

DAYS OF GRACE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE — VIRTUALLY, IN PERSON!

Annual Conference time is upon us but also not. The Conference will gather virtually and in person. (Please check your conference email for details on Clergy Session. Contact the Conference if you are not receiving these emails.)

In person will be at the Sacramento Convention Center in October, but the business of RCA needs to be done well before then! Once again the RCA will be taking care of business via the US Mail. In this mailing, please find your ballot to vote on the slate of officers (see *page 3*) and the budget (see *page 4*), a survey to return, and information on membership donations.

The officers and budget vote allows us to continue with the business of the RCA. The survey allows RCA members to be available for service to the conference as well as giving the RCA board persons to contact for



Photo by Alexander Gamanyuk © Unsplash

fellowship opportunities. Your membership contribution allows us to continue with expanding program offerings for RCA members. We do receive a generous donation from the Endowment Board, but your contribution allows us to maintain our programs such as the Memorial Scholarship Program. Please return these items as soon as possible in the enclosed envelope.

A REMINDER

Birthdays and Anniversaries will no longer be published by the Board of Pensions for privacy reasons. The RCA has picked up this helpful way to remember friends and colleagues. Being mindful of the myriad ways such information can be used for nefarious purposes, names will be in alphabetical order, without dates. We hope you understand

SURVEY FOR RCA MEMBERS

It's time for our annual survey of retired clergy to determine their interests in serving local churches and the annual conference, as well as interests in fellowship opportunities provided by the Retired Clergy Association. We've added a couple of questions this year, so please take a look. Information from this section is shared with the Cabinet, pastors under appointment, and SPRC chairs. Your responses to the fellowship questions are given to



the Relational Care team of the RCA.

This year we have added a few questions about Annual Conference attendance. Your answers to these will be helpful to both the Retired Clergy Association and the Conference Claimants Endowment Board. Please take just a minute to respond to them.

We hope this finds you well after a very challenging year. The Spirit of God has led us this far on the way, and will continue to lead us through.

Blessings,
Pam Abbey, RCA
President



The survey is a separate sheet within this mailing. Please return in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible. Thank you!

RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021-2022

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Pam Abbey

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Sandy Roberts

Secretary

Dave Bennett

Treasurer

Gregory Floyd

ACS Commission Rep

Dave Thompson

Memorial Scholarship

Alice Ann Glenn

Relational Care

Linda Holbrook

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Floyd Quenzer &
Donna Hougland

Mission & Justice

Marty Murdock & Betty Pagett

Past President

Tom Kimball

Class of 2022

Norma Betancourt
Eileen Lindsey*
Ben Silva-Netto

Class of 2023

Alexis Easton
Becky Goodwin
Kristie Olah

Class of 2024

Barbara Hirokoshi-Firebaugh*
Hubert Ivery*
Peter Lau*

* - To be elected

For all my colleagues and friends
Who are slowly, like me, losing their
hearing A few words it is hoped you
will find endearing

Sound Interrupted

Where goes the sound?
It's on a space walk
Far above the words
That tie the nameless and alike
to unbroken disclosure.

Tell me sound--

Does silence creep around,
Pouring out noise,
taking away mysteries
found only
in the wake of enduring
truth?

Silence is only sound reversed.
Like earth's rotation;
But
Unlike clocks
wound around and around and
making thoughts go unheard.

Words opaque...

[Oh! Obsidian. Thou art sounds that
shriek darkened images of what
could be]

Words opaque
Change character soon.
Sounds are now
Stretched into
a thousand grace notes.

David Chandler Ellis
Hanford, CA, 2018

RCA - Treasurer's Report Proposed 2021-2022 Budget

Budget Item	2019-	Current	Revised	Proposed
	2020 Actual	Actual 2020- 2021 06/22/2021	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Budget
INCOME				
Earnings - CCEB & CNF	7,573	3,689	4,100	7,850
Endowment Board Grant	106,000	106,000	106,000	106,000
Membership Donations	14,787	14,080	15,000	15,000
Donations (Misc + Elliot Fund)	991	855	1,000	1,000
Reserves	(4,589)	0	83,745	58,898
Total Income	124,761	124,623	209,845	188,748
EXPENSES				
Programs	73,747	962	138,100	114,850
Annual Conference Luncheon	9,915	(2,499)	22,000	10,000
Annual Conference Per Diem	32,111	0	60,000	45,000
Annual Conference Respite	5,318	0	8,000	8,000
Book of Memoirs	0	0	6,400	6,400
Days of Grace	4,974	4,241	5,500	5,500
Fellowship Programs	6,497	(2,700)	9,500	13,250
Retiree Event Grants	0	0	500	500
Spring Fling	6,497	(2,700)	9,000	9,000
Spiritual Growth	0	0	0	3,750
Gathering of Orders	5,576	0	6,000	6,000
Memorial Scholarship Program	4,610	980	7,500	7,500
Mission & Justice Programs	2,500	0	2,500	2,500
Relational Care Programs	2,246	940	10,700	10,700
Card Ministry	248	732	200	200
New Retiree Lunch	0	0	500	500
Relational Care	388	0	1,500	1,500
Parish Visitor	30	132	4,500	4,500
Pastoral Response Team	1,581	76	2,000	2,000
Surviving Spouses Luncheon	0	0	1,000	1,000
Welcoming Interviews	0	0	1,000	1,000
Administrative	7,041	293	10,000	10,000
Operations	2,932	293	4,000	4,000
Board/Executive Committee	4,109	0	6,000	6,000
Executive Officer	43,973	58,057	61,745	63,898
Salary	39,110	53,856	53,856	55,856
FICA	2,992	4,120	4,120	4,273
Worker's Compensation	319	0	319	319
Business Reimbursements	1,551	81	3,450	3,450
Total Expense	124,761	59,312	209,845	188,748
BALANCE	0	65,312	0	0

WELCOME RETIREE CLASS OF 2021!

(FIRST IN A SERIES)

Barbara Horikoshi-Firebaugh

Summer of 2021 will find our colleague Barbara Horikoshi-Firebaugh enjoying her retirement. She will have served three churches over 24 years: Lone for 5 years, Oakland Lake Park for 7 years, and Faith Sacramento for 12 years.

As she settles into her new freedom, home and family life, she will have many happy memories of ministry. She recalls with special fondness: a great youth program in Lone, and pan-Asian ministry (with extraordinary food! Yum!) in Oakland. When she was appointed to Faith in Sacramento, she prayed for God to send another ethnic group to the congregation. Three years into her prayers, a Fijian group approached, seeking a church home, and they were welcomed into membership in 2012. As we recall Barbara's service on the conference committees on Religion and Race, and Christian Unity and Inter-religious Relations, we can rejoice that she lives into the gospel vision of "beloved community." She led congregations in multi-cultural worship, peace and justice.

Barbara is ready to savor home time with her husband, John Firebaugh, in Elk Grove. Ironically, they have been home together full-time working from home during the pandemic, but retirement will make her days different. She imagines herself sleeping in late, putting around the house, and working jigsaw puzzles. She is thinking about getting one of those cool tables made just for puzzle set-ups. She also plans to sew darling clothes for her toddling grand-daughter Francesca, who lives in Tiburon with her parents, Robert and Cristina Firebaugh. The family have not had enough time together due to pandemic separations, but that is about to change! With the easing of the pandemic limitations, and Barbara's retirement, more family time beckons!

Barbara loves animals, and is discerning a call to volunteer with an animal shelter or wildlife rescue center. She is not sure exactly where or when, and is praying about where God might be leading her in this kind of ministry.

Kathryn Dunning

The best way to describe Kathryn is that she came into her first appointment at Kings Beach with 9-11 and she is leaving Eureka with Covid-19! She and husband Rob served as Nevada Sierra District Lay leaders prior to Kathryn's call to full time ministry. Prior to ordination, Kathryn was a teacher for 12 years. Rob currently serves on the Endowment

Board, and as a bookkeeper has done many church audits. Rob has represented the laity at Jurisdictional Conferences.

The Dunnings plans for the next four months are taking their two cats in their motor home, and visit National Parks across the country. When they return to CA for the winter months, they hope to do State Park campground hosting. This way they can continue hiking, kayaking and jigsaw puzzles while overseeing campground needs, and Kathryn can knit. Kathryn hopes to do some writing about their experiences.

Chuck Johnstone

Chuck has been in Cal./Nev. conference since 1988. He was a member of the Los Altos church and became a staff member there under John Dodson. He graduated from the Nazarene Seminary in Kansas City and was a Nazarene Pastor for a while.

Chuck last served Tracy and Byron each half time. Chuck and his wife are looking forward to retiring and moving to Washington State (Whidbey Island). They are looking forward to being near a daughter and family and exploring the beautiful outdoors in the Northern part of the country.

Chuck is a stamp collector and will have time to pursue this hobby more fully. He also likes to read and will take up researching a book he had begun a while back. He is a history major. He enjoys watching movies, especially classical ones. They are also looking to do some traveling.

Toni Hartman

Toni Hartman is excited about her retirement. After teaching science and PE in middle school for 27 years she felt the call to ministry and has been serving in Yreka for the past 15 years. She has also served Los Molinos and Aldersgate, Chico. Toni worked as a Police Chaplain in Chico then with the Sheriff's department in Yreka. She also served as a crisis chaplain in Dallas, Texas during hurricane Harvey.

When she was younger she learned to play the classical and flamenco guitar and can't wait to pick it up again. She is looking forward to also playing the piano, time with her children, and learning to fly fish.

Bob Chicou

After 36 years of parish ministry, both Bob and his wife, Pam, are retiring. They will move, with their son, to a new home in Roseville, California. Having lost their belongings in the Paradise wild fire, and, although very grateful for the furnishings provided by the insurance company, they are looking forward to purchasing appliances and furniture (which fit their tastes) for their new home!

Bob served the church in several different appointments. He began at First UMC in Turlock before moving to Grace UMC in San Ramon, Byron UMC, and then to New Visions UMC in Millbrae. He then served Calvary and Evergreen Valley United Methodist Churches in San Jose before moving to the Paradise UMC. Bob concluded his active ministry by serving First UMC in Sunnyvale.

After his years of ministry Bob (and Pam) look forward to some time without schedules and responsibility. The future is unknown, but travel is certainly included in their dreaming.

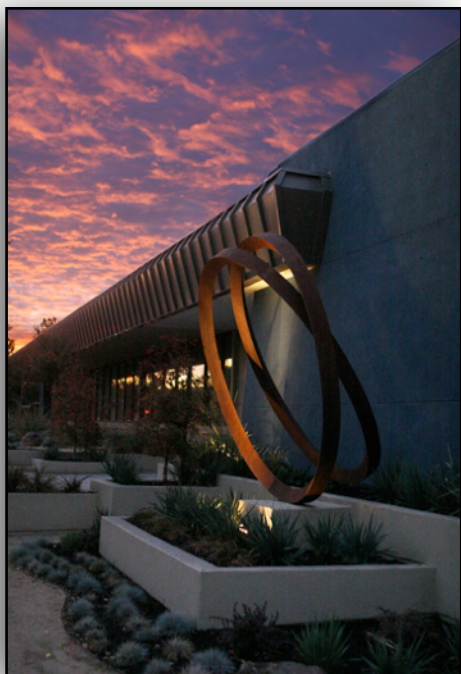
Alan Jones

Although he is "officially" retiring after 42 years of active ministry, "real" retirement will have to wait another year for Alan Jones. At request of the Bishop, he will continue to serve as Senior pastor of St. Mark's UMC in Sacramento. So, any plans for what to do in retirement will have to wait for one more year.

Alan began his ministry in the British Methodist Church before moving to the California Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He served the West Los Angeles UMC before he and his spouse, Linda Pickens-Jones (also an ordained United Methodist Pastor), moved to the California Nevada Annual Conference. Alan served nine years as the Executive for San Francisco United Methodist Mission before he and Linda moved on to serve United Methodist churches in San Rafael, South Hayward and Campbell. Alan was then appointed to St. Mark's UMC in Sacramento.

Alan and Linda will continue to live in Sacramento and look forward to the time they will both be really retired!

More from the Class of 2022 coming in future issues!



The Rev. Jane Schlager Memorial Scholarship

Rev. Jane Schlager lost her courageous battle with cancer on April 7th, 2021. In her 70 years, she impacted the lives of many and was lovingly referred to as “Momma Jane” for the way she nurtured, encouraged, and empowered young clergy. In hope of continuing her remarkable legacy, Pastor Jane’s family decided to create a one-time scholarship fund to support women pursuing ordination.

The family selected The Endowment Board to care for and manage the funds, and the Retired Clergy Association to administer and distribute them. The Endowment Board was humbled by the outpouring of tributes in Rev. Schlager’s memory. \$3,950 was collected from 39 donors to support women following in the footsteps of a young Rev. Schlager, pursuing their dreams of a life of service to the Lord. The funds will be transferred to the Retired Clergy Association and

recipient(s) will be announced in *Days of Grace*.

The Endowment Board and the Retired Clergy Association would like to express their sincere gratitude to Pastor Jane’s family and The Table UMC for entrusting their organizations with such a heartfelt request. It was not taken lightly, and it was a true honor to have served Rev. Schlager in her final ministerial work. May God grant peace to her loved ones and all she served as they grieve the loss of their beloved “Momma Jane.”

We are working with the Board of Pensions to update and check the accuracy of the RCA database. Please email any address corrections (and remember to update when you move!), name corrections, missed birthdates and anniversary dates, or errors in those lists to nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org.

If you have not heard from the RCA or the Board of Pensions in the past year, please send an email or note letting Nancy know. We have lost phone numbers, emails, and occasionally, addresses. Keeping the database current is of utmost importance to the RCA but we need your help! Thank you!



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Happy Birthday! July

JOHN ALBRIGHT
LORAN BERCK
NORMA BETANCOURT
DIANA BOHN
RICHARD BOWMAN
WALTER BRIM
JANET BUNJE
LINDA CALDWELL
RONNA CASE
TAE-JOON CHO
EVA CHOW
PAUL COLBERT

BARBARA HORIKOSHI-
FIREBAUGH

JULIA HORNE
JAMES HORNE
MARJORIE HOUSER
BILL HUGHES
ARLENE HUSER
VICTOR IZZO
CAROL JOHNSON
ELIZABETH KENNEDY
MONTEE KENNEDY
KOOK-HUI KIM
JEFF KUNKEL
DON LEE
STEPHEN LEE
BOB LOESSBERG-ZAHL

BILL CORZINE
MERCEDITA CUETO
WARREN DALE
DAN DAMON
BEVERLY DAVIS JR.
ROB DUNNING
DICK ERNST
JOHN FUGITT
MEGUMI FUJIMORI
ELLEN GARIAEFF
VICKIE HEALY

SHIRLEY MACEMON
GARY McANNALLY
CHRIS McANNALLY
DAVID McKEITHEN
DOUG MONROE
ELEANOR NORRIS
BOB OLMSTEAD
TED PECOT
JUDITH PRUESS-MELLOW
ROBIN ROGERS
JEANNE SANFORD
JAN SLORPE
LINDA SMITH
CAROLYN STAPLETON
GEORGIE SUMMERS
JOHN TINCHER
MIKE TURGEON
SOLINNA VORN
AUDREY WARD
BARBARA WEBB
NAILYA WHITMER
DONNA WOOD
ALLEN YAN-CHAMBERLIN
GRACE YANG



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Happy Anniversary! July

PAM ABBEY & KENT PARR
MARK & BONNIE BOLLWINKEL
JOHN CHAMBERLIN & ALLEN YAN-CHAMBERLIN

REV TAE-JOON & KYUNGLA CHO
TOM & PAT CLARK
DAN DAMON & EILEEN JOHNSON
PAUL DIRDAK & WENDY POMEROY
DICK & BARBARA ERNST
DON & JEAN FADO
LEO & MINERVA FONG
SHIM & MISRAK HABTE
TOM & HOLLY HILLMAN
EILEEN LINDSAY & BILL HUGHES
KAREN McCLINTOCK & MICK SMITH
ANTHONY & MARGARET OROPEZA
GAYLE PICKRELL & JOHN DAVENPORT
VICTORIA & GERRY SCHLINTZ
DANTE & VIVE SIMON
PAUL SWEET & SHEENA McKENDRICK
TED & CHARLIE VIRTS
BENTON & MARY LOU WHITE
FRANK & GRACE YANG

CHARLOTTE AKOLO
 AFUHIA AKOLO
 JUAN ARJONA
 MARY ELYN BAHLERT
 DOROTHY BAKER
 EMILY BEALS
 JACKIE BENNETT
 BOB BRAZIE
 DAN BURKLUND
 TOM CLARK
 DORIS DISBROW
 JEAN FADO
 PAM FINE
 NORMA FLORENDO
 EVA FUGITT
 DEBBI GRUNDMAN
 DEBORAH HICKS
 DAWN HORDER
 BOB JOHANSSON
 ALAN JONES
 DR. MIKYUNG KANG KIM
 TOM KIMBALL
 MARIT KNUTSEN
 MARLYSS KUBIK
 ROSEMARY LANDRY
 PAULA LESLIE

BILL MARX
 NANCY MC
 CONNELL
 MARJORIE MILLER
 CHERYL
 MURDOCK
 GILLIAN MURPHY
 SYLVIA OSMAN
 KENT PARR
 LARRY PEARSON
 JOANNE
 PETERSON
 LINDA PICKENS-JONES
 RICHARD PITCHER
 JANETTE SAAVEDRA
 BEN SILVA-NETTO
 MARLYN SILVA-NETTO
 FRANK STONE
 BARBARA STONE PAUL SWEET
 TIMOTHY TAM
 DAVE THOMPSON BARBARA
 TROXELL
 CAROLE VINCENT
 MARION WAKE
 PAUL WEBB
 LAURA WHARFF



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Happy Birthday! August

FAITH WHITMORE
 LESTER WOLFE
 HARRY WOOD JR.
 WESLEY YONG
 MICHAEL YOSHII
 SUK-CHONG YU
 MARK ZIER

AFUHIA & CHARLOTTE AKOLO
 DIANA BOHN & GRADY KNOWLES
 BOB & DEBORAH BRAZIE
 JAN & WALTER BRIM
 ESTAN & MERCEDITA CUETO
 DARRELL & KAREN DARLING
 DR NYMPHAS & LOIS EDWARDS
 JOHN & JANICE EMERSON
 JUDSON & BETTY GEARS
 RONALD & FLORENCE GREILICH
 DOUGLAS & SUSAN JOHNSON
 STEVE & CAROL JOHNSON
 TOM & CONNIE KIMBALL
 GARY & CHRIS McANNALLY
 BILL & MARLEBA McCORD
 JOHN & MARTHA McCORKELL
 NORM & LINDA MOWERY
 DOUGLAS & ELEANOR NORRIS
 JOANNE PETERSON & DAN NEUMANN

DON & DONITA ROULSTEN
 BISHOP ROY SANO & KATHLEEN THOMAS-SANO
 BERT & LINDA SCHNIEPP
 JIM & TERI SCOTT
 DAVID & JAN SLORPE
 BILLY & CAROLE SPARKMAN
 FRANK & BARBARA STONE
 DAVE & PATRICIA THOMPSON
 CLARENCE & DOLORES WAGER
 DAVID & RUTH MARIE WOLF

Happy Anniversary! August



THE VICTORY OF LOVE

by Michael Angelo Fazio

Love cannot be held down, nor contained.
True love, that is.
It is as boundless as the sea
which surrounds and caresses the islands of our lives.
I cherish not that love which only spotlights,
nor that love which knows the hand switching on and off.
I do not prize that love which is cheaply gained,
knowing not the sacrifice
offered in the temple of the heart.
You see, I believe that God is love.
And when in the dark and lonely times of life
I choose still to love,
God's love takes wing, a blessing born.
I send that love to you.
Now we live in times with terrors filled,
the earth so battered but breathing still.
What hope to stem the coming of the night?
Albeit the winds of darkness wrap me round,
one thing my heart knows,
one thing I've found.
On Easter morn there arose and indomitable might.
'Tis the victory of love, the victory of light!

The above poem is taken from the author's book, *Love's Upper Reaches*, published by Lighthouse Christian Publishing.



California-Nevada Annual Conference of the
United Methodist Church
Retired Clergy Association
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Scholarship Program: Alice Ann Glenn

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Class of 2021: Judson Gears, Jinsik Lee, Eileen Lindsay

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Class of 2023: Alexis Easton, Becky Goodwin, Kristie Olah

Class of 2024: To Be Elected

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

Annual Conference Session

October 28-31, 2021

> Sacramento/ZOOM

Annual Luncheon

To Be Determined

>To Be Announced

Spring Fling

April 19-21, 2022

>Christ The King
Citrus Heights