

# Days of Grace



MAY 2017

## SPOTLIGHT ON:

## North Bay Cluster

While most of this group lives in the general Santa Rosa area, there have been members attending from the Northern Coast as well as inland towards Novato. They meet several times a year, sometimes in homes but more frequently in a local church. They have found the church social hall to be much easier for everyone who wishes to attend. They are generally much more accessible than homes and have plenty of room to gather. This group can have over 20 people attend, which is usually just a bit outside what the average home can accommodate!

Gayle Pickrell has taken the helm on notifying everyone of the lunches but everyone pitches in with potluck dishes. Like with any good Methodist gathering, there is always plenty of good food no matter the number gathered!

There are several folks who enjoy traveling and are always happy to share their tales of their journeys with those around the table. Members have shared their musical talents and brought forth local social justice issues for both prayer and action as one is able.

This Cluster Group enjoys living in the beautiful wine country and sharing the earth's bounty with good friends over good conversation.

This is the third in a series spotlighting the various groups that gather together for fellowship and, of course, food. They each do their gatherings a bit differently but we want to celebrate the vitality and joy that comes with these get-togethers.

If you are not part of a group and would like to find one or start one, please contact Nancy Daley at 916-539-4249 or [nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org](mailto:nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org)

### In This Issue

- A Fling was Flung
- Fling In A New Place
- ACS is upon us again
- Luncheon Registration
-

## President's Ponderings

~Marty Murdock



Dear Colleagues,

As I write this, we are just home from a splendid Spring Fling gathering at Christ the King Retreat Center in Citrus Heights. Fr. Tom Bonacci delighted us with his interpretation of Pope Francis, Dr. John Hillebrandt delighted us with his heart and hands on the piano, and some 60 of us delighted in one another's company over a couple of lovely spring days. Please come join in next year, you will be glad you did!

Our next time together will be at Annual Conference. Please find the form for the luncheon here in this issue and send it in with your check and your entrée preference. There are no tickets available at ACS.

You will also find the form included to seek reimbursement for Annual Conference expenses, for retired pastors and spouses. This apparently has been a very helpful idea. The reimbursements have grown from \$11,000 four years ago, to \$27,000 last year. As you know, the money comes from the Conference Claimant's Endowment Board and we had to ask for \$10,000 increase for next year to cover this and a couple other things.

Bishop Carcaño has been invited to join us for the luncheon this year, and she has been very interested to know how we are encouraging retired pastors to attend. So I guess the word is, she'll be looking for us, so let us be there! As mentioned above, there are funds to help defray your expenses, just like in the old days, when our local church covered all or most of the cost for us.

In another piece of news, we have commissioned a revision/update to our website. You can check out the current one at [www.ca-nv-rca.org](http://www.ca-nv-rca.org) so you will be better able to appreciate the upgrade! Also, the more often the site is visited, the better result search engines will give you when you just "google it".

One of the upgrades we are shooting for is the ability to register for RCA events through our website and the ability to pay for those at the same time. The nitty gritty details are still to be worked through, but hopefully by Spring Fling 2018, we will be able to take both credit cards and checks (like always).

By the time you receive this, our RCA UMVIM team will be back from doing good deeds yet again, this time in rebuilding homes that burned in the fire in Weed, CA. Watch for information on future RCA work teams within the Conference boundaries and another team to New Orleans in November.

Thank you all for your caring for one another, for carrying forward the good connections we share and for welcoming those who will be joining our ranks this year.

You are a good bunch. Thanks for being a blessing to me and to each other.

Shalom,  
Marty

# Board of Pensions News

All the news fit to print, coming in June 2017 to the updated Board of Pensions website. Talk to Paul, Brian, and Andrea to learn more!

They will always be available by phone to answer your questions at 916-913-1049

## Executive Officer's Message

Greetings and salutations! I hope this issue of Days of Grace finds your days filled with grace indeed!



Well, it's that time of year again... Annual Conference Session time! There are two Frequently Asked Questions of me starting about now. First is "When can I register for the ACS Luncheon?" and the second is "How much is the per diem?" The answers, my friends, are blowing in...the pages of this issue!

The registration form is on the second to last page of this issue. You can copy it or just tear it out and send it in with your check. It is also on our website ([www.ca-nv-rca.org](http://www.ca-nv-rca.org)) under "Annual Conference Luncheon". It can be printed or downloaded and printed. PLEASE NOTE that the vegetarian option has been changed a bit. It is still vegetarian, but it is now a salad instead of pasta. I have requested and been assured it will be a "hearty entrée" salad without meat. You will also note that the chicken option is both dairy and gluten free, if either of those is a concern for you. We will be in the same place, The Poolside Pavilion, that we have always been.

The per diem form is also in this issue, opposite the luncheon form (one stop shopping!) and also on the website. Copies will be at the luncheon, the Temporary Conference Office, and the RCA display table. When you see folks from the Endowment Board, thank them for their generous contribution to the RCA that makes the per diem possible. The entire per diem is funded by the Endowment Board through the RCA. More about that later in this issue.

Grace and peace,

*Nancy*



Have you moved?  
New phone number?  
New email address?

Please send updates to:

RCA  
9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141  
Elk Grove, CA 95624

[nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org](mailto:nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org)



MAY 2017

## Annual Conference

Burlingame Hyatt

June 21-24, 2017

### **Events of Note**

#### Celebration of Communion

Wednesday, June 21 9am

#### Annual Luncheon

Wednesday, June 21 at Plenary Break (scheduled for noon) Poolside Pavilion

#### Welcoming of New Retirees and Roll Call

Wednesday, June 21 2-3pm (Afternoon Plenary)

#### Clergy (and Laity) Sessions

Wednesday, June 21 3pm

#### Memorial Service

Thursday, June 22 2pm

#### Reception for Bishop Carcaño

Thursday, June 22 7:30pm

#### Service of Ordination & Commissioning

Friday, June 23 7:30pm

Registration for Annual Conference is open and available on the conference website at [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org). If you wish to use one of the rooms in the ACS block, you must register for ACS FIRST. All must register prior to ACS. If you need assistance, you can call the Conference office at 916-374-1500 or Nancy at 916-539-4249.

## Item To Be Before the Annual Conference

The RCA Executive Committee discovered that the Standing Rule surrounding the payment of the per diem for Conference Claimants was not in line with the practice of the administration of the per diem. In consultation with Conference Treasurer, Diane Knudsen, and the good work of Dave Bennett, the Item was perfected and approved by the Full Board of Directors to go before the Annual Conference. It has been submitted in accordance to the rules of Annual Conference. It is here so you can be the first to know what we are doing on your behalf.

While, at the current time, the Conference writes the check, the funding comes from the RCA due to a generous grant from the Conference Claimants Endowment Board. This change in the standing rule brings the rule in line with the practice of many years. If you have any questions, please contact Marty Murdock, Dave Bennett, or Nancy Daley.

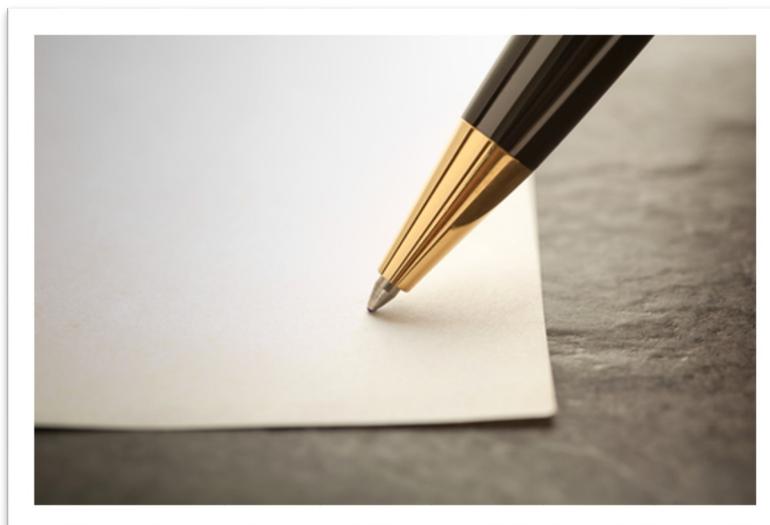
### STANDING RULE "G. MEMBER'S EXPENSE FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE"

#### G. MEMBER'S EXPENSE FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION 1.

##### Conference Claimants -

1. a. Conference Claimants - Up to an amount equal to the per diem allowance for room and board set by the ~~Commission on the Annual Conference Session~~ *Board of the Retired Clergy Association* shall be reimbursed to retired clergy members, surviving spouses, and ~~clergy on incapacity leave~~. *These reimbursements shall be funded by the Retired Clergy Association through its annual grant from the Conference Claimants Endowment Board.* This benefit will not be paid for any ~~person~~ *Retired Clergy* person serving as a supply pastor unless the cash compensation is less than 50% of the minimum compensation for that year.

b. *Persons who have been granted medical leave due to medical or disabling conditions (as defined by the current Book of Discipline) may request a per diem reimbursement from the Treasurer's Office of the Annual Conference.*



MAY 2017

We will FLING

..... Next SPRING

..... Just in a new SURROUNDING!

While you mark your calendar for the 2018 Spring Fling on April 18-19, please note that we will be at the *San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, CA*. Many of you have been at events there before, but for those of you new to San Damiano, rest assured it is lovely and we will be sure to get directions to you beforehand!

While Christ The King has served us well over the years, the Spring Fling Committee decided to give a new venue a whirl due to feedback from attendees. Shortly before Spring Fling 2017, we found that Christ the King has raised their rates significantly going forward. Fortunately, we were able to keep the old rates for 2017, but this will not be the case for 2018 and beyond. We strive to keep your cost down as much as possible while still giving you a fantastic retreat experience. That specific point is being looked at very carefully and will require prayerful consideration by both the Spring Fling Committee and the RCA Board of Directors.



## Northern Nevada Elena De La Peña

**Nadine DeWitt and John Sublett** spent time in Yosemite Nat'l Park celebrating their third wedding anniversary in October. They reported great weather and no smoke from the fires.

**John and Janice Emerson** drove to Southern California to attend their youngest daughter's wedding in September.

The Retired Clergy of the district gathered in mid October for their bimonthly luncheon. The luncheon was graciously arranged and hosted by **Elaine and John Schmidt** in a Chinese restaurant.

**Art Gafke and Elena De La Peña** spent a few days in July in Mendocino to celebrate Elena's birthday. It was hotter than normal. They explored the Botanical Garden south of Fort Bragg and ran into a friend's son, Matthew, and his family. The last time they'd seen Matthew was when he was seven years old.

**Tom Butler** will attend a PreConference on John and Judaism to be held at Mercer University's McKathy School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, from November 18-20. Following the PreConference session he'll attend the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature from November 21 - 23rd, 2015.

**Patrick and Carol Leamy** were welcomed to the Retired Clergy Group's luncheon.

**John and Helen Foster** have moved from Kings Beach, CA, into an apartment in a graduated senior residential home (The Cascades) in Sparks. All three of their children (Ginger, Bard and Susan) helped transfer them into their new living quarters.

The retired clergy hope to have a luncheon in Fernley in order to include **Velma Thornburgh, widow of Alfred**. Velma lives with her daughter in Fernley.

A second memorial service was held late September in memory of **Larry Thomas. Mary Helen Thomas** joined the retired clergy luncheon in October. It was a happy moment to see her and welcome her.

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### Website Update and Upgrade

The Board of Directors has commissioned a website professional to upgrade our website. This should give the website greater functionality and greater ease of use.

What makes differentiates an okay website and a great website is CONTENT. This is such a buzzword as of late, but it is nonetheless true. Why go to a website that doesn't change? That doesn't give you something new?

Great content can come from YOU! We will be setting up some guidelines for submissions in the next few months, but for now, suffice it to be: Would you send this out to your congregation? Is it kind? Does it uplift? If it does, please start compiling these types of things to send to the Webmaster (that will be Nancy) to be included on the website.

The rollout for the new website will be this summer, hopefully by Annual Conference so you can ask your questions of Nancy at that time!

MAY 2017

## Pastoral Response Team

The Pastoral Response Team has undergone two training sessions and will begin annual trainings this next September. The team is led by Carolee Catterall who keeps track of all who are in need of a pastoral ministry and those who are willing to provide the same.

This is a group of dedicated individuals who will respond to pastoral issues of retired clergy and their families. Utilizing a model from Stephen Ministry, team members will initiate term-limed contact with identified care receivers.

The team assumes there are different levels of potential contact. The most obvious type is contact surrounding various forms of grief. Examples might be the death of a loved one, transition into retirement, disability, becoming an empty nester, or a family member involved in some accusation or charge.

Contact might involve “walking alongside” someone who is about to go through surgery or helping someone come to terms with a recent diagnoses.

The PRT functions as a ministry to help fulfill our responsibility to retired clergy members and their families.

The choice of members of the PRT will be made by the Executive Coordinating Unit, as a special function of the Relational Care Committee.

The PRT will meet in person for annual in-service training and fellowship. Overnight accommodations costs of room and board will be paid by the Conference and/or the RCA.

## Relational Care

### Committee

The Relational Care Committee is undergoing some changes in mission. This will now be an umbrella committee over sub-groups. The first sub-group is the Pastoral Response Team. Eventually, this committee will recruit and assist those who wish to form Cluster Groups in their area for food and fellowship, those who wish to be correspondents to Days of Grace for their area, and hopefully a “Sunshine Committee” who will call and/or send cards for birthdays and anniversaries.

If you feel called to participate in any way in these three new sub-groups; Cluster Group Coordinator, Correspondent, or Sunshine Committee member, please let Marty Murdock or Betty Pagett know soon as they do the work of the Nominating Committee.

We seek to have a diverse group of folks doing this work in order to connect with everyone in our care.





## Spring Fling 2017!

We were a small, but mighty, group this year! The presentation by both Father Bonnacci and John Hillebrandt were outstanding but the best part is the fellowship with friends of colleagues and the opportunity to re-connect. Mark your calendar for April 18-19, 2018. We will be gathering at SAN DAMIANO in 2018 and learning more about the Muslim faith and how we can be good Christian allies to the Muslim community at this point in human history.



## *Opportunities to Assist Others*

The RCA has two major funds that have been established to assist others. The first is our Memorial Scholarship program to assist seminary students with their expenses. The second is our Health Care Assistance Program. In the face of increasing health insurance premiums, deductibles, and related costs, some are experiencing difficulties making payments. If you are in the position to help either group, please send your contribution with a note indicating how to direct your donation. Together we can help those in need.

Make your check payable to: **RCA**

Send to:

RCA

9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141

Elk Grove, CA 95624

June 2017

**For CONFERENCE CLERGY CLAIMANTS  
(Retired Clergy, Spouses, Surviving Spouses -  
Cal-Nevada Conference)**



**ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE  
RECEIVED BY:  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2017**

**Provided to you by:  
A Grant by the Conference Claimants Endowment Board  
and the Retired Clergy Association**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse is Clergy: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

***I hereby request reimbursement in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for expenses incurred at  
the 2017 Annual Conference Session for food, lodging, parking and incidentals\*\*.***

**\*\*Please attach your hotel bill receipt and any expense receipts.**

Maximum Reimbursement:

ONE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouse	(max. \$200)
ONE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Clergy/Spouse	(max. \$250)
TWO DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouse	(max. \$400)
TWO DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Clergy/Spouse	(max. \$500)
THREE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouse	(max. \$600)
THREE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Clergy/Spouse	(max. \$750)

Hotel Expense: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Parking Expense: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Food/Meals Expense: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Incidental Expense: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

After you fill out this form (**attach all receipts**) return it to Karen Foster in the temporary Conference Business Office in the Hyatt Regency. CHECKS WILL BE MAILED AFTER CONFERENCE.

**Or mail to:** Karen Foster  
United Methodist Center  
P.O. Box 980250  
West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250

# Annual Conference Luncheon

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017

Burlingame Hyatt – Poolside Pavilion

Gathering 11:30am Program and Lunch – at Plenary Lunch Break

**Pre-registration REQUIRED.** No non-reserved tickets available at the door.  
Registration **DEADLINE is June 10, 2017**

Please join us for fellowship, food and celebration of our continued ministry  
as retired clergy and spouses.

This is a time to welcome new retirees, renew friendships from years past, congratulate our  
scholarship winners, and catch up on the lives of friends and colleagues

### RCA LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

*You will receive an email confirmation. If you have not heard please call 916-539-4249*

LUNCH CHOICE: Chicken (gluten/dairy free) \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: Postmarked by **June 1, 2017** \$30.00

Postmarked after June 1 (**but no later than June 10!**) \$35.00

Number of lunches \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

**NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.**

Make check payable to "**RCA**"

Mail to:

Nancy Daley, 9328 Elk Grove Blvd #105-141, Elk Grove, CA 95624

OFFICE USE ONLY: S \_\_\_\_\_ CN \_\_\_\_\_ CK# \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PM \_\_\_\_\_

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the  
United Methodist Church  
Retired Clergy Association  
P.O. Box 980250  
West Sacramento, CA 95758-0250

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President: *Betty Pagett*  
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Secretary: *Dave Bennett*  
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UMVIM: *Betty Pagett*  
Spring Fling: *Floyd Quenzer and Donna Hougland*  
Relational Care: *Carolee Catterall*  
ACS Commission: *Dave Thompson*  
Class of 2017: *Jerry Angove, Jim Luther, Siosifa Setoki, Ben Silva-Netto*  
Class of 2018: *Pam Abbey, Debbie Dillon, Tom Kimball, Floyd Quenzer*  
Class of 2019: *Carol Carter, Jim Current, Bill & Kate Johnson, Sandy Roberts*

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER & RCA CONTACT INFO

Nancy Daley  
9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141  
Elk Grove, CA 95624  
**916-539-4249**  
nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org  
<http://ca-nv-rca.org/>

## Upcoming Events

June 21-24, 2017  
Annual Conference  
Session  
> Burlingame  
2018  
> Modesto

June 21, 2017  
Annual Luncheon  
Poolside Pavilion  
Burlingame Hyatt

April 18-19, 2018  
Spring Fling  
San Damiano