

Charge Conference Report 2023

“I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.”

(Philippians 4:13)

It was an interesting year to shift from the senior pastor of Sacramento Japanese UMC to the **Director of Adult Discipleship at UMC Discipleship Ministries**. During my fourteen-year appointment, I helped the church to grow spiritually and missionally. We developed and embraced church visions, initiating a fresh expression in sports ministry (new ministry at the existing church) Over the years, I officiated the baptism or transfer of membership for 106 individuals, with seven on my final Sunday at the church. I did my best to ensure a seamless transition so the ministries would continue.

In my new role, I have undertaken various responsibilities to enhance the spiritual growth and engagement of adults within the United Methodist Church. On a weekly basis, I crafted small group sessions for worship, authored articles, and curated a monthly newsletter focused on adult discipleship. Striving for inclusivity, I invited racially diverse writers, resulting in the recognition of many articles on the national UM news platform.

One notable success was the implementation of the **Pilot Prayer Partner Project**, which resonated globally, reaching over 670 individuals through four webinars featuring special speakers. Additionally, I took on the task of hiring a new coordinator for older adult ministries and provided effective supervision in that role. Simultaneously, I took charge of four Facebook groups under Discipleship Ministries, regularly sharing informative posts to assist church leaders and pastors.

Currently, I am working on **the Lenten Challenge**, promoting **the daily reading of a chapter from the Gospel of John** to foster spiritual engagement and biblical exploration during this sacred season. Additionally, I am a key participant in **the Seminary Strategic** initiative, collaborating with 13 UM seminaries. Recently, I assisted the general secretary in teaching an online discipleship course at Drew Seminary. Plans are underway to extend these efforts to involve more seminaries, broadening the reach and impact of discipleship training. At the Discipleship Ministries, I am contributing to the development of supplemental materials focused on the meanings of **Baptism, Communion, and Membership**. This effort aims to enrich the understanding and significance of these fundamental aspects of Christian faith.

Given the evolving landscape marked by changes like disaffiliation and the general conference, I believe my experiences are instrumental in shaping the future of our denomination. Drawing from my previous involvement on the World Council of Churches central committee, I aim to leverage my ecumenical connections to foster collaboration with other denominations in the pursuit of global discipleship. As the selected delegate of **the World Methodist Council** for the period 2022-2030, I am committed to ensuring that our denomination's voice is heard on the global stage.

My passion for amplifying racial and ethnic voices remains steadfast. As the lone Asian woman and one of two clergywomen on the world service side at Discipleship Ministries, I am dedicated to bringing diverse perspectives to the agency's work. I continue to extend invitations to individuals from various backgrounds, ensuring a rich tapestry of voices is represented. This year, I actively participated in crucial gatherings such as **the National Plan for Asian American Ministries (AALM)** meeting, a biennial conference of **the Asian American Pacific Islander Clergywomen (AAPIC)**, of which I am the founder and former chair. Additionally, I contributed to the Leadership Panel for Asian American Ministries 2023 organized by UMCOM.

I am **thankful** for the Table umc to be my charge conference church and I continue to help the annual conference. I serve on the CORE team as the convener of MFA Leadership Development. I actively engage in supporting local churches by offering guest preaching and consulting on their discipleship paths.

Rev. Motoe Yamada Foor

Director of Adult Discipleship

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