SECTION D: DAILY PROCEEDINGS
of the **California-Pacific** Annual Conference

SECTION D TABLE OF CONTENTS

(1) UM Daily – Wednesday, June 17, 2026	D-1
(2) UM Daily – Thursday, June 18, 2026	D-17
(3) UM Daily – Friday, June 19, 2026	D-34
(4) UM Daily – Saturday, June 20, 2026	D-66

(1) U.M. DAILY
Wednesday, June 17, 2026
42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference

OPENING WORSHIP | JUNE 17, 2026, 1:30 PM (PDT)

Prelude — The Astonish Ensemble

Call to Worship with Movement, Music & Voice

Before the opening hymn, Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank shared that every time we gather we sing this hymn written by the Wesley brothers. They used this song when they gathered and asked the question, "Are we still alive?" When they came to America, life was hard and each time they gathered, they asked, "Who is still alive among us physically? After COVID-19, we had that same question, "Who survived the pandemic?" Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank invited the attendees to stand and sing it with gusto!

Opening Hymn	*And Are We Yet Alive*	UMH 553
Opening Prayer		Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Scripture Reading	John 14:8-14	
Song	*How Great Thou Art*	The Astonish Ensemble
Message	*Astonish*	Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank explored the theme of "Astonish," inviting the Conference to consider the vastness of God's creation, from the immeasurable universe to the beauty and abundance of the earth. Drawing on the Book of Job, she noted that creation reminds us of God's greatness and inspires humility, wonder, and praise.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank highlighted the miracles and teachings of Jesus, including the feeding of 5,000 with five loaves and two fish, the calming of the storm on the sea of Galilee, and the healing of the man at the Pool of Bethesda. She emphasized that Jesus not only performed miracles but also transformed hearts and minds through his teachings, challenging people to live according to God's values.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank examined Jesus' promise that believers would do greater works through their collective ministry. She invited members of the Conference to light candles representing the ministries of their local churches and celebrated the many ways congregations across the California-Pacific Conference are serving their communities. She cited examples including disaster recovery, food ministries, advocacy for marginalized communities, environmental stewardship, community outreach, spirited worship, and faithful discipleship.

The Bishop emphasized that these greater works are accomplished not by individuals alone, but through the united efforts of the Church. She reminded the Conference that God sees every act of compassion, justice, hospitality, and service, even when the results are not immediately visible.

Concluding with personal remarks on the recent loss of her brother, Bishop Escobedo-Frank shared his encouragement to view life's challenges from an eternal perspective. She called the Conference to recognize the light of Christ at work in and through them, affirming that each person is part of God's ongoing work in the world. She concluded by encouraging all present to live in awe of God's grace and the astonishing ways God continues to work through the Church.

Holy Communion

Communion Music *How Great Thou Art and This Little Light of Mine*

Closing Song *A Million Dreams*

Blessing Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Postlude *Reprise: A Million Dreams*

Participants in Worship Service:
The Astonish Ensemble:
Braden Pontoli – Music Director
Dr. Lara Urrutia – Piano, Keyboards & Vocals
Sarah Finley, Vocals
Kirk Averitt, Vocals
Agustin Donati, Guitar
Emilia Borja, Percussion
Nigel Deane, Violin 1
Manoela Wunder, Violin 2
Sean Lyons, Viola
Jeness Johnson, Cello
Mawusi Nenonene, Dancer

PLENARY SESSION 1 | JUNE 17, 2026, 3:00 PM (PDT)

Call to Order – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank called the plenary session to order.
Bishop Escobedo-Frank welcomed the Annual Conference by offering greetings in the various languages represented among its members. The Bishop introduced the conference staff and the moderators serving participants joining online. It was announced that a different District Lay Leader would join the Bishop during each plenary session; Mele Maka was welcomed in that role for the opening plenary. The Bishop expressed gratitude for the leadership guiding the Conference's work and recognized special guest Bishop Manuel Ruelas López of Mexico, who was present for the session.

Opening Business – Rev. Bob Rhodes, Conference Secretary
Rev. Rhodes welcomed Bishop Escobedo-Frank and the people of the Cal-Pac Conference, both online and in person. Rev. Rhodes instructed the attendees in person and online on voting procedures and protocols.

Rev. Rhodes led us through a sample voting session with two test votes. Rev. Rhodes discussed the upcoming jurisdictional votes coming up. Test questions were sent to both laity and clergy to test this technology. Rev. Rhodes said that we are a connectional group, so please share the wisdom you all bring to this gathering.

Opening Motions – Rev. Bob Rhodes
Motion #1
Rev. Won-Seok Yuh: May I invite our tech wizards to rise and who volunteered to help you get signed in. Please check with them if you need assistance.

Rev. Rhodes moved to set the bar of the 42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference to be:

Members of the Conference as specified by the Discipline and the Rules of the Conference as well as lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry; the Bishop's Secretary; and such other persons as specified by the Bishop and approved by the Conference; authenticated and connected through the MeetingPulse platform; present in our broadcast location(s); and/or present in the Flores Ballroom of the La Quinta Resort & Spa, in La Quinta, California.

Staff and technical crew.

And that the Registrar and others designated by the Registrar shall ensure that participants are among those named in #1 and #2.

Rev. Rhodes moved to approve Motion #1.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Motion #2
I move that the Agenda in the Participant Guide be the official agenda of this 42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference, and that the Agenda Chair and/or Conference Secretary be authorized to make necessary adjustments in consultation with the Bishop.

Rev. Rhodes moved to approve Motion #2.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Motion #3
I move that the proceedings published in the UM Daily be the official minutes of this 42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference after they are corrected, edited and approved.

Rev. Rhodes moved to approve Motion #3.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Motion #4
I move that the registration forms and the Registrar's list of those who have signed in to the online platform(s) shall be used as the official roll call of the 42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference.

Rev. Rhodes moved to approve Motion #4.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Motion #5
I move that all resolutions not adopted by the end of this 42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference be referred to the appropriate entities.

Rev. Rhodes moved to approve Motion #5.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Orders of the Day – Rev. Cathie Capp, Agenda Chair
Rev. Capp presented the Orders of the Day and moved the Orders of the Day.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Announcements – Rev. Won-Seok Yuh
Rev. Yuh welcomed the people of the California-Pacific Conference.

Rev. Yuh discussed the microphone procedures:

For online attendees, please enter the appropriate phrase: For, Against, Question, Amendment, Motion, Point of Order, Personal Privilege. This helps the moderators cue the process.

When the Bishop recognizes you, please state:

- Name
- Self-Identification
- Church or Ministry Context you are a part of
- Clergy or laity
- Your purpose as to what you are speaking to.

All information is made available at the California-Pacific websites: calpacumc.org/ac2026 and calpacumc.org/secretary. Please do not use video while on Wi-Fi.

If you have an amendment or motion, in person or online, you need to put them in writing. To do so, go to calpacumc.org/ac2026/legislation. Once again, the technical helpers/wizards were introduced and highlighted. Individual credentials were highlighted for voting procedures.

Rev. Yuh shared where all the Annual Conference information is located on MeetingPulse, and how to find your personal Conference schedule. Page 5 of the Participant Guide also shares the microphone procedures and the protocol of coming to the microphone.

The following legislation has been uploaded since the Pre-Conference: Recommendations 26-12 to 26-19, Resolutions 26-03 to 26-06; Rule 26-02 as corrected; and Rules 26-03 and 26-04. Housekeeping items were discussed, along with information regarding mental wellness provided by Rachel Gipson during the Conference, and an invitation to use MeetingPulse for technical questions.

Additional information was provided for those attending the Annual Conference in person.

Land Acknowledgment – Rev. Greg Douglass and Dr. Kim Marcus
Rev. Douglass introduced a modified Land Acknowledgment. Dr. Kim Marcus, a Cahuilla Spiritual Leader, was invited by the Conference to welcome us to the lands of his people. The welcome will be followed by a brief time of ceremony, during which they request that no filming take place. A Return Ceremony will also be offered today.

Dr. Marcus offered a welcome in the Cahuilla language, followed by an English translation. He acknowledged the gathering's location on traditional Cahuilla land and shared the cultural and spiritual significance of the area, noting that the land was entrusted to the people by the Almighty to care for rather than own. He spoke of the region's history, its original name, and his ancestral connections to the site, including family ties dating back generations. Dr. Marcus welcomed attendees, encouraged them to honor and appreciate the sacredness of the land, expressed gratitude for the Land Acknowledgment, and thanked the Conference organizers for the invitation before concluding the ceremony.

Rev. Gregory Douglass introduced a time of ceremony, explaining that the giving of gifts was an acknowledgment of relationship and kinship. He recognized Lori Meaders and Suanne Ware-Diaz for their leadership in the ceremony. Representing the Kiowa people, Suanne Ware-Diaz presented Dr. Marcus with a ceremonial gift and words of thanksgiving and recognition. Dr. Marcus was also wrapped in a ceremonial blanket, symbolizing the ways communities care for and honor one another throughout life.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank and Rev. Douglass each presented gifts to Dr. Marcus. In response, Dr. Marcus expressed gratitude for the offering of tobacco as a sign of respect and thanked the conference for the return of items belonging to his people.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank offered a prayer of blessing. Rev. Douglass noted that although an honorarium had been offered to Dr. Marcus, he chose to donate it to the 580 Café in support of the gathering.

General and Jurisdictional Delegate Nominations – Rev. Bob Rhodes
We have received a number of nominations for both clergy and laity. This is a time to receive nominations from the floor. More nominations than have been published in the reports have been given. If you see names on these slides, then those people do not need to be nominated.

We have both Clergy and Lay Persons who have been nominated.

Lay Nominees:
Maikolo Brown; Gayle Fisher; Rosie Guadarrama; Erin Hawkins; Ana Goar Johnson; Young Mae Kim; Sonya Lee; Mele Maka; Sharon McCart; Michael Mitchell; Rachel Rhodes-Wickett Gipson; Jason Takagi; Dione Taylor; Monalisa S. Tu'itahi; Connor Walden; Cathy Wilson.

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

You are invited to go to a microphone to nominate a person and state whether they are clergy or laity. For those online, if you wish to offer a nomination, please go to the "go to mic" tab.

Scott Andrews, Clergy, Cal Heights Long Beach: We in the back cannot read the names of those who have been nominated. Can they please be enlarged?

The slides were shown again.

- Scott Caprio, Laity, First United, San Diego – I would like to nominate Lay Person Frederick "Rick" Cook III
- Frank Wulf, Clergy, Echo Park & La Plaza – I would like to nominate Lay Person Guillermo Torres.
- Yoshi Kuramoto, San Pedro UMC, Clergy – I nominate Kevin Kang, Lay Delegate
- Leah Switzer, Van Nuys UMC, Laity – I nominate Laity, Ana-Haydeé Urda

Rev. Rhodes: Because we will be voting on this later during this Conference, it would be good for you to know about these nominees. A document will be published this evening with information on the nominees. If your name was lifted up in some way, and you would like to have information included, please go to the nominee form on MeetingPulse and fill it out.

COSROW / 70th Anniversary Ordination of Women – Rev. Stephanie Rice & Ellen Evans Agee, COSROW Co-Chairs
Rev. Stephanie Rice: We are celebrating a very important milestone in our Methodist History.

A video was presented by COSROW, which shared resources provided by COSROW to assist with celebrating the 70th anniversary of the ordination of women, and resources to support trauma care regarding sexual harassment and abuse.

Ellen Agee: The primary purpose of this commission is to challenge the United Methodist Church, including its general agencies, institutions, and connectional structures, to a continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the Church, sharing fully in the power and the policymaking at all levels of the Church's life (*The Book of Discipline*, P.2102)

Rev. Rice: We have been focusing on creating boundaries and sexual ethics training. Here is what is next:
- God of the Bible: A study on inclusive language for God. Every Wednesday in July at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.
- Sexual Ethics: Writing a Sexual Ethics policy for clergy and lay staff in collaboration with conference leadership.
- Do No Harm: GCSRW Conference, November 12-14, 2026 online.

Ellen Agee: One of the main roles of COSROW at the Annual Conference is for us to monitor who is getting heard, and who is speaking. We are grateful to the Bishop, the Conference staff and the Sessions Team for their support of the monitoring efforts.

What is Monitoring?

- A responsibility outlined in the Book of Discipline
- Observing with intention to help us grow in self-awareness
- Documenting self-identified gender, race, age and status (clergy or lay) of those who speak.

How it works:

- When you step to the mic state your name clearly and loudly, whether you are clergy or lay, your local church.
- Monitors collect names and document observations
- Data is compiled to create an aggregate, anonymous report
- Initial findings reported on Saturday
- Full report sent to the Bishop, Conference, and GCSRW

The 70th Anniversary of Women's Ordination was lifted up, and information was given about the history of women in the Methodist Church. The first clergy woman ordained as a Deacon was Rev. Nan Self, and the first ordained Elder was Rev. Faith Conklin in 1974.

40% of active clergy in Cal Pac are women, and we continue to educate, train and equip women for leadership in churches. Our female siblings in the Southern Baptist Convention were lifted up. An invitation for women in the Cal-Pac Conference to join COSROW was extended.

<u>Calgary Conference Blessing</u> – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
The Council of Bishops is hosting this gathering. We have five participants attending:

Erin Hawkins
Allison Mark
Yoshi Kuramoto
Rachel Gipson
Martin Finau

They ask for our partnership in prayer and imagination. The Council of Bishops were called to Spirit-Filled, Christ-Centered Imagination. The theme is "Emboldened by the Spirit – imagining the Church that is yet to be." It brings together Bishops, General Secretaries, Clergy, Laity, and young adults from across the Conference. Each Conference will have a young adult under the age of 35 representing them. This design will draw from Scripture and our Wesleyan history, which teaches us to ask three central questions: What are we teaching? What does it mean to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously? How will we become people who consistently live in this vision?

They also added two more questions – How do we do it? Why do we do it?

This is deeply rooted work grounded in who we are as people called Methodists, while being open to what God is calling us to become.

A survey was taken in 2025, and we gathered hopes and feedback from United Methodists around the world. Those responses have been prayerfully analyzed as testimonies to the hopes and holy discontent of God's people. We have been engaged in a worldwide season of learning through webinars. Love Boldly occurred in January; Serve Joyfully in February; and Lead Courageously in March. On April 25th, a virtual pre-gathering was held with breakout groups engaging in focused ecclesiological discernment, which were monitored by GCSRW to ensure inclusiveness.

We have organized into five covenant groups around these areas:

- Discipleship
- Leadership
- Impact
- Stewardship
- Accountability

We are engaging younger generations, deepening disciple formation, and elevating global and connectional voices.

This leadership gathering will not be a legislative body; instead, it is consultative and exploratory, feeding into future discernment processes.

This image shaped our work: Becoming Good Ancestors. All of us are heirs of the faith and ancestors in the making. Our young people are watching. They are watching how we handle conflict and diversity. How we care for creation, how we confront racism and honor voices from the margins. They are watching. To be good ancestors means three things:

1. We tell the truth.
2. We refuse to hoard power or privilege.
3. We sow seeds whose harvest we may never see. We make decisions for the next 50 years, not just the next budget cycle.

We ask that you pray for the participants gathering in Calgary. Pray for the Bishops, the general secretaries and the young adults. Pray for wisdom, hope, clarity, and trust that the Spirit is calling us into greater vitality and engagement. When we return in November, we will share what we learned. Start now having conversations in our local churches to serve boldly and to love courageously in your context.

Together we are living and writing a chapter in the story of the UMC that generations will come to. Did we choose faith over fear? Let us choose to be good ancestors. May God root us in steadfast love and breathe fresh wind into our hearts and give us courage for the journey ahead.

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank offered a prayer of blessing.

Lay Servant Ministries Recognition – Troy Goar Johnson, Conference LSM Director & Mele Maka, Conf. Lay Leader
Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank invited Mele Maka, Conference Lay Leader, Cathy Wilson, and Troy Goar Johnson, Conference Lay Servant Ministries Director to come forward.

Troy Goar Johnson: Today we celebrate a meaningful milestone in Lay Ministry. We are proud to present these dedicated individuals who have faithfully completed their coursework and training to become Certified Laity.

Through study, prayer and commitment, they have answered God's call to grow in service, leadership and proclamation.

As they step forward, they are equipped not only with knowledge, but with a deeper passion to serve Christ and the Church – ready to share the Word, uplift communities and help transform the world through their ministry.

Let us recognize and support them as they continue this important journey. Friends, please join me in thanking our newly certified laity who are leading, serving and loving.

The congregation joined in celebrating and honoring the Certified Laity:

We celebrate and honor those who have answered the call to serve with faith, compassion, and dedication. Your commitment to ministry and leadership is a true blessing to the churches and communities of our conference. Thank you for stepping forward in faith. Thank you for your servant hearts. Thank you for making a difference. Thank you and we appreciate you!

Candidates Certifying as Lay Speakers:

Cristina Barrientos (North District) – Unfortunately, Cristina could not be with us today.
Kimberly Emerson (West District) – Unfortunately, Kimberly could not be with us today.
Karen Field (Hawai'i District)
Nancy Fuentes (North District)
Ana Goar Johnson (West District)
Odilon Gomez (South District) – Unfortunately, Odilon could not be with us today.
Angela Lopez (East District)
Ana Molestina (West District)
Lourdes Muratalla (South District) – Unfortunately, Lourdes could not be with us today.
María Luisa Najera (South District)

Marco Salinas Alvarez (South District)

Certified Lay Minister Recognition
Troy Goar Johnson: This year, we have one person who has completed the requirements to become a Certified Lay Minister. In 2023, she became a Certified Lay Speaker and began courses to become a Certified Lay Minister, after feeling a deeper call to lay ministry. I am happy to announce our newest California-Pacific Certified Lay Minister, Melissa Basch (South District).

This concludes our Lay Servant Ministries certifications.

Conference Staff Recognition – Erin Hawkins

Retirement Videos – Media Team
MJ Buist – Diaconal Minister, Anaheim UMC

Instructions – Rev. Bob Rhodes
Information was given regarding nominees for General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The Celebration of Ministry Dinner is in Fiesta 1-8. Laity Session will take place at 7:00 p.m. in Fiesta and the Clergy Session is also at 7:00 p.m. in Flores Ballroom.

Closing Prayer – Mele Maka, Conference Lay Leader

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION | JUNE 17, 2026, 7:00 PM (PDT)

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank offered the opening prayer.

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank welcomed the Clergy members and the Board of Ordained Ministry and called the session to order. She clarified who was entitled to be present, which included Elders and Deacons in Full Connection, Provisional & Associate Members, Licensed Local Pastors, and Laity serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank introduced Greg Batson, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry for the first action item.

Rev. Greg Batson, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry: Good evening, Bishop Escobedo-Frank and members of the Annual Conference. In addition to the lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, we respectfully request that certain other laity, who are vital to our work today, be allowed to be present in this session.

The laity assisting with the media and technical systems; Rod Sprott (Pensions and Health Benefits Chair); Manuel Vargas (Wespath Client Relations Manager); Cathy Wilson (BOM Associate Director); Margaret Irwin (Episcopal Office). We also request that if they are present, Adel Torino (Elder from Bulacan Philippines Conference) and guest Bishop Ruelas-López be admitted with no vote to clergy session.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote and the motion was supported.

Rev. Greg Batson: Thank you Bishop and members present. We will now hear the Clergy Pensions and Health Benefits announcements from Rod Sprott and Manuel Vargas.

Announcements were made regarding Clergy Pensions:

Rod Sprott: This past year has been a big change in the pension program. Getting started into Compass was a challenge for many people. Everyone stepped up and did what they needed to do and made the transition work well. I would like to also say that we need members of the Board. Please let the Conference know if you are interested.

Manuel Vargas: I have three reminders – as Rod mentioned, we started Compass at the beginning of the year. We now have the ability to make online changes to contributions and your elections. On January 1, 2027, there will be an auto-escalation. The automatic contribution was at 4%. There will be an increase up to 5% on January 1, 2027. The cap is 5% unless you make an election yourself. Also, there is a student loan provision – if you are unable to make the 4%

contribution and you are making payments on loans, you will have that counted toward your matching component. I will be here for the next few days, so please find us if you have any questions.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Thank you, Board of Pensions, and Wespath for your announcements. Thank you to Pensions for your report. We now move on to the Board of Ordained Ministry report from Chair of the Board, Greg Batson.

Rev. Greg Batson: Thank you, Bishop Escobedo-Frank and greetings to all our colleagues in ministry.

This year marks two important milestones for clergy in the United Methodist Church. In 1956, women were granted full clergy rights in the Methodist Church. While women have led our church through their preaching and service since the beginning of Methodism, we celebrate the past seventy years of ordained ministry in our denomination.

We also recognize the thirtieth anniversary of creation of the Order of Deacons in the United Methodist Church in 1996. Deacons are called and ordained to ministry of Word, Service, Compassion and Justice, connecting the church and community. Deacons have full and equal clergy status to elders and are essential members of our Conference and the Church. We are celebrating these important milestones throughout our session this week – in the Clergy Orders lunch held earlier today, in our plenary sessions, and in the Ordination Service this Saturday.

In addition to the ongoing work of the Board, I want to report on two efforts to increase our awareness and improve our processes. In September 2025, members of the BOM, the District Committees of Ordained Ministry (DCOM) and extended Cabinet attended a training on disabilities awareness. Led by the Rev. Jonathan Campbell, Co-Chair of the United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities, this training provided a valuable introduction to understanding the needs of candidates with disabilities in the ordination process. This training helped us to fulfill our denominational and conference commitment to training requirements as we seek to support all candidates in their journey.

We also continued our work on offering our candidates psychological assessments in their primary language. In response to the legislation introduced at the 2025 Annual Conference, BOM members and Connectional Ministries have met to discuss this topic. We are working with the Executive Director and staff of the Samaritan Counseling Center that does this work for our Conference to expand the options available to our candidates. We are also planning a listening session this fall with those who have experienced this process to address difficulties that have arisen in the past. This work is ongoing, but we are making progress to ensure a more equitable process for all.

Clergy colleagues, it takes a lot of work to get to this point, and I would like to thank all the very hard-working members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, who have spent countless hours reading papers from candidates, sitting in interviews, and following up with candidates.

I especially want to recognize Cathy Wilson, the Associate Director serving this Board. Her wealth of knowledge and attention to detail are vital to our work. She works tirelessly on behalf of Board members and candidates alike. Thank you, Cathy.

I also give thanks for the people who filled leadership roles on this Board, some of whom will be presenting today, as we work our way through the Disciplinary Questions.

By now all clergy should have received the 2026 DQs, which you may refer to as we go over the Disciplinary Questions. Some of these questions require a vote and are marked with a letter "(V)" and others do not. We will only be going through those items that require a Vote today.

Please be sure that you have the link you received from the Annual Conference for voting, as we will be using the online system.

As a reminder, only Elders and Deacons in Full Connection and members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, including the lay members, may vote on matters of commissioning, ordination, character, and Conference relations of our clergy.

Provisional and Associate Members, Licensed Local Pastors and appointed clergy from other Annual Conferences may not vote during this session. Those appointed from other denominations who have submitted the required documents may also vote except on specific matters of ordination.

At this time, we invite the appointive Cabinet to share any updates to the Disciplinary Questions that they may have.

Cabinet Members were invited to the microphones.

Rev. Garth Gilliam, North District Superintendent – I wish to make sure our records are accurate. Local Pastor Glenn Hoskins has transferred his credentials on June 3rd to the Pacific Northwest, so he needs to be moved to 15c for transfer to a DCOM in another Annual Conference.

Rev. Moonyoung Lee, East District Superintendent – Question 16 Lona Renee Seymour. She is not approved as a Local Pastor.

Finally, if you have any editorial corrections such as misspelling and other pertinent revisions that do not have any impact on action items, we ask you to email those to Cathy Wilson at: cwilson@calpacumc.org

At this time, I call upon Eva Thai-Erwin, the Board Registrar, for the next business items.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin: Thank you, Greg. Good evening, Bishop, esteemed colleagues, and members of the Board of Ordained Ministry. It's with heartfelt appreciation that I present the work of our dedicated Board.

Over the past year, they've served with unwavering diligence and faith, shepherding new members into our connection.

As we proceed with today's agenda, our first order of business is the election of both provisional and full members.

For your reference, detailed information on each candidate can be found on page 19 of the Disciplinary Questions.

The Board proudly presents the 2026 candidates for provisional membership and membership in Full Connection.

The candidates are invited to enter and are escorted to the stage.

Candidates, welcome to the clergy session. Please step forward as your names are called.

For provisional membership and commissioning on the ELDER track, the Board presents:

- Ruben Esponda
- Viliami Ongo Koli
- Kiana Nicholson
- Zicong Li
- Bridie Charolette Roberts

For ordination as a DEACON in full connection, the Board presents:

- Brian Tipton

For ordination as ELDERS in full connection, the Board presents:

- Martin Finau
- Christian Jung
- Sejin Kaleb Oh
- Kimberly Ports

Thank you, candidates. In a moment, we will invite you to step outside of the ballroom as we proceed with the approval process. In your absence, Karl Stuckenberg, Provisional Membership Registrar, will introduce each commissioning candidate and will present your provisional membership for approval.

Following a similar process, Greg Batson will introduce each Deacon and Elder candidate and will present your full connectional membership for approval. We lift up Amy Aitken, Full Connectional Registrar in our prayers. She is not feeling well and will not be with us for this Annual Conference.

Candidates, please follow Greg and exit the ballroom.

Rev. Karl Stuckenberg, Assistant Registrar for Provisional Membership: Bishop Escobedo-Frank, members and guests of the Clergy Session, today I have the privilege to present to you the election of the 2026 class of provisional members which needs a 3/4 majority vote of the clergy session. If you would like to follow along in the DQ file, you will find a list of our candidates on page 7 under Disciplinary Question 25.

Each year, we share what the Board has seen in these candidates. This year, we asked the candidates what they are excited about in their new ministry, and we also asked for a fun fact.

The Board moved to approve Ruben Esponda for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

The Board moved to approve Viliami Ongo Koli for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

The Board moved to approve Kiana Nicholson for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

The Board moved to approve Zicong Li for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

The Board moved to approve Bridie Charolette Roberts for provisional membership and commissioning on Elder track. The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Rev. Karl Stuckenberg offered a prayer for those received as provisional members.

Rev. Greg Batson, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry: As Bishop Escobedo-Frank shared earlier that Rev. Aitken is not feeling well, and I will pinch-hit on her behalf.

Rev. Batson presented each candidate for election for full conference membership and ordination. The gathering was reminded that election to full connection membership and ordination requires a 3/4 majority vote of the clergy session.

The Board moved to approve Brian Tipton for ordination as Deacon in Full Connection. The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

The Board moved to approve Martin Finau for ordination as Elder in Full Connection. The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

The Board moved to approve Christian Jung for ordination as Elder in Full Connection. The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

The Board moved to approve Sejin Kaleb Oh for ordination as Elder in Full Connection. The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

The Board moved to approve Kimberly Ports for ordination as Elder in Full Connection. The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Rev. Batson offered a prayer for those to be ordained.

Diane Rehfield, Interim Conference Relations Chair: Friends, let's now turn our attention to the matter of transfers. The clergy transfer process in our Conference involves a period of service, Bishop and Cabinet recommendations, and a Board of Ordained Ministry review. We invite them now to exit the ballroom and enter after they have been approved. For your reference, the names of the transfer candidates can be found on page 8 under Question 26d of the Disciplinary Questions.

For Provisional Membership on the Elder track through transfer from another Methodist denomination, the Board Recommends Baldwin Avendano (Iglesia Metodista de Mexico)

The Board moved to approve Baldwin Avendano for Provisional Membership on the Elder track through transfer from another Methodist denomination (¶347.1, simple majority). The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

For Provisional Membership on the Elder track through transfer from another Denomination, the Board Recommends Riju Jayan (Church of South India)

The Board moved to approve Riju Jayan for Provisional Membership on the Elder track through transfer from another Denomination (¶347.2, simple majority). The candidate was introduced.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Ms. Rehfield offered a prayer for those transferred into our Conference.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin: Bishop, as outlined in Paragraph 236, the clergy session is required to hold an annual vote on the continued preparation for ordination of our provisional members. Their names are listed on page 8 under Question 26a of our Disciplinary Questions. A simple majority vote is needed to proceed:

- Bradley Biggerstaff
- Sylina Kidd
- Heather KinKennon
- Moon Kong
- Maria Longley
- Manuel Lopez (Lopez-Reyes)
- Molly Lorden
- Mark Maddix
- Derek Nguyen
- Royce Porter, Sr.

The Board moved to approve the names listed under Disciplinary Question 26a (¶326, simple majority).

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin: Now that we've had the pleasure of welcoming our new clergy members and reinstating our provisional members, let's transition to the remaining Disciplinary Questions, starting from the very first page.

Bishop, we turn to Question 13, ¶605.7 states, "Board of Ordained Ministry may make inquiry of each district superintendent about each ordained minister in the district and make one report of the Bishop and the Conference in open session."

Question 13 does not require a vote, but the Board needs to make a report on the number of clergy who are under review. Bishop, this we year we have NONE under review.

Moving on, we now turn to Questions 14(a) regarding the Administrative Review Committee.

The Board moved to approve the names listed under Disciplinary Question 14(a) to serve on the Administrative Review Committee (¶636, majority).

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

I now present the certified candidates for Ordained Ministry, as listed under Question 15(a) on page 2 of the Disciplinary Questions.

While approval of these candidates ultimately rests with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, I would like to express our collective support for them today. Their dedication and commitment are commendable. Let us lift them up, and on the count of 3, I invite you to shout out the name of a certified candidate that you know of!

May we be reminded that this process requires great discernment, and we offer these three persons listed for our continued pastoral care and support as they discern their next steps.

We now turn to Question 16 on page 3. This question lists those who have completed the studies for the license as a Local Pastor, are approved, but are not currently appointed.

The Board moved approval of Disciplinary Question 16 as printed and as corrected today (¶315, 3/4).

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Please take a moment to review Question 17 on pages 3 to 5. These are the lists of our full and part-time Licensed Local Pastors who are approved and given appointments, with the correction that was made today regarding Glenn Hoskins.

From these two lists, I would like to draw your attention to our first-year Licensed Local Pastors:

Kumrila (Akum) Mongzar, Sela Taupaki, Hanna Jang, Khemaron Lay, Parris Mann, Laura Perez, and Joshua Ryoo

The Board moved to approve DQ 17 as printed (3/4)

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

For the rest of the Licensed Local Pastors listed under Question 17, the Discipline requires a simple majority vote for their continuance as Licensed Local Pastors.

The Board moved approval of the remaining names listed in Disciplinary Question 17 (¶318, simple majority)

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank offered a prayer for the Licensed Local Pastors.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin: We continue to page 7 to review Question 22. These are clergy in good standing from other Christian denominations serving in our Annual Conference while retaining their denominational affiliation. The Book of Discipline requires this list to be approved annually by the Clergy Session. It needs a simple majority vote.

The Board moved approval of Disciplinary Question 22 as printed (¶346.2, majority)

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

I now invite our Board's Interim Conference Relations Chair, Diane Rehfield, to come and present the next action items to us. As Diane is coming up, I want to lift up our previous Conference Relations Chair, Mark Ulrickson, a blessed soul whom we lost this year. We will always remember his dedication and service to the Board and are thankful for Diane's work as she stepped into the position just a few months ago.

Diane Rehfield, Interim Conference Relations Chair: Bishop and Conference members, please see DQ 42 on page 10. You will find listed there the names of those who have served in ministry and finished their labors and are now in the Church triumphant.

Let us take a moment to hear the names and remember our deceased colleagues:

- George Cisnearos, Jr.
- David Corbin
- Gwen Ehrenborg
- Nancy Goyings
- Steve Islander
- Youngstone Jhun
- Gwen Jones-Lurvey
- Harvey Kemp
- Whan Ki Kim
- Russ Locke
- Frances Materra
- Heisik Oh
- Seungbae Paik
- Janis Specks
- J. Robert (Bob) Stimmel
- Wallace (Lee) Truman
- Mark Ulrickson
- Kirby Laurel Pickus

A prayer was offered for the above.

We now turn to the matter of leaves. Any leaves of absence are granted or renewed by vote of the clergy members in full connection.

Please turn to pages 12 and 13 and take a look at Question 44. Question 44(a)(1) lists names of those going on voluntary leave for LESS than five years. These lists require a simple majority vote to pass.

The Board moved approval of Disciplinary Question 44(a)(1) as printed (¶354.2a-c, 3, majority)

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Question 44(a)(2) lists names of those going on voluntary leave for MORE than 5 years. This list requires a vote of 2/3 majority.

The Board moved approval of Disciplinary Question 44(a)(2) on personal leave for MORE than 5 years.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Please take a look at Question 46 on page 13. This list contains the names of those granted medical leave. This requires a simple majority vote.

The Board moved approval of Disciplinary Question 46 that lists individuals on medical leave as printed (¶357, majority)

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

We now refer to Question 47 on retirement found on page 13. This is the list of names of those who have entered or who are entering the retired relationship with the Annual Conference after many years of faithful and active ministry.

The following are the clergy who are retiring this year as Elders:

- Jonathan Chute
- William DeBos
- N. Adiel DePano
- April Herron
- Dohmin Kim
- Paul Kim
- Hakchoon Lim
- James Powell
- Lily Villamin
- Kenneth Walden

The Board moved approval of Disciplinary Question 47(b) those persons retiring (¶358.2 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline, simple majority)

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

No vote is needed for Disciplinary Question 49 found on page 13, but we recognize those who are retiring as a Local Pastor as listed:

- Jeri Newell-Davis
- Rafael Rios Garcia

Now please look at Disciplinary Question 72 on page 17. We have a DIACONAL minister who is retiring. We lift up Merrijoy Buist, who is part of the wonderful history of the diaconal ministry.

The Board moved approval of Disciplinary Question 72, the retirement of the Diaconal Minister (2/3 vote)

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Diane Rehfield offered a prayer for the retirees.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin: Thank you, Diane. Let's turn to page 17 to look at Question 74(a) in regard to Associate, Provisional, and Full Connection Elders appointed to less than full-time appointments. Question 74(a) lists these names.

The Book of Discipline (¶338.2, 342.2) requires the less than fulltime category to be confirmed by a 2/3 vote for those 8 years or less, and 3/4 vote for those after 8 years.

The Board moved approval of Disciplinary Question 74(a) for clergy appointed for less than full-time service for the past 8 years or less as printed (¶¶338.2, 342.2, 2/3)

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

The Board moved approval of Disciplinary Question 74(a) for clergy appointed less than full-time service for more than 8 years (¶¶338.2, 342.2, 3/4)

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

The rest of the report includes other pertinent information such as the contact information of the Orders Executive Committee and the Board's Statement on LGBTQIA+

At this time, I invite Anna Lee Mulford and Martha Morales from the Orders Executive Committee to present their annual report.

Anna Lee Mulford: Good evening, everyone. If you will allow us, we have a show-and-tell for a few minutes to share with you. She shared the history of the stole she was wearing.

Anna Lee Mulford and Martha Morales: We come together this year to celebrate two important milestones in the ministry of the United Methodist Church. This is the 70th Year Anniversary of the ordination of women in our denomination. We celebrate all the women who came before us, clearing a path for those of us who are following in their footsteps. Faith Conklin is with us this evening and she was the first woman ordained in our Annual Conference.

We are grateful to Stephanie Rice and Ellen Agee, Chairs of COSROW for sharing information about this meaningful anniversary. We also celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ordination of Deacons in full connection. We are grateful for the many deacons who have paved this way. This is the ministry of word, service, justice, compassion, and sacrament. We connect the church with the needs of the world. In 1996, the church recognized that Diaconal ministry is not a stepping-stone, but a permanent calling. It is an important gift to our church and to our neighbors in the world.

If you were a part of that first class of Deacons in Full Connection, please stand so that we can recognize you. Since that time, in the summer of 1996, deacons have worked closely with our Elder siblings. They have been many things – teachers, nurses, music ministers, and so much more. We are grateful for them. In 2024, the General Conference voted to approve the granting of sacramental rights to Deacons. Deacons have been approved by the UMC and General Conference to preside at the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism. These sacramental rights are vital to our ministries. We are working to ensure that all people are included in the community of our beloved United Methodist Church.

I invite all the Deacons who are with us today to please stand so that we can recognize you and the work you do.

Thank you to all as we rejoice in these 30 years of Deacon ministry in full connection.

A slide show was shown as part of their presentation, honoring Deacons, past and present.

We honor the relationship between Elders and Deacons, with each responding to their distinct call from God. Distinct, but still united. Our calls are different, but complementary. Over these past 30 years, we have learned from, supported, and encouraged one another in ministry. We have discovered that our different gifts strengthen the church and enrich our communities.

Their commitment and process have strengthened and expanded God's grace. This ministry is not simply about the work we do, but about the relationships we build and the way we help each other. We honor 70 years of woman in ordained ministry and 30 years of deacons in full connection, and we look toward the future with hope. The story is not finished. May these anniversaries inspire future generations.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin: I now welcome the Rev. Bob Isip from the Conference Archives and History Commission for his report.

Rev. Bob Isip: I had a year to prepare for this! I would like to let you know that we are hosting an event September 8-10 for the Western Jurisdiction in Hawai'i. If you are interested in archives and history, stop by our booth.

I am here to read these milestones, but also to make fun of all of us. I would like to apologize to Robb Fuesler, I forgot and did not read his name last year and he had a 25-year anniversary, so let us recognize him for that. We also forgot Diane Rehfield, who celebrated 25 years.

I compare clergy to different kinds of coffee. Some of you are like espresso – you are over the top. Some of you are like gourmet coffee – you cost a little more. Some of you are like McDonalds coffee – not bad and you get the job done.

Some of you are like gas station coffee – you are just cheap. If you have worn the same robe your entire career, you are cheap. Or, if you only wear hand me down stoles from retired clergy, then you are cheap. The best appointment for you is a church with a thrift store. Some clergy are like decaf – what's the point? The majority of us are like church coffee – not very good. Church members depend on coffee every Sunday. They rely on coffee and we are like coffee to them because they rely on us for astonishment. I would like to thank Jennifer Gaylord – she keeps track of all the years of anniversaries.

This list does not include a provisionary period, but only anniversaries of ordained elders. It is not years of service, but your anniversary as an elder.

I was at a 100-year church anniversary at Normal Heights UMC. There is a worship service and we are about to process in. We are standing together in the Narthex – a couple of clergy, a Bishop and an acolyte, just waiting to get in. The acolyte must have been around 6 years old. She looks at the Bishop and says, "Why are you holding that stick?" The Bishop replied, "I am the Bishop, I'm like a shepherd and this is a shepherd's staff." The acolyte looks at the Bishop and asks, "Yes, but do you know Jesus?" The Bishop says, "Yes, Jesus is in my heart." The Bishop should have ordained the acolyte right then and there!

Please stand when your name is read.

Rev. Isip read the names of clergy marking ordination anniversaries at five-year milestones from 25 to 60 years, inviting each anniversary class to stand and be recognized. The complete list of honorees is recorded in the Conference Journal.

One year I went to Annual Conference and a colleague said to me, "You look young for your age. Another said, "You look old for your age." And another said, "You look better than your picture." I was astonished! Then I said, "You too Bishop." I didn't really, but I should have. Do you know who that Bishop was? It was not Bishop Dottie.

This concludes my report.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin: I have a Bishop story for you too. The Bishop just leaned over and said, "Are we nearly done?" And I said, "It's Bob."

Congratulations to all our clergy celebrating milestones in their service.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank, this concludes the Board of Ordained Ministry's report to the Clergy Session. Thank you!

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank: Thank you, Board of Ordained Ministry, for the hard work put into preparing for this report.

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank offered the Benediction.

(2) U.M. DAILY
Thursday, June 18, 2026
42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference

OPENING WORSHIP | JUNE 18, 2026, 8:30 AM (PDT)

Opening Song	*Awe & Wonder*	The Astonish Ensemble
Affirmation of Faith		Rev. Stephanie Rice written by Rev. Stephanie York Arnold, General Secretary, The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women
Praise Song	*God is Still Speaking*	The Astonish Ensemble
Prayers of the People		Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett

Postlude *God is Still Speaking Reprise* The Astonish Ensemble

Participants in Worship Service:
Rev. Stephanie Rice
Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett

The Astonish Ensemble:
Braden Pontoli – Music Director
Dr. Lara Urrutia – Piano, Keyboards & Vocals
Sarah Finley, Vocals
Kirk Averitt, Vocals
Agustin Donati, Guitar
Emilia Borja, Percussion
Nigel Deane, Violin 1
Manoela Wunder, Violin 2
Sean Lyons, Viola
Jeness Johnson, Cello

PLENARY SESSION 2 | JUNE 18, 2026, 9:00 AM (PDT)

Call to Order – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Bishop Escobedo-Frank shared Ana Goar Johnson, West District Lay Leader, is joining the table this morning.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank introduced the members of the Cabinet.

Orders of the Day – Rev. Cathie Capp, Agenda Chair
Rev. Capp presented the Orders of the Day and moved the Orders of the Day.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Announcements – Rev. Won-Seok Yuh, Assistant Conference Secretary
Rev. Won-Seok Yuh reviewed Conference procedures and logistical information for members and guests. Participants were reminded to identify themselves at the microphone by stating their name, preferred pronouns, clergy or lay status, and church or ministry context before speaking. Instructions were also provided regarding the use of intention paddles and participation procedures during plenary sessions.

Attendees were encouraged to utilize MeetingPulse for access to conference materials, the participant guide, legislation, support resources, and microphone requests. Technical assistance remained available, and participants were asked to silence devices and limit use to one device and one browser tab when possible.

Additional announcements included a gathering and photo opportunity for members of COSROW following the afternoon plenary session, reminders regarding meals and Conference information available through the conference website, and wellness guidance for attendees. Conference members were encouraged to remain mindful of safety concerns, including floor cables, hydration, and sun protection.

Rev. Yuh concluded by inviting Conference participants to support one another through prayer, attentive care, and openness to witnessing how God is at work throughout the Annual Conference session.

Board of Ordained Ministry – Rev. Greg Batson, Board of Ordained Ministry Chair
Rev. Greg Batson reported on the Board's ongoing work of discerning, guiding, and evaluating candidates for ordained ministry within the California-Pacific Conference. He noted that the Board continues to refine and strengthen its processes in collaboration with the Bishop, Cabinet, and District Committees on Ordained Ministry, with details of the Board's work outlined in the Conference report.

Rev. Batson introduced the 2026 clergy class, which includes five candidates for Provisional Membership, five candidates for Full Membership, and two clergy transfers from other Methodist denominations.

Prior to the introduction of the candidates, Rev. Batson recognized two significant milestones in the life of The United Methodist Church. He commemorated the seventieth anniversary of full clergy rights for women in the Methodist Church, celebrating the leadership and ministry of clergywomen who have faithfully served the Church since that historic action in 1956. He also recognized the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Order of Deacons in 1996, giving thanks for the ministry of deacons, who are ordained to Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice and who serve as vital bridges between the Church and the world.

Expressing gratitude for the dedication of the Board and its partners in the ordination process, Rev. Batson concluded by inviting Registrar Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, along with the Board's provisional and full connection registrars, Rev. Karl Stuckenberg and Rev. Amy Aitken, to lead the introduction of the clergy candidates who had completed the Board's evaluation process and were being presented to the Annual Conference.

Introduction of Clergy Candidates – Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Registrar
For Provisional Membership and Commissioning on the ELDER track, the Board presents:
Ruben Esponda
Viliami Ongo Koli
Kiana Nicholson
Zicong Li
Bridie Charolette Roberts

For ordination as a DEACON in full connection, the Board presents:
Brian Tipton

For ordination as ELDERS in Full Connection, the Board presents:
Martin Finau
Christian Jung
Sejin Kaleb Oh
Kimberly Ports

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank was invited to ask the general examination questions to all the candidates, followed by the examination of Deacons and Elders, and the historic questions to those candidates who will be ordained and/or admitted into full connection.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: My siblings in Christ, you have been called to an ordained, commissioned, or recognized status in set apart ministry. The Church now confirms your calling.

As ordained or commissioned ministers, you are to be coworkers with all the people of God: With laity, bishops, elders, deacons, local pastors, provisional members, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missioners, supply pastors, with all who serve God in the Church.

Remember you are called to serve rather than to be served, to proclaim the faith of the Church and no other, to look after the concerns of God above all. So, we may know you believe yourselves to be called by God and that you profess the Christian faith, we ask you:

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of ordained or licensed ministry?

Candidates: I do so believe, and confess.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Do you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do so believe, and confess.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Are you persuaded that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and are unique and authoritative?

Candidates: I am so persuaded, by God's grace.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Will you be faithful in prayer, in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and with the help of the Holy Spirit continually rekindle the gift of God that is in you?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Will you, in the exercise of your ministry, lead the people of God to faith in Jesus Christ, to participate in the life and work of the community, and to seek peace, justice, and freedom for all people?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, accepting and upholding its order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline, defending it against all doctrines contrary to God's Holy Word, and committing yourself to be accountable with those serving with you, and to the bishop and those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Will you, for the sake of the Church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the life of the order, into which you are ordained, commissioned, or recognized? Will you give yourself to God through the order in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service under the rule of life set forth in the vows you take this day?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: And now, may God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you grace to perform them, that the work begun in you may be brought to perfection.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin thanked the Provisional Candidates and invited the Full Connection Candidates to remain on the stage for further examination questions.

Examination of the Deacon

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: A deacon is called to share in Christ's ministry of servanthood, to relate the life of the community to its service in the world, to lead others into Christian discipleship, to nurture disciples for witness and service, to lead in worship, to teach and proclaim God's Word, and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to interpret to the church the world's hurts and hopes, to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick, and the oppressed, and to lead Christ's people in ministries of compassion and justice, liberation and reconciliation, especially in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice. This is the rule of life and the work of a deacon. Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of a deacon?

Candidate: I do so believe.

Examination of Elders

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: An elder is called to share in the ministry of Christ and of the whole church: To preach and teach the Word of God and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead the people of God in worship and prayer; to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ; to exercise pastoral supervision, to order the life of the congregation and the connection, to counsel the troubled, and declare the forgiveness of sin; to lead the people of God in obedience to Christ's mission in the world; to seek justice, peace, and freedom for all people; and to

take a responsible place in the government of the Church and in service in and to the community. This is the rule of life and work of an elder. Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of an elder?

Candidates: I do so believe.

Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection
Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Siblings in Christ, our Discipline instructs bishops to guide aspiring ministers through self-reflection and examinations. These weighty questions, all but one seeking an affirmative answer, reveal Wesley's understanding of pastoral ministry. So, I ask you: *(Book of Discipline: ¶325)*

(1) Have you faith in Christ?
(2) Are you going on to perfection?
(3) Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
(4) Are you earnestly striving after perfection in love?
(5) Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and God's work?
(6) Do you know the General Rules of our Church?
(7) Will you keep the General Rules of our Church?
(8) Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?
(9) After full examination do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?
(10) Will you support and maintain them?
(11) Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?
(14) Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
(15) Will you visit from house to house?
(16) Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?
(17) Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?
(18) Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?
(19) Will you observe the following directions?
    (a) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.
    (b) Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.

Congratulations, you have answered all the Exam Questions.

We also recognize clergy who are going through the Transfer Process. For Provisional Membership on the Elder track through transfer from another Methodist denomination, the Board Recommends Baldwin Avendano (Iglesia Metodista de Mexico), and Riju Jayan (Church of South India). We welcome them both.

Retirement Video – Media Team
Rev. Jonathan Chute

Episcopal Address – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Preaching from Psalm 78:1-7, Bishop Escobedo-Frank considered the Church's witness across generations, asking how the people of God have responded and are called to respond to periods of profound social, technological, and cultural change.

The Bishop began by examining key moments in history that transformed society and challenged the Church's mission. The Industrial Revolution brought dramatic technological advances and the migration of people in rural communities into urban centers, producing worker exploitation, unsafe labor conditions, poverty, overcrowding, and disease. In response to many of these same conditions in England, John Wesley and the early Methodist movement combined evangelism with practical ministry to those who were poor, hungry, sick, imprisoned, and marginalized. Wesley's emphasis on "social holiness," the DNA of who we are as Methodists, established a Methodist tradition of engaging both spiritual and societal needs.

She considered the mixed legacy Methodists have regarding slavery, noting Wesley's strong opposition to slavery while acknowledging the division that emerged among Methodists over the issue. At the same time, Methodists continued to establish hospitals, provide care for vulnerable populations, address housing needs, and advocate for workers. The Bishop reminded the Conference that the Church's witness has often been strongest when it has addressed both spiritual and societal needs.

Turning to the Holocaust, Bishop Escobedo-Frank recalled her seminary studies on the Church's response to the Shoah and noted the painful reality that many churches remained largely silent in the face of injustice. She shared how her father, a Lutheran pastor, participated in efforts of repentance and reconciliation related to that silence. This historical example raises an ongoing question for every generation: How will the Church respond to the defining moral challenges of its time?

The Bishop explored this question through the experiences of five generations within her own family.

Considering her grandmother's lifetime, she described the dramatic changes in transportation, from horse-and-buggy to automobiles, airplanes, and eventually space exploration. While churches often view new developments with caution, they also serve as stable communities amid rapid change. For her grandmother, the Church provided grounding, identity, and belonging.

Considering her parents' generation, Bishop Escobedo-Frank spoke of the transformation of communication, from handwritten letters to telephones and mobile technology. During this period, churches continued to gather people together, offering spiritual formation and communal connection as society became increasingly mobile and interconnected.

Speaking about her own lifetime, she described the transition from an analog world to one shaped by computers and digital technology. Churches eventually adopted emerging technologies like websites, digital worship resources, livestreaming, and online communication. She also observed that along with these advancements, society's increasing reliance on technology has also contributed to a growing trend of isolation and loneliness. One of the Church's ongoing responsibilities is to restore human connection, strengthen community, and help people renew their relationships with one another, with creation, and with God.

Turning to her children's generation, the Bishop considered the rise of social media and the challenges of living in a world where digital identities can sometimes overshadow in-person relationships. She noted a growing desire among younger adults for more authentic experiences, evident in a renewed interest in activities like gardening, cooking, hiking, and other forms of embodied community life. While many young adults have become disconnected from institutional religion, she emphasized that the Church still has an essential role to play in addressing spiritual hunger, loneliness, questions of meaning and purpose, and the growing divisions within society.

The Bishop suggested that the Church offers a unique witness in a polarized culture. Congregations bring together people with differing viewpoints who nonetheless gather around a common table. In a time marked by division and "cancel culture," the Church can model reconciliation, mutual respect, and Christian community across differences.

Looking towards her grandchildren's generation, Bishop Escobedo-Frank addressed the emerging realities of AI, robotics, and algorithm-driven technologies. Younger generations have never known a world without screens and digital connectivity. While acknowledging the opportunities created by technological innovation, she also highlighted the concerns including job displacement, privacy violations, social manipulation, economic inequality, psychological harm, and environmental impacts associated with expanding technological infrastructure.

In this rapidly changing environment, qualities such as empathy, discernment, critical thinking, conscience, and relationship-building are becoming increasingly important. These deeply human capacities are areas in which the Church has much to offer. As society grapples with the ethical and environmental implications of AI and technological advancement, the Church is called to advocate for human dignity, care for creation, and the well-being of vulnerable communities.

Throughout the address, Bishop Escobedo-Frank returned to the central conviction that the Church has a vital role to play in every era. Whether confronting industrialization, slavery, war, technological change, social division, or artificial intelligence, the people of God are called to respond faithfully to the challenges before them.

The Bishop concluded by reminding the Conference of its responsibility to pass on the story of God's faithfulness to future generations. The Church's task is to teach, witness, serve, and nurture hope so that those who come after us may place their trust in God and continue the work of discipleship.

At the end of the Episcopal Address, Director of Communications Dr. Alyssa Fisher encouraged the Members of the Conference to reflect on:

- What experiences can the church offer that no machine or algorithmic program can provide?
- If Methodists in 2050 looked back on us, what would we hope they would say about how we responded to the rise of AI and other digital technologies?

Retirement Video – Media Team
Rev. William DeBos

Connectional Tables / CFA Presentation – Rev. George Hooper and Rev. Molly Vetter
Representing the Connectional Table and the Council on Finance and Administration, Rev. George Hooper considered the importance of connectionalism as a defining characteristic of The United Methodist Church. He expressed gratitude for those who work to ensure that diverse voices are heard and that all members have a place at the table as the Conference discerns its shared mission.

Drawing from John 14, Rev. Hooper emphasized Jesus' call for disciples to continue Christ's work in the world. He noted that the Church is able to accomplish greater things when it serves together in connection, united in purpose and mission.

Rev. Hooper reminded Conference members that they are connected not only through the Annual Conference but also through the broader Body of Christ and the ministry of local congregations. He considered a question posed to the Conference two years earlier: What do congregations need in order to be the presence of Christ in their communities, and what can only be accomplished through connectional ministry? He noted that the responses to those questions continue to guide the work of the Connectional Table and shape Conference priorities.

He further highlighted the relationship between mission and stewardship, emphasizing that connectional giving is an expression of the Church's shared commitment to ministry. Through the faithful stewardship of resources and collective participation in mission, congregations can accomplish together what they could not achieve alone.

Rev. Molly Vetter, Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration, reported on the Council's continued efforts to strengthen the Conference's financial sustainability, transparency, and stewardship. She highlighted significant operational improvements made since the arrival of Chief Financial Officer Robert Yamamoto in October, including clearer accounting systems, more consistent billing processes, improved reporting capabilities, and stronger communication among conference staff and leadership.

These improvements have strengthened the Conference's ability to monitor expenditures, address budget concerns, and make more strategic use of financial resources. They have also enabled Conference leaders to develop provisional plans for addressing liabilities associated with legal settlements and to engage in long-range financial planning that supports ministry while remaining mindful of the financial commitments requested of local churches.

Rev. Vetter outlined two major financial proposals before the Annual Conference: a proposed rules change regarding the calculation of apportionments and the proposed 2027 apportioned budget. She noted that the afternoon session would focus on the budget proposal, while the morning presentation centered on the apportionment rules change.

As part of her report, Rev. Vetter provided updates on several ongoing initiatives. She announced that the Conference's fossil fuel divestment efforts are expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2026. She also recognized

congregations that are current in their apportionment giving through May, expressing gratitude for their faithful support of connectional ministry.

Additionally, she highlighted the establishment of the Rev. M. Guadalupe "Lupita" Alonso-Redondo Scholarship Initiative in partnership with Claremont School of Theology. Through the conversion of a longstanding conference loan of $1.1M into scholarship funding, the initiative will support the theological education of candidates preparing for ministry in Hispanic and Latine communities within the California-Pacific Conference. The scholarship honors the legacy of Rev. Alonso-Redondo and her commitment to immigrant communities and pastoral leadership.

The primary focus of the presentation was the proposed apportionment rules change (Rules 26-01). Rev. Vetter explained that the proposal would replace the current Grade Figure Formula with a simpler model based on congregational income. Developed in response to conversations at the 2025 Annual Conference, the proposal seeks to create a more transparent, sustainable, and understandable system for determining each congregation's contribution to the Conference's shared ministries.

Under the proposal, the Conference budget would be tied to approximately 10 percent of the collective income of local churches. Congregations would be grouped according to annual income and assigned contribution rates of 9, 10, or 11 percent, with larger churches contributing at the higher percentage and smaller churches contributing at the lower percentage. Rev. Vetter emphasized that the proposal is intended to root Conference finances more directly in the realities of local church ministry, reduce year-to-year fluctuations, shorten reporting delays, and provide a clearer framework for congregations to understand and anticipate their apportionments.

She noted that the proposal had been reviewed with attention to equity across districts and demographic contexts and that it represents a more moderate transition than a flat tithe model. While acknowledging that some congregations may experience significant changes during the initial implementation year, she expressed confidence that the revised system would produce greater predictability and sustainability over time.

Concluding her remarks, Rev. Vetter encouraged conference members to review the proposal, ask questions, and participate in ongoing conversations before the vote. She emphasized that apportionments are more than a financial mechanism; they are an expression of the conference's shared commitment to mission, ministry, and connectional life.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

Tom Griffith, Clergy, Retired: I'm going by my recollection that money and special offerings that came from sale of property must be used for real property. I'm hearing you're saying that those funds could be used for ongoing current expenses, and I'm questioning whether that's within the disciplinary requirements.

Rev. Molly Vetter: It's outside of my understanding of my job to enforce that rule within our discipline, but I believe the reality is our policy and practice is not to sell real property to fund our annual ministries. But we're also asked to report annually if we did. These are the questions in Line 52 in our statistical tables as I understand it.

Doug Dickson, Clergy: A lot of our churches have the tendency to fund ministries through specific offerings which go through designated or restricted funds, which other churches might use in annual budgets. I'm wondering how that difference in accounting and how they fundraise might be considered in this.

Rev. Molly Vetter: All of our systems rely on faithfully doing it as best we discern and make sense of it. I expect that there are some churches and occasions when we have not been paying close attention to Line 52T because it doesn't have an impact on anything, but the vision is that our annual income that supports our ongoing life would be the basis from which we tithe our gifts to the Annual Conference, that also enables jurisdictional and general church work. I trust that we're all making as faithful as possible decisions with how we use the resources we have for furthering the Kingdom of God.

Jean Youngquist, Lancaster UMC: We have a significant loan due to remodeling the church. Is the amount we collect for the mortgage payment, which we keep separate, is that included in the part we have to pay 10%? Will we have a responsibility to pay more for already paying more? Our building does not belong to our local church.

Rev. Molly Vetter: I will not respond to that now due to time, but encourage further conversation. Robert and I are both available for sidebars in hallways, and your superintendents are available and are a wealth of resources.

Jean Youngquist: I've been crying this from the wilderness for a long time.

Rev. Molly Vetter: Unfortunately, that is all the time we have on the floor but I am happy to continue the conversation. You can use the online form, catch us in the hallway, or speak to your superintendents. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in this work.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Robert will talk to you to help you get this question answered.

Conference Staff Recognition – Rev. Jonathan Chute
Rev. Jonathan Chute led a time of recognition for Conference leaders and staff members celebrating significant milestones of service within the California-Pacific Conference. Emphasizing the importance of continuity, faithful leadership, and dedicated service in the life of the Church, he expressed gratitude for those who have contributed to the Conference's ministries over many years.

Rev. Chute recognized Rev. Moonyoung Lee, East District Superintendent and Dean of the Cabinet, for five years of service in that leadership role. He also honored Erin Hawkins for five years of faithful and energetic service to the Conference.

Additional recognition was given to Larry Saunders of Camp Wrightwood for five years of service and Christyl Comperini of Camp Cedar Glen for ten years of service.

Following the staff recognitions, Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank acknowledged the Tongan United Methodist community as it commemorates the bicentennial of Christianity in Tonga. The Bishop expressed gratitude for the faith, witness, and gifts that Tongan Christians have shared with the global Church and with the California-Pacific Conference, offering the Conference's prayers and celebration alongside them.

General & Jurisdictional Delegate Work – Rev. Cathie Capp
Rev. Cathie Capp provided an overview of the process for electing delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, emphasizing that the work of discernment and voting is guided by Robert's Rules of Order and rooted in prayerful consideration.

Before voting commenced, Conference members were invited into table conversations designed to encourage holy conferencing and thoughtful discernment. These discussions provide an opportunity for participants to listen to one another, broaden their perspectives, and consider the gifts needed for effective leadership within the delegation.

Conference members were encouraged to consider several questions during their conversations, including what the Conference needs from its delegation, the gifts and graces required for the role, who carries those gifts, and whether the Conference has fully heard and considered the diverse voices represented among the nominees.

Rev. Capp explained the election procedures, noting that delegates would be elected by simple majority vote. The Conference began with the election of General Conference delegates, with clergy and laity voting simultaneously within their respective orders. Voting is conducted electronically, with each member eligible to vote for up to two candidates within their clergy or lay category. The election process would continue through successive ballots until the full delegation was elected.

Katharine Henry Wingate, Laity, La Cañada UMC: I am requesting a point of order. I am concerned that we have not had time to read the biographical information on the nominees. We did not get that information until less than an hour before this plenary. I would like the chance to learn about them before we vote. My suggestion is that we move the vote until the afternoon plenary.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Thank you. We have already approved the Orders of the Day; however, I would like to test the room to see if we wish to go ahead with the Orders of the Day or vote this afternoon.

52% voted to vote this afternoon.

Retirement Videos – Media Team
Rev. N. Adiel DePano
Rev. Dr. April Herron

Miracle Sunday – Rev. Paige Eaves
Rev. Paige Eaves presented on the Miracle Sunday initiative, a global effort of the Council of Bishops to establish an endowment supporting theological education across The United Methodist Church, particularly in Africa, the Philippines, and Eastern Europe.

The initiative was introduced through the story of faithful pastoral leadership in Nigeria following the deaths of three United Methodists in Munga Dosa in December 2024. Amid grief and uncertainty, Bishop Ande Emmanuel and Rev. Eli S. Yaku provided spiritual leadership and pastoral care to their community. Both leaders received theological formation at the United Methodist Banyam Theological Seminary in Bambur, Nigeria, where rigorous theological study is paired with practical leadership training.

The proposed endowment will provide scholarships to support the preparation of future clergy and church leaders throughout the worldwide connection. Conference leaders emphasized that the goal is to ensure that well-equipped pastoral leaders are available to serve communities facing complex social, economic, and ministry challenges.

Members learned that retired Bishop Grant Hagiya, retired Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, and Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank have provided a combined anchor gift of $11,000 toward the initiative. Rev. Amy Aitken, who serves on the executive committee of the Fund for Theological Education, has also contributed to the effort.

Rather than receiving a special offering during the Annual Conference, participants were invited to engage with the Miracle Sunday campaign through study materials, video resources, and ongoing district communications. Rev. Eaves expressed the hope that the California-Pacific Conference will raise $50,000 by October 11 in support of the scholarship endowment, joining similar efforts throughout the global United Methodist connection.

A short video from a United Methodist seminarian in Sierra Leone was shown.

Instructions & Closing Prayer
Ana Goar Johnson, West District Lay Leader, was invited to lead the body in prayer.

PLENARY SESSION 3 | JUNE 18, 2026, 2:00 PM (PDT)

Call to Order – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank called the plenary session to order.

Orders of the Day – Rev. Cathie Capp, Agenda Chair
Rev. Capp presented the Orders of the Day and moved the Orders of the Day.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Announcements – Rev. Won-Seok Yuh
Attendees were encouraged to utilize MeetingPulse for access to conference materials, the participant guide, legislation, support resources, and microphone requests. Technical assistance remained available, and participants were asked to silence devices and limit use to one device and one browser tab when possible.

The 70th Anniversary of Women's Ordination was highlighted.

Bishop's Award – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Bishop Escobedo-Frank welcomed and shared short biographies on each of the Award Recipients, and the recipients shared their heart-felt gratitude.

This year's recipients for the 2026 Bishop's Awards are:

Khanh Doan
Randa Krakow
Rev. Alan Mark & Kara Mark
Suanne Ware-Diaz
Rev. Dr. Edward Hansen
Robert N. Mansfield, Jr.
Leah Gallardo Switzer

Table Talks – Rev. Cathie Capp

Table Talk Discussions:

- What do we need from our delegation?
- What gifts and graces does this role call for?
- Who carries those gifts?
- Who represents our perspectives well, and have we heard those voices well?

General & Jurisdictional Delegate Work and/or Legislation – Rev. Bob Rhodes & Rev. Cathie Capp

Rev. Bob Rhodes and Rev. Cathie Capp provided instructions for the afternoon session of delegate nominations. The slate of nominations presented by the Methodists For Social Action (MFSA) was developed in consultation with additional representatives and was not solely MFSA-driven.

Because voting was not completed during the morning session, Conference members proceeded with the election of General Conference delegates. Instructions were reviewed for the electronic voting process, including access to the full list of nominees and the ability to vote for up to two candidates within each voting category.

Clergy members vote for clergy delegates and lay members vote for lay delegates. Conference leaders encouraged participants to approach the election process prayerfully and with openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the Conference discerned its delegation for the General Conference.

Clergy Nominees

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

Lay Nominees

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

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the first vote.

First vote: There is no election. We need 50% plus 1

Moonyoung Lee, Clergy, East District Superintendent: I am grateful for your love and support. I only want to be considered for the Jurisdictional Conference. So please do not vote for me at this time for the General Conference Delegation.

Rev. Capp offered a prayer before the second vote.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the second vote.

Erin Hawkins was elected in the first Laity election.

Clergy ballot – no election.

Hannah Ka, Clergy, First UMC of San Diego: I want to be considered for the Jurisdictional Delegation only.

Kevin Kang, Crescenta Valley UMC, Laity: I would like to be considered for the Jurisdictional Delegation only

Rev. Capp led the body in prayer before the third ballot.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the third vote.

There is no election this time.

Richard Bentley, Clergy: Could we see the vote results two or three times? It's hard to remember what the results are. I would find this helpful.

Rev. Cathie Capp: Because one person has been elected, the Laity can now only vote for one delegate.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the fourth vote.

Monalisa Tu'itahi was elected in the second Laity election.

Rev. Thomas Choi was elected in the first Clergy election.

Rev. Cathie Capp: We are going to do one final vote for this plenary – Clergy only. The Laity has accomplished their goal.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a Fifth vote for Clergy Delegates only.

The results of the Fifth Vote – there is no election.

Rev. Cathie Capp: In an effort to complete this task in this plenary session, we are going to increase voting time so that our online siblings will have more time to vote. I ask Bishop Escobedo-Frank to have the clergy vote one more time.

Bishop called for a Sixth Vote for Clergy Delegates.

Rev. Molly Vetter was elected in the second Clergy election.

<u>Budget Discussion</u> – Rev. George Hooper and Rev. Molly Vetter / Robert Yamamoto
Introducing the Conference budget presentation, Rev. Hooper emphasized the principle that "money follows mission," noting that faithful stewardship begins with a clear sense of purpose and ministry. Drawing from Matthew 6:33 -- "seek ye first the kin-dom of God and everything else will follow," he reminded Conference members to trust that resources will follow a compelling and faithful vision.

Rev. Hooper considered the changing realities of stewardship in local congregations, noting that traditional approaches to fundraising and financial support are no longer sufficient. Churches and Conference ministries must continually tell the story of their mission and invite participation in that work throughout the year.

He highlighted the growing partnership between the Connectional Table and the Council on Finance and Administration, describing a collaborative process that seeks to align mission, vision, and financial resources. With the support of the Bishop, the Connectional Table has worked to bring Conference leaders together across ministry areas to discern shared priorities, foster communication, and create space for sharing a collective vision.

This collaborative approach has helped Conference leaders identify new opportunities for ministry funding, including more strategic uses of designated funds and other financial resources. By working together around a common vision, Conference leaders have been able to better understand how existing resources can be utilized to support ministry priorities.

The proposed budget is the result of cooperation between the Connectional Table and the CFA, expressing priorities and goals that have emerged through several years of shared discernment. The spending plan is intended to align financial resources with the Conference's mission and ministry objectives.

Rev. Hooper expressed hope that the budget would inspire enthusiasm and participation throughout the Conference. By clearly connecting financial stewardship with ministry impact, congregations can see their contributions as an investment in the shared work of making disciples and transforming communities.

Chief Financial Officer Robert Yamamoto was introduced and invited to present the details of the Conference's financial plan.

Mr. Robert Yamamoto, Annual Conference CFBO, thanked all the leadership of the Conference and invited the members of the Connectional Table and the GCFA to stand and be recognized.

A slide was shown of a Cal-Pac Summary based on 2024 statistics, which included membership data, professions of faith, baptisms, online giving, and worship. There are 46,000 members of the Cal-Pac Conference, and women make up 61% of our Conference's churches. The Conference's diversity was highlighted by noting that non-white members are 52% of the total membership. Wespath also uses this information.

According to 2024 data, females were in the top 10%; however female members are now 4th in a three-year change. Mr. Yamamoto shared that when we have more data, there is better learning. These data sets are part of a series of data which people can look at.

Current church giving is increasing, and online giving is increasing. Mobile apps are growing opportunities for stewardship.

A slide showing this Conference's apportionment data from 2022 through 2026 was shared. Through May of this year, there has been an increase in apportionments each month. CGFA is hoping to achieve 74% by the end of the year. CGFA's job is to support and celebrate with the Conference.

Information was given about Conference Receivables in the Conference. The good news is that the year-after-year growth in Receivables has been reduced. Additional information was provided for the Cal-Pac Operating Income Trend.

2027 Draft Apportioned Budget Highlights:

This budget incorporates a process revision, including the Connectional Table, to align ministerial needs with Conference financial resources.

The five Connectional Table priorities are noted as:

B = Belonging: "Center discipleship by forming people who grow in faith, live out the gospel and participate in God's mission in their daily lives, commit to young people's ministries"

C = Community Engagement: "Support for mission work, training and advancing strategic partnerships"

E = Essential Ministries: "Increase collaboration with church support, storytelling and e-learning"
H= Healing and Retreat "Invest in healing trauma by responding to emotional and spiritual wounds"
V = Vitality: "Enable new expressions of ministry, leadership and ethnic gatherings"

New Connectional Table Program Spending Includes:

Justice and Compassion Ministries: Clergy Wellness $60,000 (H) Healing trauma, providing tools, relationships and support structures

Leadership: Grant Writer – $50,000 (E) Support conference ministries to apply for funds to help fund key initiatives. Discipleship – $25,000 (V) Building an intentional and diverse practice of Wesleyan Spirituality in our churches.

New Ministries: New Ministries Operations $35,000 (B) Administrative costs associated with all new ministries. Young Generations $100,000 (B) Conference activities funds support four major annual events for youth to gather, grow and lead. Also includes investment in new ministry objectives and application-based grants to local churches and ministry groups, supporting initiatives that foster identity formation.

2027 Non-Apportioned Program Fund Highlights

Budget incorporates the results of a comprehensive review of Cal-Pac's invested assets resulting in a spending plan of 4% of invested assets based on a 3-year average of year-end balances, a new column "non-apportioned program funds"

Invested Assets at Cal-Pac Foundation includes 33 funds with an asset base of $33.6M

Using a spending plan of 4% (calculated on a 3-year moving average) yields $1.34M available for missional needs.

Spending plan offsets include a combination of spending plan, grants and sponsorships.

2027 Draft Apportioned Budget Highlights

Additional assumptions in Budget calculations:

General Church apportionment increased to $2,531,586. A 1.77% increase from 2026.

Administrative Fees from Pension Billings of $527,153 offset staff salary, benefits and other administrative costs of the CFBO and Human Resource offices. The offset of $363,043 (highlighted in red on the budget) indicate a 69% collection rate.

Budgeted Gap on Apportionment Payments of $1,245,507 represents a collection rate of 86% on annual apportionment billing of $8,669,562.

Total proposed *internal* un-apportioned Annual Conference budget of $10,009,605 is an increase of $606,777 from 2026. However, after applying non-apportioned program funds (spending plan offsets) of $1,340,043 to the resulting apportioned budget of $8,669,562 is an overall decrease of $733,266 (7.8%) vs. 2026 (including absorption of increase in general church of 1.77%)

Budget incorporates the results of a comprehensive review of Cal-Pac's invested assets resulting in a spending plan of 4% of invested assets based on a 3-year average of year-end balances, a new column "non-apportioned program funds."

Invested Assets at Cal-Pac Foundation includes 33 funds with an asset base of $33.6M

2027 Draft Apportioned Budget Highlights:

Connectional Table priorities are aligned with the budget; use of Conference assets reduce total budget by $1.3M; and Budget is lower by $733,266 and reduces Apportionments 7.8% vs. 2026

Mr. Yamamoto thanked the Connectional Table and the CFA for all their work.

Cabinet Matters (Part 1) – Rev. Moonyoung Lee, Dean of Cabinet
Rev. Lee shared that as she thought about this year's Conference theme, Astonish, she also thought about our Conference's vision to end spiritual and physical hunger. She was struck by how close these two things are. This is a God-sized vision. It is not something which can be accomplished in a year or two, or maybe even in our lifetime. Rev. Lee stated that she is astonished by the weight of this work and trusts God will help us live this vision.

Astonishment requires that we get outside of what is comfortable and see with new eyes. She believes that it demands that we be willing to let go or what we knew to make space for where God is calling us – and that can be uncomfortable and risky.

She shared that this is the work the Cabinet has been engaged in. They have been honest about what is working, and what is not. They have engaged in pruning to make space for believing that we can be brave enough to end hunger in all its forms. To be brave enough to make different choices. To trust that when we prune, we are not diminishing our witness, but making space for the Conference to be more fruitful and vital. Rev. Lee stated that there will be many recommendations coming before this Annual Conference for our prayerful consideration.

Rev. Lee stated that she wished to celebrate two things which deserve our joy and attention. We are witnessing the birth of something new. Highgrove and Moreno Valley members of Box Springs Cooperative Parish are forming Abiding Faith UMC. She said that this is what it looks like when we say "yes" to where God is calling us. Two congregations are becoming one stronger witness.

Second, First German UMC in Glendale are embracing their future by changing their name to International Community UMC. They are answering God's call to become the beloved community their neighbors need them to be.

REC 26-17 – Closure of Bethany United Methodist Church – Dr. Tom Choi

Rev. Choi shared the origins and history of the ministry of Bethany United Methodist Church.

Rev. Choi moved REC 26-17 – Closure of Bethany United Methodist Church.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Rev. Choi offered a prayer for the ministry of Bethany United Methodist Church.

REC 26-14 – Closure of San Gabriel First United Methodist Church – Rev. Moonyoung Lee

Rev. Lee shared the origins and history of the ministry of San Gabriel First United Methodist Church.

Rev. Lee moved REC 26-14 – Closure of San Gabriel First United Methodist Church.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Rev. Lee offered a prayer for the ministry of San Gabriel First United Methodist Church.

REC 26-11 – Disposition of Westmont United Methodist Church Assets – Rev. Moonyoung Lee

Rev. Lee shared the origins and history of the ministry of Westmont United Methodist Church.

Rev. Lee moved REC 26-11 – Disposition of Westmont United Methodist Church Assets.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Rev. Lee offered a prayer for the ministry of Westmont United Methodist Church.

REC 26-13 – Closure of Montclair First United Methodist Church – Rev. Lee

Rev. Lee shared the origins and history of the ministry of Montclair First United Methodist Church.

Rev. Lee moved REC 26-13 – Closure of Montclair First United Methodist Church.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Rev. Lee offered a prayer for the ministry of Montclair First United Methodist Church

Instruction and Closing Prayer
Rev. Karin Ellis, clergy member from La Cañada United Methodist Church, extended an invitation on behalf of the Justice & Compassion Ministry Team to a prayer vigil following the Memorial Service. Participants will gather to remember victims of injustice, to give thanks to God, and to be reminded of God's light in the world and within each person. The gathering is intended as a time of communal prayer and solidarity, centered on hope and the presence of God amid suffering and injustice.

Instructions – Rev. Won-Seok Yuh
Rev. Won-Seok Yuh offered closing instructions for the day's proceedings, commending Conference members for their work and drawing attention to several items requiring review before the following day's session. Members were advised of an update to Resolution 26-02 and were encouraged to review newly submitted legislation, including Resolutions 26-07, 26-08, and 26-09, in preparation for continued deliberations.

Additional announcements included an invitation for clergywomen to wear their "Women Lead the Church" shirts and gather for a group photograph. Information regarding evening events and activities was also shared with Conference participants.

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank welcomed retired Bishop Grant Hagiya, expressing the Conference's gratitude for his presence and for his years of faithful leadership and service to the California-Pacific Conference.

Closing Prayer
The day concluded with a closing prayer led by Norman Kelsey, lay member from North Hollywood United Methodist Church, who offered thanks for the Conference's work and prayers for the continuing discernment of the body.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE WORSHIP SERVICE | JUNE 18, 2026, 7:00 PM (PDT)

Prelude		String Quartet and Piano
Welcome		Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Call to Worship		Rev. John Griffin-Atil
Opening Prayer		Rev. John Griffin-Atil
Musical Performance	*Wanting Memories*	
Scripture Reading	John 11:17-27 NIV	
Message		Monalisa Tu'itahi
Song	*Give Me Wings of Faith to Rise*	Tongan A Cappella Singers

Acts of Remembrance Rev. Viliami Ongo Koli

Relationships do not end with death. In our Pacific Island culture, the relationship continues, and our practices ensure that we, the living, continue to accompany our loved ones into their rest. Even now, even in death, gentle love and care are at the center of rituals and practices that bind one to another, even beyond death.

Tonight, you see in our midst, a big Kava bowl. Tracing its purpose to sacred sacrificial customs, the Kava ceremony and this very Kava bowl traditionally represent the land, fonua (Tongan) fanua (Samoan), and whenua (Maori). This evening, however, it is not filled with kava, but with water. Water, representing Oceania, Moana, but perhaps more aptly tonight, Living Water. A sacred symbol of the living water and the movement of the Holy Spirit, signifying both baptism and new life – the passage through death into resurrection hope.

The lei, woven by human hands with flowers, leaves and fragrance, symbolizes the beauty and interconnectedness of a life once shared within the ohana, the familia, the community. Mapakie ʻa e faa, ka ʻoku kei ʻalha ʻa hono tu'u anga. Though the flower has been plucked, its fragrance continues. Tonight they are no longer with us, but the memories, the legacy of service, the bonds of love and friendship, continue.

As each name is called, a family member will cast a lei into the water, as our final gesture of farewell and thanksgiving. Though an indigenous practice, it echoes the meaning of baptism itself: a remembrance that these our beloved were claimed by God, surrounded by grace, and carried by the promise of eternal life. As the lei is released into the living waters, it becomes both prayer and testimony – that in life, in death, and beyond death, we belong to God.

Family members, those blessed by their ministry, and those whose lives were touched, were invited to stand.

Reading of the Names Rev. Garth Gilliam and Rev. Luis A. Garcia

The names of those who have finished their labor on this earth were read aloud:

Rev. George Cisneros, Jr.
Rev. Dr. David Corbin
Rev. Gwen Ehrenborg
Rev. Nancy Goyings
Rev. Steve Islander
Rev. Youngstone Jhun
Rev. Gwen Jones-Lurvey
Rev. Dr. Harvey Kemp
Rev. Whan Ki Kim
Rev. Russ Locke
Rev. Dr. Frances Materra
Rev. Heisik Oh
Rev. Seungbae Paik
Rev. Janis Specks
Rev. Dr. J. Robert (Bob) Stimmel
Mrs. Losapina Maile
Mrs. Kathryn Meier
Mrs. Petra Movido
Mrs. Amelia Namoa
Mr. Manukafoa "Tevita" Paongo
Rev. Dr. Wallace (Lee) Truman
Rev. Mark Ulrickson
Rev. Patricia Diane Kenney
Rev. Kirby Laurel Pickus
Mr. Salesi Sione "John" ʻAtu
Mrs. Rita Calderhead
Mrs. Mildred Chang
Mrs. Anesiu Fine
Mrs. Aileen Houghton
Mr. Eric Jacobson
Mrs. Levāivanu Karapani
Mrs. Sook Kyung Kim
Mrs. Dorothy Knox
Mrs. Marjorie Koehler
Mrs. Patricia Locher
Mrs. Jean Price
Mrs. Damaris Rodriguez
Mr. Ji Shik Ryu
Mrs. Shelly Wiggins

Prayer for the Saints Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Congregational Song *Fear Not the Pain*

Blessing Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Postlude *Fear Not the Pain Reprise*

Worship Notes:
The Astonish Ensemble:
Braden Pontoli – Music Director
Dr. Lara Urrutia – Piano, Keyboards & Vocals
Sarah Finley, Vocals
Kirk Averitt, Vocals
Agustin Donati, Guitar
Emilia Borja, Percussion
Nigel Deane, Violin 1
Manoela Wunder, Violin 2
Sean Lyons, Viola
Jeness Johnson, Cello

Credits
Home by Ola Gjeilo
For All the Saints, UMH 711
Wanting Memories by Ysaeye Barnwell
Fear Not the Pain by Rachel Ollak Kroh, arranged by Peter Amidon, Andrew and Hillary Donaldson

(3) U.M. DAILY
Friday, June 19, 2026
42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference

JUNETEENTH WORSHIP SERVICE | JUNE 19, 2026, 8:30 AM (PDT)

Gathering Music	*Libra* by Max Roach	Juneteenth Jazz Quintet
Song	*Members Don't Git Weary*	Juneteenth Jazz Quintet
Welcome		Rev. Courtney Mackey

Juneteenth is the oldest, nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. June 19, 1865 marks the date when Union Soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, reached Galveston, Texas, with the announcement of the Civil War's end, the abolition of slavery in Texas, and the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the Confederate South.

This news reached the enslaved two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and over two months after the surrender of General Robert E. Lee at the Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal in the United States would not be ratified until December 1865.

Juneteenth, also referred to as Freedom Day, Liberation Day and Emancipation Day, has long been celebrated as a day of freedom in the African American community and marks the United States' second Independence Day. In 2021, Juneteenth was commemorated as a federal holiday for the first time.

We commemorate Juneteenth in worship today, in celebration and thanksgiving to God who continues to release the captives that all might have life and have it more abundantly!

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Scripture	Luke 4:16-22 (NRSV)	Emonnie Ginyad

Introduction to the Speaker Rev. Victor Cyrus-Franklin

Acclaimed activist-artist and speaker, Peggy Trotter Dammond Preacely is a former Freedom Rider and working member of the historic Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) that included among its founding members civil rights legend – the late Rep. John Lewis.

Due to her grassroots activism for civil and voting rights, Ms. Preacely was jailed in Maryland and Georgia. She also worked in various communities across the Deep South in the '50's and '60's to facilitate community empowerment and register Black voters in under-served rural communities – many registering for the first time in their lives. She was also at the '63 March on Washington, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech and foregrounded the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Raised in Harlem, her family history is rooted in activism, most notably through her great-great-grandparents, William and Ellen Craft's 1848 daring escape from slavery, which inspired the Prime Video Film, *Underground*. In 2015, the late Rev. James M. Lawson, Jr. – whom Ms. Preacely also worked with in the '60's – presented her with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Rosa Parks Humanitarian Award. A tribute poet, speaker and frequent documentary feature and is a proud member of the historic Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles.

Message	*Poem for Juneteenth*	Peggy Dammond Preacely
Song	*Equipoise*	Juneteenth Jazz Quintet
Benediction		Rev. Courtney Mackey
Closing Song	*This Little Light of Mine*	Juneteenth Jazz Quintet

Worship Participation:
Liturgist: Rev. Courtney Mackey, Laguna Beach UMC
Scripture Reader: Emanee Guinyard, St. Mark's UMC, Los Angeles
Messenger/Poet: Peggy Preacely, Holman UMC

Juneteenth Jazz Quintet:
Victor Cyrus-Franklin, III, Drums
Manuela Rodriguez, Bass
David Nnamdi, Piano
Angel Czazchkoff, Alto/Soprano Saxophone
Julian Chiu, Trumpet
Haqumai Sharpe, Soloist

Liturgy: Adapted from Juneteenth Liturgy, Episcopal Diocese of California, written by Rev. Caren Miles

PLENARY SESSION 4 | JUNE 19, 2026, 9:00 AM (PDT)

Call to Order – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank called the plenary session to order.
Orders of the Day – Rev. Cathie Capp, Agenda Chair
Rev. Capp presented the Orders of the Day and moved the Orders of the Day.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Announcements – Rev. Won-Seok Yuh, Assistant Conference Secretary
Rev. Won-Seok Yuh opened the day's proceedings with reminders regarding Conference procedures and participation. He reviewed microphone protocols for members wishing to address the body and encouraged participants to utilize MeetingPulse as the primary platform for accessing Conference materials and resources. Motion protocol was reviewed, and participants were reminded to silence their phones and use the Wi-Fi for Conference business only. Rev. Yuh also announced the items recommended for the Consent Calendar and the legislation to be taken up in this Plenary.

Astonish Talk – Rev. Ken Suhr

Rev. Ken Suhr, Director of Congregational Vitality, opened by expressing gratitude for the clergy, laity, and leaders of the California-Pacific Conference, recognizing the many visible and unseen ways they faithfully serve their congregations and communities. Drawing on the First Nations translation of the Bible, he considered the name for Jesus being translated as "Creator Sets Free," sharing peace and grace to the body in the beautiful and more than able name of Creator Sets Free.

Referencing the Conference theme of "Astonish," Rev. Suhr shared his appreciation for the opportunity to visit congregations throughout the Conference. He acknowledged the challenges many churches face, including concerns about attendance, volunteer engagement, finances, and aging facilities, while also celebrating the faithfulness of those who continue to serve.

Rev. Suhr then discussed insights from the book *When Church Stops Working* by Andrew Root and Blair Bertrand. He noted the authors' observation that modern society is shaped by a culture of acceleration, the belief that faster growth is the solution to life's challenges. He suggested that churches often adopt this same mindset, seeking more programs, innovation, and activity in response to decline.

While recognizing the value of planning and innovation, Rev. Suhr cautioned that constant acceleration can lead to exhaustion and anxiety. Congregations and church leaders can become consumed by the pressure to produce results, losing sight of the deeper spiritual foundations of ministry.

Turning to the Book of Acts, Rev. Suhr highlighted that before the events of Pentecost and the growth of the early Church, the disciples were instructed to wait. He emphasized that Acts 1 precedes Acts 2, reminding the Conference that prayerful dependence on God came before expansion, mission, and organizational activity.

Considering the disciples' decision not to wait, but to fill the empty place of a disciple before Pentecost, Rev. Suhr suggested that the early Church's most significant breakthroughs came not through human management, but through God's unexpected action. He pointed to the later calling of Paul as an example of God's initiative shaping the future of the Church.

One of the greatest challenges facing the contemporary church is not simply institutional decline, but the loss of confidence that God remains active in the world. Rev. Suhr encouraged Conference members to reclaim a sense of expectation and trust in the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

A central theme of the presentation was the concept of "resonance." In contrast to acceleration, resonance is an experience of fullness, of being so present that we feel like we have discovered ourselves again. Resonance is a deep connection with God and with others, where it touches our souls and hearts. Resonance begins when we wait and seek an encounter with the living God, when we slow down and look at each other again, face to face.

Drawing on Methodist history, Rev. Suhr pointed to John Wesley's Aldersgate St. experience as an example of how spiritual awakening precedes movement and mission. Before the Methodist movement expanded across England, Wesley first experienced a profound encounter with God's grace, where his heart was "strangely warmed" by the love of God.

Rev. Suhr challenged Conference members to consider how churches can help people encounter the living God and form authentic relationships with one another. He encouraged leaders to focus not only on organizational effectiveness but also on creating spaces where faith can be experienced deeply and personally.

He identified several pathways for encountering God, including worship, prayer, Scripture, the sacraments, creation, and service. He also emphasized the importance of authentic Christian community, where individuals are known, heard, and loved without pretense.

Addressing the Church's relationship with its neighbors, Rev. Suhr highlighted the importance of listening, accompaniment, and relationship-building. He noted that effective justice work, advocacy, and community engagement emerge from genuine human connection rather than abstract programs or strategies.

He shared examples of congregations that intentionally slowed their pace, creating space to listen more carefully to God, one another, and their communities. In some cases, doing less activity led to deeper transformation because churches were able to focus on relationships and discernment.

Rev. Suhr connected these themes to the work of Connectional Ministries, noting that while resources, leadership development, and congregational support remain important, the larger goal is to help churches cultivate meaningful relationships and greater attentiveness to God's presence.

He invited Conference members to consider how they might cultivate greater resonance in their own lives and ministries, including through prayer, listening, and intentional encounters with others. Participants were also encouraged to utilize a designated prayer and reflection space available during the Conference session.

Concluding his address, Rev. Suhr observed that many people today are searching for authentic spiritual experiences, genuine community, and hope amid the pressures of modern life. He reminded the Conference that the Church's greatest gift is the living presence of God made known through the Holy Spirit.

He closed by affirming that the Church is "spiritual before it is strategic." While planning and administration remain important, renewal begins with surrender, waiting, listening, and responding to God's movement.

Following the presentation, Conference members were invited into table conversation and asked these questions for sharing: How may the Spirit be speaking to me or moving in me today? How can resonance with God, one another, and neighbors help my church move from anxiety and survival mode toward deeper spiritual renewal? What can I do to cultivate resonance in my church?

SAI/UMC Scholarship – Bob Arvizu
A video was shown sharing SAI's beginnings and its work. Gardena Industrial School opened in 1913. More than 2,400 young men were housed, trained, educated, and cared for in a safe, Christian environment. In the early 1970's, the school was closed due to regulatory and financial burdens. Today, SAI's Mission of serving the Hispanic youth who strive for a better life through higher education continues. A video was shown highlighting past scholarship recipients Ashley Guerrero. This year's scholarship recipients are Alicia Hortiales, Vanessa Cruz Zavala and Krystal Guevara. The scholarship recipients from Kid's City were also acknowledged.

Mr. Arvizu began by introducing Leah Switzer. Ms. Switzer shared that SAI is now partnering with Foster Care and Kid City through providing scholarships. Anne Hawthorne, from Kid City, was asked to stand. Churches were encouraged to send their youth to the Spanglish Camp this summer! SAI plays an important role, and we are all invited to support them through their "Adopt a Piggy" bank fundraiser.

CST – Grant Hagiya, President of Claremont School of Theology
Retired Bishop Grant Hagiya, President of Claremont School of Theology (CST), considered the significant challenges the seminary has faced over the past decade, including litigation, relocation, and difficult financial decisions. He noted that the institution's survival and renewal have required faith and trust in God's guidance through uncertain circumstances.

Despite challenges facing theological education and the broader higher education landscape, Bishop Hagiya reported that CST has experienced substantial growth. Over the past three years, enrollment has increased by 40 percent, and the most recent graduating class was significantly larger than the previous year. He attributed this growth in part to the school's renewed focus on its core values of compassion, justice, and belonging.

Bishop Hagiya emphasized CST's commitment to being a radically inclusive seminary rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, particularly Christ's ministry among those on the margins. He also highlighted the school's interreligious commitment, which seeks to prepare leaders capable of engaging faithfully and respectfully across religious traditions.

As an example of that commitment, he described a new partnership with the Bayan Islamic Graduate School, through which CST will support the preparation of Muslim leaders by providing academic resources and accreditation support.

He characterized the partnership as an expression of the school's willingness to embrace innovative and collaborative approaches to theological education.

Considering the institution's mission, Bishop Hagiya stated that CST seeks to form leaders who are committed to compassion, justice, and belonging, and who are prepared to address the realities of a changing Church and world. He noted that the school's renewed clarity of vision has strengthened its identity and attracted growing support.

Continuing CST's long tradition of innovation, Bishop Hagiya announced two recent academic initiatives. The first is a new Doctor of Ministry concentration in innovation, leadership, and spirituality, which Won-Seok Yuh will be the ambassador of, and which the school hopes will include a California-Pacific Conference cohort. The second is a Doctor of Spirituality degree, led by Frank Rogers and is described as the first program of its kind, designed for advanced study in spiritual formation and leadership.

Bishop Hagiya also reported growing financial support for the seminary, including gifts of $1M each that are helping launch a bridge to the future campaign of $20M. He described these gifts as signals that people see what is happening, that they believe in the work being done, and that the future of the institution is in front of us.

Looking ahead, he announced a series of online continuing education opportunities being offered in partnership with the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops and ecumenical partners. The courses will be available to clergy and laity, and will focus on areas such as church revitalization, leadership development, and lay ministry formation. Registration ends on June 29 and scholarships will be available to ensure broad participation.

He also highlighted the continuation of the school's coaching certification program, which provides advanced training for ministry leaders seeking professional coaching credentials.

Concluding his remarks, Bishop Hagiya considered the nature of institutional strength, which comes from clarity of purpose and faithfulness to God's call. He expressed confidence in CST's future and gratitude for its ongoing partnership with the California-Pacific Conference in preparing leaders for ministry in the years ahead.

Jurisdictional Delegate Nominations Voting – Rev. Cathie Capp
Clergy and Laity General Conference Delegates were elected yesterday, and now we have a bigger slate for our Jurisdictional Delegate Nominations. You will be able to vote for up to 10 delegates.

A list of nominees was shared, and it was observed that some names were not present for election. While this configuration issue is addressed, we will watch a Retirement Video.

Retirement Video – Media Team
Rev. Dr. Paul Youngjin Kim

Jurisdictional Delegate Nominations Voting – Rev. Cathie Capp
The issue was corrected, and the voting continued.

The first Jurisdictional Delegate ballot was taken for Laity: **Cathy Wilson, Mele Maka, Ana Goar Johnson, Rachel Rhodes-Wickett Gipson, and Jason Takagi were elected.**

The first Jurisdictional Delegate was taken for Clergy: **Won-Seok Yuh, Allison Mark, and Moonyoung Lee were elected.**

Kristen Luevanos, Huntington Beach: I am continually having trouble voting. My mom is running and I cannot vote. Are we able to take a paper ballot?

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: We are not able to take a paper ballot due to those participating online. We will work on this technical problem.

Retirement Video – Media Team
Rev. Lily Malonzo Villamin

Jurisdictional Delegate Nominations Voting – Rev. Cathie Capp
Bishop Escobedo-Frank: We are giving a five minute break.

Rev. Cathie Capp offered a prayer.

Retirement Video – Media Team
Rev. James Powell

Legislation – Jason Takagi
Here is our Consent Calendar:

For Concurrence (Recommendations)
REC 26-02 – Advance Specials (97%)
REC 26-03 – Pensions 1: Health Care for Active Clergy & Families, Lay Employees (99%)
REC 26-04 – Pensions 2: Retiree Health Care (99%)
REC 26-05 – Pensions 3: Clergy Housing Allowance (100%)
REC 26-06 – Pensions 4: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (99%)
RES 26-01 – Elevation of Eco-Ministry Strategy Group (92%)

Rev. Rhodes invited the body that, as we are gathered around tables today, please take time to have discussions about the legislation that is coming before us.

The Legislation for this plenary:

REC 26-10
RES 26-03, RES 26-04, RES 26-05, RES 26-06
RUL 26-02

Legislation – Jason Takagi
We are moving to items not on the Consent Calendar.

RUL 26-02 – Tenure Rule (Corrected)

Submitted by the Conference Hispanic Committee, this rule change amends Rule VI.D.5 to exempt members of the Conference Hispanic Committee — except its at-large members — from the eight-year tenure limit in Rule VI.D.3.

Jason Takagi moved RUL 26-02.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Drew Patterson, Laity, Shepherd of the Valley UMC: Speaking against. I think it recognizes a real problem, which is that we have difficulty bringing new blood to our organizations. Rather than solving that problem, I think this exacerbates it. By removing the tenure rule, we remove that pressure to bring new people to our organization, something that we desperately need to maintain continuity of leadership, which is exactly what this wants to maintain. But we can't have that continuity if we're not continually bringing new people into positions of leadership. A large part of the problem our church is in is because we failed to get the younger generation to become involved in church leadership positions generally. And this leans into this problem rather than seeking to address it. I suggest instead that we might try a sort of mentorship program – something that lets somebody work alongside the people currently in these positions, grooming and preparing them to perhaps take them up themselves or something in that direction rather than adjusting the tenure rules so there's no term limit. So, I would recommend we vote no.

Rev. Sunyoung Lee, Clergy, Riviera UMC, Co-Chair of the Nominations Committee: I am speaking for. This rule change adds to the current existing tenure exemption. Several of our ethnic committees already have this exemption. This Hispanic Committee's work depends on cultural trust, language fluency, and relationships that take time to build and the pool of people that are available to serve are very limited. This rule change will allow people to continue to build relationships with one another. It does not erase the Nominations Committee's work to add people to the committee as well as the committee's own ability to accountability to see whether they should continue with the current leadership,

current membership, bring about a new change. This rule change is to add the Hispanic Committee to the existing tenure exemption already in our rules. Thank you.

Ana-Haydeé Urda, Laity, Conference Hispanic Committee President: I speak in favor. I come before you as Rev. Lee spoke before me, I "ditto" everything she says. We are not asking for anything out of the ordinary. We are asking for something that already exists and we were kept away from. We are just requesting that we do the same thing as the Native American and Pacific Islanders have done. Thank you.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on RUL 26-02. It was supported.

RES 26-03 – Endorsing the Kairos Palestine II Document

Submitted by the Cal-Pac Palestine/Israel Task Force with no fiscal impact, this resolution asks the Annual Conference to endorse Kairos Palestine II, a November 2025 document from Palestinian Christians titled "A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide," and urges congregations to study the document through the UMKR Congregational Study Guide.

Jason Takagi moved RES 26-03.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Elaine Shin-Paull, Clergy, First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park: Speaking against.

I stand here not to silence the suffering of our Palestinian siblings. Their pain is real and as followers of Jesus, we are called to see it. But I rise because this Resolution as written tells only one side of a very complex story. I think we can do better. First, on language: the terms "genocide" and "apartheid" are politically contested. Reasonable, faithful people, including Christian scholars and Jewish scholars dispute these characterizations, when we embedded contested political language into a Conference resolution, we are not speaking prophetically. We are taking sides in a geopolitical debate, using terminology that wounds our Jewish neighbors and United Methodist members who hold a different view. I move that we remove these terms and replace them with language that describes a humanitarian crisis without judging its legal or moral characterizations. Second, an omission: this Resolution makes no mention of the October 7th attacks, the taking of hostages, or the ongoing trauma of Israeli civilians living under rocket fire. It makes no mention of Hamas. A Resolution that calls us to solidarity with one people while erasing the suffering of another does not reflect the fullness of the gospel. We believe every human being bears the image of God, Israeli and Palestinian alike. I move that we add language that explicitly acknowledging Israeli suffering and the right of the Israeli people to security and peace. Third, on Israel's right to exist. The United Methodist Church has historically affirmed a two-state solution, and Israel's right to exist as a nation. This Resolution is silent on that. I move that we add a clause reaffirming their right consistent with longstanding ...

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Thank you, your time is up. I forgot to mention, so thank you for being the first one to have this happen to you. There is a timer on the screen, so please pay attention to the timer. However, I have a question for you. In your speech against – or are you asking to amend the Resolution?

Elaine Shin-Paull: Amend the Resolution.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: To Amend this Resolution, you are going to have to write down your Amendment and provide it to Jason. We will give you a minute to write it down. To help us move on, this Amendment might take us a minute, so we are going to hold this, and come back to the Amendment. When we get back to this item, the Amendment will be presented to us by Jason, and then we will vote on that.

The body agreed.

RES 26-04 – Supporting Equality for All General Conference Delegates

Submitted by Members of the Conference, this resolution addresses visa barriers facing international delegates to the 2028 General Conference in Minneapolis.

Jason Takagi moved RES 26-04.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Rev. Molly Vetter, Clergy, Westwood UMC: I speak in favor of this Resolution. This Resolution Amplifies values of our Conference in terms of creating spaces of hearing all voices, and being a global denomination in this world and who can get access to the U.S. I would affirm this resolution as an opportunity for Cal-Pac to go on the record as a Conference which advocates for creating spaces for our global UMC's to gather.

Richard Bentley, Retired Clergy: A speech in favor. I have spent a lot of the last ten years building relationship with Methodists outside of the U.S. and helping get Visas to come to General Conference. It is important that we state we are in favor of it happening. Some countries are banned, some have to post fees, the majority of the General Conference delegates are from outside the U.S. in the first time in the history of this Church. So, getting everyone there is essential to the integrity of what we are doing. We need to find a resolution that gets all people heard.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on RES 26-04. It was supported.

RES 26-05 – Inclusivity, Equal Protection, and Sacred Worth

Submitted by Members of the Conference, this resolution addresses gender inclusivity and the sacred worth of transgender and non-binary people.

Jason Takagi moved RES 26-05.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Izzy Alvaran, Clergy, Reconciling Ministries Network: I am speaking for this Resolution. We would think that we would not need this resolution, but it was put forward by the Alliance for Trans Inclusion. I would like to speak in favor of this resolution. We need this. This Resolution has passed in one form or another in the Ohio Conference. We know that our trans siblings are now the ones being targeted by the current Administration. I have heard that the UMC is fully inclusive. That is not true. As a gay man, I cannot tell any LGBTQ that you can go to a church with a cross and flame and you are safe. Our work is not done, and this is one step to reaffirm this Conference's values LGBTQ rights.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on RES 26-05. It was supported.

RES 26-06 – Encouraging the Use of Unionized Venues

Submitted by Members of the Conference, this resolution asks the Annual Conference to express a preference for unionized venues when booking future sessions.

Jason Takagi moved RES 26-06.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Drew Patterson, Laity, Shepherd of the Valley UMC: I can't refer to the exact line number, but near the end ... is this the Hawai'i Resolution or the Union one?

[Clarification that this Resolution is Encouraging Union Venues]

Drew Patterson: [Continued] I would just note that my sense from this, is that we are working under the assumption that Unions are inherently a force for good, but they don't have to be. They are a special interest group and advocate for their members at the expense of the other groups like employers, consumers, and the general public. They can definitely

trample other people as well, so I don't know that we should always side with Unions and look at it on a case-by-case basis instead of jumping to conclusions.

Kristen Luevanos, Huntington Beach UMC: I'm going to start by saying that yes, I am biased. I am a Union Vice President and a past Union President. This is key, as I am a member of California Teachers Association. We have this sort of resolution within our laws and where we meet for hotels, it is discussed in negotiations that we will not stay at your hotel if you go to impasse. It leads the employer to actually listen to their employees. I understand the concern that it is a special interest group, but studies show that when a state has strong unions, all workers in that state get better working conditions. Unions help raise everyone within that state. If we fight for those workers, and we hold employers accountable, the employees will do better. Don't forget to tip your cleaning crew at the hotel. This is a speech for.

Frank Wulf, Clergy, Echo Park / La Plaza UMC: I invite us to read this resolution carefully. It does not require Union hotels, but asks the people who are making plans for Annual Conference to have a conversation with the Union in the same way that the hotel has conversations with the Sessions Committee. It is an effort for us to work together to make sure that workers are treated fairly as we make decisions about where we are going to meet as an AC every year. It is a recommendation to take workers' concerns seriously and that we only use places where workers are treated fairly and justly. This fits with everything the UMC stands for ever since our first Social Principles were written in 1908.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Out of respect for each other, please do not applaud.

Sandee Furuta, Laity, Conference Staff: As a member of staff, I am on the Sessions Committee and work to find our locations. We work very hard to look at union hotels. This year, this is not a union hotel, but we made sure that the staff has a living wage, they have benefits and health care, interviewed staff in every department to make sure that they are happy with jobs, without their managers present, and I also asked for tenure. So far, the shortest tenure has been 10 years. One member of the events staff has been here for 29 years. As the sessions committee, we work hard to make sure we are at a fair and safe hotel. I am voting against this.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on RES 26-06. It was supported.

Bishop: We will still have to come back to RES 26-03 while the Amendment is still being written.

Does anyone wish to make a motion to table this?

John Miller, Laity, Atascadero UMC: I move we table the resolution to a future session.

The motion is before you and has been seconded.

Rev. Mary Ann Pickard, Clergy, Lakewood First and Walteria UMC: The Kairos document was written by Palestinian Christians, and we have been seeing a systematic attack against them. We have seen the ravages of war. We come every year and there have been many of us speaking. This has been passed in four other conferences. This is not new. UMC have long stood with Christian Palestinians. The time is now. I think tabling it would send a concerning message to Christians in Palestine. I ask that we consider this this year.

John Miller: To clarify, this was a future session at this Conference. I will note that we are at 11:45a.m, the time to finish this session. There will be debate on this. I think it would be prudent to wait until we have sufficient time to consider this resolution.

Mary Ann Pickard: Thank you for that clarification.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on Motion to Table this until a future Plenary Session at this Annual Conference – RES 26-03 The Motion to address RES 26-03 later was supported.

Closing Prayer & Instructions – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
A prayer was offered by Michael Mitchell, South District Lay Leader.

PLENARY SESSION 5 | JUNE 19, 2026, 2:00 PM (PDT)

Call to Order – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank called the plenary session to order.
Orders of the Day – Rev. Cathie Capp, Agenda Chair
Rev. Capp presented the Orders of the Day and moved the Orders of the Day.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Announcements – Rev. Won-Seok Yuh, Assistant Conference Secretary

Jurisdictional Delegate Work – Rev. Bob Rhodes
Rev. Bob Rhodes reported that a technical issue affecting several voters during the delegate election process had been identified and corrected. To ensure the integrity of the voting system, Conference leaders conducted additional testing before proceeding with the election.

While staff continued to verify the system, Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank adjusted the agenda and invited the presentation of the Juneteenth Report.

Juneteenth Report – Deborah Bass and Rev. Royce Porter
A Juneteenth Video was shown.

Ms. Deborah Bass, lay member at Crossroads UMC in the West District and chair of the Conference Strengthening the Black Church Committee, and Rev. Royce Porter, pastor of Crenshaw United Methodist Church and chair of Black Methodists for Church Renewal in Cal-Pac, presented the Juneteenth Report to the Annual Conference.

Ms. Bass opened the report by grounding Juneteenth in its historical and theological significance. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the freedom of more than 250,000 enslaved African Americans, more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The delay, Ms. Bass noted, is itself part of the Juneteenth witness: freedom declared must become freedom realized. For Black communities across the United States, Juneteenth has become a celebration of resilience, faith, perseverance, and the continuing pursuit of justice.

Rev. Porter traced the roots of Black Methodist history, framing it as inseparable from American Methodist history itself. Long before the formal organization of American Methodism, Black believers were at the center of the movement. In 1758, John Wesley recorded the baptism of two enslaved Africans from Antigua who returned home and helped establish one of the earliest Methodist congregations in the New World. When the Christmas Conference convened in Baltimore in 1784, Black Methodists were already shaping its witness. Among them were: Harry Hoosier, a formerly enslaved man whose preaching drew crowds away from bishops; Richard Allen, a visionary leader whose influence continues to reverberate across the church and the nation; and Jarena Lee, whose bold response to God's call opened doors for generations of women in ministry.

Yet even as Black Methodists helped build the movement, they encountered a painful contradiction. The church preached grace for all while practicing exclusion. In 1787, Richard Allen and other Black worshippers were forced from their seats at St. George's Methodist Church in Philadelphia. They responded with dignity and not violence, walking out together in what Rev. Porter described as an act of holy resistance: "When dignity is denied, faithful people will rise."

Allen went on to found Bethel Church while others remained within Methodism to build congregations like Mother Zoar. Across the nineteenth century, Black Methodists established churches that became schools, centers of education, networks of mutual aid, and training grounds for leadership. Following emancipation, they built schools, colleges, seminaries, and ministries that served communities denied access and resources. Yet freedom from slavery did not end the struggle. In 1939, more than 350,000 Black Methodists were placed in the segregated Central Jurisdiction when branches of Methodism reunited. These faithful Christians were not separated by geography but by race. Still, they kept building, preaching, organizing, and believing. When the Central Jurisdiction was abolished in 1964 and the United Methodist Church was formed four years later, Black Methodists for Church Renewal emerged to keep justice, equity, and leadership development at the center of the church's mission. This legacy carried through the Black College Fund,

the General Commission on Religion and Race, and generations of leaders who have refused to separate faith from justice.

Ms. Bass offered a celebration of the faithful clergy and laity who have sustained Black congregations across generations in the California-Pacific Conference, naming Robert Smith and Gwen Smith, Lydia Waters, Clayton Hammond, Sylvester Gillespie, Andre Aldridge, Beverly Shamana, Rev. Lawson and Ruth Conley, Andrew Robinson Gaither, Leroy Brown, and Robert Habersham. The following congregations were recognized: St. Johns in Watts, Crossroads in Compton, First Church in Compton, Lynwood, Holypark in Gardena, St. Paul in San Diego, Faith in Los Angeles, St. Mark in Los Angeles, Hamilton in Los Angeles, Crenshaw in Los Angeles, Holman in Los Angeles, Grace in Los Angeles, Scott in Pasadena, Pacoima, Altadena, and Inglewood. Specific ministries highlighted included a housing development at Inglewood United Methodist Church, Grace Fest at Grace UMC, the rebuilding of St. John's sanctuary after fire, charging stations at Crossroads, Epworth Farms (a partnership of St. Mark and Holman), a meal program at Heritage, and the community gardens at Crenshaw.

Rev. Porter shared a vision for the future. The pastors of Black congregations have begun gathering to discern a renewed path forward, committing to four priorities:

1) deeper partnerships and collaborations among leaders and congregations;
2) intentional investment in leadership development for clergy and laity;
3) thoughtful stewardship of human, spiritual, and property assets for long-term sustainability;
4) and bold investment in young people as a vital part of the church *today*.

Ms. Bass closed by inviting the full California-Pacific Conference to join in this work. The flourishing of Black churches, she said, strengthens the witness of the entire church. Juneteenth belongs not only to Black Americans, but to all who seek God's vision of justice, reconciliation, and beloved community. This is a Gospel aspiration rooted in the God who delivered Israel from bondage, the Christ who proclaimed release to the captives, and the Spirit who continues to break down dividing walls.

The presentation concluded with a responsive affirmation led by Ms. Bass and Rev. Porter:

> *"For freedom Christ has set us free.*
> *Therefore we will stand firm in faith, justice, and love.*
> *Until all God's children flourish.*
> *By the grace of God, we will continue the work.*
> *Thanks be to God. Amen."*

Jurisdictional Delegate Work – Rev. Cathie Capp / Rev. Bob Rhodes
Rev. Capp shared a reminder that there are 10 delegates for both clergy and laity Jurisdictional Delegates. The laity has already elected five, and the clergy has already elected three.

Rev. Capp led the body in prayer.

Rev. Escobedo-Frank: The first ballot for this plenary is before you.

You have elected for Clergy: Sione Finau

You have elected for Laity: Maikolo Brown

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: The second ballot is before you.

You have elected for Clergy: Melissa MacKinnon

You have elected for Laity: Michael Mitchell

Rev. Capp led the body in prayer.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: The third ballot is before you. Clergy, you will have to vote again – there were already elected people were still on the ballot.

You have elected for Clergy: No election.

You have elected for Laity: No election.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: The next ballot is before you.

You have elected for Clergy: Hannah Ka

You have elected for Laity: Kevin Kang & Sonya Lee
This ballot was later invalidated by the Bishop after members reported they did not receive it.

Rev. Capp: Laity, you have one more delegate to elect. Clergy, you have four more delegates to elect.

Rev. Capp led the body in prayer.

Scott Caprio, Laity, First UMC of San Diego: I was not able to vote in the last round. I never received the prompt to vote for the laity.

Amybeth Lake, Laity, Northridge UMC: There was a whole group of people who did not get that last ballot.

Bishop: If you did not get the last Laity ballot, please raise your hand.

Rev. Yuh: This is something that we are aware of, and we are working on it.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: The last laity ballot will be invalidated.

Steve Dempster, Laity, Corona UMC: We solved the problem by getting out of the voting tab, and went back, and we were able to get back in.

Rev. Capp: The laity need to fill three delegate spots. The Clergy need to fill four delegate spots.

Rev. Yuh: Close your tabs. Everyone, please get out of the app. Many are having trouble with the app. If you know how to do so, you might want to try opening an "Incognito" tab.

Another test ballot was given.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: The system we are using is causing us problems. The system we used for legislation did not cause us problems. We are moving to that section of our plenary.

Legislation – Jason Takagi
RES 26-03 – Endorsing the Kairos Palestine II Document – Motion to Amend.

- In the 4th Whereas starting on page 1 line 32 – Replace "genocidal assault" with "devastating military conflict" and replace "ethnic cleansing" with "forced displacement" so it reads: "Whereas Palestinians in Gaza continue to struggle for survival in the midst of devastation after two years of devastating military conflict resulting in severe humanitarian crisis, while world powers either support or accept plans being developed for endless occupation, dispossession, and forced displacement in Gaza without reference to the inalienable rights and the wishes of the indigenous people of Palestine"
- In the 5th Whereas starting on page 1 line 38 – Replace "ethnic cleansing" with forced displacement so it reads: "Whereas Palestinians in the West Bank including East Jerusalem are experiencing a terrible escalation of military operations, settler attacks, expansion of illegal settlements, and forced displacement from their land, which have reached record levels in 2024-2026, with tens of thousands being displaced, entire Palestinian communities being erased, and plans for permanent annexation of occupied Palestinian territory moving forward in the Israeli government"

- In the 6th Whereas starting on page 1 line 44 – Replace "genocide, ethnic cleansing and forced displacement" with "whereas the October 7th, 2023 attacks resulted in the deaths of approximately 1200 Israeli Civilians and taking over 200 hostages and ongoing trauma for Israeli communities" so it reads: "Whereas, Palestinian Christians, in the Kairos Palestine II document, titled "A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide" and issued in November 2025, have said to us:
    - Referring to the original Kairos Palestine document of 2009: "After prayer and reflection on the suffering of our people under occupation, we release that cry of hope in the absence of hope, affirming our faith in God and our love for our homeland, convinced that our struggle is ultimately about human life and dignity,"
    - "We live now in a time of whereas the October 7th, 2023 attacks resulted in the deaths of approximately 1200 Israeli Civilians and taking over 200 hostages and ongoing trauma for the Israeli Communities unfolding before the eyes of the world. This moment demands from us a new stand, one unlike any before it. It is both a decisive moment and a moment of truth. Today, we renew our stand for truth and our commitment to fundamental religious, theological, and moral principles. We look at our reality and take a renewed stand, responding to the voice of the Holy Spirit deep within us, listening to the call of faith, hope, and love – offering a faith-inspired vision for the time after genocide."
- In the 8th Whereas starting on page 2 line 13 – Replace "ethnic cleansing" with "forced displacement" so it reads: "Whereas their call includes rejection of Christian Zionism and all theology that would justify the oppression and destruction of the Palestinian people, as well as rejection of the conflation of antisemitism with opposition to Israeli apartheid and forced displacement"
- In the 12th Whereas starting on page 2 line 32 – Replace "identifying and opposing Israeli apartheid" with "addressing the humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian People" so it reads: "Whereas the California-Pacific Conference has adopted several resolutions in recent years supporting the Palestinian struggle for liberation and justice, including in 2023, a resolution 'addressing the humanitarian condition of the Palestinian People'
- Insert the following after the 12th "Whereas":
    - "Whereas we affirm that all human beings bear the image of God – Israeli and Palestinian alike and that the suffering of one people does not diminish or negate the suffering of another."
    - "Whereas a just and lasting peace requires acknowledgment of the humanity, grief, and security, needs, of all parties to this conflict."
    - Whereas the United Methodist Church has historically supported a two-state solution and the right of both Israeli and Palestinian peoples to exist in peace and security within recognized borders."
- In the 1st Therefore starting on page 2 line 36 – Replace "supports and endorses" with "while affirming the right of Israel to exist in peace and security and the right of the Palestinian People to self-determination in freedom from oppression endorses the humanitarian concerns raised in" and insert "while noting the specific characterizations within that document reflect on the perspective of its authors" so it reads: "Therefore be it resolved that the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, while affirming the right of Israel to exist in peace and security and the right of the Palestinian People to self-determination in freedom from oppression endorses the humanitarian concerns raised in the Kairos Palestine II document, while noting that specific characterizations within that document reflect the perspectives of its authors."
- In the 2nd Therefore starting on page 2 line 39 – Replace "study and discussion of" with "prayerful, balanced, study of The Israel Palestinian conflict from multiple perspectives including, but not limited to the" and replace "with the goal of the actions and advocacy called for in Kairos Palestine II to follow" with "and resources representing Jewish, Israeli, and diverse Christian viewpoints with the goal of pursuing justice, peace, and reconciliation of all people of the Holy Land" so it reads: "Be it further resolved that the California-Pacific Annual Conference strongly urges its congregation and all United Methodist laity and clergy of the conference to engage in prayerful, balanced study of the Israeli Palestinian conflict from multiple perspectives including, but not limited to the Kairos Palestine II Congregational Study Guide, found at the website of the United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) (kairosresponse.org), and resources representing Jewish, Israeli, and diverse Christian viewpoints with the goal of pursuing justice, peace, and reconciliation of all people of the Holy Land."

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Do we have a second? We have a second. Now the maker of this motion can give us some discussion if they want to.

Elaine Shin-Paull, Clergy, First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park: I made this amendment because my small church is very diverse. We have two families who are Muslim, four who are Jewish and Christians, and due to the diversity, it made me think how we are framing our resolutions. I hope these words are more aligned with the Gospel and that we are not only taking one side, but that we are more inclusive. Thank you.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank opened up discussion:

Online: Theresa Basile, Laity, Culver Palms UMC

Due to technical difficulties, Suanne Ware-Diaz read Theresa's statement against the amendment.

Suanne Ware-Diaz: "Thank you, Bishop. I would like to speak against amending this resolution. I am speaking also as a leader in the denomination-wide UMC movement known as UM Kairos Response. We are thousands of United Methodists across the connection answering the call of Palestinian Christians to the Church. About what we've heard in debate, but for too long we have heard a repeated demand in our Church that we not offend those who would be uncomfortable or offended by bold statements that name clearly and honestly what it really happening to the Palestinian people. Please know that there are tens of thousands of Jewish Americans and organizations who are speaking every day about Israeli genocide and apartheid. Israel's leading human rights organization has published a report naming that their country is absolutely committing genocide and is an apartheid state. Imagine the courage it takes for these Jewish Israeli citizens to say that. Our Conference has a history of speaking the truth about what is happening in Palestine. Just two years ago, the Cal-Pac Conference named and condemned Israel's apartheid regime. Something that we hear very often is that this is 'too complicated' so we shouldn't try to weigh in on it. But we don't have to be experts on genocide and international law – we have experts to help us. There is a pretty strong consensus worldwide about the Israeli genocide and apartheid. We have reports on both of those from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the United Nations. The world's leading scholars on the Holocaust and genocide published powerful--"

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: You have run out of time. Thank you so much for reading that for Theresa.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: We have one speech against.

Allison Mark, Clergy, Faith UMC Torrance: Against this amendment. As someone who believes our faith calls us to the truth, I rise to speak my conscience alongside many others in opposition to this amendment. Our United Methodist Social Principles call us to stand up for human suffering. These principles are not fulfilled by looking away from devastating realities. We are called to honest witness and courageous compassion. The resolution before uses strong language like 'genocide', which some may be uncomfortable with, but the purpose of the Church is not to use language that makes us comfortable, but to bear witness to the truth. Suffering itself is uncomfortable. The amendments that we have heard completely change the resolution in its original form. The Kairos Palestine was written by Palestinian Christians who asked the global Church not to look away. There comes a time when silence itself becomes harm. Refusing to name suffering becomes participation in it. I support the resolution as it stands and against the amendments, because we must stand where Jesus stood – with the oppressed.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: That is another speech against. We have a question online.

Erin McPhee, Clergy, Online: Question/Clarification. In line 34, is the original text in quotations a quote from a document? If so, are we switching to a different quote? If not, then we cannot change the language of an existing resolution that was already approved in a previous session.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I'm going to take that as a speech against.

Paul Kim, La Palma UMC and Trinity UMC: We are working for the poor and oppressed. When I visited Israel, so many Palestinians and young people were struggling in poverty and poor situations. Israelis did not care about them. We are called to be Christ's disciples. I'm supporting it. Thank you. I am rejecting this amendment.

Bishop: Do we have anyone who wishes to speak for the Amendment?

Drew Patterson, Laity, Shepherd of the Valley UMC: I'll speak for. I think it's good to temper our language. We are supporting this as a Church. It should be something everyone can get on board with. It is clear that we have a portion of our Church which is not fully on board. I think it's fair to temper the language.

Sunny Ahn, Clergy, New Beginnings UMC: I speak for the Amendment. The amendment is not against the essence of the message of the original resolution. We are serving diverse people in our local church. By doing good, we are harming another sect of our church. "Do no harm" comes before anything else.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on the Amendment to RES 26-03. The Amendment was not supported.

Jason Takagi moved RES 26-03.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Yoshi Kuramoto, Clergy, San Pedro UMC: If we wish to know the truth, then suffering must speak. Jesus said that the truth will set us free. These words come from the Kairos Palestine document, written by Palestinian Christians themselves, may we hear them: "Those who deny the genocide committed against the Palestinian people, despite the overwhelming evidence, testimonies, and even the statements of Zionists themselves, deny the very humanity of the Palestinian People. We have the right, therefore, to ask how one can speak of Christian fellowship or communion while denying, supporting, justifying, or remaining silent before genocide? Especially when such acts are committed in the name of God in scripture? There must be honest reflection and repentance by all believers, especially by church leaders throughout the world. Siblings, ultimately, this is about the foundational questions of faith posed by the Crucifixion, a criminalized and tortured Christ nailed to the cross: Who are the victims of the world? Where does God choose to be? What ought to be our spirit-led response?" In closing, let us not settle with the faith of the early Peter who denied Christ three times before the rooster crowed. Let us aspire to have faith like that of Mary Magdalene, who stayed by the cross and became the first witness of the Divine prison-break of resurrecting love. Amen.

J.T. Greenleaf, Clergy, St. Paul's UMC Coronado: A speech for the Resolution. There is another element to add to this that is being reported by an ABC affiliate, he wrote on the site formerly known as Twitter: "All of Lebanon must burn." That is a genocidal statement by definition. We cannot sit back with watered down language. We need to hear all the people who are suffering in the region today.

Laura Pinho, Laity, Chatsworth West UMC: I almost left the Church over this issue, and for the failure of my church at the time to say anything at all. I went through about a year of crisis and arrived at the United Methodist Church, primarily because I was able to wear my keffiyeh without being shunned. It is Juneteenth, and I'm just going to say that none of us are free until we are all free. I can think of no other people who have experienced less freedoms than Palestinians over the last 80 years, especially those currently living in Gaza, trying to survive this genocidal assault without any sustenance. They are feeling that the world has forgotten them. Standing with them at this time is crucial in living up to Christ's call.

Cole D'Agostino, Laity, St. Mark UMC San Diego: I speak in favor of this Resolution. As United Methodists, our principles declare that we must stand with those who are oppressed, marginalized, and suffering. When our siblings in Christ, specifically the Palestinian Christian community, reach out to the Global Church with a cry of attention and recognition, we have an obligation not to look away but to listen and respond. Voting on this resolution does many things, but two stand out to me. First, it shows solidarity with the Global Church, further emphasizing our commitment to the worldwide community that we live in. Second, it tells our local congregations to study the document by reading and learning from it. Our churches will be more educated and have the knowledge to move past surface-level thoughts and headlines, and to move into more driven reflection. At the beginning of this resolution there is a Bible verse, Hebrews 13:3 and it says, "Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." This is what we are doing. It does not say that we are picking a side in the conflict but instead supporting a group of people who wish for loving support all over the globe. Let us collectively stand up and send a clear message that the Cal-Pac Conference stands for justice, and that we listen to our neighbors. Thank you.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: That was another speech for. Is there anyone who wants to speak against? We have had four in favor.

Blair Trygstad Stowe, Hollywood UMC and Claremont School of Theology: Can I make a motion that we call the question?

Bishop: Not until we make sure there are no speeches against.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on RES 26-03. It was supported.

Jason Takagi: We are moving back to the Consent Calendar from this morning. Bishop, I move the Consent Calendar.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on the Consent Calendar. It was supported.

Doug Dickson, Clergy, Northridge UMC: Point of personal privilege. I'd just like to take this opportunity after having passed the previous resolution that this is not the only genocide happening in the world. If you look at Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar, and Xinjiang, China—they all have active genocides happening right now. Let's also use this opportunity to educate our people about genocides throughout the world. Thank you.

REC 26-10 – Equitable Compensation Minimum Salary Schedules PR-88

Jason Takagi moved REC 26-10.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Frank Wulf, Clergy, La Plaza UMC & Echo Park UMC: I wish to speak in favor. I want to call attention to the fact that this is based on calculations that were set out in 2015. I urge a "yes" vote. I want us to invite the Equitable Compensations Commission to go back to that 2015 rule over the coming year and begin to ask whether it's still appropriate for us in this day. That's not a motion, it's just a request attached to my hope that we will vote "yes."

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I take that as a speech in favor.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on REC 26-10. It was supported.

Nominations Committee – Rev. Sunyoung Lee and Lynn Owan
Rev. Sunyoung Lee greeted the Annual Conference and introduced Lynn Owan, her fellow co-chair of the Conference Nominations Committee. She noted that the committee's written report was included in the Preliminary Report and began by expressing gratitude to those whose service and support have strengthened the committee's work over the past year.

Special appreciation was extended to Sandra Liddell, who is completing her term on the committee; Jennifer Gaylord, who has been essential to the committee's operations; Erin Hawkins; and District Superintendent Tom Choi for their continued encouragement and assistance throughout the year.

Rev. Lee reported that the Nominations Committee has successfully expanded its leadership structure, adding several new positions to strengthen and sustain the nominations process. Simon Sansano as Secretary, Deb White-Barela as Database Manager, Kimberly Emerson as Reference Check Coordinator, and Moon Young Kong as Communications and Qualifications Coordinator were recognized for their service in these newly created roles.

Lynn Owan highlighted the committee's progress in implementing a clear nominations timeline, a consistent reference-check process, and an updated database. She noted that Recommendation 26-01 represents the committee's work during the past year.

Two updates were reported from the floor. Bishop Escobedo-Frank appointed Rev. Drew Davis to the Board of Ordained Ministry. The committee expressed gratitude for both the Bishop's discernment and Rev. Davis's willingness

to accept this new responsibility. To assume this role, Rev. Davis will conclude his service on the Justice and Compassion Executive Ministry Team effective June 30, 2026.

Second, the Conference was informed that District Superintendent Garth Gilliam is no longer serving as the Cabinet Liaison to the Board of Ordained Ministry. The committee expressed appreciation for his faithful service in that capacity.

The Conference was reminded that the nominations report remains a living document and that several vacancies still exist across Conference leadership structures. Members were encouraged to recommend individuals from their local churches and districts who may be called to serve. Those interested in exploring opportunities for leadership were invited to contact the committee directly at nominations@calpacumc.org.

On behalf of the Conference Nominations Committee, Lynn Owan moved the adoption of the Nominations Report, Recommendation 26-01, as amended.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on REC 26-01. It was supported.

Cabinet Report – Rev. Moonyoung Lee, Dean of Cabinet
A video titled *District Highlights: Astonishing Ministries Throughout Cal-Pac* was shown, highlighting examples of the astonishing ministry taking place across the California-Pacific Conference.

Rev. Lee invited Rev. Luis Garcia, South District Superintendent, to come forward.

Rev. Garcia brought before the body:

REC 26-16 – Closure of the Charter of Chapel of the Valley UMC, El Cajon, CA

Rev. Garcia moved REC 26-16.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Brad Stein, Laity, El Segundo UMC: You used “closure” in the title and “discontinuance” in the body. Is there a difference?

Rev. Garcia: We can use either one.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on REC 26-16. It was supported.

Rev. Garcia offered a prayer for the mission and life of Chapel of the Valley UMC.

REC 26-12 – Closure of Mission Community United Methodist Church, Rosemead, CA

Rev. Lee: I present REC 26-12.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on REC 26-12. It was supported.

Rev. Lee offered a prayer for the mission and life of Mission Community UMC.

Rev. Dr. Saia Tu’itahi, West District Superintendent, responded to questions he received about his clothing, explaining the significance of his traditional Tongan attire. He shared that the clothing is traditionally worn to church and other important occasions as an expression of respect, humility, gratitude, and honor toward those gathered. He also considered the impact of colonization, noting that Western dress requirements were later imposed over traditional Island clothing.

Rev. Tu'itahi then presented Recommendation 26-15, Closure of Young Hwa United Methodist Church, Los Angeles, CA

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Dione Taylor, Laity, San Diego First UMC: Why reimbursement at only half the amount?

Rev. Tu'itahi: Part of the negotiation is that they are not paying rent, and they are clearing out from now until December. It was advised by our legal team. We have received half. The other half is their rent.

Gregory Douglass, Clergy, Native American UMC: I was involved in part of this negotiation as the question had arisen: Why allow them to remain on site and why 50%? It was not only a desire for some sense of grace from this Annual Conference, but their legal team came back to us and tried to claim that we did not recognize they had quitclaimed the property under a statute of limitations. We were facing potential long-term and expensive litigation. Pastor Saia, myself, and our legal advisors met with them and came to the agreement that Pastor Saia has presented to the Conference at this time. Part of the plot within that was not only to be graceful ourselves, but to save us from the long-term litigation that was possibly ahead of us.

Sunny Ahn, Clergy, New Beginnings UMC: Question about the appointed pastor—is she going to be terminating her ordination along with the closure of the church, or do we need to vote for discontinuing her credentials?

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Anything that has to do with a person's credentialing for ministry is dealt with in the clergy session. That is clergy session matters. You will get your answer probably next year in Clergy Session.

Paul Kim, Clergy, Trinity UMC: I am supporting this because the congregation did not follow the book of Discipline. I led Charge Conference four years ago and I recognized the same process they were taking, and clergy member Rev. Kang is over 72 years old, so maybe she is retiring.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: She is in retired status. Even retired clergy are still under the order of Elders. Thank you for that information. I receive that as a speech for this recommendation.

Martha Strapac, Laity, Trinity UMC: My question is a matter of—I don't want to call it semantics, but this is a legal document and it should have all the information correct, so it bothers me where it talks about, "Hyun and Song acting as officers of Young Hwa." Somebody is supposed to be a Reverend, there are no first names or titles, and I just think that should be added to this document. That's all how you refer to someone, and I don't know if that's one person or two because it says, "Acting as officers of Young Hwa." That's all.

Rev. Tu'itahi: The reason why we closed the church is because there was no communication whatsoever, and when the legal deed was filed... What the resolution contains is taken directly from the legal documents.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on REC 26-15. It was supported.

Rev. Saia offered a prayer for the mission and life of Young Hwa.

Rev. Lee: We will move the following two remaining recommendations in the evening plenary.

Instructions and Closing Blessing
The closing prayer was offered by Tupou Kelemeni, Hawai'i District Lay Leader, while the A Capella Tongan Choir sang.

PLENARY SESSION 6 | JUNE 19, 2026, 6:30 PM (PDT)

Call to Order – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank called the plenary session to order.
Orders of the Day – Rev. Cathie Capp, Agenda Chair
Rev. Capp presented the Orders of the Day and moved the Orders of the Day.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Announcements – Rev. Won-Seok Yuh, Assistant Conference Secretary
Rev. Yuh shared that Young People's Worship would be held that evening at 9:00 p.m. A special meeting for Building and Location Chairs was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. the following morning. District breakfasts would take place at 7:00 a.m., followed by the Service of Commissioning and Ordination in the Flores Ballroom.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank introduced Taufa Tenisi from the East District who is on the stage this plenary.

Cabinet Matters – Rev. Moonyoung Lee, Dean of Cabinet
Rev. Garth Gilliam, North District Superintendent, came forward to present REC 26-18, Closure of North Oxnard United Methodist Church, Oxnard, CA

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Melanie Branson, Laity, Ridgecrest UMC and the Cal-Pac Eco Ministries Team: I'm speaking in favor of this Recommendation, with a special attention request for the District and Conference Leadership in lines 28-29 in the Recommendation. I'm reading in part, "The hope of developing and maintaining another United Methodist ministry on this site," and it sounds like we are moving in that direction, which I am happy for. I wanted to share my own personal experience as a member of the Ridgecrest UMC, I have personal experience with this garden, and the North Oxnard UMC. About 10 years ago, they sent a call out to the Conference inviting any and all churches to come experience an Eco Justice Workshop tailored towards children. My daughter and I went along with a few other members of our church. My mind was blown by the garden and their repurposing and recycling programs of the City were just astonishing. I have not encountered a like-program since. This is exactly the kind of passion youth and community involvement that our churches want to encourage and I hope that our leadership will seriously consider keeping open the community garden program as originally imagined. Thank you.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I take that as a speech in favor. I see folks at the microphone who are not allowed to speak on the floor because they are not delegates, as we talked about yesterday. You are from the Garden and I know that Rev. Garth represented you well here, and I just want to know that we are really glad that you are here, and we hope to, as Rev. Garth said, continue in the future. In this setting, how we operate in the UMC is that the voices come from the delegates who are in the local churches. You might come up and talk to ... you can't use the microphone until I give you permission ... you can come up and have a side conversation with Rev. Garth for a moment if you would like.

David Jamir, Clergy, Ventura First UMC and Garden Church: I wanted to let all of you know that we have done due diligence with this congregation. We worked hard to make things happen, but we are about 25 years late doing it. We have heard the cries of the people, we sat with them, we prayed with them, and this is the conclusion the Charge Conference made. Pastor Cindy and I affirmed their decision and so did the Cabinet. This comes from the congregation and I was privileged to serve, and I affirm this Resolution as well.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I take this as a speech for. Let me confer with District Superintendent Garth. We have exhausted the speeches for, so we can have a speech against. Do we have any other speeches from the delegates? Thank you for speaking with D.S. Garth.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on REC 26-18. It was supported.

Rev. Gilliam led the body in prayer, celebrating the mission and life of North Oxnard United Methodist Church.

REC 26-19 – Discontinuance of La Trinidad United Methodist Church, Los Angeles, CA

Rev. Lee: On behalf of the appointed Cabinet, I present REC 26-19. Rev. Lee shared the history of La Trinidad and the steps that have led to REC 26-19.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions. Two for and two against will be received.

Dione Taylor, Laity, San Diego First UMC: This might be a matter of semantics, but given the concerns that conversations around La Trinidad had over the past several weeks, could the Conference help us understand if there is any meaningful distinction between "closure" and "discontinuance," or if the terms are interchangeable. What led to the choice of the term "discontinuance" in this particular case, as the previous eight were "closures."

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I believe this came up before, it was a good question. The two words are interchangeable, so they mean the same thing.

Brian Parcel, Clergy, First UMC Chula Vista: I rise to speak in favor of the closure. I'm a member of the Conference Board of Trustees, so you have heard a lot of the information, but I rise to speak in favor of the closure. Let me say that there has been a lot of news about this, and we wish that many things would have gone very differently about it. What I can tell you from the Board of Trustees is that on January 26, 2026, we did vote as the Board of Trustees for the exigent closure because we were concerned about the assets of the Annual Conference. That is our primary task. There has been lots of talk about the Trustees or the Conference or someone wanting to take the money of the local church, and as D.S. Moonyoung has shared, those funds have been kept in the District Union and in the Foundation for the express purpose of continuing this exact same kind of mission in place. From the Trustees, I would encourage us, as painful as it may be, and as messy as this has been, that in order to preserve the assets for the Annual Conference, we advise you to vote to approve.

Richard Bentley, Clergy, Chino UMC: I move Substitution. I move that we substitute RES 26-09 for REC 26-19. If there is a second, I would like to speak to this.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I hear a second.

Richard Bentley: My father taught me once that when I was having a fight with my sisters and I wanted to tell him how awful they were, that it takes two to tango. He was more interested in what I had done than what they had done. RES 26-09 would, at the heart of it, call for a mediated settlement to this dispute. I think there are two sides to this. The Cabinet, as very effectively presented their side – we have not heard from some of the church leadership what their side would be. They can't speak, they don't have a member at the Annual Conference. There is on-going legal stuff going on, and I would note that in the case earlier today, I believe it was Young Hwa, we finally decided that mediation was a better and less expensive way. I hope that we will consider to vote for Substitution, are considering Substitution, so that we can look at both RES 26-09 and REC 26-19 and both approaches to solving this problem. I will say that having been through a number of disputes, I have learned that mediation, while longer and often painful, is often, in the end, less expense and preserves relationships better. Thank you.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Hold on for a moment. There is a request for Substitution before you. Is it possible to put that on the screen?

Rev. Rhodes: Richard is Substituting RES 26-09, so on the AC 2026 website, that's where you would find that legislation. If you give me just a moment, I will put it on your "Materials" tab in MeetingPulse.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: You have had the Substitution since yesterday, so I understand you have had time to read it. I'm asking now for us to speak for or against the Substitution.

Molly Vetter, Clergy, Westwood UMC: I'd like to speak against this Motion to Amend by Substitution because I would prefer us to move forward with the matter as the Cabinet has put it before us. As I've read this Resolution, that is offered as a proposed Substitution, I've noticed things. One of them is that it titles itself as a Resolution for Just Peace, but it also makes lots of condemnations and accusations. I found it a relatively disingenuous way to pursue a kind of mediated resolution. At the same time, I'm having the Conference go on the record as being disapproving of the actions of our Conference Leadership. I've also noticed that as a straight white woman, that we have one of the most beautiful and diverse inclusive Cabinets in the connection, if not the most, and that our Superintendents and Bishop have the ability to speak in languages across cultures that I aspire to one day. The weighty responsibility we give them in handling the important and difficult work of church closures and discontinuances is not one that I envy. And I appreciate their work of moving us through this in the messy realities of church life. I'd like to give them a little grace and make sure that we are not missing the point by paying attention to the minutia of the language that exists in all of the details in our Book of

Discipline and California law that we are wading through. I feel convicted that our quickness at second guessing the leadership of our diverse Cabinet is destructive to the thing that we are trying to do, which is build our capacities to do this important work together.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: We have a speech against.

Jason Takagi, Laity, San Luis Obispo UMC: I speak in favor of the Substitution. I wrote the Resolution because our Book of Discipline provides for fair judicial process when lay members stand accused of violating our church laws. The Cabinet has presented many allegations of wrong doing by the elected Lay Leaders of La Trinidad. Yet, our Book of Discipline requires that our Lay members are involved in any due process against a lay member. In this incident, the Lay Members have not been provided the inclusion of lay members in the process against them. The Bishop and Cabinet have instead used exigent circumstances and Civil court to bypass our fair judicial processes provided by the Book of Discipline and provide the elected Lay Leaders their due process rights. Due process is never convenient. It's not expedient, nor is it the most efficient. Yet the use of Executive Power will always result in a faster resolution. Our church is built upon a balance between clergy and laity. Due process is necessary in any sort of democratic governance system. Overriding the decisions of elected Lay Leaders must follow due process. They must be allowed to show why they made the decisions they did, and present that to a judicial process that includes lay people. They may have followed what their church wanted. It also might be that the judicial process finds the lay leaders were incompetent or in violation of their duties. We just do not know at this time. We must give these lay leaders the benefit of the doubt that they believe they were acting in the best interests of the people that elected them.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: That was a speech in favor of the Substitution.

Ana-Haydeé Urda, Laity, Huntington Park UMC, Conference Hispanic Committee Chair: I speak against this Resolution. Last night, at a meeting the Hispanic Caucus had, Pastor Ruben Esponda spoke to the members of the congregation that still exist. They decided that they do not want mediation. I am speaking on behalf of the members of La Trinidad at this point in time. Not the previous members, but the ones that are now meeting at Pico Rivera.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: That was a speech against. We have time for one more speech, and I believe this is a speech in favor of this Resolution.

Kristen Luevanos, Laity, Community Huntington Beach UMC: And yes, I hear that some don't want mediation, but those listed, do want mediation. What I heard earlier were the concerns of the assets over the concerns of the people and that concerns me. The only reason I am supporting this is because to me, reading what La Trinidad put out, some of them, and reading what the Conference put out – it seems to me that people were talking past each other, and not to each other. That concerns me because, as we say, all voices need to be heard, and if in a year, like the writer of the Resolution said, that it comes out that they were in the wrong, then fine, let's move forward. But I feel that harm is being done in the hope of saving assets over humans and that just concerns me. Thank you.

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank: We have two against and two for, so now as I understand our process, we have to vote on whether to Substitute and then on whether to accept the Substitution. This is a two-set process.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on the Substitution. It was not supported.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: And now, because it did not pass, we call for a vote on REC 26-19. We have already had one speech for, I'm calling on microphone 4 to give us our second speech for the Recommendation. There will be two more slots for any who may wish to speak against.

Ruben Esponda, Clergy, Nueva Esperanza UM Mission, formerly La Trinidad: Rev. Esponda spoke a saying in Spanish, which translated to English as, "Nobody knows the weight of the burden but the one who carries it." By this I mean that it is with great respect that I know the true situation which has been left at La Trinidad UMC. From the day I was appointed, back in July of 2025, with this, I want to highlight some points that we, as clergy and laity, need to hear when making our decision to vote on closing La Trinidad UMC. First, let me start by sharing my personal experience. When I was first introduced as the newly appointed pastor to La Trinidad, I was not welcomed as a pastor. When I attended the first Governor's Board Meeting, a group of leaders showed anger and disrespect for the pastor. Their

behavior was un-Christian. There was no respect for other leaders in the congregation. I was denied access to the church and bank account information. I was never given access to financial reports, and many other things. So, in short, we are dealing with a church with many problems like a lack of transparency and a conflict of interest. I urge you to vote in favor of closing La Trinidad.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Do we have any speeches against.

Suanne Ware-Diaz, Laity, Native American UMC: I am not going to speak in favor or against. I just want to share an observation that is bubbling over in me right now. It breaks my heart. There may be diversity, but diversity and inclusion are two different things. We can look very diverse, but that doesn't mean we have equal authority. The presentation was ... the tone bothered me. I'm going to share that with you openly. How we treat one another matters. How we come across with one another matters and I think that even in a painful time, and in a time where there may be injustices and misunderstandings on both sides, even if someone has done something severe, there are certain ways we can talk about it and deliver it, but when you are up on the stage and you have a title and you are talking here, it seems like it was already decided. I just want us to be mindful of that. That in our discussions and in our sharing, that we be respectful of one another even if someone else is in the wrong. Thank you.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Suanne, if you would just answer my question. I'm not sure if that was a speech ... even though you said that you didn't want to speak against, it did sound like an against, or are you just making a point ...

Suanne Ware-Diaz: I'm just doing an observation in the way that the presentation was made and how the discussions are coming up. That's all.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I'm calling it a point of order. Thank you.

Richard Bentley, Clergy, Chino UMC: I would like to offer an amendment. I think it was submitted through the portal, so you can see it.

The Amendment to REC 26-19 was accessible and was also read out loud by Rev. Bentley.

REC 26-19 Amendment: Therefore, be it further resolved, that the 42nd Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference encourages conference leadership to refrain from: freezing local church bank accounts and respond in appropriate ways so it is not necessary to hire lawyers to unfreeze local church bank accounts; holding paper checks for large sums of money for long periods of time which causes significant loss of interest; suing lay people in civil court rather than seeking other means of mediation and reconciliation.

If there is a second, I would like to speak to it.

There was a second.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Excuse me. I need to make sure that I call on the right people at the right time. I did hear seconds on the floor, but I have a legal matter to attend to before we move on. Please give me time to lead us. [A brief pause was taken.] Thank you for giving me time to lead. We do have a Constitutional Chancellor with us, who does inform us, and I will make a decision on whether or not this Amendment will be allowed to go forward. Before I make that decision, I will rely on what it says in our Book of Discipline and Rulings which inform us. I invite Lui Tran, Assistant Chancellor for Church Law, to come to the floor and give you that information.

Rev. Lui Tran, Assistant Chancellor for Church Law: I would like to inform you and offer an opinion on this matter. I'm concerned that if we decide to Amend the motion for closure, we would be violating church law. In particular, Paragraph 2549 4b, where it says, in the last sentence, "When it next meets, the Annual Conference shall decide whether to formally close the local church." So the Annual Conference only gets to vote up or down on the motion to close. There is essentially, from a legal standpoint, no amendment to the closure motion. You vote that either you want to close or not. This particular provision of Discipline has been interpreted by the Judicial Council in Decision 1490, which says exactly the same thing. If there is a challenge to the particular motion, it has to be brought before the body of the Annual Conference, which then votes, up or down, whether or not to close the local church. There is no amendment, there is

nothing that the Annual Conference can amend. You only decide whether or not you want to close La Trinidad. This is church law. This is my legal opinion to you.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Thank you. I have decided that this is not in order because it does not follow our Discipline and our Rules. I am calling this Out of Order. We can take two speeches against.

Cyndi Vann, Laity, Moorpark UMC: My question is, when you ask for a second, everybody in the audience screams. Don't we have to check to see if they are eligible to make that second? It's just a question.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: That's a very good question. You would do well in parliamentarian law.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on REC 26-19. It was supported.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I would to help us go through a spiritual moment that we have just been through. I ask our brothers and sisters in the Tongan culture to sing to us. When we sing, it causes vibrations. I think God made us all to sing for that reason. If you know the song, please sing along. I've asked them to stand up where they are. I think there is a leader who will help us sing. After the song, Dean Moonyoung will offer a prayer, and then we will move on to our next item.

The Tongan Choir sang for the Conference.

Dean Moonyoung Lee invited West District Superintendent Saia Tu'itahi to lead the body in prayer.

Dean Moonyoung: This concludes the 2026 Cabinet Report. Thanks be to God.

Jurisdictional Delegate Voting – Rev. Cathie Capp
I come to you once again to go through our Jurisdictional Delegate Elections. At this time, the Laity have elected seven members to the Jurisdictional Conference. They have three votes left. Clergy have elected 6 members to the Jurisdictional Conference and have four votes left.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the first vote of this plenary session.

Laity elected Kevin Kang and Sonya Lee.

Clergy elected none.

Rev. Capp: The laity have one more delegate to elect, while the clergy have four more to elect. Rev. Capp led the body in prayer.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the second vote.

Laity elected Guillermo Torres.

Clergy elected Brian Parcel.

Rev. Capp: We now invite the laity to elect the reserves for the Jurisdictional Conference. You may elect four reserve delegates.

The Clergy can select up to three people.

Rev. Won-Seok Yuh offered a point of information to assist those who are having challenges with the voting app.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the third vote.

Laity elected Young Mae Kim, Dione Taylor and Sharon McCart

Clergy elected Bob Rhodes

Rev. Won-Seok Yuh offered further technical instruction.

Rev. Capp: Clergy have two more to elect and laity has one more reserve delegate to elect.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the fourth vote.

Laity did not elect a delegate.

Clergy elected Amy Aitken

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the fifth vote.

Laity elected Gaye Fisher.

Clergy did not elect a delegate.

Tia Wildermuth, Clergy, Seal Beach First UMC: I make a motion to suspend the rules that the next highest vote gets the delegate nomination, and then the next three highest will be the reserve delegates.

Rev. Rhodes: Great idea – I like where your mind is at! Unfortunately, we can't do that. The Book of Discipline requires a majority to elect, and we cannot suspend the Book of Discipline.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the sixth clergy vote.

Clergy elected Israel Alvaran

Rev. Capp: Now it is time for the clergy to elect four reserves and the rules still apply. The candidates need 50% plus 1 vote.

Rev. Capp led the body in prayer.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the seventh clergy vote.

Clergy elected Lea Booth.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the eighth clergy vote.

Clergy elected Charlene Zuill

Rev. Capp: We have two more reserve clergy to elect.

Rev. Rhodes: During one of the ballot times, someone came up to the front and handed something to me. Please come up to the front. Could that person come back up?

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the ninth clergy vote.

Clergy have no elections.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the tenth clergy vote.

Clergy elected Stephanie Rice.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the eleventh clergy vote.

Clergy elected Christy Ann Clark.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Congratulations to the body and to Rev. Cathie for leading us.

Rev. Cathie Capp led the body in prayer.

Liz Roark, Laity, New Beginnings UMC, Jurisdictional Delegate: I passed you a ruling of law, thank you.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I have received the request for a Ruling of Law and I will take up to thirty days to process this request. Please go back to the microphone and tell us what the Ruling is for.

Liz Roark: The request is for the La Trinidad Recommendation.

Rev. Lui Tran, Assistant Chancellor for Church Law: When someone makes a request for a Ruling of Law, that person can do so but has to state what the legal questions are. To say that, "I'm making a request for a Ruling of Law," is not sufficient. I recommend that you state the question so that the body knows what the request is about.

Liz Roark: She read aloud the document titled La Trinidad Recommendation.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Thank you Liz. That was the whole request for an Episcopal Ruling of Law. This part of our process is our checks and balances. I will make a ruling within 30 days. Also, Judicial Counsel will look at that. This is part of who we are as United Methodists, that we can check on each other. Thank you. We will now move on BeUMC Awards.

BeUMC Awards – Alyssa Fisher, Director of Communications
Dr. Fisher shared that she will present the BeUMC Awards. This is a new award developed by the United Methodist Communications Agency and given to individuals and congregations who exemplify the Spirit, Vision and Mission of the United Methodist Church. She lifted up and shared the gifts and graces of each recipient. The Recipients are:

Outstanding Lay Person of the Year: Mele Maka, Conference Lay Leader

Outstanding Clergy of the Year: Pastor John Crewe, Lahaina UMC

Outstanding Congregation of the Year – Valencia UMC, North District

Congratulations to all of our awardees!

Budget – Rev. Molly Vetter
REC 26-09 – 2027 Budget with Narrative PR-75

Rev. Vetter moved REC 26-09.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on REC 26-09. It was supported.

RUL 26-01 – Tithe Apportionments PR –92

Rev. Vetter moved RUL 26-01.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Gary Schertz, Laity, Santa Clarita UMC: I have a question about this – is the expectation that the apportionment requirement for most churches will increase or decrease with this?

Rev. Vetter: It depends.

Gary Schertz: I'm asking for broadly speaking.

Rev. Vetter: On the whole, the budget is roughly the same size as last year, so it's net up and down. I don't have the exact figure difference.

Gary Schertz: I did some "back of the napkin" calculations for our church, and it would represent a substantial increase. Basically, our current apportionment requirement is approximately equal to our pledged, non-pledged and loose plate giving, which does not factor in our rental revenue. So all of that rental revenue will now be captured in our required apportionments, as I understand it. Is that correct?

Rev. Vetter: The current rule is based on expenses and membership numbers, so you can't compare as directly. It would depend on what the expenses for your church are and what your church membership is.

Gary Schertz: Right, so for the situation I just outlined, our apportionment would increase.

Rev. Vetter: It's possible, yes. Actually, the form has been on the Conference website that shows what the current 2026 apportionments are by congregation, and what the 2027 apportionments would be with this rule. You can actually see it if you want to compare. For everyone who goes down, someone goes up, because it's roughly the same size overall budget.

Gary Schertz: Okay. And what I would like for the body to understand, my particular concern is that as we looked earlier at the number of congregations in my district, the North District, who are current on their apportionments, it was a total of four. The remainder are not current on their apportionments. And we are looking at our apportionments going up, so that will just put it further out of our reach. Thank you.

Brad Biggerstaff, Clergy, Downey UMC: I am speaking against. I do want to thank you all for the transparency coming back this year, particularly noting the document you just stated that is on the website. It does provide full transparency and I do deeply appreciate that. With that, if you look at those numbers, you are correct in that it kind of depends on the situation, but there is, at times, a theme. I'm going to speak on behalf of my local congregation where our apportionments will go up by $5,000.00, according to the document. A small membership church that's been struggling, on the upswing, $5,000 for small membership churches does go a long way to take on some of those challenging differed maintenance issues, hopefully to throw some money at a part-time staff person, etc. I also note that there are churches that receive great benefit – in one case, a decrease of six figures. In other cases, sometimes as much as $20,000 or more. Oftentimes, churches in those situations would have been under the prior document, high member churches. I don't know what the perfect answer is. I am speaking on behalf of my local congregation. I do appreciate the transparency and I want to plug that Robert is awesome.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: That is a speech against. I will also take the first speech as against, would you agree with that? We have two speeches against.

Deb White-Barela, Laity, Riviera UMC: When is this effective? Is it January 1, 2027?

Rev. Vetter: That is correct. It would be begin in 2027.

Julie Elkins, Clergy, Chapel of the Valley and Chapel of the Hills: For one of my churches, we would go down in apportionments. The one that we voted to close today would still be able to pay apportionments. It would go up, because we had a large bit of money coming in from a preschool who leases from us. We were benefiting from that preschool lease, and yes, I understand people going, "Oh I want to spend that money," but spending it at the Conference level is just as important. We all need to be a part of the connectional system. I believe in tithing and my church that we all voted to close, they still want to pay their apportionments although they may not have to. Even though it would make their apportionments go up, if they had them, they would still want to pay. I say we should vote for.

Terry Van Hook, Retired Clergy: Apportionments have often been interpreted as a tax because of the grade figure formula and the way that it's often been presented as a need. I'm in favor of this even though there are adjustments that may be needed to be made, and some recognition that people will see it as an aspirational goal, but the motive will change. The motive will change from being, "Oh my gosh, we now have this amount we have to come up with, to being "How has God blessed us and how can we respond out of the first fruits to those beyond our local church?" To get a bigger picture than just our particular struggles. I would hope that if there are churches who are having a hard time doing it, that that would be taken into account and perhaps they would be given some extra resources in other ways to help deepen what they are doing so that they can have that aspirational goal still in front of them. I think that by

switching to this tithing understanding, we get back to a faith-based kind of giving for others, rather than seeing it as something that is placed on us that we have to meet that we may not necessarily like. I would vote for this.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: We have had two in favor and two against.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on RUL 26-01. It was supported.

The Team who put this together were thanked.

Legislation – Jason Takagi
REC 26-07 – Quotas and Special Askings

The Council on Finance and Administration recommends approval of the 2027 Quotas — second-mile giving designations for specific conference ministries — totaling $309,000, unchanged from 2026.

Jason Takagi moved REC 26-07.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion or questions.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on REC 26-07. It was supported.

REC 26-08 – Salary Ranges for Cal-Pac Conference Staff Positions

The Staff Relations Committee recommends 2027 salary ranges for conference staff positions — District offices, Conference Center, and camps — increased 3% over 2026 ranges in line with COLA.

Jason Takagi moved REC 26-08.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion and questions.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on REC 26-08. It was supported.

RUL 26-03 – Removing Safe Gatherings from Background Check Policy

Submitted by the Board of Trustees via the Assistant to the Bishop, this rule change updates the conference's background check and abuse prevention policy to remove Safe Gatherings as an approved platform, standardizing on Ministry Safe — the preference of the conference's insurer.

Jason Takagi moved RUL 26-03.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion and questions.

Paige Eaves, Clergy, Assistant to the Bishop – I would like to speak to the motion. This Rules change comes through my office, the Board of Trustees, and I want to give a moment of explanation. First, I want to thank every church that is in compliance on its abuse prevention program and background checks. It takes significant work to protect our children, youth and vulnerable adults. I also want to thank our District Administrators for all the work they do. Last year, the work we did together added Safe Gatherings as an option to Ministry Safe. You had two different platforms you could use. After we did our work together, we were with the Board of Trustees negotiating our liability policies for this year, and in the context of that, our insurance carrier expressed a very strong preference that we use Ministry Safe alone. Points of Clarification: If you did your background checks through Safe Gatherings, we are a three-year renewal cycle, so when that cycle is up, switch to Ministry Safe. If you are in a church which is already compliant with Ministry Safe and you have Safe Gatherings, it would be great if you went ahead and switched over so that you are one platform. If you are a clergy person and you are changing your appointment this year and you are in Ministry Safe, you just need to call them and they'll transfer your background check and your training so you don't have to do so. If you are retired clergy and no longer active with children, youth or vulnerable adults, you don't have to stay in compliance. If you are in compliance, you will want to complete your background check. In August, the District Administrators and I are making it Abuse Prevention Month and so throughout the month, we will be offering short webinars to help you get up to date.

Deb White-Barela, Laity, Riviera UMC – I'm here to encourage you not to vote for this. My concern is that the abuse program and all that, they have requirements working its way ... the amount of extra work that both the governance councils, which is what our group for the SPRCs are, it is important for them to work with groups they are comfortable with. I'm concerned that this policy talks about ... if you read what's online, it only addresses clergy. It does not address any of the volunteer people that we have to get certified, so the information is not clear, it's not been communicated and there has not been a lot of work with the organizations. Isn't that something that you were saying was important? There may have been a lot of really nice talk and I'm glad that everyone wants to make the insurance company happy, but what are we doing to make sure our organizations understand and know how to use this?

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on RUL 26-03. It was supported.

RUL 26-04 – Young People's Ministry Board

Submitted by the Next Generations Ministries Task Force, this rule change consolidates the Conference Council on Youth Ministries and the Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries into a unified Young People's Ministry Board.

Jason Takagi moved RUL 26-04.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion and questions.

Honor Liebold, Laity, South District Youth Lay Delegate, First UMC of San Diego: We once again find ourselves faced with our perennial question: How do we support our youth? How do we grow them into confident leaders who will rise to take up the mantel of the church for the decades to come? I speak today in favor of this Resolution because it gives youth like me the opportunity to lead others in our districts and become active voices at all levels. This bill serves to nurture our Methodist soft-skills, like organizing, requesting funding and committee membership, but with support for our unique needs and guidance that recognizes the adults we are still becoming. It is written conscious of the constraints of our lives that limit our involvement in many church level positions. We want young people to be supported in ministry, we want their input at all levels, right? If you want to ensure that the Conference will hear young voices like mine, and like Cole's earlier, and everyone else who is here, enable young people to lead, vote yes.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: That is a speech for. Do we have any other speeches?

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on RUL 26-04. It was supported.

Jason Takagi: We have time for one more item.

RES 26-02 – Disaster Response Preparations in the Local Church (UPDATED 6/18)

Submitted by the Disaster Response Task Force, this resolution renews a resolution that expired at the end of the last Conference year. It calls for congregations to adopt a disaster response plan, share it annually with its District Office and the Task Force, and name a member or committee — including a Trustee — to oversee training and communication.

Jason Takagi moved RES 26-02.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion and questions.

Brad Stein, Laity, El Segundo UMC: I speak against RES 26-02. In El Segundo, we've got LAX to the north of us, Chevron Oil to the south of us, we've got the Scattergood Generating Station, the Hyperion Sewage Treatment Plant all around us. Think of us next time you flush. So, we do have a few things that could be hazardous. If we need disaster response, the City of El Segundo has put together a remarkably complete disaster preparedness plan that I think is just miles ahead of anything that Cal-Pac can offer our congregations. In addition to El Segundo's plan, there are resources to the Red Cross Los Angeles County, FEMA, lots of resources out there. I don't see the value added of this Resolution except for perhaps one very good line – I will just read that to you: "The development of a communications network within the congregation for reporting to the pastor or pastoral care team on the well being of members." I think that is an excellent part. But the rest of this, I really wish we wouldn't have to have a lot of shallow statements to make us do a plan that is probably just going to be a lot of eye wash and then submit it every year. I urge you not to vote for this.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Thank you. That is a speech against.

Drew Davis, Clergy, Temecula UMC: I want to speak in favor of this, because this is something we are actually already doing. When we do our church conference paperwork every year, there is section that we look over our campuses in such a way that we report to the Conference how things are. We need to be aware of needs around our church and our church community so that we can provide the most help possible for those within our care. As we write down all the vendor names, as we write down in specific places the emergency numbers to call, it only equips to be better caregivers for our church. This evening as we think about this vote, and this sat in my mind when we had the Monday night meeting, this is something that we've already been encouraged to do. It is something that we are not just encouraged to do, it is something that is to the benefit of our congregations. I speak in favor.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: That was a speech in favor.

Amy Wake, Clergy, Wesley UMC of Hawai'i: I just have a question. When we will do the rest of the Resolutions that have not been voted on yet? In particular, RES 26-07?

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Amy, that is a good question. Can we finish this debate first and then come up next after that is over?

Frank Wulf, Clergy, Echo Park & La Plaza UMC: As a pastor of a church which is red-tagged at the moment because of water damage during the 2024 Atmospheric Rivers and as a result of four fires since that time, I could only wish that we had had an adequate disaster response plan in effect at the time these disasters hit. I am especially compelled to talk about the last, "Further be Resolved," which offers the help of the Conference Disaster Response Task Force and the Justice and Compassion Essential Ministries Team in putting together the kind of a disaster response plan that would have been particularly helpful for small churches like the ones that I serve. I urge a "yes" vote on this Resolution.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: That is a speech in favor. Two in favor and one against.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on RES 26-02. It was supported.

Jason Takagi: Thank you everybody for your faithful work. Unfortunately, I have been told that we are at time. We have three other Resolutions that per our opening motions, will be referred to the relevant Committees. Thank you for doing the business of the Annual Conference.

Amy Wake, Clergy, Wesley UMC of Hawai'i: Resolution 26-07 is a time sensitive issue because we need it to go to the Board of Church and Society before it goes to General Conference. I am wondering if we could suspend the rules to vote on this one Resolution.

Seconds to this Motion were received from the body.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: It sounds like the body is interested in addressing this.

There were affirmations to support voting on this Resolution.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Please go ahead and speak to this and Jason will lead us through it.

RES 26-07 – Call to Review the Legal Status of the Kingdom of Hawai'i

Submitted by the Hawai'i District Acts of Repentance Task Force, this resolution calls on the 2028 General Conference to request a UN review of the legal status of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, and asks Cal-Pac to take proactive steps to address historical wrongs against the Hawaiian people.

Jason Takagi moved RES 26-07.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for discussion and questions.

Amy Wake, Clergy, Wesley UMC of Hawai'i: In 2018, the Hawai'i District and the Hawai'i District Acts of Repentance Task Force brought forth an apology for Native Hawaiians for our role in the overthrow in 1893. It has been a long time since then, but we are expecting this apology Resolution to go to the 2028 General Conference. The hard truth is that we have learned a lot since 2018. We Methodists were responsible for the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Rev. Peck and also Methodist member Henry Waterhouse, son of J.T. Waterhouse, a Methodist missionary, plus other members and supporters of First Methodist Episcopal Church of Honolulu, were involved in the overthrow and on the Committee of Safety. This small group of 13 people overthrew Queen Lili'uokalani. Then, President McKinley, also a Methodist, was also responsible for an illegal annexation that happened without any treaty of annexation or cessation. The United States was responsible for an illegal statehood vote according to the UN lead decolonization process. All of this has led to the disenfranchisement of native Hawaiians, their land, culture, language, and even the ability to stay in Hawai'i. We are asking for Cal-Pac to forward this Resolution to the General Board of Church and Society and through them, to go to the General Conference in 2028, so that the United Methodist Church as a whole can ask the United Nations to review its 1955 U.S. lead plebiscite and its legality. We are also encouraging our Conference to continue working for justice for all the People of Hawai'i.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on RES 26-07. It was supported.

Jason Takagi: Thank you for your work on this Legislation.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank recognized the work of Jason and the Legislation Committee whose work is extensive. Thank you.

Passing of the Baton and Blessing of the GC/JC Delegates – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank and Rachel Rhodes-Wickett Gipson
Rachel Gipson: As we welcome in our new delegation, I wanted to take a moment to recognize our out-going delegation whose service has finally come to an end. I had the privilege to be on this Delegation and we were elected way back in 2019 and is customary, we were elected for a service of four years. We have served almost twice that amount. Between waiting for word on General Conference, and if it would be held, and attending not one but two Jurisdictional Conferences, we met together at least once a month for more than six years. Allison Mark and Monalisa Tu'itahi were amazing leaders for us. They led with care and love and support. We had prayer partners, we had self-care check ins, we lived our lives together for many years. We started referring to ourselves as the "Neverending Delegation." Although there were times when that literally felt true, today this delegation has finished its work. If you were ever part of this delegation, please stand so that we may recognize you and thank you for the important work you did.

On behalf of the outgoing delegation, thank you for your trust and encouragement and I thank this Delegation for being a really important part of my life for such a long time.

Rev. Rhodes: Per our Discipline, the new Delegation must meet immediately after adjournment of the session. If you were elected to the new Delegation, we will be meeting in the Fiesta ballroom immediately after the Service of Commissioning and Ordination.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I would like to ask the Delegates who were voted in this year to please stand and let us recognize them. Let us thank them for their service. Congratulations!

Sessions Committee – Rev. Bob Rhodes
Rev. Bob Rhodes: I have just a brief report from your Sessions Committee. Your Sessions team does incredible work. Erin Hawkins will read off the names of all the people so that we can say thank you. I do want you to know that part of the decisions we make, as was brought up in a Resolution ... part of what we have to do is decided where to meet.

I want you to know that one of the primary things we think about when it comes to where we will meet is the cost burden on local churches. That is our highest priority. That is why we are here. The rooms are approximately $150 per night, the resort fee and parking are $5.00 per night. We toured a hotel that was closer to an airport and is a union hotel, and it was $313 per night with a $55 per night parking fee. We try to prioritize the cost burdens on local churches.

Are we doing this imperfectly? Yes. I cannot deny that. Every part of our Annual Conference work goes on to perfection and sometimes we fall short. I hold the responsibility that some of our voting was difficult this week. I carry that with responsibility and a burden to do better. Your entire Sessions Team continues to carry that burden to do better from one year to the next.

I want to share with you that if you enjoyed your time her at La Quinta – great! We will be here next year. If you did not enjoy your time here, two years from now we'll go somewhere else!

As we continue to try to be faithful to all of you. I also want you to know that as a way toward looking forward on how we can reduce costs, we are looking at the dates of Annual Conference. The week leading up to Father's Day is, according to our conversations with a number of hotels, the most expensive week to hold a meeting session. We've looked at what it would look like to meet one week earlier, we've looked at what it would like to meet one week later. Our various young persons have complex school schedules. There are churches which are in school districts that have year round schedules. We try to keep all those things in mind.

If you would like to speak to those dates, we welcome your feedback. You will receive a survey after this Annual Conference and you can place that information there. If you would rather, you can email me at "secretary@calpacumc.org". I welcome your voice. Thank you!

Conference Wrap Up – Erin Hawkins
Good evening everyone. I'm Erin Hawkins. I am the Executive Director of Connectional Ministries, and I am a lay person from St. Mark United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, in the West District. It is late and I know that we are ready to be done with this session of Annual Conference – but it's never too late to say "thank you" to all of the people who make Annual Conference happen. This is a massive undertaking of over a year's worth of planning and meetings and more meetings and even more meetings on top of that. And so, we need to say "thank you" for all of the people who do all of the things that make our time here work.

Slides were shown listing the different teams, staff, and all those who made the Annual Conference happen. Erin Hawkins read each name out loud.

To those who have been named and to those I haven't named, please charge it to my head and not to my heart. We appreciate each and every person who makes this possible. Thank you, thank you, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I also want us to give a good round of applause to Erin, who has spent a whole lot of time on this Annual Conference. We are so grateful to you, thank you Erin. And I also want to say "thank you" to Margaret, who, behind the scenes, helps me get from place to place and makes sure I have food. To my husband who shows up even though he doesn't have to, thanks for being here. I love you, James.

COSROW – Rev. Stephanie Rice & Ellen Evans Agee
Ellen Evans Agee: On behalf of our Cal-Pac Commission on the Status and Role of Women, we would like to thank you for this time and to give you an update on the monitoring of this Annual Conference. I am laity at Westwood United Methodist Church.

Rev. Stephanie Rice: I am Clergy, serving Glendale First United Methodist Church. We are your Cal-Pac COSROW Co-Chairs. As we talked about in our first plenary, we talked about monitoring. Monitoring is a tool to help us hold the most inclusive Annual Conference session possible, where every voice is respected and heard.

Ellen Evans Agee: Throughout this Conference, we have been keeping track of who has been speaking, whether in a planned presentation or from the floor. We gratefully appreciate you stating your names clearly, as well as other important information, such as your preferred pronouns, status as clergy or laity, and your local church. We also want to give a big, gigantic and loud "thank you!" to Jennifer Gaylord. She helps all of us, but for helping us in the monitoring, securely accessing the demographic data which allowed us to more easily and more accurately, to keep track by using your self-identifying information from your registration.

Rev. Stephanie Rice: We have some preliminary data, which breaks down our speakers by gender, race/ethnicity and total numbers – not percentages – and again, this is preliminary data which has not been interpreted. We will be writing a full report which will be distributed to the Bishop with full data and our recommendations as your Conference COSROW on how we can continue to make our Annual Conference sessions as inclusive as possible.

Here is our preliminary data, which includes all of our plenary sessions thus far, opening worship, Clergy Executive Session, Praise and Worship services, minus a couple of people from this session because we had to get the slides in. This does not include tomorrow's Commissioning and Ordination Service.

For all of the speakers at our Annual Conference sessions so far: 67 speakers identify as men, and 78 identify as women, and 0 identified as non-binary.

We did hear the feedback from last year on how we presented the data. It did leave out some categories, including our Native American siblings from the chart. This year, we have made sure that the data we present represents everyone.

Data on Self-Identified Ethnicity of our Speakers:

38 who identify as Asian
15 who identify as Black
19 who identify as Hispanic Latino
5 who identify as Native American
5 who identify as Pacific Islander
61 who identify as White

Some people get counted multiple times because they are speaking in different contexts. This is not the total number, but the total speakers in that sense. We will explain a lot of this in our full report.

We also ran data on the nominees for General and Jurisdictional Conferences:

24 of our nominees identified as women, 19 of our nominees identified as men and 0 who identified as non-binary.

Breakdown by ethnicity: 12 who identify as Asian, 5 who identify as Black, 2 who identify as Hispanic/Latino, 0 who identify as Native American, 5 who identify as Pacific Islander, and 18 who identify as White.

Ellen Evans Agee: As a reminder, this data is preliminary and we look forward to submitting our full report, along with recommendations. We will be sending aggregate, anonymous data to the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, so we can get a full picture of the whole denomination as well.

Rev. Stephanie Rice: We do wish to thank you and our whole COSROW group for being a part of this and supporting this work. We look forward to continuing this work throughout the year and at our next Annual Conference Session and beyond, as we work to challenge the church to educate all of our members to promote healthy boundaries and practices, and to move the church towards systematic justice.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: We had an announcement, is she still here? Bri? Caitlyn is coming.

Caitlyn Anderson, First UMC of Escondido, Conference Staff: Bri is starting worship. Worship is going to happen right after this, so if you would like to join the young people from Santa Ana – we will also be hearing testimonies from our young people as part of the worship service. It will be in Fiesta 10.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Before Rev. Rhodes gives us our closing motion, I want to tell you what my quote for the day is – I always write down things that I hear. Today's quote is a good one for this Conference. It's by Deborah Bass, "Freedom is a Gospel aspiration."

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Conference Secretary: Bishop and members of the Conference, I move to adjourn this session of the 42nd Annual California Pacific Annual Conference at the conclusion of the Commissioning and Ordination service.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote on the Motion. Let us do this Motion by affirmation of voice. **It was supported.**

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: I do wish to share that our prayers worked, and Bishop Williamston is in the house and will preach tomorrow. We are grateful for her.

Taufa Tenisi, Colton UMC, and Co-Lay Leader for the East District, offered the closing prayer.

(4) U.M. DAILY
Saturday, June 20, 2026
42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference

THE COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION SERVICE | JUNE 20, 2026, 9:00 AM (PDT)

The musicians played as the people gathered.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Board of Ordained Ministry Registrar, offered housekeeping information and welcomed those gathered.

The candidates were escorted to line up.

Processional Hymn *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* UMH 584

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank offered a word of greeting and the Opening Prayer.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank introduced the participating Bishops: Bishop Grant Hagiya; Bishop Mary Ann Swenson; Bishop Manuel de Jesús Ruelas-López, and Bishop Delores J. Williamston, who will sharing the Word today.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank offered the litany of the Recognition of Common Ministry and Reaffirmation of Baptism.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin welcomed the Persons to be Ordained, Commissioned or Recognized to come to the stage.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank presented the Persons to be Ordained, Commissioned or Recognized.

Mele Maka, Conference Lay Leader, invited the laity to recognize and offer support to the Candidates.

Rev. Greg Batson, Board of Ordained Ministry Chair, invited the Board of Ordained Ministry to rise and share that they have examined the Candidates and support them in their calling and their ministry.

Rev. Kristin Sutrave, Board of Ordained Ministry, invited the Deacons in Full Connection to rise as the candidate for ordination as Deacon was presented and to offer him their prayers and support.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Board of Ordained Ministry Registrar, invited the Elders in Full Connection to rise and present the candidates for ordination as Elder, and present them with their prayers and support.

Rev. Karl Stuckenberg, Provisional Registrar, presented for provisional members preparing for ordinated ministry as Elders: Ruben Esponda; Viliami Ongo Koli, Zicong Li, Kiana Nicholson, and Bridie Charolette Roberts.

Rev. Greg Batson, Board of Ordained Ministry Chair, presented for ordination as Deacon: Brian Tipton. For ordination as Elders: Martin Finau, Christian Jung, Sejin Kaleb Oh, and Kimberly Ports.

Rev. Diane Rehfield, Board of Ordained Ministry Transfer Chair, presented the following persons for Recognition for Orders in the United Methodist Church as provisional members on the Elder track: Baldwin Avendano (Iglesia Metodista de Mexico) and Riju Jayan (Church of South India).

Bishop Escobedo-Frank shared that these persons are by God's grace to be ordained, commissioned, or recognized for set apart ministry in Christ's Holy Church. They were affirmed as persons of sound learning and of Christian character, possess the necessary signs of God's grace, and have demonstrated profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ. They are believed to be duly called to serve God. Bishop Escobedo-Frank invited the assembled people to recognize the candidates and trust that they are worthy, by God's grace, to be ordained, commissioned, received or recognized.

The candidates were recognized and upheld in their ministry.

THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

Bishop Escobedo-Frank, Bishop Grant Hagiya, and Bishop Mary Ann Swenson examined the candidates for commissioning, ordination and recognition.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

2 Kings 4:1-7 (NRSVUE) was read by Bishop Manuel de Jesús Ruelas-López in Spanish, Zicong Li in Chinese, and Bridie Roberts in English.

Sermon *Pour the Oil* Bishop Delores J. Williamston of the Louisiana Conference

Mele Maka, Conference Lay Leader, led the reading of the Apostles Creed.

COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Bishop Grant Hagiya, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson and Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank commissioned and offered prayer and a laying on of hands over the Candidates for Commissioning as Provisional Elders.

Ordained clergy and the candidates' support persons prayed for and participated in the laying on of hands over the Candidates.

ORDINATION OF DEACON AND ELDERS

Bishop Grant Hagiya, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson and Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank commissioned and offered prayer and a laying on of hands over the Candidates for Ordination of Deacon and Elders.

Ordained clergy and the candidates' support persons prayed for and participated in the laying on of hands over the Candidates.

PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

As the Candidates for Ordination as Deacon and Elders stood, Bishop Grant Hagiya, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson and Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank examined them for Ordination as an Elder, then they prayed over them. Candidates for Ordination as a Deacon and Elder were invited to kneel before the Bishops one at a time. Family members and friends were invited to stand where they were for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for Ordinands.

All three Bishops laid hands on the head of each Ordinand and prayed. The Ordinand then placed their hands on the Bible, while Bishop Escobedo-Frank charged them to take their authority as an Elder. Each person ordained then received a stole to represent the mantle they took up.

The candidate for Ordination as Deacon: Brian Tipton

The candidates for Ordination as Elders: Martin Finau, Christian Jung, Sejin Kaleb Oh, and Kimberly Ports.

Congratulations were extended to all of the Candidates.

RECOGNITION OF ORDERS

Bishop Escobedo-Frank recognized those being received into the Orders of the United Methodist Church as Provisional Members on the Elder Track:

Ruben Esponda; Viliami Ongo Koli; Kiana Nicholson; Zicong Li; Bridie Charolette Roberts

RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEACON'S ORDERS

Rev. Martha Morales, Chairperson, Order of Deacons shared the history of the Order of Deacons and invited all Deacons present to rise and be recognized.

Brian Tipton, Deacon, offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the Deacons.

RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN

Rev. Anna Mulford shared the history of the Ordination of Women, and Rev. Kimberly Ports offered a prayer of thanksgiving. This prayer was written by Rev. Stephanie Rice, Associate Pastor at Glendale First UMC for the GCSRW 70th Anniversary Liturgy.

Hymn *The Servant Song* TFWS 2222

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Bishop Escobedo-Frank invited the body to the time of Thanksgiving and Communion. Bishop Delores J. Williamston and Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank officiated the Eucharist.

During the time of Holy Communion, the congregation sang *Let Us Break Bread Together* (UMH 618) and *One Bread, One Body* (UMH 620).

After receiving Communion, each commissioned or ordained candidate went to the Bishop to receive foot or hand washing.

The songs *O Love* and *You Do Not Walk Alone* were offered by the musicians.

Bishop Manuel de Jesús Ruelas-López led The Lord's Prayer in Spanish, as all in attendance were invited to speak The Lord's Prayer in their preferred language.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank offered the Prayer after the Great Thanksgiving.

SENDING FORTH

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank offered the Dismissal with Blessing.

Closing Hymn *Go Make of All Disciples* UMH 571

The Astonish Ensemble:

Braden Pontoli – Music Director
Dr. Lara Urrutia – Piano, Keyboards & Vocals
Sarah Finley, Vocals
Kirk Averitt, Vocals
Agustín Donati Tete, Guitar
Nigel Deane, Violin 1
Emilia Borja, Percussion
Manoela Wunder, Violin 2