



thrive
PCJC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2020

September 26, 2020

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Section 1:
Organization

Agenda

2020 Leadership Conference – 89th Annual Session September 26, 2020

Welcome and Opening Prayer - Superintendent Jason Garcia

Meeting Called to Order - Bishop Matthew Whitehead

Superintendent Jason Garcia

Bishop Matthew Whitehead

Superintendent Vote Results Announced – Bishop Matthew Whitehead

Superintendent Elect Address - Keith Tanita

BOA Report - Superintendent Elect Keith Tanita

Finance Report - Roy Tsugawa

MEG Board Report - Superintendent Elect Keith Tanita

Honoring Superintendent Jason and Kristi Garcia

Announcements - Superintendent Elect Keith Tanita

Closing Prayer - Superintendent Elect Keith Tanita

LIST OF MINISTERS

Elders

Linda Akutagawa
Clifford Asai
Matthew Asami
Nathan Cherney
David Cobia
Tim Coleman
Dave Fukuyama
Jason Garcia
Eugene Hall
Munetoshi Hatsusegawa
Taka Iguchi
Hisashi Ishitobi
Wayne Katayama
Paul Kim
Trent Meng
James Miyabe
Stanley Nishikubo
Katsuya Omine
Kristin Ou
Tsung-Yu Peter Pan
Yongsu Park
Benjamin Robinson
Sunhee Robinson
Philip Sakanashi
Jenny Switkes
Lori Tamura
Keith Tanita
Dave Watanabe
Kevin Wong
Lauren Fukuzawa Wong
Nancy Wong
Timothy Wong
Andrew Yamazaki
Emily Yamazaki

Retired Ministers

Shin Asami
Arnold Doi
Gary Gaulton
Haruhiko Hirayu
Nobuo Ichihara
Soki Ito
Stephen Kanai
Ryohei Kawano
Raymond Narusawa
Carl Omaye
Clifford Rapp, Jr.
Kay Sakaguchi
Dennis Sato
Yoshikazu Takiya
Yutaka Tanabe
Carl Yoshimine
Yoshiro Yunouye

Conference Ministerial Candidates

Natalie Iguchi
Amy Meng
Mitsuru Okubo
Ronnelle Okubo
Ed Park

Incoming Conference Ministerial Candidates

Jimmy Doan

Licensed Pastors

Mari Otsuka

Roster of Lay Delegates

Anaheim (E) – Glenn Morikawa, Ayano Suzuki, Lisa Wada, Derek Wong, Henry Wong; Kumi Akuzawa (Reserve), Juli Inagi (Reserve), Grace Ishihara (Reserve), Carina Ogawa (Reserve)

Anchor South Bay (E) – Edna Yabu, Jon Yabu

Anchor South Bay (J) – Reiko Tarui; Tsueno Akatsu (Reserve)

East Bay (J) – Mickie Yagisawa

Mission Valley (E) – Jeff Lowe, Fred Tsen; Matt Kimura (Reserve)

Mission Valley (J) – Hanna Tatsuki

New Life Community, Clovis (E) – Paul Humphrey

New Life Christian, Glendale (E) – Kazu Shimasaki; Grace King (Reserve)

Rise OC – Mike Kimura, Linda Medved, Max Yamaguchi

Peninsula Hope (E) – David Hoshizaki; Satomi Fujikawa (Reserve)

Peninsula Hope (J) – Chie Funatogawa; Asahiko Kikuchi (Reserve)

Venice (E) – Sue Cella, Mark Kaminsky, Rob Tang, Willy Weber

Venice (J) – Keiko Ozawa

Westlight Community Church (E) – Paul Hirose; Alex Ige (Reserve)

Key: E = English Congregation; J = Japanese Congregation

Standing Rules

- 1. Robert's Rules of Order** shall be the basis of parliamentary procedure.
- 2. Roll Call:** The Roll Call shall be taken through the use of "sign-in" sheets which shall be passed through the Bar of the Conference at the beginning of each session for the signature of each ministerial and lay delegate. These will be inspected by the Conference Secretary and recorded in the minutes.
- 3. Bar of the Conference:** The bar of the conference shall include a clearly marked section of seats adequate in number to seat the ministerial members and lay delegates of the conference.
- 4. Delegate Seating:** It is suggested that all delegates be seated with their pastor(s), except in the case of the conference secretaries and interpreters.
- 5. Honorary Seats:** All licensed pastors, located elders, local church pastoral staff members, conference ministerial candidates, all officers or elected conference personnel, and other visiting guests or dignitaries as is deemed appropriate shall be granted honorary seats.
- 6. Tellers:** There shall be panels of tellers as needed, consisting of two to four members each, selected during the first sitting of the conference. Unless otherwise instructed by the president of the conference, the tellers shall retire to count all ballots while conference business proceeds.
- 7. Motions:** All motions (except those of an incidental nature), resolutions, and recommendations shall be written in full and submitted to the secretary at the time the motion is made. Typewritten copies are preferable.
- 8. Boards and Committees:** All boards, committees, and councils should have a near balance between ministerial and lay members.
- 9. Board/Committee Reports:** The chair (or other designated person) of each standing board and committee shall prepare a written report including all recommendations to be presented to the conference, to be included in the Annual Reports. This shall constitute the report of the board or committee. Time allotted in the agenda for reports is for the purpose of presenting recommendations and answering questions related to them.
- 10. Ministerial Appointments Committee:** The Ministerial Appointments Committee shall consist of the area bishop (as chair), the superintendent (as vice chair), one additional elders and two lay members (with at least one English language elder/lay member and one Japanese language elder/lay member, respectively). The Nominating Committee shall prepare nominations for election; however, nominations shall also be allowed from the floor.
- 11. Nominating Committee:** The nominating committee shall consist of three ministers and three lay persons. At least one member shall be from a non-Southern California church. Each member shall serve a three-year term. One minister and one lay-person shall be nominated by the Board of Administration and be elected each year, with a majority vote to constitute election. The committee shall elect its own chair. Consideration shall be given to maintain balance on the committee between English language and Japanese language members, with at most one member elected from the same language congregation of a church.
- 12. Board of Administration:** The Board of Administration shall be composed of the following ex-officio members: The superintendent and the chairs or representatives of: Ministerial Education and Guidance Board, Board of Finance, and Human Resource. In addition, up to seven at large members may be elected, by ballot, by the Leadership Conference.
- 13. Board of World Missions:** The Board of World Missions shall consist of the Missions Liaison and up to six at-large members.

- 14. Ministerial Education and Guidance Board:** The Ministerial Education and Guidance Board shall be composed of the members of the Ministerial Appointment Committee plus one additional elder and one additional lay person.
- 15. Terms of Office:** All newly elected conference officers and standing board and committee members shall take office at the close of the Leadership Conference and shall hold office until the last day of the Leadership Conference, at the end of their term of office. The term of office shall be three years.
- 16. Board/Committee Procedures:**
- a. Member Notification:** The chairman of each standing board and committee shall notify all members of their election and inform them of their responsibilities.
 - b. Attendance Record:** All standing boards and committee secretaries shall maintain an attendance record of their members at regular meetings and shall send a copy of the same to the chair of the nominating committee by April 1 of each year.
 - c. Absences:** In the event of an intended absence from any standing board or committee meeting, members are instructed to inform the chair of the board or committee prior to the date of the meeting. The nominating committee shall note the attendance of board and committee members and when it is observed that a member has missed three consecutive meetings without excuse, it is authorized to nominate a replacement.
 - d. Board/Committee Chairs:** Current board and committee chairs shall endeavor to prepare one of the members of the board/committee to assume the chair upon the completion of current chair's term. This provision shall also apply to program directors and other task-oriented officers.
- 17. Board/Committee Minutes:**
- a.** At its first meeting of the conference year, each standing board or committee shall elect a secretary to record the minutes for the meetings of the board or committee.
 - b.** The minutes shall note the roll for each meeting, listing both the members present and the members absent.
 - c.** The minutes, with appropriate supporting material, shall be distributed within 14 days of the meeting to the members of the board/committee, the members of the Board of Administration, the superintendent and the conference office.
 - d.** Recommendations to the Board of Administration shall be highlighted.
- 18. Postponement or Cancellation:** In the event of a national crisis or pandemic, the Conference Superintendent, with the approval of the Area Bishop and the PCJC Board of Administration, has the authority to postpone or cancel the Annual Conference or make the necessary arrangements for the Annual Conference to meet virtually which may include virtual electronic voting.
- 19. Virtual Voting:** When the conference as a whole, or a committee of the conference, deems it necessary to conduct a virtual vote or election, the quorum required shall be 2/3rds of the listed membership of the group and a simple majority of this quorum (half of respondents +1) will be necessary to approve (or disapprove) the proposed action. No electronic vote shall allow fewer than 5 working days for responses. The secretary of the committee or board generating the report shall note the results of the election and formal date of final vote tally to the board or committee chair for due processing.

Role of the Annual Leadership Conference Delegate

1. Delegates are elected by the local church at the Annual Society Meeting and serve for the calendar year.
2. Delegates represent the society (local church) at the Annual Leadership Conference. They serve as members of the conference only when they are seated and the conference is in session.
3. Delegates serve as a liaison between the local church and the conference.
4. Delegates reflect both the society and their own personal views in their discussions at conference and act on behalf of the good of the conference.
5. Delegates are expected to report significant actions of the conference to their local church. Reports may be to the congregation, official board, society, etc.
6. The delegate (or at least one of the delegates) serves on the local Board of Administration and the Pastor's Cabinet of the church.
7. Delegates ensure that pastoral care is provided for the pastor and family by:
 - Appropriately welcoming a new pastor and family;
 - Inquiring as to whether family and ministry needs are being met;
 - Inquiring as to whether the financial compensation needs are being met;
 - Coordinating expressions of love and appreciation during Pastor Appreciation Month (October), at Christmas time and other occasions;
 - Consulting with the Pastor's Cabinet and Superintendent in recommending a sabbatical leave for study and/or physical, emotional and spiritual renewal;
 - Ensuring that the cost of Family Camp, the Annual Leadership Conference, pastors retreats, etc. are provided for by the church, if at all possible;
 - Serving as a loyal friend to the pastor—providing encouragement, prayer and counsel;
 - Appropriately thanking the pastor when a pastor is transitioning out of the church.
8. Delegates serve as spiritual leaders in the church and as a liaison from the pastor to the congregation and the congregation to the pastor, all through the Pastor's Cabinet.
9. Delegates serve as spiritual leaders in the conference by:
 - Praying for the conference superintendent and staff;
 - Completing the Nominating Committee survey regarding conference leadership selection and superintendent nomination when a superintendent is being nominated;
 - Encouraging the church to keep current in its conference financial support commitments;
 - Seeking counsel for the Pastor's Cabinet (after speaking with the pastor and before approaching the Superintendent) if there is a perceived need for a pastoral change).
 - Assisting in the annual pastoral review of the minister.
10. Delegates enjoy the privilege of seeing, first-hand, the broader vision and ministries of the conference and, in turn, endeavor to share this with the local church.

Glossary of Abbreviations & Terms

APU	Azusa Pacific University
ARMS	Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses
BOA	Board of Administration
BOF	Board of Finance
BOT	Board of Trustees
BSNA	Biblical Seminary of North America
BOM	Board of World Missions
CMC	Conference Ministerial Candidate
COSAM	Council on Senior Adult Ministries
FM	Free Methodist
FMC	Free Methodist Church
FMF	Free Methodist Foundation
Heavenly Treasures	A micro-enterprise network, www.heavenlytreasures.org
HR	Human Resource
LP	Licensed Pastor
LMC	Local Ministerial Candidate
MAC	Ministerial Appointments Committee
MEG	Ministerial Education and Guidance
NOM	Nominating Committee
Nichigo	Japanese-Speaking
PCJC	Pacific Coast Japanese Conference
Shuyokai	Japanese Family Camp
UMC-HM	United Ministries for Christ—Home Ministries
UMC-WM	United Ministries for Christ—World Ministries
WMC	World Ministries Center

Section 2:
State of the Work

Superintendent's Report

To my PCJC family,

Kristi and I want you to know how much we have grown to love and admire you over these past (almost) 6 years!

During my tenure as Superintendent, it has been so inspiring watching PCJC Pastors and Lay leaders prayerfully design and employ Holy Spirit led strategies to love, teach, empower and multiply your church bodies into a compassionate, contextual army of spiritually healthy Christ followers.

I have also witnessed your hunger to love, reach and transform your community and beyond through prayer, evangelism, missional hearts, and a desire to plant churches. God is working through the PCJC!

Having said the above...the things that have made our tenure as superintendent so motivating and endearing to us are the relationships we have built with you. I have admired and have learned from your history, authenticity, courage, tenacity maturity, passion, honesty and hunger to be willing vessels of the Holy Spirit to complete the work God has called you to. Your willingness to accept us as one of your own has changed us for the better!

Lastly, I want to thank The PCJC staff (Stephanie, Jodi and Kristi), Conference Boards/Committees and all of our Pastors and lay leaders who have spent countless hours praying, advising, shaping and helping us build our Conference into a fruitful, relevant movement that transforms our communities and BEYOND for Christ!

I am so excited about the future of the PCJC and can't wait to serve our next Superintendent!

With MUCH Love,
Superintendent Jason

Upcoming Events

JUNE
24

Nichigo Shuyokai Camp

June 24 – 27, 2021*
Westmont College, Santa Barbara

*Tentative Dates

JULY
25

Family Camp

July 25 - 30th, 2021
Redwood Christian Park

?

Recalibrate Retreat

More information coming soon

Section 3:
**Ministry Team
Reports**

Board of Administration

2020 Leadership Conference Report

Members of the Board Administration:

Rev. Jason Garcia, Superintendent, PCJC

Rev. Keith Tanita, Chairperson, Lead Pastor Anchor–South Bay, ex officio, Chair of MEG Board

Rev. David Fukuyama, Lead Pastor, Mission Valley Free Methodist (English)

Rev. Hisashi Ishitobi, Lead Pastor, Rise OC

Erik McBeth, Anchor–South Bay

Roy Tsugawa, ex official, Chair of Bds. of Finance and Human Resources, Anchor–South Bay

Summary of Actions Taken During 2019-2020, All of Which Were Motioned, Seconded and Approved:

- Election of corporate officers: Keith Tanita, President; Erik McBeth, Secretary; and, Roy Tsugawa, Chief Financial Officer.
- Approved Minutes of the 2019 Leadership Conference.
- Approved the 2019 financial reports.
- Approved the 2020 budget.
- Approved a name change for the conference. Pacific Coast Rise Network
- Approved the transition of the HR and payroll back to the local churches. (Timeline to be determined)
- Approved the cancellation of Family Camp due to COVID 19. The 2020 deposit will be used as the 2021 deposit for next year's Family Camp.
- Approved to establish the PCJC COVID Relief Fund to help financially struggling churches within the PCJC.
- Approved the realignment of the Mission's Committee budget. The budget change was made to align the PCJC mission's role and responsibilities from a missionary support committee to their new role as a network liaison between the FMC World Missions, PCJC, and the PCJC churches.
- Approved to hire Jason Garcia (half-time) as the network Church Growth Strategist
- Approved Postponement or Cancellation and Virtual Voting Standing Rules

Due to the Pandemic the Recommendations to the Leadership Conference have been Referred to the PCJC Board of Administration for Approval.

Summary of Actions Taken by the Board of Administration, All of Which Were Motioned, Seconded and Approved:

Nominating Committee:

- Approved the nominations of (L) Natalie Iguchi (2023), (E) Dave Fukuyama (2023), (L) Yayoi Kaneko (2023) to the Board of Administration
- Approved the nomination of (E) Jenny Switkes (MAC, MEG, 2023) to the Ministerial Appointment Committee and Ministerial Education and Guidance Committee
- Approved (L) Koh Ikeda (2023) (E) Jenny Switkes (2021) to the Local Global Partnership Team
- Approved (L) Jon Yabu (2023) to the PCJC Finance Committee

Board of Administration:

- Approved the 2020/2021 PCJC budget.
- Approved (L) Kiki Honda Penano (2023) as a lay member of the Nominating Committee, term ending 2023.
- Approved (L) Ann Kuromiya (2021) as Annual Conference Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Tanita, Chairperson

Ministerial Education & Guidance Board

2020 Leadership Conference Report

Members of the Ministerial Education & Guidance Board:

Rev. Matthew Whitehead, Bishop, FMCUSA
Rev. Jason Garcia, Superintendent, PCJC
Rev. Keith Tanita, Lead Pastor Anchor-South Bay
Koh Ikeda, Mission Valley Free Methodist Church
Steven Kotsubo, Voice Church
Max Yamaguchi, Rise OC

The Board of Ministerial Education and Guidance Recommends:

1. That the following persons be **received by transfer**:
N/a
2. That the following persons be received as **conference ministerial candidates**:
Jimmy Doan
3. That the following persons be **continued as conference ministerial candidates**:

Name	Year
Amy Meng	2nd
Ed Park	2nd
Mitsuru Okubo	2nd
Natalie Iguchi	2nd
Ronette Okubo	2nd
4. That the following persons be **discontinued as conference ministerial candidates**:
Tae Horiuchi
Mako Seto

5. That the following persons be **admitted into full membership and ordained elder:**
N/a
6. That the following persons be given a **certificate of standing:**
Kenji Nitta (E), The River Conference
7. That the following persons be **reinstated as Elder:**
N/a
8. That the following persons be **returned to lay status:**
N/a
9. That the following persons' **credentials be voluntarily deposited in the conference office:**
N/a
10. That the following persons **be located:**
N/a
11. That the following persons **continue to be located:**
N/a
12. That the following persons be **withdrawn from the conference and the denomination:**
Les Yee (E), The Well
13. The Board of Ministerial Education and Guidance reviewed and affirmed the character of the located deacons and located elders (with the exception of)
N/a
14. The Board of Ministerial Education and Guidance has considered the character and performance of all ordained ministers and affirms the integrity and Christian discipleship of the ministerial members of the conference (with the exception of)
N/a

Church Plants and Adopted Churches

Becoming Church

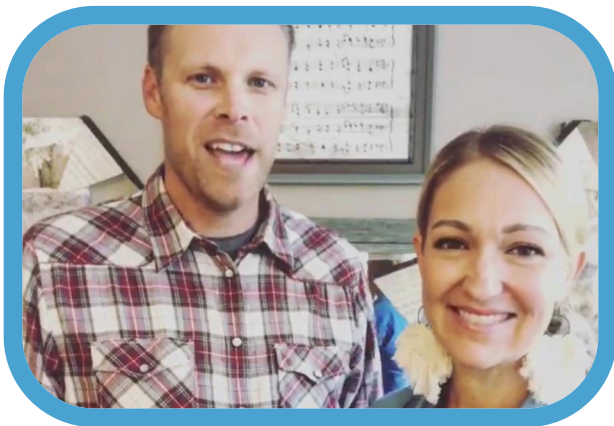
This past year has been filled with challenges and incredible blessings for Becoming Church. We have had a deep sense of God's presence with us each step of the way.

Our first challenge was moving to a Saturday night service at a new location in a new city. We are privileged to partner with a very generous church who has allowed us to use their space for an incredible price!

Another blessing of our new location has been the opportunity to partner with the other churches of Rancho Santa Margarita in some joint outreach and ministry. We are linking arms to reach the city together.

When COVID hit, we transitioned to an online service and have stayed in that format for the last few months. We have sensed God moving powerfully in spite of all that is going on around us. That really is the theme for Becoming Church during this past year. In the midst of many challenges...God is good!

Pastors Trent and Amy Meng



Resplendent Light Community Church

Our Year 2020 Journey

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” – **Isaiah 43:19**

This year was our 7th anniversary as a church and we had this expectation of what the Lord was going to reveal to us about ministry and direction so we waited with excited anticipation. We had no idea that we, as well as other houses of worship would face challenges like the ones we are currently in right now of quarantines and overnight adapt to digital platforms to host worship. However, we hosted our last worship service on March 15, 2020 and never looked back to the way we once did church since then. However, like the verse from Isaiah 43:19, we are seeing the Lord doing something new with us and He has truly made a way for us in these ever changing times. Starting from Sunday, March 22, we started to utilize Zoom for our worship services and have since added a mid-week fellowship and prayer ministry using the media platform.

During the month of March of this year we had a growing ministry ‘On the Beach’ (OTB) that was started as an outreach, fellowship and prayer ministry along the Santa Monica beach walk near the iconic Santa Monica Pier. Due to the beach closure in April we had relocate several times inland and eventually settled in the Bay Street (Inkwell) Historic park area. Although we are no longer on the beach front, we have seen OTB evolve into a ‘On the Street’ that ministers to the homeless, poor and local residents that live close to the beach and community. The Lord has brought our church together with 6 other churches (including Venice & Westlight) in a collaborative effort to share the gospel and develop relationships with those we encounter. In fact, one of the families that we ministered to in February through OTB, who are homeless themselves, have become active in our ministry and on their own reach out to other homeless in the Venice/Santa Monica area on a full-time basis.

After a brief shut down during April-May, I returned to the Santa Monica Police Department as a Chaplain to minister to the personnel and available for on call responses whenever emergencies arise. I was thankful for being able to serve in the Police Department command center during the civil unrest during late May to pray and serve where needed with several law enforcement agencies as well as Santa Monica officers and personnel. My role has changed considerably this year with the SMPD as the Lord has opened doors within the Police Department for Chaplains to have greater access to talk/listen to police personnel during a critical time for law enforcement.

We have been blessed how the Lord has used a media platform such as Zoom to reach people we would not normally be able to fellowship/pray with who live in other states or abroad in Japan during our mid-week fellowship time. We have former students who returned to Japan yet listen and worship with on Wednesday evening. Most of the former students have since found employment in Japan yet recall their experience attending our church and continue in their faith. Praise Him! We are thankful that we have OMF missionaries at our church that once served in Japan for 23 years and now reach out to the Japanese Diaspora returnees to Japan as part their ministry.

There is so much to be thankful and to give praise for this year; take for instance how one individual in our church who early on during the Covid 19 shutdown made several face masks and delivered them for everyone in the church. Others who have shopped or delivered medication and supplies to our seniors or others who remained at home without being asked to. Acts of kindness and generosity within the Body of Christ that humbled me and defines what it means to Love the Lord and to Love our neighbor. I’m not sure how this year is going to end but I believe if we continue to trust in the Lord and remain obedient to what He has called us to do it will be for His glory and His Kingdom.

Amen!

Pastor Cliff Asai

Voice Church

We've been through many changes, lots of ups and downs and different phases throughout this quarantine.

As soon as the shut down hit, we opened and trained 9 new E-group leaders to care for and help us shepherd the flock. Because of the wildness of the pandemic, we started sermon based group formats with online games, prayer time, and question and answer time to discuss the sermon. It has been so helpful for all our groups and we continue to hear testimony after testimony of how the groups have been a life-line. We have even gained new church members and small group members, amazingly because everything has gone online.

We also finally found a new worship pastor, JP Edwards, who came in exactly the right time to help us get our services functioning high quality online.

Below you will also see photos of the (brief) time we began having in-person micro church services at businesses around OC. Unfortunately we have had to pause them due to new government outlines, but we hope to re-launch them soon.

We also converted our office into a broadcast center which has been awesome, but as new regulations come along, we are sensing the need to increase safety measures and will be moving our broadcast to outdoors. PRAY everything goes smoothly! Once we get that figured out, we plan to hopefully hold more outdoor, in-person services. (It's a plan, but we all know how quickly things have changed!)

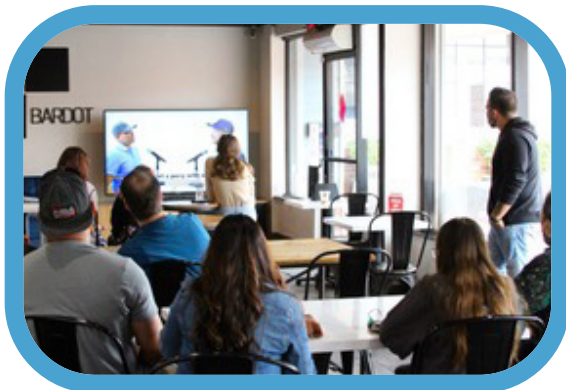
Other pics you will see below are some examples of things we have tried to do to make holidays special... we have done pickup boxes for Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day are also running an online kids- camp, which Pastor Tiffany has done an AMAZING job with. She created a daily packet with correlating online videos and a box with daily crafts, treats, and activities for each child along with their own T-shirt.

Although we haven't been able to meet in person, we sense God doing great things in the background.

We have also been able to support several local organizations and this afternoon as we speak, we are dropping off loads of supplies to a local youth shelter. (Waymakers OC).

We can't wait until this is all over but we know in the midst that God is sustaining us.

Pastors Taka and Natalie Iguchi



Living Hope Christian Center

Living Hope is Moving with God

It has been about a year since Living Hope has joined the FMC and what an exciting, eventful year it's been. Our theme for 2020 is Moving With God, and little did we know back in December 2019 what that would actually mean for us, not only as a church but as an entire nation. Before the year began, it was clear that God was moving us to a new city and into a permanent building. We obeyed His call to move into the city of El Cerrito and excitedly began dreaming of everything that God could and would do as we planned to renovate and occupy our own permanent space. We received a burning mandate from the Lord to seek and save the lost and to reap a harvest of souls for the Kingdom. With that, we launched a generosity campaign like we've never done before and raised \$1.2 million dollars in pledges to go towards our new building! The hearts of our people were united around a desire to put the Kingdom first and were rallied behind a vision to see the entire Bay Area and beyond transformed under the power and glory of God. We were amazed and excited for what the rest of the year would hold!

However, the very week our campaign ended in March, the pandemic broke out and shelter in place was enforced in the Bay Area. Like most other churches across the world, we had to move with God and transition to online services which pushed us in new ways to think creatively and pursue new levels of excellence in the midst of the challenges we faced. By God's grace, we have yet to experience a dramatic drop in giving and our online attendance has been steady. We received testimonies of salvations and healings taking place through our online services and God continued to move powerfully. However, we also endured much pain together as a community. One of our members who was newly saved, married and baptized at our church passed from COVID-19. We prayed together for his healing, we mourned together at his passing, and we endured in hope together knowing he is alive with Christ.

As the weeks went on, we became more accustomed to meeting online, until the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd gripped us as a community as it did the nation. We mourned and grieved and felt the call of God once again to move with Him into the pursuit of his righteous justice. God has awakened our community into a period of repentance, intercession and action. In June, we began a summer initiative called Let Justice Flow in which we adopted a trifold approach in engaging the mind, will and emotions of the human soul. We preached on God's heart for justice on Sundays. We prayed for our nation on Wednesday evenings. We raised money to provide school supplies for 185 students at the Title 1 elementary school we share our building with. We had an entire day of seminars led by our people dedicated to learning about racism. We held public demonstrations of holy activism in which we partnered with other local churches and prayed and worshipped outside on the streets of downtown Oakland. Though the initiative itself is seasonal, we are committed to continue partnering with God and His plans for racial reconciliation and justice for all who bear His image.

The events of this year were completely unexpected, we believe that God has called us to move with Him and that is what we have chosen to do. We are not just moving with him physically into a new building in a new city. We are moving with Him together as a community with our whole being as he moves in our nation. Though much of this year has been challenging, humbling and painful at times, we are brimming with hope and the expectation of God's plans of redemption and the outpouring of His Spirit. We believe that God is using the events of this year to purify, heal and prepare us to steward the coming harvest he has promised--in order that we would be for the display of his glory as a truly unified, multi-ethnic, multi-generational body of Christ.

Pastors Benjamin and Sunhee Robinson



Church Reports

Anaheim Free Methodist Church

Wins

- Early on in the pandemic, our pastors/staff pivoted very quickly to online church
- Through the grace of God and a more cautious approach to the pandemic, we have experienced very few infections of COVID-19 within our church family.
- Our teams have created new opportunities to engage with church, especially through weekly devotions, outdoor worship, meal deliveries, and numbers of zoom calls.
- Upon completion of our Kidz Church Summer Program (via Zoom), we've seen 5 kids come to the Lord.
- We plan to baptize at least 4 of those kids at our next "Worship Drive-In" on 9/12.
- Through the faithfulness and generosity of our church family, our finances have been stable and given us the opportunity to create a "Pandemic Assistance Fund"

Challenges/Prayer Requests

- With Pastor Tae Horiuchi stepping down as Nichigo pastor on June 30th, we are seeking a new shepherd for our Nichigo congregation
- Our senior population is the most affected during this time and the least likely to return to church anytime soon. We pray that they may remain connected to church, have their basic needs met, and be able to sense the Lord during this time.
- We are praying for church unity especially in a time of great crisis and division

Pastor Kevin Wong

Anchor South Bay

The Anchor South Bay Church (English) along with all of the churches in the world had to adjust at a moment's notice due to the pandemic. Transitioning from a live audience to a camera lens provided some getting used to and more than our (my) fair share of redos. But through it all, and with the help of all the really smart people at the Anchor, we are now in the "new normal" for our Sunday experience and ministry life.

Speaking into a camera will never take the place of an in-person service, but we have realized some unexpected blessings. The use of Zoom has extended our reach to outside of our normal community of Anchorites. It has also been a blessing for some of our senior adults who were restricted from participating in a small group, Bible study or prayer group because of they couldn't or didn't feel comfortable driving. I think some of our Zoom meeting are here to stay even after we return to meeting in person.

The finances have been a praise for the Anchor. For March, April, and May our giving was greater than our budget. In June we were just shy of budget, but since our overhead is less, we were still able to be cash positive for the month. I am so thankful for the faithful giving our members have shown, especially in the face of uncertainty.

As we head toward another potential transition, the Anchor is looking forward to a new vision, leadership style, and creativity that will come it's way. Although transitioning amid an unprecedented quarantine isn't ideal, the Anchor's resolve and confidence in God's care and direction is unwavering.

Pastor Keith Tanita

New Life Christian Church

This year New Life has been blessed with innovative outreach and continued development towards reshaping the ministry for a next phase of growth.

Several highlights of our outreach this year included sponsoring multiple concerts -- including the international cohort known as the Nine Beats Collective and a unique advent outreach series called “Stories of Christmas” culminating in hosting a string quartet from the L.A. Philharmonic as we looked together at the story of the Nutcracker. We hosted hundreds of our neighbors at a special “Halloween Hoedown” event, and continued our missional relationship with the Elizabeth House in Pasadena, as well as several international outreach partners. In addition, we launched an on-going seasonal seminar called “Reimagining Faith” – meeting Sunday afternoons at a local pizza parlor with both believers and skeptics for 8-week intervals to engage in conversation together around key questions that post-Christian people have about Christianity. In addition, Pastor David continued to grow a multi-faceted outreach to the creative community throughout Los Angeles called “Muse LA.”

Spiritual formation and community-building were also a key focus, from our “Summer of Soul” experience where we joined together in the “60/60 Experiment” (praying together every hour on the hour for 60 seconds for 60 days), to a series of unique 30-Day Experiments with various spiritual disciplines.

During the pandemic, we shifted gears to on-line ministry, seeing our creative team step up in wonderful ways to provide compelling on-line content where we shifted towards interaction, panel discussions, and conversation, in addition to newly produced video content and on-line outreach experiences.

Perhaps most importantly, the Vision Team at New Life developed strategies and plans for a church re-start, and hosted a series of Vision Meetings to engage the congregation in conversation around the needs and opportunities of our current and potential future status. We are looking forward to 2021 as we continue our progress towards this goal.

Pastor David Cobia



New Life Community Church

New Life Community Church is continuing to move forward in 2020. We have Lawrence Bohanon as our interim pastor as he trains for a possible more permanent position. The mission of the church remains the same. We are busy taking the love of Christ to our community in many ways. We are a multicultural congregation of Christ followers who love people as Christ has loved us.

New Life Community Church has increased our online presence. Our services are on our website, Facebook and YouTube. We are planning to begin using Instagram Live as well. We also have parking lot services where we radio broadcast our service not only to our cars in the parking lot but for about a block radius in our neighborhood! We are also planning for outdoor services once our 100 degree weather season subsides. We are doing many things to stay connected. Our kids ministry is still very active. We take a sack lunch style bag of Sunday school activities to our kids every week along with a link to the video topic of the week. I am very proud of the fact that we have a team of people who make sure every member of our church receives a phone call every week to make sure everyone is okay and needs are being met! In this time of separation we are making the extra effort to stay connected.

Lawrence Bohanon

Mission Valley Free Methodist

2019

In 2019, Mission Valley turned 100 years old! We kicked off our yearlong party with a 100 Year celebration worship service. We invited all the Mission Valley Pastors both past and present to celebrate 100 years of God's faithfulness. The party ended with an In n Out lunch truck providing lunch for all in attendance. The party continued with our first all church Family Camp held at the Oaks Camp and Conference Center. We were truly blessed by our speakers: Rev. Trent Meng, Rev. Nathan Cherney, and Joanne Kaba. It was a wonderful weekend of great teaching, fellowship, and fun. Two of our youth made decisions to become a disciple of Jesus Christ! A special thanks to our Family Camp Leadership Team consisting of Sherwin and Leah Seranno, Joyce Yee, Pastor Mako Seto, and Kiki Penano.

Our 100-year celebration ended in the fall with our Centennial lunch where we praised God for 100 years of faithfulness and looked into the future asking for another 100 years of experiencing His favor.

This past year, we began Phase 2 of our Bridging the Generations Campus Remodeling Project. After months of construction, we completed remodeling our Children/Youth Ministry Center. Our newly remodeled facilities will allow us more flexibility to communicate the gospel to the next generation of children and youth.

It was our 10th year participating in Family Promise which is an organization made up a network of churches who house and feed up to four homeless families at their churches for one week at a time, four times a year.

We had a wonderful VBS week as we ministered to 52 children. Four children made the decision to become a disciple of Jesus Christ!

Staff Transitions:

We were both excited and sad when our gifted Worship Intern Caitlyn Way was accepted to Ekballo Hawaii to continue her education to reach the world for Christ. She did an exceptional job as our Worship Intern. Michael Fukuyama completed his one-year PCJC internship. Due to his hard work and effectiveness with our youth, he is now our Part Time Youth Coordinator.

Krystyna Matsuda was hired as our PCJC intern working in our children's ministry. She is currently doing a wonderful job ministering to our children.

In 2019 we had:

11 Baptisms
10 Decisions for Christ
8 New members

Mission Valley Free Methodist (Continued)

2020

The disruption COVID-19 caused to our society created a “new normal” for how churches do ministry.

To continue ministering under these circumstances, we transitioned to a virtual ministry environment by live streaming our services. We created a “Dream Stream Team” of A/V, Worship members, and staff to provide our services online. I am eternally grateful to Sherwin Seranno for giving us the capability to live stream our services.

Since we could not meet in person, we prioritized engaging our church members and those who visit us online. To increase our engagement with people we did the following:

- Increased our Zoom Accounts so our Life Groups, Youth Groups, Boy/Cub Scouts, Seniors, and Children’s ministries could meet online. Zoom has allowed people who live outside the area to join some of our groups to experience life withing God’s community.
- Pastor Mako organized an online prayer meeting every Thursday evening.
- Krystyna Matsuda facilitates Missions Kids Midweek to connect with our children once a week outside of Sunday School.
- A team made up of 19 staff and church volunteers implemented a week-long VBS program for 55 children via Zoom. Three of them made a decision for Christ!
- Kiki developed a virtual 8-week Family Fun Series of different home challenges and virtual events. Kiki and Krystyna organized an Ice Cream Sundae event for our children by visiting them and making sundaes for them outside their homes.
- We celebrated Mother’s Day with the staff personally delivering staff made gifts and cookies to all the women in our church. We did the same for Father’s Day delivering brownies (made by our Women’s Ministry) and MV face masks to the men in our church.
- Provided two Seniors “Bento” (Japanese boxed lunches) pick ups so our Seniors could enjoy premade lunches. Provided two Seniors “Bento” (Japanese boxed lunches) pick ups so our Seniors could enjoy premade lunches.
- We are currently testing “Text in Church” which allows us to gather information, communicate with visitors, and connect with our members via text.
- Created a counseling ministry with qualified church members to provide counseling in the areas of finance, emotional well-being, career, and spirituality to help people deal with the effects of COVID-19.
- Organized an “Opening Committee” to plan for the reopening of our Worship Services. We held two practice services and invited 30 volunteers to train them how to safely reopen our services. Unfortunately, the County’s recent mandate to close houses of worship prevented us from reopening our services. However, we learned a lot and feel we are well prepared for the time when we get the approval to hold worship services again.

Staff Transitions:

We were excited to introduce Nathan Shin as our PT Worship Coordinator. He is a truly a talented blessing from God!

Even though we continue to struggle through the challenges of doing ministry under our current conditions God is still at work because eight people made decisions for Christ during this COVID-19 season! God is good!

Pastor David Fukuyama



Peninsula Hope

Prior to the coronavirus shelter in place orders, Peninsula Hope's English ministry was experiencing lots of excitement around three new ministries. To help individuals grow spiritually we launched our prayer ministry and men's discipleship. Each ministry has a dedicated core of participants and they have provided an opportunity for new leaders to be developed. To allow church members to build deeper connections within the church and provide a non-threatening opportunity for outreach, we also started our Foodie Friday ministry. The ministry allowed individuals the opportunity to cook amazing recipes together, and it provided a time of breaking bread and playing games.

Regarding our strategy during our time of shelter in place, we have focused on providing opportunities for people to connect through Zoom. Outside of posting our sermons and worship videos on our website and social media platforms, we have a Sunday Zoom gathering, which is a combination of live worship, a sermonette, and weekly community groups. We have also done a Zoom book study and we do a weekly virtual lunch which gives people an opportunity to hang out and get to know each other better. Amazingly, during our time of shelter in place, we have had 6 new people start to attend church regularly. All praise, honor, and glory go to God for allowing us to leverage technology during this season.

Pastor Andrew Yamazaki

Rise OC Church

2019 was an incredible year to celebrate 40 years of God's faithfulness and blessing over our church! Orange Coast Free Methodist Church has come a long way since 1979, when it was birthed in Pastor Carl and Pat Omaye's house in Costa Mesa. From the beginning, it had English and Japanese speaking groups that joined together to reach people for Christ. Since then, Orange Coast has grown and moved to different places before finding our current location in 1994. The church has always centered around strong Christian community and a dream to share the gospel with others. I am a part of that legacy, spending many of my formative years as part of the Japanese speaking group!

In 2014, with the same dreams of reaching people for Christ, my family launched RIZE Church as a church plant in Huntington Beach. Then in 2018, the two churches merged and for the past two years, our church has gone through a rebirth/revitalize process, embracing the cultures of the two churches, as well as rediscovering the importance of the Japanese language ministry. And yes, there certainly have been some growing pains and difficulties of adjusting to transition. However, I believe it has been an essential part of God preparation as we head into the next season of God's ministry through this church.

Today we are a multicultural and intergenerational church that I believe has a unique gifting and ability to attract and reach Japanese people for Jesus in our community that is saturated with many Japanese speaking families who are searching for community and more in life. But the Japanese culture is also a draw for many others and that is why we host Japanese-themed events like summer festival and mochitsuki that attracts over 200 people each time. We've also been passionately pursuing the revitalization efforts (child safety, renovations, etc.) knowing how critical they are for visitors and young families. We want to take hold of the unique way God has shaped our church and use that as a strength to reach our community for Christ.

On Easter 2020, we changed our church name to Rise Orange Coast Church, Rise OC for short. We had plans for a relaunch event on Easter with our new name with new branding, and encourage the congregation to share with others about this new church. However, with the development of COVID-19, we became online starting March 15th and postponed our relaunch plans to whenever we are able to meet in-person safely!

I truly thank God for the way our church has transitioned to online smoothly. Both English and Japanese worship services are reaching our people and Zoom small groups have made sure people are connecting and growing. And because everyone is online, we have had people joining our program from Japan, Texas, Washington and even Malaysia! While some small groups are in summer break, we created what's called Summer Buddy Program to encourage people to pray with one another and connect deeper by doing fun activities virtually. We also have established a Care Team to help people stay connected and cared for by offering regular check-ins and prayer support. Mid-August, we are planning our first online VBS program for both English and Japanese kids of Rise OC and their friends.

I hope for the COVID-19 season to pass soon and we can gather in church safely. However, I truly believe that this season will lead us to deepen our trust in God and be stronger as a church. Together we will rise as a united body of Christ, regardless of language or ethnicity, to reach our community with the love of Jesus.

Pastor Hisashi "Tobi" Ishitobi



Venice Free Methodist Church

Our Church motto is “A Community Growing in Christ”. We selected that as we seek to be a community of followers based on Jesus Christ. We believe Jesus would have us be a unique spiritual community, one that is growing spiritually, emotionally, in knowledge of Christ and numerically. We want to be a church who shares the gospel, grows in faith and serves in love. We want to be authentic in our lives by freely admitting our need for Christ and seeking His love and grace.

The 2019 - 2020 year has been a strange and challenging year. The year started out normally and we continued in our year theme of “All In”. We were encouraging our church family to commit all to Jesus Christ without reservation and without holding anything back. We taught through the gospels to illustrate the life of Christ, who was, Himself, “All In”.

2020 has not been a normal year. In the Spring we were hit with the Covid – 19 virus. It changed so much for our church. We stopped in person worship services and started live-streaming, halted all in-church group meetings and found ourselves ministering to a people who could not come to events here at the church. There was much that was unknown and new behaviors were required. We decided to change our theme to “Uncharted” to reflect the new conditions. No one knew what was going to happen, much had been changed and there was little predictability about our lives. We chose Isaiah 43:2 – 3a as our theme verse, “Why you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.” We chose as our sermon series the NT believers after Jesus’ resurrection for they too did not know what was going to happen, how to continue the devotion to Christ. We are now in the book of Acts following the Holy Spirit’s work to lead the followers of Jesus.

We learned to use Zoom for group meetings and we are getting by with it. It has enabled us to stay in touch and to minister and meet where we could. One advantage of the live-streaming and Zoom is that we have people joining us who are out of our area. We have people who tune in to our worship services regularly from Washington state, Montana and Arizona! In our Tuesday night Men’s Bible Study we have men connecting from Hawaii and Tennessee.

Our latest work has been to provide for an outdoor worship service on Sunday morning. We set up the front yard of one of our houses for the event. It is not the best situation nor location but it enables some to attend.

We have also had to think in new ways in how to minister to a church family whom we do not see and who are isolated and uncertain. Initially we passed out needed items that were hard to purchase – sanitizers, toilet paper, food items and a small compass to remind them to look to Jesus to guide them. Since school started we have been providing free dinners for harried individuals and families.

It has been frustrating to not be able to visit people in need in the hospitals, nursing homes or assisted living facilities as they do not allow visitors. We rely on phone calls to stay in touch with them. Funerals and burial services are also hindered by the restrictions instituted by the Covid – 19 response.

The main word for us in this year is ADJUSTMENTS. We have had to continuously adjust to new circumstances. I credit our church staff, Pastors Nathan Cherney & Linda Akutagawa, and also Ken Koshimizu, Julianna Uyeda, Jodi Yokota, Michelle Stultz and Kevin Sakamoto for the adaptability, devotion and cooperation in this year. Each has taken their own initiative to help out and continue the ministry of our church. I also credit the Venice Church family for their cooperative spirit, willingness to help out and encouragement of the staff. Together we will get through this Covid – 19 pandemic. And may our Lord Jesus Christ be honored and glorified even more because of the virus!

Pastor Jim Miyabe

Westlight Community Church

Experiencing Heaven Together at Home

On March 13, 2020, our Board had an emergency meeting to discuss how our vision would manifest during COVID-19. We identified our challenges to lie in the ability to adapt to a quickly changing environment and pivot to new ways to worship, learn about God, connect with one another, and impact our community. Fortunately, many of our current systems for doing virtual church already existed. Sermons were available online, announcements were digital, and most of our giving was done online. Life Groups immediately and easily transitioned to meeting on Zoom. We even had a Zoom membership class, and added a member during COVID-19.

Early on, Westlight's Board agreed to place our priorities in three areas:

Priority 1: Adapting our Vision

We created new opportunities for our volunteers to serve. Volunteers established the "We Care" ministry. The We Care team creates and safely delivers individualized care packages to regular attenders, friends of Westlight, and people in the community. The prayer team quickly expanded its ministry by adding a Thursday night prayer time. We maintained our 2020 goal to volunteer 1200 hours to impact our community. We continually seek the movement of the Spirit and find new and creative ways to bring heaven on earth on the westside.

Priority 2: Focusing on Communication

Knowing that a lack of communication from leadership can lead to chaos, we immediately began releasing two weekly video updates per week (until the panic settled - about two months). In May, we began publishing our weekly devotions called Dear Westlight. These short videos from each of our pastors, Stan Nishikubo, Kats Omine, Lori Tamura and Tim Wong, address current issues (i.e., social injustice, how to cope with uncertainty, etc.). We also created a fun way for Westlight to communicate and connect through Slack. Westlight's Slack channels include tips for Covid-19 living, Netflix Parties, stories about random acts of kindness, deep reflections, and working from home tips.

Priority 3: Sunday Gathering

Sunday mornings at Westlight usually focused on worshipping, hearing a word from God, and connecting with one another. We adapted these elements virtually and kicked off "Westlight Live" on YouTube. Our average number of viewers exceeds face-to-face Sunday service attendance, pre-pandemic. Greeters moved from greeting in-person to greeting in the chatroom on YouTube. We started doing cold openings by various Westlight regulars to help visitors see who we are. Our worship director, Daniel Wong, quickly pivoted from leading worship teams to recording, editing, and mixing sound on his computer. Our cash balance, giving, and net surplus have increased, thanks to our regular givers and one-time givers! Instead of having a post-service hang out on the patio, we recreated a similar experience with Refresh at Home, taking place immediately after Westlight Live. We have three consistent virtual meeting chatrooms (called "tables") and a couple of tables that offer different themes. Themes include a game table, a cooking class with Chef Kevin, soaking worship, games, social justice, drawing class, etc. KidZone moved from Sunday school classes to providing curriculum families can do together at home. Youth Life Group meets twice a month on Zoom led by our Youth Leader, Kylie Rosero-Ozawa. Glow, our college and young adult ministry, expanded to weekly Sunday Refresh Table and gatherings focused on various topics such as worship, cooking competitions, social justice, and bullet journaling.

We will continue improving our three priorities. As far as meeting face-to-face together, we will focus on meeting in our Life Groups first and then our Sunday Gathering. We are putting together a COVID-19 Task Force, made up of medical and ministry leaders, to help us decide when and how we will gather together, face-to-face. We know YouTube and Zoom are not the same as meeting face-to-face. We are eager to be together, but we want to avoid the severe consequences of gathering too quickly. Westlight's health and safety is our highest priority.

Pastors Katsuya Omine and Lori Tamura

Nichigo Reports

Anchor South Bay Church

Praise Report

- Two people became new members of Anchor South Bay church in 2019.

Highlights/Changes of Ministry

- We have a house church called “Shanti” at a church member’s house every Friday mornings. Usually about 10 people, including two non-Christians gather to eat and share their life together.
- For the past five years, Anchor Club, our after-school tutoring ministry, has been held on Friday afternoons. Thankfully, students invited their friends to the club. Also, we started a class for junior high and high school to advise about preparing for college.
- Eight people from our church attended a seminar from MEBIG, a Japanese teacher training ministry, to learn ministry tools for Children’s ministry at Gardena Valley Baptist Church on April 13th and 14th. The attendees learned a lot of tools and used some of them during Vacation Bible School (below).
- We teamed up with Rolling Hills Covenant Church (RHCC) Japanese Ministry to design and write a VBS curriculum in Japanese. We held the Vacation Bible School at RHCC in the second week of August 2019. About 40 children attended and we had 40 adult volunteers from both churches (cooking food, leading groups). Our week ended with a special concert by Gon-Ming, a Korean Christian musician who was raising funds for Japanese Relief for the March 11, 2011 Tsunami.
- In September, we started a discipleship Bible study entitled, Rooted (Study of Christian Life) for 10 weeks on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Twelve people attended and learned more about Jesus and each other’s life.
- Once a quarter, we host “All Generations Worship Night.” It is an outreach event that is open to all local Japanese churches. We invite a special speaker and have a worship concert. This year we also started offering a light snack before and after the event.
- Our Christmas Eve service has traditionally been a “Lessons and Christmas Carols” format. We sing hymns and readers share scriptures that describe the Christmas story from Genesis through Jesus’ birth. For the first time, we wore nativity costumes to read Christmas scriptures. It helped people imagine the scriptures better.

Pastor Mick Okubo

Anaheim Free Methodist Church

We have worship service in Japanese three Sundays per month and bilingual worship service on the other Sundays. We are thankful that we could invite Mr. Gon-Ming and his wife for the worship concert and could contribute to support Japanese disaster area in August.

We also sent Paul and Rie Mizuki to Japan as missionaries in March.

Pastor Tae Horiuchi

East Bay Church

Here are the events East Bay had in 2019:

- 1/12** – New Year celebration (Mochi tsuki) with East Bay Japanese Language School kids and parents. All kids had to pound Mochi at least 10 times and they had to make the shape of traditional way. Off course after all work done, we all ate fresh Mochi together.
- 5/12** – Mother’s Day (All men cooked and served yakisoba for all ladies). The yakisoba is an East Bay custom recipe and Teppan Yaki.
- 5/18** – Japanese Language School graduation. We had 2 high school students graduate. We also had an all kids sports day (Undoukai) for the end of the Spring semester.
- 3rd Annual Percussion family concert (Haruka Fujii Grammy awarded musician)
- 7/20** – Annual yard sale (10 AM – 3 PM). We collected items throughout the year to sell at this event. We made approximately \$1000 and donated the money to JEMS. Our church also matched the donation.
- 8/17** – Annual Summer festival (Natsu masturi). We invited mainly Japanese school kids and their friends, parents, grand-parents and their friends to feel Japanese summer time. We sold yakisoba and shaved ice. We had several games, including golden fish scooping, air balloon fishing and matoate Japanese darts. We also invited an awaodori team to teach Japanese traditional dancing along with traditional music.
- 10/27** – Church Retreat. The Pastor organized a half-day retreat for all members. It included Biblical games, videos, sharing, and prayer. It was very fun and everyone shared in lots of laughs.
- 11/16** – Japanese Language School Thanksgiving luncheon. The children and parents enjoyed a turkey lunch.
- 11/23** – We attended a Bay Area church praise night at the Santa Clara Japanese Holiness Church.
- 12/22** – Christmas Service. Some of our church members play Jazz music and invited their friend player to play Christmas carols. We did caroling at a Japanese super market after the service. Some people also sung along with us and celebrate Christmas.

Pastor Ichiro Nakahama

Mission Valley Free Methodist Church

“We praise our God who let us pass the great seasons of faith during last one and half years. And we give thanks to PCJC family who has been praying and supporting us. God is faithful and the church is powerful when we are a family.”

Ministries

Next Generation Ministry

- Mommy & Me
 - 3 years-old ~ pre-K
 - Every 2nd Tuesday
 - Rhythmics + Mini Concert
- J-Kids (Children’s Ministry)
 - Kindergarten to 5th grade
 - Every Sunday
- J-Youth (Youth Ministries)
 - 6th grade to 12th grade
 - Every Sunday
- Hosanna (Young Adult Ministries)

Adult Ministries

- Women’s Ministries (Lydia-Kai)
- Mommy Bible Study
 - Every 4th Tuesday
- Men’s Ministry
- Home Bible Study (Katei Shukai)
 - Kei’s Home
 - Suga’s Home
 - Hanna’s Home
- International Couples Ministry

Music Ministry

- M-Cubed
- Choir

Events

Parenting Seminar

- February, March, June, September, November
- Speaker: Jade Yamada (Social Worker of Little Tokyo Area)

Keiro Christmas Concert

Pastor Ed Park

Peninsula Hope

Here are three highlights of the year:

- We praise God for the people who accepted Jesus Christ and got baptized this year.
- We had five series of studies on membership. Since there has not been such study time for a long time, even those who are already members at church were interested in this study, and almost a half of the entire congregation at church attended.

The contents were:

- What is membership
- The History of Free Methodist
- The Article of Faith of Free Methodist
- Membership Privileges and Responsibilities
- Tithe and Offering

We hope that this study gives us an opportunity for us to become a new church and move forward. Our youth group activities have started little by little. Our church has limited the number of people who can serve them and cannot devote enough time for them. In the midst of this situation, however, we could participate in the youth program in Southern California and many youths have been spiritually nourished. Every time they participate in the program, they would always come home with some challenges or encouragements from God. In addition to participating in such events, we are hoping that our youth group can take advantage of fundraising and band activities and become more active in church.

Our vision for 2020 is “The Stories of the Bible Re-frame Our Stories.” Unfortunately, we live in a story based on the worldly values. By putting us into the story that the Bible teaches, we want to live as light of the world and salt of the earth by not isolating us from the world but not becoming a part of the world especially on the days other than Sundays when we worship God together. When we spend our weekdays like this, our church life would become more meaningful and exciting. We should be able to find out that we are part of God’s story.

Pastor Munetoshi Hatsusegawa

Venice Free Methodist Church

I was appointed as a pastor at Venice Church Nichigo last May. On May 5th, Pastor Jim from English division prayed for me and my ministry has started since then. However, Pastor Park asked me to preach twice in April so I had those opportunities, too. Since Pastor Park had not taken a vacation then, after a few years, Pastor Park could travel to Japan and Korea. I did not want to put too much burden on the church members because of the change of the pastor so I tried not to make changes as much as possible, but there were some changes which are described below:

- We have moved our time for worship service from 11:45 to 10:15 and changed the location from sanctuary to multi-purpose room.
- We used to have pot-luck lunch once a month, but we have changed to have lunch after the service every week so that we can have fellowship after the service over lunch. Other than pot-luck itself, my husband and I are preparing mainly.
- We decided to divide everyone into four groups with leaders for the meal so that we all get to sit and talk with different people each time and the leaders could learn about discipleship training.

Since there are many elderly people, I have tried to reach out inwardly first instead of outreach so as to consider “the pastoral care for the elderly” and “become one with God’s family.” We continue to have a monthly breakfast meeting at the Marie Calendar, and we celebrate birthdays for people over 90 at lunch time. Flowers are arranged on the pulpit and hanging scrolls of Mr. Soki Ito are placed. We also make use of PowerPoint to add photos for the sermon so that people can see them. Some older people feel that they are “useful for nobody and not needed by anyone”, so it is necessary to have friends in the church so that there is no loneliness or alienation. If you have your place in the church, it is easy to connect as a family of God, so I try to find a place where you can be yourself and a free space. The people who are in charge of the library are 90 years old. The person who is in charge of bringing pickles for each meal every week is 88 years old. Wednesday’s Bible Study is not just about learning as a Bible Cafe over a cup of tea, it’s also a time of prayer for what you’re feeling throughout the week. Last year, there were 2 baptisms and 4 people transferred from other churches. In April, Ikuko Kawajiri was called to heaven at the age of 77. I am also grateful that two players who play music have been given. Personally, it was a great blessing for me to participate in the seminar at Mariners Church in Irvine, the second largest in California, and the class by Pastor Lucas in Liquid Church. I thank Pastor Garcia for the planning.

We can’t hold worship services or meetings because of the coronavirus, so, currently, I record them on YouTube on Saturday and watch it at 10:00 on Sunday. Since non-Christians are also watching them, I am considering the sermon with that in mind. Whether people are watching YouTube or not, we’re printing 30 sermons every week and mailing them with a newsletter. I also send it to people outside the church as a mission. I hope that each member will write an update and strengthen the bond in this situation. It’s a pity that some people are unemployed and return to Japan.

Please Pray For:

- The needs of the people who lost their job due to corona will be met.
- Salvation for the people who are participating in the YouTube worship service.
- Each one of us so that we all would find something to work on and move forward.
- Maintaining both physical and spiritual health that are affected by the new lifestyle due to corona.

Pastor Mari Otsuka

Board of World Missions

2020 Annual Leadership Conference Report

Vision for Missions Giving:

Many of us served in the FMCUSA during a time when church-based missions giving was centralized, with 3% of income designated for Free Methodist World Missions (FMWM). Several years ago, FMCUSA decentralized church-based missions giving. Today, there is no 3% rule and there is no rule that all missions giving be to FMWM. For 2020, we updated our PCJC local church treasurer's remittance form to reflect this. Although we do encourage you to designate at least 3% towards missions giving and to include FMWM, we invite you above all to seek the heart of God in a clear vision for your church's missions giving, both locally and globally.

Missionaries in Our PCJC Family – Gene and Minori Hall:

The Hall Family has been in Japan since August 2019 as missionaries with Free Methodist World Missions. Minori has been teaching Japanese at the Christian Academy in Japan, while Gene has been studying Japanese and networking with national leaders and missionaries. He has also been building his relationship with the Japan Free Methodist Church. In October 2019, Gene and Minori visited Bishop Honda and the Kobe churches for a Kansai area gathering. Although previously scheduled trips to Thailand and Cambodia are now on hold, the Halls are committed to training and equipping leaders in Southeast Asia. FMWM Asia Area Director Eric Spangler has asked Pastor Gene to visit South-east Asia four or more times each year.

Heavenly Treasures:

During this Covid-19 season, Heavenly Treasures (HT) continues to support artisans through “love packages”. The artisan families in Guatemala, Kenya and India have received packages of food including basic needs, masks and hand sanitizer. HT online sales through Shop With a Mission has expanded. HT asks for prayers that God continues to give them creative ideas in the coming months and that churches will continue to partner with them through this new online venture. God is Good!

Free Methodist World Missions:

In 2019, PCJC churches gave \$104,533 towards FMWM. We praise God for this! This past year, we connected with some of the amazing people and ministry projects of FMWM. Matt Sauder visited California and shared with the Board of World Missions about ministry to university students in the Philippines. Pastor Jenny Switkes met with FMWM missionaries from Africa at General Conference; visited the Light and Life Bible College in Yangon, Myanmar; toured an International Childcare Ministries (ICCM) hostel in Chang Rai, Thailand; and attended a FMWM Southeast Asia Leaders Meeting. God is doing beautiful and powerful things in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and here in North America.

Missions News from Around the Conference:

PCJC churches are living a missional mindset to confidently share Jesus and His kingdom with others, globally and locally. Numerous PCJC churches sent teams abroad in 2019. Venice FMC sent a team to Baja, Mexico to build homes for those in need of shelter (12/27/19 – 1/1/2020). Alan Oda led a team to Japan to serve in disaster relief in the tsunami affected areas (7/12/19 – 7/23/19). Mission Valley FMC sent a team to Brazil to teach English as a way to attract young adults to church (1/9/19 – 1/25/19). Anaheim FMC veterans Paul and Rie Mizuki began their work as long-term JEMS missionaries in Osaka, Japan; they are currently serving with the Church Without a Name and Pastor Kuni Onishi. Resplendent Light partners with indigenous pastors in a community in Baja, and partners with ZOE International in the San Fernando Valley in the building of a recovery center for teen girls impacted by trafficking. Pastor Wayne Katayama connected with the Compton Community Garden, a Free Methodist ministry headed up by Pastor Deb Walkemeyer at the Light and Life Christian Fellowship in Long Beach. At Rise OC, the English Cafe ministry reaches Japanese mothers in the area with English language learning and the gospel, and the church partners with a citywide homeless ministry. Voice Church serves teen parents through Young Lives, participates in World Vision's Run for Clean Water, and made 1700 masks for a local vulnerable apartment community.

Impact of COVID-19:

All short-term missions trips registered with Free Methodist World Missions through VISA (Volunteers in Service Abroad) have been canceled until at least January 2021. A number of career missionaries have returned to the U.S. during this time. In the midst of this, FMWM Area Directors and teams are prayerfully developing new creative and strategic ways to continue serving the global church, and God is moving powerfully.

Your PCJC Board of World Missions Leadership:

Your PCJC Board of World Missions team for 2020-2021 is Pastor Wayne Katayama (Chair of the PCJC Board of World Missions, PCJC Missions Liaison to FMCUSA; Anchor South Bay), Koh Ikeda (Mission Valley), Alan Oda (Venice FMC), Pastor Jenny Switkes (Rise OC).

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Jenny Switkes, Pastor Wayne Katayama, Alan Oda
missions@pcjcfm.org

Section 4:
Finance

Board of Finance Report

2020 Leadership Conference Report

Assessment Income

- PCJC’s primary incomes are the 7.5% church assessments and 10% church plant tithes
- Total income grew by 11.7% in 2019
 - For the first 6 months of 2020 income is about the same as 2019, despite COVID-19
- PCJC’s assessment income pays for our operational expenses
 - Income was sufficient for paying operational expenses in 2019 and 2020 (est.) but is forecast to fall short in 2021 (due to payroll and EPP)

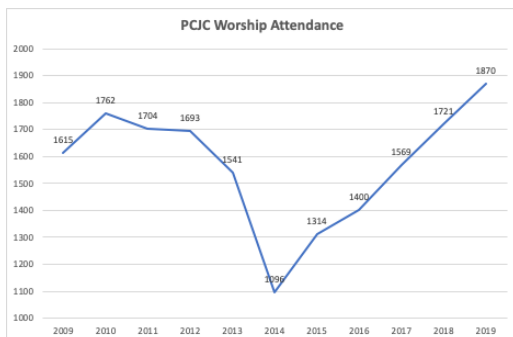
Investing for Our Future

- We have money in the bank designated for church growth that we continue to invest in growing God’s Kingdom
- PCJC invested \$127,249 in 2019 to implement our 5 part Vision
 - More than 79% of Vision investment went to church planting
 - Vision investment through 6/30/20 has been \$19.6K (almost all of this supported church plants)

Our Plan for the Future – Grow

- The solution to poor cash flow:
- Growth
 - Recalibration
 - Church Planting
 - Leadership Development
 - Network
 - Next Generation
- Not only does growth let us make more disciples for Christ, it helps us financially

PCJC Growth Metrics



In 2020/21 We Continue to Invest for Future Growth

- 2021 income budgeted to be equal to 2020 six month actuals extrapolated to a year
- Investing \$120.5K in 2021 for PCJC's 5 part Vision (mostly for new church plants)
 - Setting aside \$103K for church planting in 2021
 - Recalibrate and Internship Programs continuing

In 2019 We Continued to Invest in Our Vision

Category	Income	Expense	Difference
Vision	\$456	-\$127,249	-\$126,793
Ministries	\$42,079	-\$35,244	\$6,835
Operations	\$527,657	-\$501,999	\$25,658

- Total cash assets decreased in 2019 by -\$102,408
 - Includes -\$8,108 in non-budgeted expenses such as camps, closing out The Well, and changes in accounts payable/receivable
- Cash Balance was \$1,006,290 on 12/31/2019
 - \$1,039,546 on 6/30/2020

Designated Funds 6/30/2020

- Church Growth Funds: \$527,965
- Camps and Retreat Funds: \$34,216
- Memorial/Ministers Home Loans: \$82,977
- Retired Ministers - Shinoda: \$27,989
- Sagawa Scholarship: \$884
- PCJC Church Relief Fund: \$5,000

Let's Move Forward in 2021

- Expect \$116.6K net investment in our Vision
- We have over \$1.0M in the bank so let's continue to plant seeds for God's Kingdom
- By growing and recalibrating our churches, we are more than breaking even financially
- As we Thrive, we will have more resources to invest to bring more people to Christ

Respectfully submitted,
Roy Tsugawa, Chair
 PCJC Board of Finance

Section 5:
Special Reports

Association of Retired Ministers & Spouses

2020 Leadership Conference Report

The founder of ARMS, the Rev. Dr. John M. Miyabe, went home to be with the Lord on January 24, 2020 at the age of 98. Rev. Miyabe was preceded in death by his wife, Marian. He leaves behind 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Rev. Miyabe served our denomination and conference in many capacities including 27 years as superintendent. In a meaningful celebration of life service on February 29 his middle initial was explained as he had requested. M stands for Megumi which is the Japanese word for grace. John felt strongly that his life and ministry were the result of God's unmerited favor on his life.

On February 6th we had our semiannual fellowship gathering at the Atherton retirement facility in Alhambra. We were especially happy to have Miyoko Mizuki in attendance who was "escaping" the winter weather of Alaska where she resides with her daughter.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic and the fact our ARMS members are in the most vulnerable group, it looks like our next semiannual gathering will need to be pushed from its May date to the Fall or be canceled altogether.

This year has also seen some transitions among our members. Miyoko Umekita moved from SoCal to a retirement facility near her daughter in Sacramento. Hitoshi Yamada moved from his home in Arroyo Grande to Sakura Gardens (formerly Keiro). Ray and Ryoko Narusawa moved into Atherton. Kay and June Sakaguchi will move from Fresno into Atherton when the pandemic conditions allow. Carl and Miko Yoshimine sold their home in Anaheim and live with their care givers, Ed and Carol Yee.

Nancy Shigekawa went home to be with the Lord on May 31, 2020, at the age of 89. She joined her husband, Rev. David Shigekawa, who passed 10 years ago. David and Nancy were married for 56 years. They were one of those couples who you always associated with each other. They were a wonderful ministry team. Nancy leaves behind a daughter, son-in-law, and 3 grandchildren. Nancy was buried in a pandemic shortened grave-side service. A larger public memorial service will be held in the future.

As the retired ministers and spouses of this conference, we want to thank you for your prayer support. As a group and as individuals, we pray for you.

Respectfully submitted,
Koji Carl Omaye, Director
June Sakaguchi, Secretary

Nichigo Shuyokai Camp 2019

2020 Leadership Conference Report

Date: June 25 (Tue) - 28 (Fri), 2019

Speaker: Pastor Norio Harada (Yokohama Ryokuen Church, Yokohama Japan)

Place: Westmont College in Santa Barbara

It was the 84th Shuyokai and we had a very special guest speaker from Japan.

Pastor Norio Harada is a veteran with rich experience in preaching and evangelical activities through the gospel broadcasting station called PBA. He is a well-known pastor and a missionary over there in Japan.

He was perfect to talk about “Rebuilding” which was a theme of the Shuyokai from Nehemiah 2:18. After going through many changes in Nichigo in the last few years, we got brand new members of pastors and the theme was so timely to us. His evangelical experience over the years was very much reflected in his messages and we all got inspired.

There were four breakout sessions led by our pastors. We also had a Sports Day for the first time in the traditional Japanese way. Many men and women, young or old participated and enjoyed tug-of-war, folk dance, and water balloon fights, etc.

Our youth and children’s programs were also wonderful. Pastor Kats Omine was the speaker for the youth. Pastor Tae Horiuchi was in charge of children’s program. Both of them connected really well with the youth and children. God used the programs to bring life-changing experience in the lives of our next generation.

It was great to have Pastor Ed Park of Mission Valley give us a message at the morning session.

Thank you for your continuous support and prayer for the Nichigo.

Respectfully submitted,

Nichigo Board

PCJC Family Camp 2019

2020 Thrive Annual Conference Report

PCJC Family Camp was held on July 28-August 2nd, 2019 at Redwood Christian Park in Boulder Creek, CA.

Our camp theme was Fearless based on the 1 John 4:18. This theme was inspired through many gatherings of prayer and discussions that opened our eyes to one of the biggest barriers to our freedom to serve Christ in our day-to-day lives. Christians are commanded to love, and according to our theme passage, fear is the obstacle in fulfilling it. We fundamentally believe the Holy Spirit gives us freedom to love and the boldness to do His work.

Many of our program directors from 2018 reprised their roles this year. This allowed us to focus on improvements for each programs.

The following are a few happenings 2019 that is worth recognition:

- We moved All Camp Worship to Monday. We had many positive responses to this change. **Pastor Andrew Yamazaki** shared a message with our conference about being fearless. Special thanks to **Pastor Jim Miyabe** for leading the time of prayer for our new PCJC pastors.
- All Camp Organized Recreation Now (ACORN): Per request of the superintendent, staff from MH, SH, and GEN put together three activities for all generations to interact and play together. It was very well attended and received.
- In 2018, we adjusted the breakdown of grade levels in each program. Due to this change, the Juniors program for 2019 recognized an older demographic. The Juniors program directors strongly recommended a program more akin to the Middle High program.
- Having two speakers for the adult program was well-received. There were many praises on the quality of the speakers (**Pastor Benjamin Robinson** and **Pastor Mike Wilson**).
- However, not having small groups for the adult program was not. This decision was made when many declined to volunteers as group leaders.
- There was an issue in the Senior High program among the staff. There were some serious accusations made. We (Camp Directors) investigated this matter during and after camp. The issue has been resolved. Extensive training for future camp staff is recommended.
- Special thanks to the **Preschool** and **Nursery staff** for quickly adjusting to a last-minute surge or registrations - they purchased extra equipment on the drive to camp to accommodate the over 100% increase of campers.
- Special thanks to the **Middle High program directors** and **staff** who handled a difficult situation involving youth misconduct
- Special thanks to the **Middle High** and **Senior High program directors** and **staff** who resolved issues which involved some missing youth. They handled this issue with maturity and professionalism.
- Special thanks to **Jodi Yokota**, for providing responding promptly to all the needed financial reports for camp.
- We'd like to recognize our camp registrar, **Jon Yabu**. He navigated us through all the administrative work and provided his expert guidance in finances and housing.

We would also like to recognize the amazing program directors:

Adult: **Alan Oda** and **Kazu Shimasaki**

Genesis: **Michael Ohno**, **Pastor Matthew Asami**, and **Lindsay Terada**

High School: **Davis Ozawa** and **Nikki Moriguchi**

Middle High: **Lauren Hong** and **Caitlyn Azama**

Juniors: **Tyler Karasawa** and **Kristen Himeno**

Primaries: **Ken Koshimizu** and **Charley Worley**

Preschool + Nursery: **Kaoru Mulvihill**, **Dana Chow**, and **Kylie Rosero Ozawa**

We would like to thank the team at PCJC (**Superintendent Jason Garcia**, **Jodi Yokota** and **Stephanie Hsien**) for connecting us with amazing speakers, promoting family camp, providing direction and offering resources.

We would also like to recognize the amazing program directors:

- While we were able to welcome many first-time visitors (new churches joining the PCJC), our attendance stayed relatively the same as 2018. This is mostly due to MVFMC's 100th anniversary retreat which took place about a month prior.
- Redwood Christian Park has steadily raised their fees for the last few years. In four years, they have raised our fees by 18% (\$92K to \$109K).
- We have increased registration costs for PCJC Family Camp by 5% each year to maintain affordability for our campers.
- For the past three years (and perhaps before), we have been operating at a deficit of \$8K-\$9K on average. We foresee continuing rising costs from RCP, and increasing budgetary needs for each program.
- If the cost for Family Camp remains the same, and if we have the same amount of people attend, we will need to increase costs by 7% to break even.
- We strongly suggest having a PCJC youth pastor (or director) involved in planning the MH and SH programs to ensure continuity with the Midwinter Youth retreat (for both campers and staff).

Unfortunately, we will not be having Family Camp in 2020 due to our current pandemic.

Thank you for allowing us to serve our conference for the past three years. We look forward to the great works Jesus will accomplish through the Family Camp ministry in the coming years!

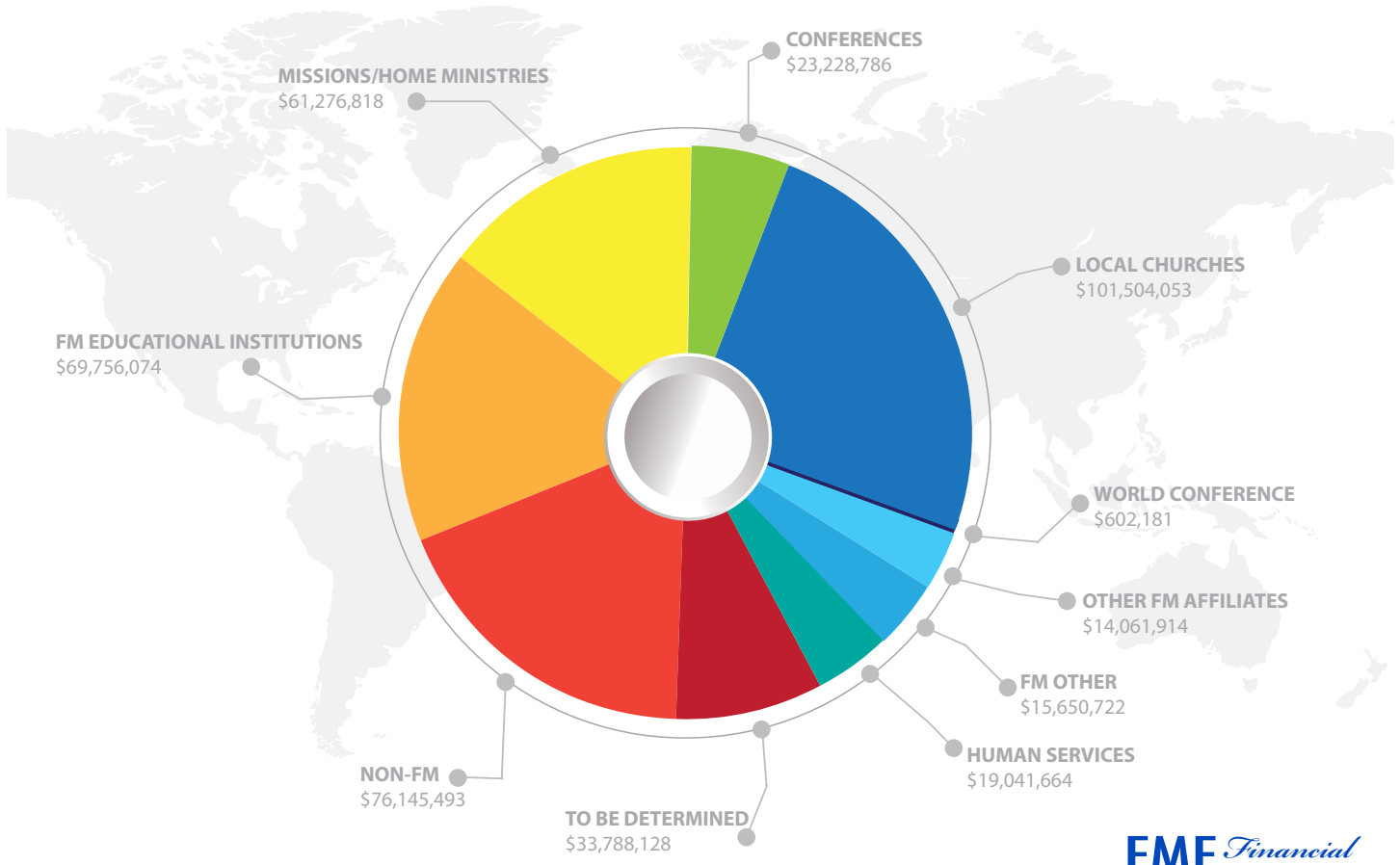
Finally, we received word that RCP is seeking donations to keep their ministry in operation during this season. If anyone seeks to give an offering, please send checks to:

Redwood Christian Park
15000 Two Bar Road
Boulder Creek, CA 95006-9766

Please note that it is a special gift for "Tough Times"
Also, you may call 831-338-2134 and make a donation with a credit card.

Megumi Higa & Kats Omine
2019 PCJC Family Camp Directors

GIFTS DESIGNATED TO MINISTRY | TOTAL \$415,055,833
As of December 31, 2019

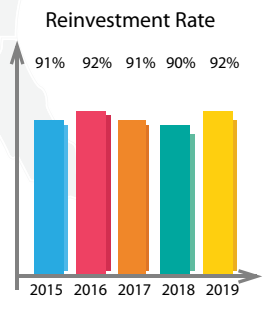
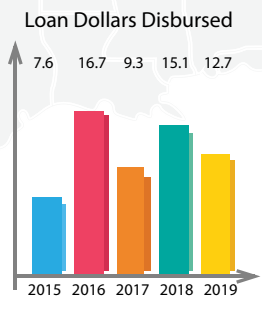
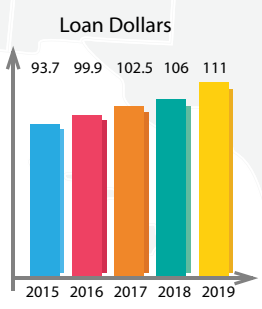
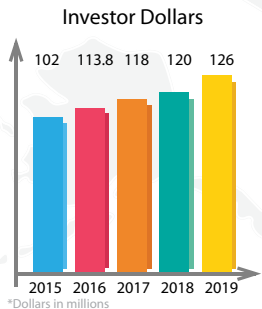
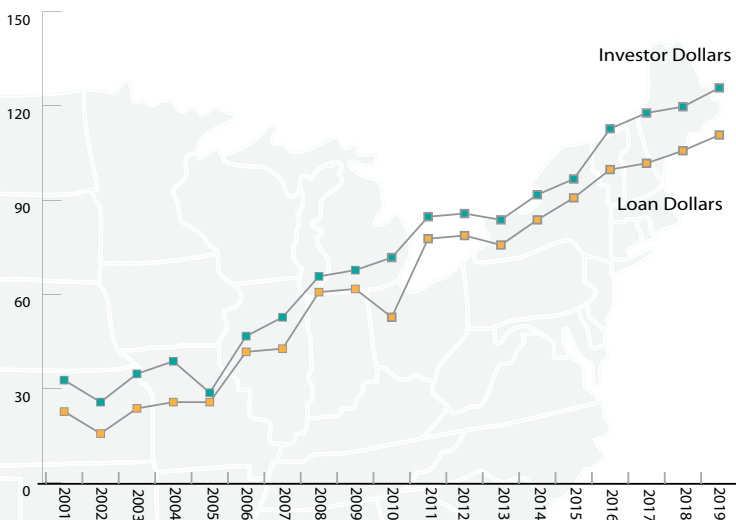


FMF Financial SERVICES
800-325-8975 | FMFfinancial.org

FREE METHODIST INVESTMENT & LOAN FUND

Highlights from 2019

\$126,357,764 Investment in the Fund
 \$111,183,438 Total Dollars Loaned
 1,299 Investor and Loan Relationships
 138 Loans
 92% Reinvestment Rate on Certificates
 \$12,754,161 Loan Disbursements



*Dollars in millions



**Pacific Coast Japanese Conference
2019 Missions Giving through FMWM***

Missionary Support	\$63,038
Hall	\$22,481
Don and Kathy	\$18,009
Keith & Julie	\$5,441
Wilkins	\$5,207
Sauder	\$3,925
Osborne	\$2,823
Land	\$2,706
Asia Area Director	\$2,011
Persing	\$434
Country Support	\$589
Malaysia	\$370
Thailand	\$219
Other Missions Giving	\$40,906
Heavenly Treasures	\$32,889
Set Free	\$3,917
Yangon Ministry Center	\$3,661
Bishop Crisis Response	\$440
Grand Total	\$104,533

* includes only funds given through FMWM



FREE METHODIST WORLD MISSIONS
makes disciples by **mobilizing the global church** and
empowering international leaders to **establish**
transformational churches.

**Mobilizing the Global Church
through Missionary Support**

Free Methodist missionaries extend the mission reach of the FMCUSA into all of the world. Most often, their primary purpose is to serve international leaders as they seek to establish the Free Methodist Church in their own countries. In their disciple-making role, our missionaries contribute to church planting movements, leadership development, and where appropriate, pioneer new work.



Each missionary (or missionary family) has a specific level of support needed to serve in their ministry context. Missionary support includes a fixed amount common to all Free Methodist extended-term missionaries including salary, insurance and basic benefits. Also included is an additional variable amount based on their specific field expenses and world area budgets. This amount includes children's education, rent, utilities, travel, etc.

**Empowering International Leaders to
Establish Transformational Churches
through Church Planting & Development**



Free Methodist financial resources are focused on developing leaders, churches and ministries in more than 95 countries. Church Planting & Development contributions resource these priorities:

- empowering fruitful and emerging leaders through training and spiritual support,
- establishing life-giving and multiplying churches for new and existing believers, and
- fueling transformational ministries to expand education, alleviate poverty, fight for justice and bring wholeness.

Free Methodist World Missions is positioned to empower individuals, local churches and conferences to connect with God's heart for the world by offering the following:

Cross-Cultural Consultation

Through a global network of leaders FMWM can provide current perspectives on missiology, tools to teach a healthy biblical worldview and methodologies for bridging different cultures in a local community and the world.

Giving Avenues

FMWM provides avenues for individuals, churches and conferences to give toward the support of missionaries, ministry priorities and extra-mile projects.

Assistance is offered with online giving, as well as annual commitments.

FMWM is committed to honoring the financial contributions donors give to the cause of Christ. Structure and procedures are in place to ensure resources: are used for their intended purpose, meet regulatory guidelines, minimize fees and protect the ministry of those we partner with around the world.

Promotional Resources

Printed materials, e-letters and online resources are available through FMWM to promote global missions in the local church.

Resources include:

- "Heartbeat" monthly newsletter
- "Hotline" weekly prayer update
- Wide Variety of Videos
- Missionary/country posters
- Missionary prayer cards
- "Missions Alive!" children's missions curriculum
- Multi-Ethnic Ministry Video Series (with Dialogues and User Guide)
- Reproducible materials
- "Evaluating Our Missions Heart"

Most of the above resources, plus news, stories and information about missionaries and ministries, can be found at www.fmwm.org

Social Media

Facebook: Free Methodist World Missions

Twitter: fmworldmissions



Missionary Service

FMWM provides both employment and volunteer avenues of service for individuals and families desiring to connect with God's heart for the world internationally.

An experienced FMWM team uses a holistic approach for assessment, preparation and deployment for those who sense God's call to serve short-term or long-term in global missions.

A multi-stage process begins with an application and references for those seeking to serve for a year or more. Following assessment and clearance, an individualized deployment plan is created, leading to customized preparation. Preparation may include academic coursework, language study and/or reading assignments. Missionaries are also guided in budget preparation and partnership building.

VISA Ministries

VISA = Volunteers In Service Abroad

Short-Term VISA Opportunities

VISA Teams are sponsored by their local church or conference. Teams collaboratively help the national church with priority construction projects or with English or sports camps, children's programs, etc. Teams typically engage in a project for 10 to 15 days.

VISA Fast Track Assignments, lasting typically less than six months, are geared for individuals and families. Assignments generally require a specific skill set or training and may include teaching in a theological institution, medical ministry in a hospital or clinic, maintenance or emergency relief.

VISA Voyager Assignments are for people desiring to serve short-term (one to two years), often with the view of long-term service. VISA assignments provide the opportunity to clarify God's call while meeting a identified ministry need. Ministry appointment is a collaborative process with missionaries and national church leaders and is similar to missionary employment processing.

VISA University = Training Opportunities

VISA University programs teach people about the complexities of cross-cultural ministry and how to avoid common pitfalls and better understand God's heart for the world.

VISA Team Leader Training helps experienced and inexperienced team leaders prepare and equip their team members for effective cross-cultural ministry. Training is offered as host groups are identified.



Free Methodist World Missions Leadership Team

BISHOPS



Keith Cowart
Asia, Europe &
Middle East



Linda Adams
Latin America



Matt Whitehead
Africa

AREA DIRECTORS



Mike Reynen
Africa



Eric
Asia



Josh Fajardo
Europe



Ricardo Gomez
Latin America



Dale
Middle East

**Missions
Resource
Team**



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ADVOCACY**
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**OPERATIONS
& INNOVATIONS**
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x226

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**FINANCIAL
LIAISON**
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FREE METHODIST WORLD MISSIONS
770 N HIGH SCHOOL RD, INDIANAPOLIS IN 46214
FMWM.ORG
1.800.342.5531




Do you know the 1950s hit song written and made popular by boy singer Laurie London? It's a song children are still singing everywhere. **"He's got the whole world, in His hands ... He's got _____ in His hands ..."** Fill in the blank with the people, groups, or names of your choice. Options include but are not limited to: the children of India, you and me sister, you and me brother, all the mamas and the papas, Kesha and Johnny, every single child.

Then there's the 1985 song "We are the world. We are the children ... lend a hand to life ... the greatest gift of all." These are songs of partnership, hope, need, sharing – songs about the best part of being human, together. That's what ICCM regularly has the privilege to be: the best of humanity, co-operating with Jesus, working together as His hands. Here's how we've done it, together:


2019 Partnership Stats



 17,875 children in 33 countries currently sponsored by sponsors in seven different countries

 649,062 meals provided through our "Extended Table" food funds in Haiti, Burundi and India

 \$43,239 provided for animal projects benefiting families and schools

 \$8,221 disbursed through Ann's Angel Fund – providing medical treatment for traffic accidents, dengue fever, snake bites, eye care and surgeries





- \$1,950 given and matched to provide Bibles in Brazil, Nicaragua, Togo and DRC
- \$17,100 used to drill wells in Togo, Myanmar and Nigeria
- \$53,250 directed toward the purchase and distribution of water filters
- \$92,428 has been directed, through ICCM, to anti-trafficking efforts. Sponsorship is our frontline strategic anti-trafficking ministry. Because of your sponsorship, 17,875 children are being protected! ICCM partners with The Set Free Movement (setfreemovement.com) and In Better Hands (inbetterhands.org)



 iccm
International Child Care Ministries

770 N. High School Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46214 :: 800-342-5531 x502 :: childcareministries.org :: [@intlchildcare](https://twitter.com/intlchildcare) 0420



As you know, we are in uncertain and unprecedented times. However, we know that we serve and love a God who cares deeply for the poor, disenfranchised and marginalized around the world. We continue to pursue justice, care, livelihood opportunities and provision for the poor around the world, but to be able to continue the ministry we need to continue to raise awareness and funds.

We have decided to host a virtual fundraising gala this year. The Gala is our largest fundraising event of the year. It will feature videos highlighting our ministry as well as our vision for the coming year. Our plan is for October 3 as a kickoff to our week-long event. Thank you to the PCJC for the sponsorship of our 2020 Gala - this sponsorship will help us host this event to raise funds to operate. If you are interested in virtually attending, you can email Christina@heavenlytreasures.org



Our artisan families have been struggling to meet their basic needs due to Covid-19. We have been able to provide love packages (food kits) for our artisans in Kenya, India, Thailand and Guatemala. The response has been one of gratefulness and thanksgiving as many wondered how they would put food on the table. One of our artisans even had to sell her home in Thailand.

As we faced the Shop with a Mission retail store being closed, and the loss of many in person events, our staff

strategized to build sales through our online store. Caroline Sakanashi hosts a FB Live show on Tuesday and Thursday at noon. This visibility has grown our market in sales, brought new customers and inspired many to purchase products. This new strategy has had great results!

We are working to continue to support our artisans through reinvestment in their projects. As they return to work, we will start with small orders. Some artisans have been able to receive orders during this time as well. Our goal is to provide hope, love and compassion to our brothers and sisters in the developing world.

Please pray with us for the artisans, their families and our Heavenly Treasures staff who are working in the distribution center and offices. Thank you for your ongoing financial support and love you have shown. We are so grateful. Every Product Represents a Changed Life!

Kathy Gaulton, Christina Gruenberg, Caroline Sakanashi, Christine Gross and Kigen Teimuge

SHOP with a MISSION
A FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE

HOST US ONLINE

We are scheduling online Shop with a Mission events in place of in person POP-UP shops this year.

Artisans are unable to sell in their local markets so we are often their main source of orders and sales. Your partnership will help our ministry and artisans to continue to thrive.

We can set these up through facebook or zoom. We have been doing them with churches, organizations and private groups. They have been a fun way to interact with others and help the poorest of the poor at the same time.

To sign up, please contact
Caroline Sakanashi
(626)808-8447 or
caroline@heavenlytreasures.org

1325 E. ROUTE 66 | GLENDORA, CA 91740 SHOPWITHAMMISSION.COM



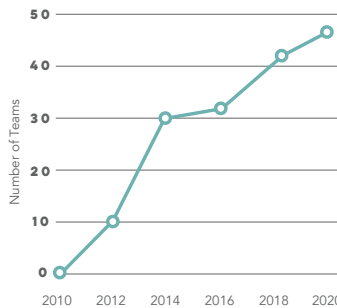
Our Spring Arbor/Jackson Set Free team during the celebration of the announcement of MyPlace - a place of hope for homeless teens in the Jackson, MI area.

10 YEARS OF IMPACT

Set Free Movement teams around the world are **building community resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to human trafficking**. Teams work in the direction of freedom across sectors and issues with at-risk youth, refugees, those caught in homelessness and poverty, as well as survivors of sexual exploitation. Some teams also address labor trafficking, gender-based violence, and cybersex.

Over the past 10 years the Set Free Movement has **raised more than \$1 million dollars through Freedom Sunday** and with those funds have helped **launch 20+ freedom projects** around the world.

Through teams, SFM is **incubating and accelerating additional ministries** and independent organizations: Eden's Glory in Illinois, MyPlace in Jackson, MI, St. John's Home in Bulgaria, and more.



UNITED STATES

- > Teams are leading the conversation on human trafficking prevention through community awareness events
- > Thousands of youth are educated yearly
- > Plans to launch two new restoration homes are underway. One for women survivors in California and another for at-risk youth in Michigan



EUROPE

- > We are preventing the exploitation of at-risk children, ethnic minorities, and the unemployed in Hungary
- > Our partners in Bulgaria opened a prevention home for at-risk girls in 2019
- > New teams are forming in Spain



ASIA/AFRICA

- > We are discipling and supporting female migrant workers in Taiwan
- > In the Philippines, SFM is training pastors and mobilizing churches
- > SFM is educating communities on protecting children from abuse in India
- > Teams are educating schools and communities on domestic violence

SET FREE

LEARN MORE AT WWW.SETFREEMOVEMENT.ORG





WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Set Free Leaders in partnership with Thrive and Tumaini women in Kenya educating about gender-based violence - a major contributor to human trafficking.

We are a global movement of **47 community-based teams** seeking to end modern slavery and create new futures within their local context by:

-  **ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
-  **REDUCING VULNERABILITIES TO ABUSE + EXPLOITATION**
-  **REBUILDING COMMUNITY AND SEEKING SHALOM**

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us:
 @TheSetFreeMovement
 @SetFreeMovement
 @SetFreeMovement

Download our mobile app
for Apple and Android phones

Sign up to receive emails:
www.setfreemovement.com/connect

All of us have a place in this movement.

These are some of the ways you or your church can join us in 2020:



JOIN US FOR FREEDOM SUNDAY

on September 27, 2020

More at www.SetFreeMovement.com/Freedom-Sunday



HELP US SUSTAIN THIS WORK

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