



The United Methodist Church  
San Francisco Area California-Nevada Conference

Warner H. Brown, Jr  
Resident Bishop

Rev. Deborah Grundman  
Executive Assistant to the Bishop

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Dear Colleagues on Leave and Retired,

As we prepare to gather for our Annual Conference, I want to be sure that you are aware of changes that are being made to implement greater leadership for disciple making among our congregations and pastors. I will be appointing clergy serving local churches to both their church and to a circuit. Circuits are a place for ministry development, vision sharing and strategic discussion toward making of disciples and extending Christ's service through the local church into the neighborhood and the world. Circuits do not replace districts or Superintendents. Each church and each pastor are still assigned to a Superintendent.

Those who are retired or are on leave will not be appointed to circuits. Yet as we rethink church I am interested in your ideas and support. To that end, I have asked our new Conference Superintendent, Rev. Ted Virts, to focus his work on leadership development in the coming year. This includes finding and using resources and gifts from those among us whose experience and wisdom can help move our conference forward. As we engage in the process of deepening faithfulness, I invite you to share your ideas with Ted ([virtts@pacbell.net](mailto:virtts@pacbell.net)) and to visit the Conference web site ([cnumc.org](http://cnumc.org)) for a fuller description of this new direction.

I am calling upon our entire community of faith to engage in a passionate rededication of being church in the Wesleyan way. Ours is a connectional church, deeply rooted in shared ministry, shared responsibility and a shared hope which is ours in Jesus Christ. I invite your prayers, your ideas and your support as we live out our mission of discipleship,

Your brother in Christ,

Warner H. Brown Jr.  
Resident Bishop