

2023 Charge Conference Report
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Charge Conference: The Table at Central UMC

In this calendar year, I have held three appointed positions, Pastor at Epworth UMC in Berkeley, CA, Bay District Superintendent, and now Director of Ministry Innovation and Congregational Vitality. I am grateful to God for all opportunities to serve as an elder in the United Methodist Church.

At Epworth, I finished six years of service. In that time, Epworth declared itself a sanctuary church. We accompanied five families including during the pandemic opening the church as home to a family of five from Guatemala. We dove deeply into the work of racial justice and proclaimed a new mission statement for racial justice. Our Stephen Ministry program grew with five new Stephen Ministers trained and all practicing Stephen Ministers assigned to at least one care receiver continuously. Small groups, both short term and ongoing, increased by double digits. Of particular note was that Epworth became a Just Faith church, adopting the use of curricula from Just Faith to form disciples in spirituality, justice ministries, and other capacities for action in the world.

In six years, Epworth received 63 new members. Conference tithing was paid in full at 100% every year and the annual budget grew during that time from just over \$425,000 to \$576,000.

During my four months as the Superintendent for the Bay District beginning July 1, I focused on setting up the office and working with a new district administrative assistant. I preached three times at Twin Towers UMC for the 170th anniversary, Daly City UMC for their 53rd anniversary, and at the Tongan Women's Role Call at Palo Alto UMC. I co-officiated at a baptism at San Bruno First Tongan UMC. Additionally, I spoke at the memorial of Susan Griffin at Bethany UMC in San Francisco.

In addition to meeting regularly with the cabinet, I presided at 8 church conferences, worked with a church to get their building project back on track, and consulted with several churches who are in various stages of developing their property. I presented on the culture of call at the Board of Ordained Ministry retreat.

In my current role as Director of Innovative Ministry and Congregational Vitality, I have focused on getting up to speed by reading files, meeting with persons connected to this work, and making site visits to all new ministries in the annual conference.

As adjunct faculty in United Methodist Studies at Claremont School of Theology, I taught the summer session of United Methodist History.

Currently, I serve in these additional roles:

- Chair, Western Jurisdiction Council on Finance and Administration
- Member, Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team
- Delegate, General and Jurisdictional Delegation of the California-Nevada Annual Conference
- Chair, Locke Leadership Award Committee, Austin, TX
- Member, Wesleyan Impact Partners Board of Directors, Austin, TX
- Member, General Board of Global Ministries External Audit Committee, Atlanta, GA

Continuing education completed and future plans:

- Gathering of Spiritual Leaders, Asilomar, Pacific Grove, CA, January 2023
- Gathering of Spiritual Leaders, Livermore, CA, January 24
- Discipleship Ministries:
 - Creating a Narrative Budget (.5 CEU)
 - Lessons learned from Church Planters (1 CEU)