged in meaningful work to sustain the Mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As a follower of Christ, I am deeply thankful for the many sacrifices He made so my life could feel fulfilling, and His promises assured by following in the path of His teachings.

I became aware of the diverse ways United Methodists were engaged on multiple levels of church service as both clergy and lay persons when volunteering at the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference which was held in San Diego. Many meetings were held at my home church, UMC San Diego as well as the local Town and Country Hotel. I had an opportunity to meet and talk with delegates about their work in this capacity. Their responsibilities varied but their cited purpose for attending was the same. They were using their expertise to serve the mission of the church. That is when I prayed for an opportunity to serve the UMC in my capacity as a lay member. God is faithful as my prayer has been answered numerous times. I am astonished at God's work in my life and feel both grateful and blessed.

I am also thankful for my experience as an Advocate for the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) to the 2016 General Conference in Portland, Oregon. I learned a great deal about the responsibilities that delegates have in their elected roles. They worked in teams, studied the legislation, knew how each piece of legislation would impact the church and were fully present on the floor where the votes were taken. I feel

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called to this work as an elected delegate and am both willing and able to fulfill the responsibilities as expected.

Additionally, I was fully engaged in the discourse regarding Worldwide Regionalization and was able, as a lay member of the Board of Ordained Ministry and a delegate from UMC San Diego to Annual Conference, (where these conversations were prevalent), respond to questions regarding the importance of that major denominational restructuring legislation. I was overjoyed to learn that this movement to be inclusive in addressing the diversity within the worldwide church, was successfully ratified following the voting that took place throughout the United States and the Central Conferences.

I feel that my extensive and continuous means of service have prepared me to become an elected lay delegate to General Conference 2028. It is my prayer that the voting members will agree.

Thank you,
Dione Taylor

GUILLERMO TORRES

District: East

Church: Victorville UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Mexican/Puerto Rican

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Member of the Cal-Pac Immigration Taskforce and Strategy Group.



Call to Serve as a Delegate

Guillermo is an Immigration Faith Rooted Organizer, Trainer and Consultant. He works with CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice). He is passionate in his belief that the United Methodist Church is a powerful force for justice and peace in the world. It can be a place of welcome, inclusion and hope for all. But that takes courage and commitment. He will bring this courage and commitment to his work on the delegation.

MONALISA S. TU'ITAHU

District: West

Church: United With Hope - Amanaki-Ketau Fakataha

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Pacific Islander/Tongan

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Monalisa has been active on all levels of The UMC connection over the last few decades. Her service in the following capacities provide some insight to the depth of her experience and commitment to serving God in the denomination.

Local Church: Currently, she values her role as the Young People's Small Class leader, as it provides a unique opportunity to shepherd the young adult people in her local church.



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District and Annual Conference: She currently serves on a variety of leadership roles that have great impact for the work of the Annual Conference, such as being the Vice Chair for the Board of Ordained Ministry, serving on the Conference Episcopacy Committee and serving on the Immigration Strategy Group of the JCEMT. She was privileged to help lead the General Conference delegation as lead Lay Delegate for 2020/2024.

Western Jurisdiction: She currently serves as the Co-Chair of the WJ Leadership Team, member of the WJ Episcopacy Committee, and the WJ Inter-Ethnic Coordinating Committee.

General Church: Monalisa served on the Connectional Table for a 12-year term, as a result of the pandemic affected quadrennium. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Commission on General Conference and Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race. She is also a member of the newly formed Interim Committee on Organization for the New US Regional Conference.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

For Monalisa, serving as a General Conference delegate is a sacred and specific call to participate in the mission of The United Methodist Church as it seeks to serve God and the world. She is deeply grounded in her sense of purpose and clear about why she feels called to this role.

At a time when the world is fractured by division, injustice, and uncertainty, the Church cannot remain passive. It must respond boldly and faithfully to the brokenness around us. As The UMC Church seeks to meet the challenges of this moment, we need leaders who are willing to pursue transformation rather than simply preserve the status quo and self-ambition.

Engaging both the Church as an institution and the wider world requires the ability to work within systems without becoming captive to their values. It is a challenging but essential calling: to remain present, engaged, and effective while staying firmly rooted in the Gospel's vision of justice, humility, and service.

Monalisa's legal training equips her to navigate complex systems with clarity, wisdom, and purpose, while her faith grounds her in a spirit of humility and accountability to God's call. She is a proven leader whose gifts, experience, and commitment position her to serve faithfully and effectively. At this critical moment in the life of The United Methodist Church, Monalisa's voice, leadership, and vision are valuable assets for helping the Church discern and live into God's future.

CONNOR WALDEN

District: West

Church: La Plaza UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Young Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): White

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Connor is currently an active member of La Plaza United Methodist Church. Connor spent one year as music director at La Plaza while coordinating a community-knit prayer shawl campaign for 15 communities that survived mass shootings.

He has successfully written 2 grant applications through UMCOR and GBCS for the La Plaza Initiative.

He is an up and coming young leader in the church. He is exploring a call to ministry as a deacon.



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Call to Serve as a Delegate

Connor is discerning a call to ministry through art, and feels the institution of the UMC continues to be a possibility that needs more investigation and discernment. Connor feels called to use his gifts and commitment to the delegation as a chance to see how God moves through legislative bodies while seeking guidance and clarity from the Holy Spirit.

CATHY WILSON

District: East

Church: Glendora UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): White

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Cathy Wilson is a committed and active leader within her local church, district, and the California-Pacific Conference and has served in the following ways:

Local Church: Glendora UMC as SPRC chair and Preschool Advisory Council chair.

District: Chair of the East District Superintendency Committee.

Conference: Over 30 years of experience for the conference in a variety of leadership roles, including: Associate Director of Lay and Clergy Credentialing and Development as staff for the Laity Council, Board of Ordained Ministry, and Orders Executive Committee; previous service includes administrative assistant in the Episcopal office, Camping and Outdoor Ministries, Pensions, and Human Resources.

Jurisdiction: alternate delegate from the California-Pacific Conference to the 2024 Western Jurisdictional Conference.

General Church: Collaborated with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to help strengthen and develop clergy candidates responding to God's call into various forms of ministry, including helping to write General Conference legislation; worked with the General Board of Discipleship to create a gathering of directors of Lay Servant Ministries.

Cathy also serves on the Western Jurisdiction Committee on Investigation.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I believe that Cathy is as qualified to serve as a General/Jurisdictional Conference delegate as any person we have in our conference. I have witnessed Cathy's deep commitment to serving The United Methodist Church through her faithful leadership, collaborative spirit, and passion for strengthening both clergy and laity for ministry. Her call to serve as a delegate grows naturally out of her experience, wisdom, and heartfelt desire to help the Church faithfully discern its future together. Cathy consistently creates spaces where people feel heard, equipped, and empowered to live out their calling in service to Christ and the Church.

Her general church experience - particularly helping write legislation - gives her insight into understanding the General Conference legislative process, so helpful for GC delegates.



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Her previous position as an administrative assistant in the Episcopal Office gave her a hands-on look at the work of a bishop. Her current work with the Laity Council, Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Orders Executive Committee gives her a well-rounded understanding of clergy and laity in our conference.

Cathy is someone you can count on. She approaches every responsibility with dedication, consistency, and integrity. She faithfully shows up prepared, engaged, and ready to do the work, whether in meetings, conversations, discernment, or leadership settings. Cathy is deeply committed to the connectional life of the Church and can be trusted to represent our Annual Conference with thoughtfulness, accountability, and grace throughout the work of the delegation.

If elected, she will be a faithful, passionate, well-prepared, and committed delegate on behalf of the California-Pacific Annual Conference.

ANA-HAYDEE URDA

District: West

Church: First UMC of Huntington Park

Age Group (at time of election): Senior

Ethnicity (self-identified): Hispanic

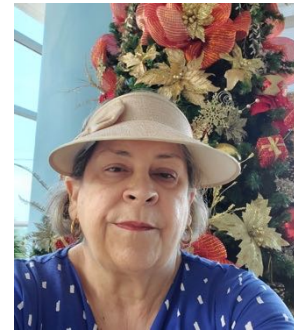
Involvement in District and Annual Conference

West District UWFAITH Leadership Team Secretary.

1st Vice President for Living Into the Future Foundation. Los Angeles

Administrative Assistant for 19 years

In 2008 and 2012 elected to Jurisdiction Delegation.



Call to Serve as a Delegate

I serve God and the church whenever I'm called by God to do so. If He wants me to serve as a delegate He will make it happen. Thank you for your vote. Blessings.

CLERGY NOMINEES

SUNNY AHN

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: East

Church: New Beginnings UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Asian-Korean



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Rev. Dr. Sunny Ahn, Ph.D., currently serves as Interim Chair of the Administrative Review Committee and as a member of the California-Pacific Conference Eco-Justice Ministry Team. Throughout her twenty-six years of ordained ministry, she has responded to God's call through a variety of leadership roles within the California-Pacific Conference. To name a few, her service has included serving as Executive Secretary of the Commission on Ethnic Ministry, Executive Member of the Council on Children's Ministry, workshop leader for CAL-PAC ALIVE Children and Youth events, member of the Welcoming Task Force committed to embracing diversity in human sexuality, and member of the Abolition Task Force.

Guided by a commitment to connection, inclusion, and justice, Rev. Dr. Ahn has sought to strengthen the ministry of the Conference by building relationships across cultures and perspectives and by creating spaces where all God's people are welcomed and empowered to participate fully in the life and mission of the Church. Her ministry reflects a deep conviction that faithful leadership is expressed through collaboration, compassionate listening, and a willingness to serve wherever God calls.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Rev. Dr. Sunny Ahn, Ph.D., is called to serve the California-Pacific Annual Conference and the wider United Methodist connection as a bridge-builder. Throughout her twenty-six years of ordained ministry, she has understood leadership not as a position to be sought, but as a response to God's call to bring people together in Christ. She believes the Church is strongest when it embraces diversity and seeks unity in mission.

As one of the 1.5 Korean American clergywomen in The United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Ahn senses a particular call to bridge gaps that often divide God's people. Her ministry has connected cultures, languages, generations, and perspectives. As an immigrant, an Asian American clergy leader, and a woman in ministry, she understands both the challenges and blessings of serving between worlds.

Her commitment to bridge-building has been expressed through service as President of the National Association of Korean American United Methodist Clergywomen, Western Jurisdiction Coordinator of the National Association of Korean American United Methodist Pastors serving cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments, Executive Team member of Asian American and Pacific Islander United Methodist Clergywomen, Executive Secretary of the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Ministries, and member of the Spirituality Awareness Subcommittee of the Cultural Competency Advisory Committee in the Department of Behavioral Health, Office of Equity and Inclusion, San Bernardino County, California. She has also received mediation and conflict transformation training through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center and the Justice and Peace Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation of The United Methodist Church.

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Having participated in two previous General Conferences and Western Jurisdictional Conferences, Rev. Dr. Ahn witnessed firsthand the importance of faithful representation. She also observed that delegates were sometimes absent when votes were being taken, limiting the voices entrusted to them. Those experiences strengthened her conviction that delegates are called not only to be elected, but also to be present, engaged, and committed to the sacred work of holy conferencing. She takes that responsibility seriously and is committed to fulfilling it faithfully.

Guided by the Wesleyan spirit, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?", and inspired by Isaiah's response, "Here am I; send me," Rev. Dr. Sunny Ahn offers herself for this ministry with humility and gratitude, seeking not personal recognition, but the opportunity to strengthen the connectional witness of The United Methodist Church and help bridge the gaps that separate God's people.

AMY AITKEN

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: North

Church(es): First UMC of Pasadena

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): White



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

I have served on the conference Board of Ordained Ministry for the last ten years. Prior to serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry, I have served on the Orders Committee, Conference Council on Finance and Administration, the Committee on Investigation, and chaired the Conference Leadership Team. On the district level, I have served on the Superintendency Committee, Planning and Strategy, and have served as a counselor and dean at youth camps. I currently serve on the board of the General Conference Board for the Endowment Fund for Theological Education, which is a joint partnership between the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries to provide ongoing support for theological education in Africa and the Philippines. I have served as a local church pastor for 29 years.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I believe that the local church is the center and starting place of ministry in the United Methodist Church. Our ministry is broadened, strengthened and advanced by the work of the Annual Conferences, bishops and the expansive work of our General Boards and Agencies. I was honored to have my name brought forward as a delegate to our jurisdictional conference. Having served under appointment as a pastor and in conference leadership for nearly 30 years, I understand the importance of episcopal leadership for our annual conferences. At every point in the life of the denomination, but especially in this time of transition and revisioning of the United Methodist Church, the need to focused, strategic and inspired episcopal leadership is critical. I would look forward to helping to shape the conversation around both the reality of the current needs, the leadership traits required to meet those needs, and then, the specific persons who might possess the vision, gifts and graces for episcopal leadership for this time in the life of the denomination.

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ISRAEL ALVARAN

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: West

Church(es): Westwood UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Filipino



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

I was ordained Deacon in 1992, and Elder in 1994 in the Philippines Annual Conference. I was elected assistant conference secretary from 1996-2003. I was elected clergy delegate to the 2000 Philippines Central Conference, and first clergy alternate to the 2000 General Conference in Cleveland, OH. I represented the Philippines Central Conference in the General Conference's Concern for Workers Task Force from 2000-2004.

Appointments in the Philippines:

- Pastor, Knox-Crossville UMC (1989-1990)
- Pastor, Bicutan UMC (1990-1992)
- Pastor, Tangos UMC (1992-1994)
- Instructor and Chaplain, Wesleyan University (1994-1996)
- English Language Instructor, Christian Mission Center (1996-1998)
- Pastor and Seminary Chaplain, Union Theological Seminary (1998-2000)
- Labor and Social Justice Organizer, Manila Episcopal Area (2000-2002)
- Adjunct Faculty, Union Theological Seminary (2000-2003)

Appointments in the United States:

- Community/Union Organizer, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice of California / UNITE HERE Local 2 (2007-2011)
- National Organizer for Economic Justice, General Board of Church and Society (2011-2012)
- Regional Organizer and Director of United Methodist Connections, Reconciling Ministries Network (2013-present)

I was transferred to California Pacific Conference in 2024 through its Safe Harbor policy to protect LGBTQ+ clergy. The 2024 Western Jurisdictional Conference elected me as its representative to the Connectional Table of the UMC (2024-2028). I have also served as convener of the Christmas Covenant Team that put forward the Worldwide Regionalization legislation (2019-2025) working alongside the Connectional Table and the former Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

The historic 2024 General Conference removed discriminatory language against LGBTQ+ persons, passed a new set of Social Principles that are relevant to our current time, and after the ratification of constitutional amendments, gave the UMC a new structure - Worldwide Regionalization. I see this not as an end but just the beginning of a new era in the UMC, ripe with possibilities for witness and growth rooted in deep cross-regional relations and decolonized missional partnerships. We are not done yet.

We moved from mandatory harm to LGBTQ+ people to optional harm with our current neutral stance on LGBTQ+ inclusion. Changing hearts and minds across the worldwide connection on matters of inclusion is the power of the Holy Spirit but requires us working to deepen relationships, foster dialogue, and bridge-building. With trusted relationships established with leaders in most regional conferences through my long

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history of organizing and strategizing with them, I am called to now step into the role of delegate - from organizing on the sidelines and behind the scenes to advocating with other justice-seeking siblings from the floor of our legislative bodies.

As the Western Jurisdiction's representative on the UMC Connectional Table - sometimes called our denominational "church council" - I see the importance of holding our general boards and agencies accountable to the values of justice and equity, but also walking alongside them in envisioning new ways of being church. As a delegate I will have the opportunity to engage this work of accountability and visioning through the platform of legislative reform. I would love to see more coordination and cooperation between general church bodies (including the episcopacy) and our grassroots organizations and justice coalitions, and racial ethnic caucuses.

We are setting up the new United States Regional Conference (USRC) in 2028. As a delegate, I am committed to advocate that the USRC should live up to the values of intersectional justice and affirmation of LGBTQ+ persons - institute these values in the USRC supplemental Book of Discipline, Book of Worship, and Hymnal. This is an important response to the current state of politics and governance in the United States. I am also excited to engage in reimagining episcopal leadership in our church - moving from a powerful CEO-bishop model to collegial leadership amongst bishops highlighting their gifts of pastoral care, teaching, prophetic ministry, and administration. This would require constitutional amendments.

Lastly, I anchor my call to serve as a delegate from my rich experience of gracious engagement with people who might differ from my views but celebrate the same love for values we hold in common - to care for the least in the communities we serve, struggle for peace, uphold human rights, and protect the created order entrusted to our stewardship.

RICHARD BENTLEY

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: East

Church(es): Chino UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Other:

Ethnicity (self-identified): White

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

I currently serve on the Connectional Table (CT) as an at large member. This spring, I was part of a smaller team helped developed the 2027 budget which includes significant first-time funding for priority areas encouraging growth of local churches and the annual conference.

I have served twice on the Conference Nominations Committee (including 7 years at chair) which has given me a broad view of the annual conference and the functions of its many boards and agencies. I have also served as chair of district committee on ordained ministry on 2 different districts which has provides insights into the recruitment and nature of new and/or younger clergy.

I also have a long history of working cross culturally this include serving as an associate pastor of a Black congregation, lead pastor of a predominately Filipino congregation and lead pastor of 3 churches worshipping in 2 languages (English-Spanish, English-Vietnamese and English-Mandarin)



2026 DELEGATION NOMINEES

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I have strong, active relationships with UM leaders worldwide. These connections will be vital at the 2028 General Conference where for the first time there will have more delegates from outside the US than inside the US. Since the 2008 General Conference, I have been actively working to grow and create worldwide connections. An early step was bringing together and leading the Global Relationships Team of LYNC (Love Your Neighbor Coalition, a partnership around 15 groups nation-wide including the 5 racial ethnic caucuses, MFSA and RMN). Unlike many LYNC groups that work on issues, the Global Relationships Team focused on building relationships between UM leaders in the US and outside the US. So in 2018 gathered 10 leaders from Africa, Europe and the Philippines with 30 leaders from LYNC groups for several days of in depth conversation and relationship building. (3 people connected with that gathering are now bishops, 1 in US and 2 outside the US.) Since then I have been invited by various leaders in Africa and the Philippines to make a number of different trips to Africa and the Philippines to meet with UM leaders. I also regularly talk with leaders outside the US on WhatsApp.

I have an excellent understanding of worldwide regionalization which will probably be a significant focus of the 2028 General Conference. I served on the original Christmas Covenant team - primarily leaders from Africa, Europe and the Philippines - that developed the first draft of what is now world-wide regionalization. After the legislation was finalized, the Christmas Covenant Team the worked to build support among delegates from outside the US at the Charlotte General Conference for worldwide regionalization and then to secure ratification of the constitutional amendments in annual conferences in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. This work further developed my world wide relationships. And my extensive knowledge of worldwide regionalization can help with both its effective implementation and figuring out next steps in order to help it become even more effective.

I also serve on MFSA's Racial Audit Implementation Team to help MFA grow and deepen itself as an anti-racist organization. Part of this task includes difficult conversations of about the ways that MFSA has failed to measure up to being an anti-racist organization.

THOMAS CHOI

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: Hawaii

Church(es): Hawaii District Office

Age Group (at time of election): Senior

Ethnicity (self-identified): Asian - Korean American

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Currently:

- Hawaii District Superintendent
- Cabinet liaison to: Lay Servant Ministry Vision Team, Orders of Ministry, Nominations, Rules, Korean Council, Pension and Health Benefits
- Coordinator, Pastoral Transitions Workshop

Previously:

- Chair and Registrar, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
- Conference Sessions
- Various other conference and district committees



2026 DELEGATION NOMINEES

General Conference Delegate 2X; Western Jurisdictional Conference Delegate 3X; Member, Western Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee 2X; Ministry Studies of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry 2X; various other denominational and jurisdictional committees.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

DS Tom is especially suited to serve as both a General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegate. He has a proven track record in working effectively to get General Conference legislation passed. General Conference can be an overwhelming and intimidating experience for a delegate. DS Tom has the experience to navigate General Conference skillfully and has developed many relationships with General Church leaders and delegates and knows how to represent our conference.

His two terms on the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee came during critical times in the life of our annual conference and after listening to many voices, worked to make key decisions to benefit the conference. His two terms as a district superintendent and three terms as a jurisdictional delegate gives him an adept ability to discern the next episcopal leaders for our jurisdiction and conference.

Finally, as the Hawaii District Superintendent, it would be appropriate and a great honor for DS Tom to represent the Hawaii District and California-Pacific Annual Conference as the General Conference recognizes the Acts of Repentance for the Methodist involvement in the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. An apology was passed at the last General Conference and will be acknowledged at the 2028 General Conference.

JONATHAN CHUTE

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection **District:** West
Church(es): Rolling Hills UMC **Age Group (at time of election):** Senior
Ethnicity (self-identified): White non-Hispanic

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Current Chair, Staff Relations Committee, former Chair, Connectional Table, Chair, Registrar, West DCOM.



Call to Serve as a Delegate

I have been fortunate to serve congregations that remained stable and growing in the midst of decline. I am eager to center the health and well-being of local congregations as the best path toward a stronger, healthier Cal-Pac Annual Conference. I would look forward to serving as a delegate to the next Jurisdictional Conference, which I believe will be decisive in shaping our future. I believe that the people and congregations of Cal-Pac have a vital role to play in our many diverse and distinct communities, offering compassion, connection, community and hope to a world in need.

CHRISTY CLARK

Clergy Relationship: Deacon in Full Connection **District:** West
Church: Downey UMC **Age Group (at time of election):** Adult
Ethnicity (self-identified): Black

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice are central to my ministry as a deacon within The United Methodist Church. Guided by this understanding of ministry, I



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seek to build bridges between the church and the world while fostering leadership development, advocacy, inclusion, and the work of building Beloved Community across our connection.

Within the California-Pacific Conference, I am an active member of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (SBC21), Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), the Orders Executive Committee (OEC), and the Conference Nominations Committee, and I regularly collaborate with the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) and other justice-seeking ministries and organizations within the Conference and West District.

My conference engagement also includes serving as the Executive Director and Founder of Strengthening the Black Village (SBV), a California-Pacific Conference Advance Special approved by the Annual Conference and dedicated to strengthening families and communities through education, advocacy, resource connection, and faith-based partnership. This work allows me to live out the distinctive diaconal calling by connecting congregations, community organizations, and families in ways that promote healing, empowerment, and transformation.

In myriad ways, I seek justice, inclusion, and belonging for all of God's people. My ministry has included particular advocacy alongside Black clergy and laity, children and families impacted by foster care, family separation, and child welfare systems, and persons with disabilities. Through conference leadership, pastoral ministry, and community engagement, I work to build relationships, remove barriers, and strengthen communities so that all people may fully participate in the life of the church and society.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice have shaped my ministry as a deacon within The United Methodist Church. They have guided my efforts to build bridges between the church and the world, empower others to discover their gifts, and participate in God's transforming work wherever the Holy Spirit is already moving. It is through this understanding of ministry that I feel called to serve as a delegate to the jurisdictional conference.

I deeply love The United Methodist Church and believe in the power of our connectional system to strengthen congregations, communities, and ministries around the world. The church has been my spiritual home, support system, and place of belonging for as long as I can remember. Through the church, I have experienced God's grace, discovered my call, and found opportunities to lead, serve, and grow in faith.

As a woman with a visual impairment, a Black woman, a former foster youth, and a deacon, I have experienced both the challenges and gifts that come from living at the intersections of multiple identities and communities. These experiences have shaped my commitment to justice, accessibility, inclusion, and the full participation of all God's people in the life and leadership of the church. They have taught me to listen carefully, value diverse perspectives, remove barriers, and create pathways for others to share their gifts and answer God's call.

My ministry has been rooted in helping create the kind of church that has sustained me throughout my life—a church where people know they are loved, valued, and called by God. Whether working alongside foster youth and families, persons with disabilities, Black clergy and laity, immigrants, or communities seeking belonging and connection, I have sought to build bridges, empower leaders, and strengthen relationships across differences.

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I believe delegates are called to represent their annual conference while joining together in prayerful discernment for the good of the wider church. Our connection is strengthened when people with different experiences, perspectives, gifts, and callings come together to listen for God's guidance and seek a faithful path forward. I value the opportunity to listen, learn, discern, and act alongside others. I believe God is already at work in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit, inviting us to participate in God's transforming mission. Through prayerful discernment, we seek to recognize where God is moving, follow Christ faithfully, and join in the work God is already doing.

If elected, I would seek to serve faithfully, listen attentively, and participate thoughtfully in the work of the jurisdictional conference. I would bring a deep commitment to the church, a passion for justice and belonging, and a desire to strengthen our connection for future generations.

DREW DAVIS

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: South

Church: Temecula UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): White

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Drew Davis has served on the South District Buildings and Usage Committee for three terms and is currently the Chair of the District Superintendent Committee

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I have been very active within the local church and in advocating for the LGBTQIA+ community through involvement with our local initiatives. They have developed outreach programs that spotlight significant events such as Transgender Day of Visibility, Transgender Day of Remembrance, and Temecula Valley's first Pride gathering since the COVID shutdown. Additionally, I have engaged in various areas of advocacy within the school board and city council.

I would like to take this heart and focus to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences to ensure that the significant changes within our denomination continue to move forward and grow. It would be a blessing to use my voice in advocacy to support these communities, as well as our overall annual conference, as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, caring for all people, especially our marginalized friends.



JOHN FINAU

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: Hawaii

Church: Parker UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): American – Tongan

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Hawai'i District Leadership and Service

- District Youth Coordinator (2016-2020)

Served as the Hawai'i District Youth Coordinator, providing leadership and oversight for youth ministries across the district. Responsibilities included planning, coordinating, and executing district-wide youth camps and retreats; organizing summer youth activities and leadership development opportunities; and fostering spiritual growth among young people. Worked collaboratively with clergy and lay leaders to develop and lead intercultural worship services that celebrated the diversity of the district while promoting unity within the Church.



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- Member of Hawaiian Acts of Repentance Task Force (2021-2023)

Served as a member of the Hawaiian Acts of Repentance Task Force, contributing to efforts that examined the historical relationship between the Church and Native Hawaiian communities. Participated in initiatives focused on education, reconciliation, healing, and strengthening relationships through dialogue and restorative practices.

- Member of Hawai'i Britt Lectures Committee (2022-2026)

Served on the Hawai'i Britt Lectures Committee, assisting in the planning, coordination, and promotion of annual educational and theological lecture events for local Churches. I collaborated with committee members to identify guest speakers, develop program content, and create opportunities for clergy and laity to engage in meaningful theological reflection and learning.

- Chair for District Planning and Strategy Committee (2026-Present)

Appointed to serve on the District Planning and Strategy Committee (DPAS) helping to guide the district's vision, strategic priorities, and long-term ministry goals. I will be working with district leadership to assess ministry opportunities, support congregational development, and strengthen the mission and effectiveness of the Church throughout Hawai'i.

Annual Conference Leadership and Service

- Congregational Vitality Chair (2023-Present)

Currently serving as the Chair of Congregational Vitality (formerly New Ministry Development) for the Annual Conference. Our team helps provide leadership, support, and opportunities for church growth, revitalization, and innovative ministry initiatives. Collaborates with conference staff (Ken Suhr - Director of Congregational Vitality), clergy, and congregations to strengthen existing ministries, encourage new faith communities, and equip churches to effectively engage their local communities in mission and discipleship.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Aloha, my name is Rev. Dr. John Finau, and I currently serve as Pastor of Parker United Methodist Church in the Hawai'i District of the California-Pacific Conference. I was commissioned into the Provisional Elder track on June 17, 2017, and ordained as an Elder on June 19, 2021.

As one of the few Pacific Islander clergy serving in leadership among both American-born and Tongan generations within The United Methodist Church, I bring a unique intercultural perspective to ministry and leadership. Throughout my ministry, I have sought to build bridges across cultures, generations, and communities while remaining rooted in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

At the local church level, I have faithfully led multicultural congregations through worship, discipleship, outreach, and community engagement. My ministry is grounded in pastoral care, prophetic leadership, and a commitment to fostering inclusive communities where all people can grow in their faith and service.

Beyond the local church, I have actively served the wider connection. In the Hawai'i District, I have worked to mentor, equip, and empower young people and emerging leaders from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. I am passionate about helping the next generation discern God's call, develop their gifts, and embrace a vision for the future of the Church.

At the conference level, I currently serve as Chair of New Ministries and remain actively involved in Pacific Islander ministries and mission initiatives. These experiences have strengthened my understanding of the

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connectional nature of The United Methodist Church and the importance of collaborative leadership in addressing the opportunities and challenges facing our denomination.

I believe I would be an effective delegate because I bring a combination of pastoral experience, intercultural competency, connectional leadership, and a deep commitment to the mission of the Church. I am prepared to listen thoughtfully, engage respectfully, and represent the diverse voices of our conference with integrity and faithfulness. With an open mind, a passionate heart, and a dedication to Christ and His Church, I am committed to helping shape a faithful future for The United Methodist Church and the generations that will follow.

HANNAH KA

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: South

Church: First UMC of San Diego

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Korean



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Wesley Foundation South District board member (2019-2025), co-chair (2021-2025)

South District DCOM (2022-2026)

In the connection

Korean-English translator:

World Methodist Council (2006, 2019)

General Conference of the UMC (2016, 2024)

Korean Ministry Plan (2012-2019)

Oregon-Idaho BOM (2021-present)

Greater Northwest/Pacific Northwest/Alaska/Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference (2020-present)

Leadership:

National Association of Korean American United Methodist Clergywomen (2016-2020)

Vice-President of National Association of the Korean United Methodist Church (2025-present)

Dean of Madang--educational program for National Association of the Korean American UM clergy serving in cross-cultural and cross-racial appointments (2025-present)

Publications:

"One-Pot Menu: Korean American Women's Wisdom Leadership" in *Leading Wisdom: Asian and Asian North American Women Leaders* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2017)

"A New Paradigm of Leadership" in *Leadership Is Discipleship* (General Board of Discipleship, 2015)

"The Environment" in *Asian American Christian Ethics: Voices, Methods, Issues* (Baylor University Press, 2015)

"Commentary: The Body of Christ Can Disagree" (UM News).

Call to Serve as a Delegate

This is not something I was pursuing. But when one of my Latino clergy brothers called to ask whether I would consider serving as a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference, I entered into prayerful discernment. Having devoted much of my time and energy to the Korean American United Methodist connection, I was

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deeply honored and humbled that my Latinx siblings in Christ would affirm my call. Their invitation reminded me that my connection to the church is broader than my own racial and ethnic community.

I rarely spend much time thinking about what is next in my career. Instead, I try to take each day as an opportunity to fulfill my call to ordained ministry in service to God and God's people. My colleagues and parishioners know me as a person of integrity who studies our context carefully and seeks to speak the truth in love when the time comes. After serving alongside two gifted clergywomen at First United Methodist Church of San Diego, I have become even more convinced that the richness of our denomination is found in its diversity and in the many voices God calls to the table. I feel compelled to serve in support of a truly diverse United Methodist Church where people from different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences are valued and heard. If elected, I hope to serve with humility, honesty, and a spirit of holy conferencing. If not, I will remain deeply grateful simply to have been nominated.

I currently serve as the first female clergy Vice President of the National Association of Korean United Methodists. I have also served as a Korean-English translator at two General Conferences (2016 and 2024) and at two meetings of the World Methodist Council (2006 and 2019). These experiences have strengthened my appreciation for the diversity of our church and the gift of our worldwide connection.

BRIAN SUK-BOO LEE

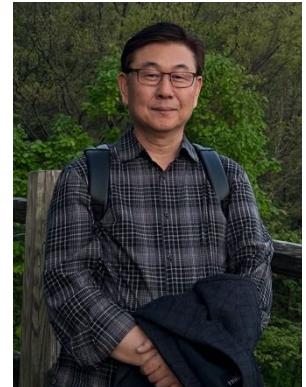
Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: West

Church: Los Feliz UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Asian-Korean



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

I have consistently dedicated my ministry to strengthening the connectional nature of the United Methodist Church by serving in pivotal leadership roles across the District and the Cal-Pac Annual Conference. My involvement has focused on fostering pastoral excellence, organizational health, and multicultural growth.

My service is characterized by a deep commitment to the development of clergy and the revitalization of local congregations. I have bridged the gap between administrative governance and spiritual care through my roles in ministry oversight and institutional leadership.

- Ministry Oversight & Ordination:

* Member of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM): Contributing to the discernment and standards of pastoral leadership.

* District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM), West District: Guiding candidates through the ordination process at the local level.

- Institutional Leadership & Governance:

* President of the CST Alumni/ae Association & Board of Trustees (2007-2010): Leading the academic and institutional direction of my alma mater.

* Board Member, Interfaith Federal Credit Union: Overseeing financial stewardship for the faith community.

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- Advocacy & Strategic Planning:

* President of the Korean Caucus, Cal-Pac Annual Conference: Representing and advocating for the Korean-American ministry context.

* Member of the Conference Leadership Team and Congregational Development Committee: Shaping the strategic vision for church growth and revitalization.

- Multicultural & Pastoral Care:

* Served as a Hospital Chaplain and led the Philippines Mission Trip (2010), integrating clinical pastoral care with global mission work.

Based on this extensive history of service, I am prepared to continue offering my expertise in coaching and congregational development to the district and conference. I remain committed to building a vibrant, multicultural, and administratively sound church that thrives in our diverse context.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I am called to serve as a delegate to represent the heart of our Conference, driven by a deep commitment to fostering a United Methodist Church that is truly inclusive, unified in its diversity, and deeply rooted in God's unconditional love. My mission is to be a bridge-builder-connecting cultures, generations, and diverse voices to ensure our connectional identity remains vibrant and strong.

In an increasingly polarized world, the UMC stands at a critical juncture where we must choose between division and the hard work of holy unity. I believe that true unity is not the absence of difference, but the presence of Christ's love that transcends cultural and generational boundaries. My experience as a pastor and professional coach has taught me that when we listen deeply to all voices-especially those often marginalized-we move closer to the inclusive Kingdom of God. We serve a God who loves all people, and our governance must reflect that divine hospitality.

- If elected as a delegate, I will focus on four key pillars of service:

* Cultural & Generational Bridging: Leveraging my multicultural ministry background to connect our diverse ethnic caucuses and mentor the next generation of leaders, ensuring a seamless transition of faith and leadership.

* Active Listening & Representation: I will not just attend; I will listen. I am committed to representing the diverse perspectives of our Conference, ensuring that every voice has a seat at the table during our discernment processes.

* Upholding UMC Identity & Inclusion: I will steadfastly advocate for policies that protect our United Methodist identity while expanding our reach to be a church where all of God's children are welcomed and celebrated without exception.

* Fostering Unity in Diversity: I will work to find common ground in complex discussions, serving as a mediator who respects theological differences while prioritizing our shared mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

To serve as a delegate is to serve the future of the UMC. I am ready to offer my leadership, my ears, and my heart to this task. Together, we can build a church that bridges the gap between generations, respects the dignity of every person in God's love, and stands as a beacon of unity for the world to see. I humbly ask for your support to serve our Conference and the United Methodist connection.

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MOONYOUNG LEE

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: East

Church: East District Office

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Asian – Korean



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Pastor Moonyoung is currently the superintendent of the East District, She previously served as the Hawaii District Superintendent. She is also the Dean of Cabinet.

In her role as the East District Superintendent, she oversees all of the East District ministries.

As Dean, she works with the Bishop and Cabinet in coordinating its work in service to the annual conference. She serves as liaison to the Connectional Table (the gathering of the conference leaders), Sessions Committee (planning annual conference) and the Western Jurisdiction Korean Ministries.

She was also elected to be an alternate delegate to the 2024 Jurisdictional Conference.

She is seen as a strong leader at every level of the annual conference.

She desires to be considered for Jurisdictional Conference only.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Rev. Lee is one of the outstanding leaders of our annual conference at any age, but especially considering that she is in her mid-forties. She is one of the younger clergy persons ever appointed in our annual conference as a district superintendent and one of the youngest DS's to serve as Dean of Cabinet.

She leads with excellence, maturity, level-headedness, and a passion for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ, especially as expressed in our annual conference.

Her knowledge of the life of our annual conference - having served as DS in two districts, as well as local church service in other areas in our conference - gives her a deep understanding of our conference needs.

All of these will make her an outstanding jurisdictional conference delegate, as she knows our annual conference extremely well, and in her role as Dean of Cabinet, knows what qualities are needed for a bishop to serve the California-Pacific Annual Conference.

MELISSA MACKINNON

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: North

Church: North District Office

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): White



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Melissa MacKinnon has served the California-Pacific Annual Conference faithfully for 24 years. She has proven her commitment to the ministry of the local church, District and Annual Conference. Melissa has always been a champion for laity and clergy.

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Melissa has developed connections within our jurisdiction which is important to identify the best qualities in episcopal leadership.

On the District Level she currently serves as the North District Change Manager, which involves working with churches experiencing significant transition, housing projects, and coaching. In addition to her appointment, Melissa serves to aid Altadena UMC in their Fire Recovery.

Melissa has served as the Provisional Registrar to the Board of Ordained Ministry, on the North District Committee on Ordained Ministry and District Committee on Camping & Retreat Ministries.

Melissa as the District Superintendent in both the East and North District as well as the Dean of the Cabinet has extensive knowledge of the needs of both the clergy and laity in their local church settings.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Melissa will make a highly effective delegate because she has worked with the episcopal office to know what is needed in our future bishops. As a District Superintendent and Dean of the Cabinet she has a distinctive perspective of the work of the episcopacy including episcopal transitions.

Melissa is called to help nurture the future of The United Methodist Church. She will bring strategic vision to the work of the delegation.

Undergirding her ministry in the Annual Conference is her commitment to Jesus Christ.

ALLISON MARK

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection **District:** West
Church: Faith UMC of Torrance **Age Group (at time of election):** Adult
Ethnicity (self-identified): Asian American: Japanese / Chinese



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

- 2020/2024 Head of Cal-Pac Delegation to General Conference/2022 & 2024 Western Jurisdictional Conference
- Cal-Pac: Connectional Table, Committee on Episcopacy, Youth & Young People Ministries, Justice and Compassion Essential Ministry Team: GBCS (rep), Cal-Pac Palestine Israel Task Force, Philippine Task Force, Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice (beloved community)
- National Japanese American UMC Caucus
- Western Jurisdiction: WJ Committee on Episcopacy, Western Methodist Justice Movement (Board member)
- General UMC: Inter-Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, General Board of Church & Society (President of the Board of Directors), UMC Connectional Table (Chapter 5/Regionalization Task Force Co-Chair)

Appointments: First UMC Pasadena, Claremont School of Theology/Cal-Pac Annual Conference (Young Clergy Initiative Director), Holman UMC, North Hollywood UMC, Faith UMC Torrance

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Rev. Allison Mark has been a delegate to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference in the last quadrennium. She would serve as a helpful resource person and guide for the delegation, currently serving

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the general boards and agencies as the President of the General Board of Church and Society and representing GBCS on the UMC Connectional Table. With an ability to foster and nurture our voices from our conference, she hopes to be able to connect others in relationship with the wider church as we create together the new vision of the UMC to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously and prepare for Regionalization.

SAÚL MONTIEL

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: South

Church: Fallbrook UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Hiapanic



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Board of ordained ministry member and former US border missionary 2011-14. Conference Hispanic/Latino Committe consultant for the ten years plan. 24 years as a pastor in the UMC. Course of Study instructor and professor at the CST field education classes.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Rev Montiel is a dedicated members of the Cal-Pacific conference with experience in leadership and administration and church ministry. He has served as a pastor for 24 years in the UMC. During this time, he served as chair for the Hispanic/Latino caucus, MARCHA, as well as a chair of the jurisdictional interethnic coordinating committee for six years. In addition, Rev Montiel has taught UMC polity classes. He is a strong candidate to represent our conference as delegate to general Conference because he has more than enough experience in any of the church fields. He is a strong communicator with emphasis on social justice and prophetic preaching and teaching.

BRIAN PARCEL

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: South

Church: First UMC of Chula Vista

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Anglo



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

I am currently in my 27th year under appointment in the CalPac Conference, having served three churches during that time. My appointments have ranged from a small congregation with fewer than 50 in worship (Westmont UMC/Pomona Valley Chinese UMC), to FUMC Santa Maria (approximately 150 in worship), to FUMC Chula Vista, where in-person worship averages 250 with another 100 participating online. This experience spans the size spectrum of CalPac congregations.

At each appointment the church experienced measurable growth, including:

- Worship attendance
- Younger and more diverse participation
- Higher apportionment payments
- Increased budgets
- Expanded international mission engagement
- Increased local mercy, advocacy, and justice ministries

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Beyond the local church, I have served the Conference through:

- District Planning and Strategy (North, East, and South Districts)
- South District Committee on Ministry
- Nine years on the Board of Congregational Development, including leadership of Conference-wide Leadership Academies and the Residency in Ministry program
- Current member of the Conference Board of Trustees
- Development of a training program with Cathy Wilson to support Local Pastors serving without peer networks
- Service as an International Coaching Federation Associate Certified Coach, coaching clergy serving under-resourced congregations

Throughout my ministry I have focused on building communities of justice, peace, and reconciliation through the daily life of the church. This has included:

- Transforming language ministries from tenants using off-hours and basement space into full ministry partners within two congregations.
- Reshaping the nominations process in each church to broaden leadership, amplify diverse voices, and create more representative governing bodies.
- Helping lead the transformation of the Conference Board of Congregational Development from a predominantly white, male leadership team into one that reflected greater racial, cultural, gender, and LGBTQ+ diversity.

I believe the next generation of Conference leadership must be able to build diverse, just, and inclusive communities. Although I am a white, straight male, my ministry demonstrates a consistent record of helping churches and Conference leadership become more equitable, collaborative, and representative of the Kingdom of God.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I am proud to serve in a denomination that has done the difficult work of welcoming all people into the full life of the church and removing harmful language regarding human sexuality from the Book of Discipline. This was faithful, necessary work, and we are indebted to the leaders who made it possible. As we continue through Regionalization, this work remains important.

At the same time, much of our leadership's attention has necessarily been directed toward the General Church. The unintended consequence is that too little attention has been given to the health of our local churches. Many congregations across CalPac are struggling with declining membership, declining finances, aging facilities, decades of deferred maintenance, and increasing demands on clergy. Administrative responsibilities continue to grow, leaving less time for the community-facing ministry that is essential to congregational vitality.

I believe it is time for at least part of our Conference leadership to refocus on strengthening the local church by asking questions such as:

- How can the Annual Conference better equip local churches for ministry?
- How must our Conference structures evolve to meet the realities of ministry in 2026 rather than 1965?
- How do we consistently identify and develop new generations of leaders?
- What vision and systems do we need today to ensure a healthy Conference thirty years from now?

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During most of my 27 years under appointment, the dominant question has been, "How do we save the denomination?" That is an important question, but healthy local churches are the foundation upon which any denomination depends. A healthy congregation can continue God's work in its community regardless of denominational structures; the reverse is not true. Without thriving local churches, no denomination has a sustainable future.

If strengthening local churches is to become a Conference priority, we need leaders with demonstrated effectiveness in doing that work. We need leaders who have invested their ministries in growing healthy congregations, mentoring new leaders, and building communities of justice, inclusion, peace, and reconciliation where they matter most-in the daily life of the local church. I believe my ministry has prepared me to help lead that work.

MARY ANN PICKARD

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: West

Church(es): Lakewood First UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): White/Anglo

Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Cal-Pac Palestine Israel Task Force Chair (please ask Mary Ann for her bio)

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Rev. Mary Ann Pickard is an Elder in Full Connection and serves as the Pastor of Lakewood First United Methodist Church and WALTERIA United Methodist Church. She also previously spent several years serving as a hospice and hospital chaplain with Providence Health, experiences that have deepened her commitment to bringing a compassionate, trauma-informed approach to ministry, pastoral care, and community engagement.



Mary Ann currently serves as the leader of the 605 Mission Area, serves on the West District Committee on Ordained Ministry and chairs the Palestine-Israel Task Force of the Justice and Compassion Executive Ministry Team. Through these leadership roles, she has worked to nurture future clergy leaders, strengthen the Conference's commitment to justice and peacemaking, and encourage faithful engagement with the complex challenges facing both church and society.

Mary Ann believes that the church is called to be a prophetic witness to God's justice while remaining rooted in grace, humility, and connectional discernment. She is passionate about helping The United Methodist Church embody Christ's call to justice, peace, inclusion, and discipleship, and believes that the voices of local congregations, small-membership churches, and those on the margins are essential to the church's future. As a delegate, she would seek to listen deeply, engage faithfully, and work collaboratively toward a future where the church's witness reflects God's expansive love for all people. She would be honored to serve the California-Pacific Conference as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference.

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BOB RHODES

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: South

Church: La Jolla UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): White



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

I have served as your Conference Secretary since 2019, the most recent chapter in a long run of connexional work across the California-Pacific Annual Conference. Before this, I served as Conference Legislation Chair and Agenda Chair, and in the South District through DPAS and the District Union. Across these roles, I have learned a great deal about how large organizations operate, and have built meaningful relationships across our complex system. As part of this work, I led a capable team to modernize our Sessions with hybrid participation, digital voting, and integrated interaction.

Beyond Cal-Pac, Discipleship Ministries has invited me (for a second year) into denominational work on the Church and artificial intelligence. That continues this August at the AI Church Summit in Nashville, an ecumenical gathering of United Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Episcopal leaders exploring how we keep human flourishing at the center of an AI-shaped world.

In pastoral ministry I have served traditional, centrist, and progressive congregations. In each, I have seen God's Spirit at work in people called and equipped for essential work in the world.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I feel strongly called to serve those who have been relegated to the margins, and specifically to lift up my LGBTQIA+ siblings as persons made and sustained in God's image. This call shapes how I pastor, how I lead, and how I serve in our broader connexion.

I'm also aware of the privilege I've been given, and I commit to continuing to advocate for, stand up for, and stand aside for, those voices that are marginalized or silenced. I am moved by the story in Acts 10 and 11 because I see God's Spirit working specifically in vulnerable and excluded communities.

Creativity is part of how I feel called to live into ministry. The Pentecost story informs my call as I seek out new languages through which to share the Gospel message. Last year I released an EP called *The Odyssey*, intentionally exploring difficult theology through an unexpected lens. I bring that same instinct to worship, to teaching, and to the work of the Annual Conference.

I am, by conviction, a terminal optimist. Our denomination is finding its way forward in a changing world, and I believe God is still doing a new thing among us (Isaiah 43). I would be honored to serve.

STEPHANIE RICE

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: North

Church: Glendale First UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): White



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Co-Chair, Cal-Pac Commission on the Status and Role of Women
Member, North District Union

2026 DELEGATION NOMINEES

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I believe in the importance of the institution and administrative function of our systems as a way to uphold our beliefs about how we are to be as a church. Jurisdictional Conference and General Conference are opportunities for us as people of faith to move the institution more and more toward our mission and vision, toward a system that actually seeks to Do No Harm, Do Good, and Attend Upon the Ordinances of God. The Rules and Resolutions of our church can either help or hinder our ability to love our neighbor, to grow in our faith and discipleship, to be relevant to our modern contexts, and to demonstrate God's love and grace to the world.

Our institution is far from perfect and I believe we can (and must) continue to make progress toward fashioning a structure that reflects the kingdom of God and allows us to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. This requires intentionality with language to be more inclusive, to create room for discussion and debate, and to hold ourselves accountable to our stated values.

While many may find administration and legislation boring and tedious, I find it vital to moving us forward into the future as people called Methodists. I would be honored to represent Cal-Pac and to use my gifts and interests to help the denomination live into the fullness of all we can be.

BRENT ROSS

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: South

Church: Normal Heights UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): White



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

Chair of Wesley Foundation. Chair of the South District Committee on Planning and Strategy

Call to Serve as a Delegate

An ordained elder in full connection since 2004, I hold master's degrees from Vanderbilt and Garrett Evangelical, where my work focused on postmodern homiletics and ministry in progressive, economically underserved communities. I currently chair the Wesley Foundation and serve as the chair of the South District Committee on Planning and Strategy.

I believe the church belongs out in the neighborhood, not behind its own doors. I call it the Sacred Ordinary: God shows up in common places, and the line between "church" and "world" is thinner than we act like it is. In 2012 I was appointed to Normal Heights UMC, a church in transition, moving from its past into a future yet to be discovered and discerned. We met the neighborhood where it was, and today it is a vital presence of more than 250, known for its activism, its social services, and its open door. I have carried that work into wider rooms too, as a frequent speaker at gatherings like UMC LEAD and the Cultivate Conference, where the whole point is connecting people and congregations across the connection.

That is the work I want to bring to General Conference: building trust across difference and standing in the gap as a bridge between people who do not always sit at the same table. I did not go looking for this nomination. I said yes because I still believe the church is being called forward. What I offer is a curious mind, a habit of seeing what others miss, and a deep commitment to justice and the creativity it takes to pursue it. If elected, I will listen well, represent more than my own view, and keep the mission ahead of my own comfort. I am honored to be considered, and ready to serve.

2026 DELEGATION NOMINEES

MOLLY VETTER

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: West

Church: Westwood UMC

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): White



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

I currently serve as the Chair of our Conference Council on Finance & Administration, and Chair of the Western Jurisdiction Council on Finance & Administration. I have previously served as our Conference Chair of the Order of Elders. I was a member of the GC delegation in 2008, 2012, and 2020/24, and was a member of the JC delegation in 2016. I am now co-leader of my Westside LA Mission Area. I am also currently serving as Retreat Leader for a Two-Year Academy for Spiritual Formation that will continue into 2027. I was a part of organizing and strategy groups in the US UMC between 2019-2024, including as a core leader of Resist Harm, of All Belong, and in helping shape the BeUMC campaign. I was formed in ministry through my work with Strength for the Journey retreats, as well as District Jr High Camps at Camp Cedar Glen. I have been involved in ecumenical work, including as a UM delegate to the 1998 WCC Assembly, and as a member of the Faith and Order organizations of the World and National Councils of Churches. I've also been a Director of the General Board of Church and Society. I've been involved in various alumni and strategic planning groups of the Claremont School of Theology. Perhaps most of all, I've loved getting to mentor and be mentored by other people in ministry, lay and clergy, and I treasure the three local churches where I've been privileged to serve for the past 25 years: San Diego First, Redondo Beach First, and Westwood.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I believe this is a pivotal time in the UMC, especially at the General Conference level. In 2024, an unprecedented coalition of delegates came together in a wide consensus around just a few specific, needed changes. This included removing harmful anti-LGBTQ+ policies, adopting new Social Principles, and moving the church forward toward a regional structure that makes sense for our current reality. Now, there are a whole, wide range of choices before us, regarding who we seek to be on the other side of that General Conference, with a much broader set of options and ideas open to us. The season of division and disaffiliation we have come through (and even more, the 5+ polarized decades that preceded it) shaped and formed us as a church in specific and often unhealthy ways. Now, we have the task of charting a course for who we want to be here on the other side - as we face still more broad and deep challenges. How will we hold on to what's essential and useful in the midst of ongoing institutional decline in the US? How will we faithfully bring the witness of our Gospel to the world in the midst of rising Christian nationalism? What are practical ways we can adjust our polity to better move us forward toward becoming the church of justice and compassion that Christ calls us to be?

This is a moment I am ready to speak into, as someone with years of experience, primarily in local church ministry, giving me insight and spiritual grounding. I also still have years still ahead of me before retirement, which shapes my commitment to our shared future. I can bring my long experience at General Conference to this delegation, to offer support, connections and insight that I hope can allow the rich, diverse voices of our Cal-Pac Conference to be amplified in denominational conversations about who we want to become as a church, and how we can get there. Having led our delegation in 2008, served as the chair of a Legislative Committee in 2012, and been deeply involved in organizing work since, I bring institutional knowledge and relationships. I'd be glad to use that experience as a part of our delegation, alongside newer voices, to contribute toward a more faithful and inclusive conversation in the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

2026 DELEGATION NOMINEES

WON-SEOK YUH

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: Hawaii

Church: First UMC of Honolulu

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): Korean



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

District:

Current: Hawai`i District Acts of Repentance Task Force, Walk to Emmaus, Korean Caucus, Britt Lectures Committee (Chair)

Past: Communications, Justice and Compassion, Strength for the Journey, Disaster Response Task Force,

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Annual Conference:

Current: Orders Executive Committee, Sessions, Korean Caucus

Past: Justice and Compassion EMT

Call to Serve as a Delegate

Pastor Won-Seok has had a long evolution leading him to this point in his faith journey where he feels called to represent our conference at Jurisdictional Conference.

He has experienced high hopes in the UMC from his first visit to the California-Pacific Annual Conference, to see holistic spiritual and practical theology lived out in community.

As he has become more active in leadership at the local church, district, and conference levels, as well as observing General Conference, he recognizes the spiritual privilege, role, weight, and responsibility of delegates to GC and JC.

He will make an excellent delegate as he has had the privilege of serving in different contexts in varying responsibilities, desiring to aid in the ministry of diverse voices and perspectives while keeping Jesus' prayer of John 17 at heart (one with God and one with one another), including and especially the Korean and Tongan communities.

He is interested in being a Jurisdictional Conference delegate.

2026 DELEGATION NOMINEES

CHARLENE ZUILL

Clergy Relationship: Elder in Full Connection

District: Hawaii

Church: Wesley UMC of Hawaii

Age Group (at time of election): Adult

Ethnicity (self-identified): African American



Involvement in District and Annual Conference

I have previously served in local church and campus ministry appointments in the CalPac Conference. I am currently serving in an Extension Ministry as the Director of Spiritual Life at Boston University School of Theology since 2015. When I was living in Hawaii District, I was appointed to The Wesley Foundation at University of Hawaii Manoa and served on DCOM, District Camp Ministry, and was dean for the Strength For The Journey Retreat. I previously served on the Division on Ministries With Young People (Discipleship Ministries) for two quadrennium.

Call to Serve as a Delegate

I attended the 2020/24 General Conference as an observer with students from BU School of Theology. It was an historic event! I am confident in the future of the UMC and the capabilities of our current & future leadership. I believe we are headed in the right direction AND we still have much work to do/ areas to improve upon.