



Spire

July 2022

from Pastor Jeffrey

Dear Friends,

I thought I would offer a summary of my ACS 2022 Report, which I shared on Sunday, June 19, during worship. My remarks followed two excellent reports offered by our Lay Members to Annual Conference, Gail Hybarger and Judy Petrokas.

I felt we had a great Annual Conference Session this year. Yes, there was some worry and anxiety leading up to it for many people because our Resident Bishop, Bishop Carcaño, remains under suspension. Nothing more was discussed at AC on this matter. Our Interim Bishop, Bishop Dyck, presided over the Annual Conference with humility and grace, and a sense of humor at times, and on the last day, Bishop Brown presided.

Interim Bishop Dyck was tasked with coming into this Annual Conference and providing leadership, which she did with a light and hopeful spirit. Her countenance and energy was noticeably different from Bishop Carcaño's. Different, of course, does not mean better, but it was welcomed by many.

As Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, I worked with the Bishop and her Office on three important items during AC; namely, Clergy Session, the Board of Ordained Ministry Report during Plenary Session, and the Service for the Ordering of Ministry. Generally speaking, I felt the spiritual and emotional climate at Clergy Session, Plenary, and the Service Sunday was healthy, positive, and people were engaged.

The Rev. Kristin Stoneking reported our Annual Conference is one out of eight conferences who contributed full apportionments last year, achieving 100% giving over the last five years.

Eight new church plants were celebrated. Four churches were approved from closure: Community UMC, Rio Linda 1917; Clear Lake Oaks UMC 1944; Exeter UMC 1888; Elverta UMC 1912.

One item that came up that was not specifically related to our Annual Conference but something that happened in the greater connection had to do with the Florida Conference where 16 persons were reportedly rejected for Commissioning toward Deacon or Elder Orders because two persons identified as LGBTQ. Upon learning this news, I had a sick to my stomach feeling. I also had some well-intentioned people in my ear saying we should fly them up to our Annual Conference and Commission them here! To which I responded: "Fly *who* up here?" Meaning, *who* are these people. The licensure and commissioning process in the UMC is rigorous. A Board of Ordained Ministry needs to have the opportunity to evaluate the candidates. To my well-intentioned colleagues, I responded: "I cannot, in good conscience, ask the Board to consider recommending candidates for Commissioning we have never met, much less evaluated!"

I do think it's worth noting at CA-NV ACS, 11 persons were presented for 1st time Licensure as a Local Pastor. Four Persons were presented for Commissioning toward Elder Orders. Three Deacons and five Elders were Ordained. One Elder was received into Full Membership. Two Associate Members were presented, and two transfers were received. The Annual Conference affirmed and released those 28 people into their ministry this year.

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from Pastor Jeffrey

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There was an item to establish the Clergy Wellness Taskforce. According to the Barna Institute, clergy mental health has been identified as a national crisis. In March 2022, 42% of pastors considered resigning, up from 29% in 2021. The majority of the respondents identified three key contributing factors: stress, isolation and loneliness, and political division within the Church.

Lastly, there were 19 names lifted up for discernment for Episcopal Nomination, made up of a good number of District Superintendents, some Conference Staff, and a few other people that still have me scratching my head in disbelief. When looking over those names, I was looking for the Reluctant Prophet, the Reluctant Leader who we see in the Sacred Scriptures. The truth is, I'm not sure I saw that person, perhaps except for one *maybe* two people.

Simon Sinek tells this story. There was a former undersecretary of defense who was invited to give a speech at a large conference of about 1000 people. And he was standing on the stage with his cup of coffee in a Styrofoam cup giving his prepared remarks with his PowerPoint behind him. And he took a sip of his coffee. And he smiled. And he looked down at the coffee and then he went off script: "You know, last year, I spoke at this exact same conference. Last year, I was still the undersecretary. And when I spoke here last year, they flew me business class. And when I arrived at the airport, there was someone waiting there to take me to my hotel. And they took me to my hotel. And they had already checked me in. And they just took me up to my room. And the next morning, I came downstairs and there was someone waiting in the lobby to greet me. And they drove me to this here same venue. They took me in through the back VIP entrance and took me into the green room. And they handed me a cup of coffee in a beautiful *ceramic cup*."

Then he says: "I'm no longer the undersecretary. I flew here coach. I took a taxi to my hotel, and I checked myself in. When I came down to the lobby this morning, I took another taxi to this venue. I came in the front door, and I found my way backstage. And when I asked someone, "Do you have any coffee?" He pointed to the coffee machine in the corner, and I poured myself a cup of coffee into *this* Styrofoam cup. The lesson is the ceramic cup was never meant for me; it was meant for the position I held. I deserve a *Styrofoam Cup*."

When I considered that list of 19 people to become a possible Bishop, I wondered...I really wondered...whether they know they all deserve the Styrofoam Cup.

My God, I hope so. I pray so.

Grace and Peace,
Jeffrey



On Sunday, July 3, there will be an outdoor service which will not be live-streamed. If attending, remember your hat and sun-screen. The Fellowship Hall will be available and air-conditioned for those needing to be indoors.

July Worship

LGUMC is a reconciling church,
which welcomes all persons as Christ did
regardless of age, race, gender,
sexual orientation, cultural background,
physical or mental health, family status, or financial circumstances.
We welcome all persons into full participation into the life of the congregation.

Sunday, July 3, 10AM **Outdoor Service**

Contemporary Worship Service
4th Sunday after Pentecost
Open House Praise Band
Scriptures
Psalm 30; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Sermon
The Plentiful Harvest
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



Sunday, July 24, 10AM

Traditional Worship Service
7th Sunday after Pentecost
Joyce Rhodes, Organ
Scriptures
Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13
Sermon
Lord, Teach Us to Pray
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



Sunday, July 10, 10AM

Traditional Worship Service
5th Sunday after Pentecost
Joyce Rhodes, Organ
Scriptures
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
Sermon
And Who Is My Neighbor?
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



Sunday, July 31, 10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
8th Sunday after Pentecost
Open House Praise Band
Scriptures
Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Luke 12:13-21
Sermon
The Parable of the Rich Fool
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

Sunday, July 17, 10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
6th Sunday after Pentecost
Open House Praise Band
Scriptures
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
Sermon
The Need of Only One Thing
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

In-person Service
10AM, every Sunday
or on-line at lgumc.org,
LGUMC Facebook page,
or Los Gatos UMC YouTube





Sunday School will be “on vacation” for six weeks beginning Sunday, July 3, and will resume on Sunday, August 14.

Sunday School Coordinator:
Jonnye Cartmill,
jonnye.cartmill@gmail.com

**First Day of Sunday School
August 14**

Fall in love with Jesus

- Joyful
- Patient
- Grace
- Forgiving
- Peace
- Helpers
- Good
- Kind
- Giving

God is love
1 John 4:16b
Faithful Psalm 33:4

GOD
KEEPS HIS
PROMISES

He loves us forever.

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever.
Psalm 136:1

He is our Helper.

Where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:1-2



He is our safe place.

The LORD is good, a strong shelter when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in Him.
Nahum 1:7

He gives us comfort.

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.
2 Corinthians 1:4

He is always with us.

For God has said, "I will never leave you or abandon you."
Hebrews 13:3

He never changes.

For the word of the LORD is right and true; He is faithful in all he does.
Psalm 33:4




His love and His promises never fail.

"O Lord, You are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill Your covenant and keep Your promises of unending love to those who love You and obey Your commands."
Daniel 8:4



belong grow serve

Kindred Spirits

Once again it is time for our annual Summer Reading Bonanza. Instead of a BBQ, this year we've decided to have a pizza party/potluck dinner. We hope you can join us when we meet on July 13, 5PM at the home of Ed and Trudy Burling. Spouses/significant others are invited. Please be prepared to spend a few minutes talking about one of your favorite summer reading/beach/airplane books. RSVP to Sharon Armstrong or Trudy Burling if you plan to attend so we'll know how much pizza to order.



CHANCEL FLOOR REFINISHING

We are planning to refinish the chancel floor this summer. A bid has been accepted from a flooring contractor and work has been scheduled for June 27-July 9. If you would like to donate to this project, then please write a check with the "Building Fund-Chancel Floor" in the memo line. If you have any questions, contact Glenn Stansbury.

Dr. Jennifer Hartle's Fireside Presentation

On Sunday, June 12, the LGUMC Ministries of Health and Visitation and Social Justice hosted a presentation by Jennifer Hartle on "Food Production and its Impacts on Public Health and the Environment." Dr. Hartle shared her research and concerns about how our environment is being impacted in the three areas of "land use, food waste, and packaging." Though we are all somewhat familiar with these concerns, her detailed presentation brought a new awareness and urgency of the need to address these issues as the degradation of the environment we live in has accelerated. The participants all enjoyed the question and answer portion of the presentation and we all felt like we left the presentation more knowledgeable and motivated to make changes in our own lives to protect this endangered environment we are now the stewards of. We appreciate all the people from LGUMC who attended and are committed to making this world "a better place" on this great planet of ours.

TECHNICIANS NEEDED!

We are in need of people willing to learn and join our team of Sunday technicians. We will train you!

Contact Pam Parisi, parisipamela@yahoo.com



*Outdoor Celtic Concert
to Benefit LGUMC member
Doug McNeil*



Saturday, July 30, 7PM

Please join us for this benefit concert featuring Golden Bough, as we honor the friend, the brother, the father and the husband that is Doug McNeil through celebrating a rich musical heritage from the Celtic lands.

Throughout his life, Doug McNeil has, literally, brought light to thousands of people around the world. Today, he remains a dedicated advocate with an unshakable commitment to create positive change, while living with a diagnosis of ALS.

Since 1980, Golden Bough has continued to bring its arrangements of traditional and original Celtic-folk pieces to music lovers on both-sides of the Atlantic. They are only gaining momentum in sharing their artistic talents as they enter their 40th anniversary season!

The concert will be outdoors in Ray's Garden on the campus of Los Gatos United Methodist Church in Los Gatos, California. Seating capacity is limited, so please purchase your tickets early.

Please share, please put this event on your calendar so that we can gather together for a moment of music and joy, and help Doug.



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Bishop Sally Dyck: Statement on the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade

On June 24, 2022 the Supreme Court of the United States overruled Roe v. Wade which established a constitutional right based on the 14th amendment to legalize abortion in 1973.

I was 20 years old at the time and I distinctly remember what my mother (a devout Mennonite woman) said to me, "Abortion should be legal but it's not for us." What she meant was that in spite of her beliefs about abortion being wrong, it should be legal for others. Throughout the years, I have believed that abortion should be safe, legal and rare.

Over the years more and more people like my mother have accepted Roe v. Wade until now it is 61% (or more in some surveys) of the US population. Plus, the number of abortions has significantly decreased, not increased with legalized abortion, and certainly fewer women have died as a result of abortion.

Over the years I, like many clergy, have counseled women and couples who are contemplating abortion due to their various circumstances, including the medical news that their unborn child may not be viable at birth or has severe health conditions that will be an infliction of pain and suffering. Others have experienced rape and incest or bearing the child would jeopardize the life of the mother. For these women and couples, abortion will be not legal for them in many states.

After the overturning of Roe v. Wade, I heard an article on NPR where an anti-abortion proponent was celebrating the "victory," and his main message was that now people (and he implied mostly women) will need to take more personal responsibility for their behavior.

Emphasizing personal responsibility in regards to any social problem overlooks the major social responsibility that is needed: paid maternity leave for all, not just privileged women (many European nations have at least one year); maternal and early childhood health care, including the cost of the birth; and free childcare, to name a few.

With the overturning of Roe v. Wade, women's rights and reproductive rights are in jeopardy. And there's nothing to say that if there is an overturning of Congress at the mid-term, a federal law could make abortion illegal in all states.

The "original intent" philosophy that was used to overturn Roe v. Wade—meaning the Constitution didn't consider abortion as a right in 1868—could also be used in the future by the Supreme Court for some other rights that we have come to accept and even rely upon, such as same-sex and inter-racial marriage.

Furthermore, the credibility of the Supreme Court is seriously jeopardized because several justices indicated in their confirmation hearings that they would not overturn precedent law, specifically Roe v. Wade. Their assurance influenced key votes in their confirmation.

The confidence in the Supreme Court has fallen to a very low 25% level in the US. It's not lost on many citizens that this is the first time that major civil rights have been *denied* by the Supreme Court and that it targets the most vulnerable among us, particularly women, people of color and the poor.

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No matter how you feel about the overturning of Roe v. Wade, an additional cascade of reactions and outcomes are possible that will bring some turbulent times to our country, families, churches, and communities. There are many statements from various United Methodist agencies and I encourage you to read them.

I also encourage you to listen to the stories of your or your friends' mothers and grandmothers who had to seek illegal abortions before 1973. Think about your daughters and granddaughters who may find themselves in difficult circumstances in the days and years ahead. Contemplate the reality of being generous toward others, especially those most vulnerable as a result of this landmark decision.

Since there is no "original intent" in the scriptures about abortion, I have not proof texted one, but I do believe that the underlying message of the scriptures is that we are to care for the most vulnerable in our midst and to find ways to live in a world of competing values and with neighbors who have different needs from our own.

I go back to my mother's words so many years ago. Even though she believed abortion was wrong, she didn't deny that other women and families had different situations that required there to be safe, legal and rare abortions in our nation. Her faith was deep enough to love her neighbor.

Now it's time for some of us to get to work for justice.

Bishop Sally Dyck is currently serving the California-Nevada conference as Interim Bishop and as the Ecumenical Officer for the Council of Bishops. She is a retired bishop of The United Methodist Church, having served from 2004-2020.

IN OUR PRAYERS

*~ Please keep the following persons and their families
in your prayers for continued recovery, care and support ~*

Doug McNeil, Aki Okuno, Celia Palm, Charley Ann Cobb,
Pat Salem, Anne-Marie Wiggers,
Eleanor Blumenthal, Becky Schmitt, Peggy Rose,
Kay Thoresen, Joy Palmer,
Norm & Adrienne Zimmerman, Eric Muller, Marcia Block,
The Oveland Family, The Grant Family, Lois Stocking,
The Homeless, Our First Responders,
Prayers of Peace for all people and all countries.

~ In Memoriam ~

Lloyd Grant
Memorial Service
Friday, June 24, 2PM
(please note time change)



Summer Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 10AM—2PM

Friday - Closed

Church Council Members

- Chair of the Church Board
Ray Owen, ray.owen@comcast.net
- Chair of the Board of Trustees
Glenn Stansbury, glenn.stansbury@lgumc.org
- Chair of Staff Parish Relations
Tom Waldrop, twaldrop@sbcglobal.net
- Chair of Finance Committee
Doug Evans, eldoug1@msn.com
- Chair of Health Ministries
TBD
- Chair of Grace Preschool Board
Rita Matthews, fourwinn156@hotmail.com
Ann Reynolds, reynolds_reese@yahoo.com
- Chair of LOSNSC Board
Trudy Burling, trudyburling@hotmail.com
- Team Rep. of Social Justice Team
Jean Mundell, jmundell@earthlink.net
- Lay Member of Annual Conference
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Gail Hybarger, ca-unicorn@pacbell.net
- Chair of Endowment
TBD
- Chair Outreach Team
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- Chair Congregational Care Ministry
Lois & Elwin Stocking,
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- Richard Garcia, Facilities Engineer
408.627.3345

In observance of the holiday, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 4.

The Spire

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Thank You.



Our Mission

Growing as followers of Jesus Christ
who live God's love in the world.

*"Serving Christ in this Community
since 1866."*



Sr. Pastor
Pastor Jeffrey D. Hall

Please join us for in-person
Sunday Worship
10AM
or online at
lgumc.org, Facebook or YouTube



Find out more about our Ministries!
Go to www.LGUMC.org



All Welcome!
We are a Reconciling Congregation
No one will be excluded from participating in the body of the church because of age, race, ethnicity, culture, religious origins, sexual orientation or challenging conditions.