



South District

California-Pacific Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. John Farley
District Superintendent

Bishop Grant Hagiya
Resident Bishop

June 25, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the South District,

In his opening sermon at the recent Annual Conference Session, Bishop Grant Hagiya called on every church in the conference to live into the conference theme, "I See a New Church." He did so by asking all congregations to set aside time for holy conferencing and prayer to come to a consensus about the "New Church" each congregation wants to see and be in the future. The goal is to bring a congregational statement to your 2019 Charge conference and adopt this statement as a guiding principle for your future ministry. District Superintendents will receive these statements through online submission along with other Charge Conference forms. These will then be submitted to the Annual Conference Leadership Team made up of the General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates. These statements will guide and inform the work we do as a conference in preparation for the General Conference of 2020, and any future decision regarding the direction our church must take to remain inclusive and compassionate in our mission and ministry.

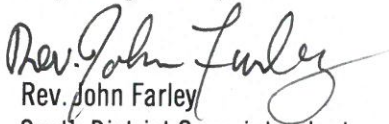
To accomplish this end, the following suggestions are meant to assist you in developing your plan to meet the Bishop's challenge:

1. Publicize and attend the conference "Listening Post" events that will be set soon.
2. Calendar and hold "House Meetings" for small groups to discuss what they personally want to see in the future church.
3. Hold a day-long retreat on the same topic and assign a small "Writing Crew" to craft the statement on behalf of the local church.
4. Present this statement at a Church Council meeting for congregational dialogue.
5. Publish the final draft in the church newsletter and other forms of communication one month prior to your Charge Conference.
6. Adopt the statement at your Charge Conference.

Some resources to consider:

- Download Bishop Grant Hagiya's Annual Conference sermon from June 13th (calpacumc.org/ac2019)
- Go to westernjurisdictionumc.org for statements from leadership and resources for discussion
- Download and read the publication, "Waiting for God's New Thing" by Gil Rendle

May God guide us,


Rev. John Farley
South District Superintendent