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Instant Connection

California-Nevada Annual Conference



February 3, 2011

Prepare Now to Change the World: May 14-15

Last year United Methodist churches provided opportunities for 100,000+ people to join in helping to Change the World – one project at a time. With more than 1,000 work sites, in every state (and outside the United States), the first Change the World weekend *did make a difference*, and continues to reap results.



Start preparing now to be a part of Change the World 2011!

Change the World is a movement to connect United Methodists across the world in service, both locally and globally, on one weekend – **May 14-15**, this year.

Last year Change the World was a brand-new, untried concept, and the weekend took place in April – yet 12 churches in the California-Nevada Annual Conference agreed to participate! This year there's better awareness, a history of success, and more lead time. How many more congregations will join the original 12 for Change the World 2011?

Here's what to do:

1. Identify a project that makes a difference in the local or global community (or both!);
2. **Register at** www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld and download the **free flyer** (available in English, Chinese, Spanish, Korean, and five other languages);
3. Invite your community to get involved!

United Methodist Communications is making free and discounted resources available to all registering churches.

A four-week worship and study series will be released in mid-March. This free resource for adults, youth/young adults, and children will offer a companion multimedia bundle for \$25. Churches will receive a coupon for a 50% discount on the bundle after they register to participate in Change the World 2011.

Registered churches also will receive free shipping and postage from product orders placed on cokesbury.com **through May 15**. The offer applies cable to both Change the World and non-CTW products.

Registered churches also will receive free shipping and postage from product orders placed on cokesbury.com **through May 15**. The offer applies cable to both Change the World and non-CTW products.

Cal-NeV Communications is planning ways to add its support to participating churches, as well – so after registering your church, please let Communications in on your plans for the Change the World 2011 weekend!

Read about the Change the World [2010 participating California-Nevada churches](#) and their projects.

Read some 2010 Change the World success stories from Cal-Nevada:

[Changing the World by Caring for the Earth \(UMC Santa Cruz\)](#)

[The Church Has Left the Building \(St. Paul's UMC, Reno\)](#)

[Galt United Methodist Imagines No Malaria](#)

Project Idea for Change the World Weekend, May 14-15

Churches – here's an effective and meaningful project idea for Change the World weekend, May 14-15.

The Society of St. Andrew is an official partner with Change the World. Its Hunger Ministry Weekend program offers your church all the guidance and materials it needs to hold a Hunger Ministry Weekend, in which fresh fruit and vegetables are taken to worship on Sunday, and congregation members distribute that nutritious food to the agencies in your community which provide to those who are most in need – all within the context of Christian love and service.

This is a well-defined program churches can use to make a difference in their community, while deepening their congregation's understanding of need and service.

It could even turn into a new ministry for your congregation!

Globally, 22 thousand children die each day from poverty-related causes.

Locally, 43.6 million people in the U.S. live in poverty.

Connectionally, more than 11 million United Methodists can be a force to change the world!

The Society of St. Andrew is a national nonprofit hunger-relief ministry that rescues 25-30 million pounds of fresh, nutritious, excess produce each year that would otherwise go to waste for various marketing reasons. This food is then distributed to critical feeding agencies across the country at no cost to the agencies or the hungry people they serve. For more information about the Society of St. Andrew and its hunger-relief programs - Gleaning Network, Potato & Produce Project, and Harvest of Hope – visit www.endhunger.org.

Downs Memorial Member, a Descendant of Frederick Douglass, Is Featured in African-American Lineage Story

"As we begin the month of February, we celebrate the contributions of African-Americans to the culture and history of the United States, and we take the opportunity to seek out new history makers of all hues and backgrounds."

So writes Erin M. Hawkins, general secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR), introducing a feature story involving a member of Downs Memorial United Methodist Church in Oakland. Downs "teaches us that within our pews are stories that connect us all to a historic Methodism that matched its piety with fervor for social justice," Hawkins continues.

[Deep Roots, Good Fruits: The Family of Frederick Douglass](#) – currently online at gcorr.org – is the story of one family's connection to a man who became one of America's most brilliant and distinguished statesmen.

"For so many African-Americans there is limited information about their lineage," says Jeneane Jones, GCORR Team Leader for Communications and Media Relations and the former director of communications for the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

"Stories were passed down among the generations about enslavement and survival, but slowly the emphasis shifted to locking away those family stories and memories in an attempt to find success in a free yet unequal society."

In "Deep Roots, Good Fruits," freelance journalist Henri Giles interviews Alice Withers, 93, the oldest living descendant of Frederick Douglass and a member of Downs Memorial since 1952.

"Today, in every community where we find injustice, we can also find connections to heroes from the past and those making history today," Hawkins says. "Why not dedicate this month to capturing those stories – on iPhones, flipcams, on paper – and celebrating those heroes? What a gift that would be for the church. Happy hunting!"

February is celebrated throughout the nation as African American History Month.

Cal-Nev Communications Contributes to GCORR Conversation

The Communications Office of the California-Nevada Annual Conference received two mentions in the February, 2011 **CORR{ageous}! Times** – an electronic newsletter from the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR).

In [How to Communicate – Telling Your CORR Story](#), readers are invited to listen to a Jan. 25 webinar in which Cal-Nev Communications Director Cate Monaghan contributed to a discussion about how a Conference's Commission on Religion and Race can increase its recognition quotient.

And in [Drop the I-Word Gets Radio Play – How Cal-Nevada Brought Attention to the I-Word Campaign in Local Media](#), readers are directed to the Cal-Nev Conference website to hear the Dec. 14 Capitol Public Radio "Insight" segment featuring the Revs. Jola Bortner and Dale Weatherspoon, who talked about the UMC's stance on immigration reform as well as the "Drop the I-Word" Campaign. (Listen [here](#).)

Deadline reminder: February 28 is the early-bird registration deadline for the May 16-18 [Facing the Future training](#) in Los Angeles.



Church Responds to Immigration Arrests

By Paul Jeffrey*

Jan. 26, 2011 | ELLENSBURG, Wash. (UMNS) – In the wake of a surprise immigration sweep through a normally quiet town in eastern Washington state, a United Methodist congregation has become the center of the community's support for families affected by dozens of arrests.

Early on Jan. 20, agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other law-enforcement personnel arrested at least 30 people around Ellensburg – mostly Hispanic immigrants living in trailer parks. In several cases, battering rams were used to knock down doors for federal agents who entered with their guns drawn, witnesses said.

According to the immigration agency, 14 people were charged with federal crimes, mostly the fraudulent use of documents, and 16 were taken into custody for administrative immigration violations.

As word of the arrests spread throughout the university town, Ellensburg's First United Methodist Church quickly became a hub for people organizing to help affected families. A communitywide meeting was scheduled that evening at the church.

"It was a very distressing time. A lot of the teachers were worried about their students because their parents or an aunt or uncle were detained, and that in turn affects other students who are worried about their friends' families," said church member Wanda Munroe. She and her husband Jim are lay leaders of the congregation.

"If people are being marginalized in any way, it's important that our church step forward and be a voice for them in the community, and that the church be a sanctuary, a safe place where people can come and talk about the issues and seek solutions," she said.

Dominic Klyve, an assistant professor of mathematics at Central Washington University, read about the congregation's involvement when he received a campuswide email sent by the university's president, James Gaudino, encouraging people who wanted to get involved in the issue to attend a meeting at the church.

Klyve, who moved with his family to Ellensburg from Wisconsin last June, and his wife, Allyson Rogan-Klyve, were planning to join the congregation the following Sunday. "When I read the email, I was very proud. I thought, 'There are some people in this community who are trying to make things better, and they're my people. They're my church,'" Klyve said.

'It's a humanitarian issue'

Meetings for the entire community were held at the church the day of the sweep and the two following days. Committees were formed to support affected families, ensure legal representation, and raise money for possible bail.

At the Jan. 21 meeting, more than 200 people participated – including representatives of the local police and sheriff's offices, who faced intense questioning from several residents angry about their participation in the [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#) action.

Greg McLaughlin, chair of the church's administrative council, said hosting the meetings was an easy decision for the congregation, despite the hot-button issues at stake.

"Obviously it's a politicized issue in the community," he said. "Everybody has an opinion about immigration. But for us it's not a political issue; it's a humanitarian issue. Where there is human need, people's immigration status doesn't matter. Irrespective of what people might think about the issues on a political stage, these are people in need, and we as a church should address that because it's part of our mission."

The Rev. Shalom Agtarap, the congregation's pastor, said that on the morning of the arrests, she was reflecting on a series of questions she has to answer as part of the process that she hopes will lead to her ordination as an elder in 2012. One of those questions was about how to offer "a calm, non-anxious presence" in the community.

"Four hours later I got a phone call (about the arrests), and I was called on to offer that presence," she said. "I've tried to offer a hospitable space for people in the community to gather and strategize and ask hard questions, while not getting hysterical and losing sight of what the next steps might be, of what else God might be calling us to do. We'll continue to be that space for the community."

The Rev. Lyda Pierce, coordinator of Hispanic and Latino ministries for the Pacific Northwest Annual (regional) Conference, came to Ellensburg to assist Agtarap by visiting the families of those arrested and accompanying some to arraignment hearings for their detained relatives in the federal court in nearby Yakima.

"There is a lot of fear in the community," Pierce said. "Many people have disappeared, and often their friends and family don't know if they were arrested or have gone into hiding."

Rumors abound of additional sweeps to come, she added. Several families have taken refuge in Ellensburg churches, she said, hoping the tradition of safe sanctuary will protect them from detention in any future action. None is currently staying in First United Methodist, though Agtarap said the congregation is willing to provide hospitality to any family fearing for its safety.

Pierce said several people shared stories of abusive behavior by the arresting agents, including the pointing of weapons at children.

Lorie Dankers, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman in Seattle, disagreed with that report. "When we enter to serve a federal search warrant, our agents are armed, (but) at no time was a gun pointed at a child's face," she told United Methodist News Service.

Dankers, who said she was not present during the arrests, suggested that problems could be caused by "people who bring their children out into the living room when a federal criminal search warrant is being served."

Bishop sends message

On Jan. 23, Klyve and his wife did join the congregation during a worship celebration where the events of the week were frequently mentioned. The service began with Munroe reading a message of support from Bishop Grant Hagiya, the bishop of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference.

"I want you to know that I am praying for all of you, and especially for those whose lives have been turned upside down from the actions of this week," wrote [Hagiya](#), who was in San Francisco participating in a jurisdictional conference on immigration.



"I want to encourage you to continue to allow the church to be an open and sacred space for both our immigrants and public officials to work out the most humane way to move forward from the events of this week," Bishop Hagiya wrote. "I want to remind you that our United Methodist churches are sacred sanctuaries that carry the historical weight of being a sanctuary of safety and peace. We must represent, above all, a God who cares for all people and all creation itself."

None of those arrested was a member of First United Methodist Church, Agtarap said.

One Hispanic pastor with ties to the congregation was among those arrested, however. Rev. Gilberto Barrientos, pastor of the Mount Sinai Pentecostal Church, was detained, along with his wife. Barrientos, who has been a pastor in Ellensburg for a decade, was charged with re-entering the United States after being deported, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Barrientos participated in worship at First United Methodist last Oct. 3, World Communion Sunday, celebrating communion with Agtarap, who also participated in worship that same day in Barrientos' congregation.

Since their arrest, the Barrientos' two children are being cared for by a relative in Ellensburg.

Several members of First United Methodist participated in a Jan. 24 ecumenical vigil outside the U.S. Post Office, the only federal building in Ellensburg. In coordination with other groups, additional vigils were planned, including outside the federal courthouse in Yakima on Jan. 25 and 26, when additional hearings were scheduled for some of those arrested.

Not venturing out

Meanwhile, many Hispanic families in Ellensburg remain in their homes, not venturing out. A woman in the Millpond Mobile Manor, a trailer park where several people were arrested, is caring for the 3-year-old son of her sister, who was handcuffed and taken away during the sweep.

"He has trouble sleeping because he always sleeps on the bed with his mother," said the woman, who asked that her name not be used. "He keeps asking me when his mom is coming back, and I told him that she's off taking care of some paperwork, and she'll be back home soon."

Several relatives of people arrested, all of whom asked not to be named, said most of those detained were women who had worked as housekeepers at Ellensburg hotels in the past. They said agents arrived with a list of people to arrest, but detained a number of additional people they encountered who could not produce appropriate identification.

Most of those who were arrested lived in three trailer parks, which were surrounded by agents before the arrests began. Law-enforcement personnel also used at least one helicopter. Several people told UMNS their home phones were rendered inoperable before the arrests began, an apparent effort to prevent immigrants from alerting others.

Jean Spence, president of the Ellensburg church's United Methodist Women, was among those holding signs at the Jan. 24 vigil supporting the community's Hispanic families. She acknowledged she had mixed feelings about the events of recent days.

"I'm here to support individuals who need help," she said. "I may not agree with what they've done, but they're here in our community. They are part of us."

*Jeffrey is a United Methodist missionary and senior correspondent for *Response*, the magazine of United Methodist Women. He lives in Oregon and is married to the Rev. Lyda Pierce, who is quoted in the story.

Video From Immigration Training Event Uploaded

The Immigration Task Force for the California-Nevada Annual Conference hosted bishops, directors of connectional ministry, clergy, laity, and others from across the Western Jurisdiction, Jan. 21-22 in San Francisco for "A Call to Radical Hospitality," a jurisdictional immigration training event.

Bishop Minerva Carcaño, resident bishop for the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, was keynote speaker for the Friday evening session, which kicked off a day of workshops and worship services on Saturday.

Cal-Nev Communications has produced an [11-minute highlight video](#) of the Friday evening session, which now is available to view on REEL Witness, the video library on the Cal-Nev Conference website (click on the link to [REEL Witness](#) found under "Areas of Interest" in the menu on the right side of the Home Page at cnumc.org).

The video features worship led by the Rev. Schuyler Rhodes, pastor of Temple United Methodist Church in San Francisco, and includes soundbites from California-Nevada Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. and Bishop Grant Hagiya of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, in addition to a portion of the talk by Bishop Carcaño.

The entire speech by Bishop Carcaño will be available soon in the REEL Witness library (watch for a notice in the Instant Connection).

Workshop leader has book available

"We have migration from the very beginning of our story as the people of God ... It's there in Genesis," said one Saturday workshop leader, Helene Slessarev-Jamir – Mildred M. Hutchinson Professor of Urban Ministries at Claremont School of Theology.

While acknowledging that there are "multiple voices in Scripture," making it possible to develop arguments in support of varying concepts, Slessarev-Jamir pointed out that early Hebrew texts do refer to the rights of immigrants: She said the concept appears 37 times, in fact, in the first five books of the Bible (the Books of the Law). "Clearly this was a fundamental perspective that God wanted the Israelites to understand," she reasoned.

Slessarev-Jamir has a book available, to use as a resource, at a discounted price of \$21.60.

[Prophetic Activism: Progressive Religious Justice Movements in Contemporary America](#) "offers readers a deeper understanding of the richness and diversity of contemporary religious activism," according to the publisher.

While designed to counter religious conservatism, the book also "shows that Evangelicals, too, have become increasingly active, with crucial biblical interpretation," according to Glen Stassen of Fuller Theological Seminary.

An interactive order form is available on the [Immigration Task Force page](#) on the Conference website.

Upcoming Criminal Justice Reform Events to Raise Awareness of Inequities in U.S. Penal System

- National Day of Prayer for Criminal Justice Reform is Feb. 20
- Juvenile Justice Week of Faith & Healing, March 7-13, raises awareness of inequities arising from current penal system

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United Methodist General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) asks you to take several actions to improve the criminal justice system in the United States. The National Day of Prayer for Criminal Justice Reform is Sunday, Feb. 20, the Juvenile Justice Week of Faith & Healing is March 7-13, and your endorsement is sought for a Criminal Justice Reform Faith Letter to Congress.

The National Day of Prayer for Criminal Justice Reform can be observed at any time on the weekend of Feb. 19-20.

The weekend presents faith communities with the opportunity to educate themselves about the realities of mass incarceration in the United States. The observance also provides an opportunity to invite God's liberating Spirit to give us enough resilience, courage and love to look honestly at how cycles of violence and trauma persist through retributive structures of mass incarceration. Finally, the National Day of Prayer for Criminal Justice Reform gives us the opportunity explore how we can collectively take steps to break free from these cycles and chose new paths of freedom together.

Join people of faith from around the country by inviting your congregation to take part or all of their prayer time on Feb. 20 to lift up prayers for the healing of our communities and to put an end to mass incarceration in the United States.

Resources for reflection, a sample Annual Conference resolution calling for an end to mass incarceration, and registration information are available at [National Day of Prayer for Criminal Justice Reform](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/DayofPrayerFeb20) (www.umc-gbcs.org/DayofPrayerFeb20).

As the 112th Congress begins, the faith community has offered a vision of what kind of criminal justice system ought to be in place in the United States. You are encouraged to invite your congregation to sign, to endorse the vision at [Criminal Justice Reform Faith Letter](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/CriminalJusticeReformLetter) (www.umc-gbcs.org/CriminalJusticeReformLetter).

March 7-13 is Juvenile Justice Week of Faith & Healing. This annual event unites congregations of all faith traditions, as well as high schools and universities, to raise awareness of individual, community, and societal inequities arising from the current system. For prayers, resources for getting involved, and to register your participation visit [Juvenile Justice Week of Faith & Healing](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/JuvenileJusticeWeek).

For more information about these activities, contact Bill Mefford, GBCS director of Civil & Human Rights, at bmefford@umc-gbcs.org, or Laura Markle Downton, GBCS criminal justice reform grassroots coordinator, at ldownton@umc-gbcs.org.

The General Board of Church & Society is one of four international general program boards of The United Methodist Church. The board's primary areas of ministry are Advocacy, Education & Leadership Formation, United Nations & International Affairs, and resourcing these areas for the denomination. It has offices on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and at the Church Center at the United Nations.

Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops Unveils Realignment Plan

SAN FRANCISCO – In a meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 25, the College of Bishops of the Western Jurisdiction shared with the jurisdiction Leadership Team, their plan for realignment of the episcopal areas of the Western Jurisdiction.

The plan calls for the current Portland and Seattle areas to be joined into one area. This means the Oregon-Idaho and the Pacific Northwest Annual Conferences, along with the Alaska Missionary Conference, will be supervised by one episcopal area. The Alaska Conference is currently supervised by the bishop of the Seattle area and some administrative services are provided by the Pacific Northwest Conference Center.

In making the realignment plans, the bishops considered the missional needs and priorities of the Annual Conferences in the jurisdiction. Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, President of the College of Bishops, shared with the assembled leaders, "In our prayerful consultation with other groups and leaders, it became clear that the best partnership for effective ministry would be one that builds on the cultural affinity of our most northwest states."

Although reducing the availability of episcopal leadership in the jurisdiction will be a challenge, the college, along with other leaders in the jurisdiction, is looking to use this as an opportunity to move forward with a concept of "permeable boundaries." By viewing the boundaries of episcopal areas and Annual Conferences as permeable, it is hoped that skills, gifts, graces, and knowledge

of leaders can flow across boundaries to further the jurisdiction's commitment to radical hospitality and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

A transition team is being formed to consider details of the realignment. Each Annual Conference in the Western Jurisdiction will contribute to a fund for transition team consultation and other expenses. Consultant Gil Rendle will assist the transition team as it creates a detailed plan for the realignment.

The Western Jurisdiction is composed of seven Annual Conferences and the Alaska Missionary Conference. It covers 11 Western states, Guam, and Saipan.

33 Retired Bishops Urge End to Gay Clergy Ban

A UMNS Report
By Heather Hahn*

Thirty-three retired United Methodist bishops have released a statement calling on The United Methodist Church to remove its ban on homosexual clergy.

The bishops noted that the church has lifted other restrictions on clergy before.

"Our United Methodist Church, ashamed and repentant in the past, ended official and unofficial restrictions on candidacy, ordination and appointment for reason of race, gender and ethnicity," says the [Statement of Counsel to the Church - 2011](#). "We believe the God we know in Jesus is leading us to issue this counsel and call – a call to transform our church life and our world."

Nearly 40 percent of the denomination's 85 retired bishops (including **Bishop Beverly Shama**, who returned from the California-Nevada Annual Conference in 2008) have signed the statement, released Jan. 31. Most signers live and serve in the United States. But they also include two retired leaders from the denomination's Central Conferences – Bishops Joseph C. Humper of Sierra Leone and Franz W. Schäfer of Switzerland.

Retired Bishops Sharon Z. Rader and Donald A. Ott said they felt led to circulate the statement to their fellow retirees after studying Advent texts that emphasized the need of people not to be afraid.

The statement is the result of a prayerful consideration of the Bible, the church's Wesleyan heritage, and the bishops' experience and "conviction of God's intention for a world transformed," the document says.

The [Book of Discipline](#), the denomination's law book, for 39 years has stated that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church."

The subject of homosexuality has surfaced every four years at the gathering of The United Methodist Church's General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking body. Only General Conference can change the *Book of Discipline*, and delegates consistently have voted to keep the restriction.

"This statement tells of a widespread concern that episcopal leaders have," Ott said, "and I hope that the church and the world see this as an opportunity to once again (look at this) and maybe this time take the step of removing this. Once upon a time, it wasn't there, and it doesn't have to be there."

However, the denomination's current policy on ordination has many supporters in both church and lay leadership.

Florida Area Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker said he supports the denomination's basic position.

"It's in agreement with Scripture and ecumenical Christian tradition in the broadest sense," he said. "We have the Church – with a capital C – in many different cultural settings, and in those different cultural settings, there are different understandings of human sexuality. I think in making its decisions, the Church must be mindful of its responsibility to its members in all its cultural settings and not just select ones."

Significant statement

Retired Bishop Neil L. Irons, the executive secretary of the [Council of Bishops](#), said this is the first time in his memory when this many retired bishops have released a public statement such as this.

"The significance of this is that these are all bishops who have abided by the law of the church since it was instituted in this particular matter," Irons said.

At the 1996 General Conference in Denver, 15 bishops signed a statement that advocated gays and lesbians be welcomed into ordained ministry. Irons said that, unlike the 2011 document, not every bishop who signed the 1996 statement was aware it would be made public.

Based on experience

Rader and Ott both stressed that the statement is based on their experience as church leaders.

For more than five years after her retirement, Rader was the bishop in residence at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. In that capacity, she said, she met with many seminary students who had the gifts and calling for ministry but were gay or lesbian.

"Those conversations were very convicting for me," Rader said.

The statement said that "laity and clergy, gay and straight, (are) withdrawing membership" and bishops are "being drained of energy" because of a stance that contradicts their convictions.

"I believe our mission to make disciples is in jeopardy by the current stance we have, and that's a driving force for me," Ott said. "When the church has a position that many people do not hold, and those people are in leadership or desire to be in leadership, they have to make compromises with their own integrity."

Bishop Whitaker said he might change the *Book of Discipline's* current wording to take less a tone of condemnation and emphasize the need for all clergy's celibacy in singleness.

But, he said, the change urged in the retired bishops' statement "would create a lot of problems in the life of the church."

Neither supporters nor opponents expect the debate on ordination or [same-sex unions](#) to end any time soon.

Council of Bishops Calls for Dialogue

Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, released a statement Feb. 3 calling for "thoughtful, prayerful dialogue about sensitive and challenging issues." His statement follows the Jan. 31 release of the document signed by 33 retired United Methodist bishops, which calls for the church to remove its ban on homosexual clergy.

The Council of Bishops remains committed to living within the covenant defined by the *Book of Discipline*, the denomination's law book, and it understands "that it is the General Conference that re-examines that covenant every four years and has the responsibility to define our covenant for the next four years," Goodpaster said. He asks church members to pray and fast for the whole Church with the approach of General Conference in Tampa, Florida, in 2012.

Read [full statement here](#).

*Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News Service.

Remember to Register for Cambodia Consultation at End of March

Don't forget to register for the 2011 Cambodia Consultation, taking place March 31 to April 2 at Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose. It is sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries and the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

This periodic gathering of friends of the UM mission initiative in Cambodia focuses on education, planning, fellowship, and celebration of Cambodian-American ministries. It will concentrate on concerns and perspectives of (1) the Khmer church leadership, (2) missionaries, and (3) Volunteers in Mission (VIM) teams, all of whom will be represented.

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. extends a warm invitation to attend.

"When I visited Cambodia last February, I saw a beautiful land with a rich cultural heritage that had lost nearly a whole generation of leaders in the 1970s. I saw first-hand the urgent need today for leadership development and for alleviation of poverty. And I saw the excitement and vitality of Methodists and new Christians practicing their faith in a setting where they are very much a struggling minority. The California-Nevada Annual Conference is proud to support its Cambodian-American community in sponsoring this Consultation."

Click here to [register](#).

For more information and to inquire about the limited number of airfare and hotel scholarships which are available, contact Laddie Perez-Galang, Consultation Coordinator, at lad-dieg@pacbell.net.

You also may click here to [learn more](#) about the Cambodia Consultation.

Sacramento's Japanese UMC to Host 'Friendly Visitor' Training This Saturday

Sacramento's Japanese UMC will offer "Friendly Visitor" Training, taught by Judith Pruess-Mellow, Ph.D., M.Div. and Jackie Finley, M.A., of Gold Country Seniors Alive, this Saturday, Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the church.

Pruess-Mellow and Finley will train participants in a system for including laypersons in parish visitation ministries. This "Friendly Visitor" Training is for anyone interested in visiting:

- homebound persons and persons living in assisted care/skilled nursing facilities;
- hospitalized persons or persons recovering from serious illness or surgery;
- persons new to church who have attended services.

The church received a grant from the Beulah Fund to provide this training – so there is no cost to attend. However, attendees should pack a sack lunch, and reservations are absolutely necessary, to ensure that the right number of training booklets is on hand so that each participant can receive one.

Call the church at 916.421.1017 to reserve your spot.

Download [flyer](#) for more information.

Sacramento Japanese UMC is located at 6929 Franklin Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95823. Plan your route by using the handy Google Maps feature on [the church's webpage](#).

Northern California/Nevada Chrysalis Flight #31 for Boys Will Be March 24-27

Chrysalis is the youth version of the Walk to Emmaus – a program which helps Christian youth – young men and young women – learn more about themselves and their relationship with God.

Chrysalis also helps youth become leaders in their churches and communities.

Chrysalis Flight #31 for Boys has been scheduled for March 24-27, 2011 at Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore. It is open to young men between the ages of 15 (who have completed the 9th grade) and 21.

If you are not in this category, please prayerfully consider sponsoring a young man for the upcoming flight – especially if you have gone on a Walk or a Flight yourself.

Here's what Sarah Davis has to say about Chrysalis:

I went on a Chrysalis flight as a teenager and my faith grew so much more than I ever thought it could. I have worked on many flights and am always amazed by how much love God has for me and the other people participating or working on the flight. Chrysalis helps keep me Spirit-filled and I learn so much about myself and my faith after every flight that I work. The talks help remind me to live a more balanced Christian life through Prayer, Study and Action and how to become more involved in my local church and community.

For more information contact Ellen Thomas at btluvset@nvgbell.net or 775.673.1443.

Asbury UMC is located at 4743 East Ave., Livermore, CA 94550. Need directions? Use the built-in Google Maps feature on the [Asbury UMC web page](#) on the California-Nevada Annual Conference website at cnumc.org.

Everything You Need to Register for Summer Camp Is Now on Line!

Registration is now open for this year's summer camps at Monte Toyon, Lodestar, and the Urban Camp in San Francisco.

Click on the [Registrations](#) tab on the Home Page of the Conference website at www.cnumc.org, or visit the [Camping](#) section of the website (click on "Camping" under "Areas of Interest" on the right side of the Home Page) and click on "2011 Summer Camps" to register and to access:

- Online camp registration
- Online volunteer registration
- Registration Instructions
- Camp forms
- Brochures
- Maps
- Everything else you need to know!

For more information contact Shari Sandoval at sharis@calnevumc.org or 916.374.1528.

Why Go to 'Youth 2011'?

Registration is underway for "Youth 2011," and there are great reasons to sign up for this once-every-four-years event.

Find out what they are: Watch short (1 min. 11 sec.) video with Hank Hilliard, Director of Young People's Ministries for the General Board of Discipleship, who tells what's so special about "Youth 2011," July 27-31 at the Sacramento Convention Center.

It's Time to Renew Your Church Video License

It's time to renew your church video license through the California-Nevada Annual Conference's umbrella program with Christian Video Licensing International (CVLI). The license allows for the public showing of DVDs and videocassettes in your church and childcare program.

Once again, the Conference is offering churches the option of paying their subscriber fee on line. The renewal price is \$173 (or \$174 if your church has a childcare facility to be covered by the license).

To renew your church's license – or to obtain coverage if your church was not licensed last year – click on [CVLI Renewal Form](#) or copy and paste the web address <http://cnumc.org/registrations/register/38> into your browser.

For more information and to view an up-to-date list of churches which have coverage for the April 2, 2011 to April, 2, 2012 year, go to "Church Video License," found under "Resources" on the blue navigation bar at the top of the Home Page at www.cnumc.org.

If your church upgraded to a ScreenVue Plus membership, please contact SreenVue at www.screenvue.com to renew.

The CVLI certificate will be emailed upon receipt of payment. Contact Jane Horstman at 916.374.1518 or janeh@calnevumc.org if you have questions.

Music Licensing: As a reminder, please be sure to follow appropriate copyright laws with regard to copying and displaying music and music lyrics, as well. Obtain a license if necessary. The companies most commonly used are Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI), which is a sister company of CVLI, OneLicense, and LicenSing. Churches must obtain this license and maintain coverage on their own; **the Conference does not offer an umbrella program for music licensing.**

Pete Taylor 'Soup-er Bowl' Precedes 'Super Bowl'

The focus of the football-watching world may be on Sunday's Super Bowl, but at Downs Memorial United Methodist Church in Oakland, the focus has been on a "soup-er bowl": specifically, the 2nd Annual "Pete W. Taylor, Jr. Soup-er Bowl."

In honor of the late California-Nevada Annual Conference Lay Leader, members of the congregation donated canned soups in multiple varieties, in support of the Alameda County Community Food Bank. The drive was organized by the church's United Methodist Women (UMW), with an appeal to compassion: "As we continue through these difficult times, HUNGER is no stranger to families in need, but with your contributions a family can have a hot bowl of soup – a stomach-filling staple."

Congregants completely filled a huge barrel before the "soup-er bowl" collection ended on Jan. 31.

The Downs UMW sponsored an emergency health kit collection, as well. Members of the congregation assembled and donated kits containing such items as tissues, hand sanitizer, cough drops, tea, and honey for teachers and staff at Santa Fe Elementary School in Oakland.

The Instant Connection is published each week by Jane Horstman on behalf of Cate Monaghan, Director of Communications for the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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