In the third week of June, I attended the 166th California/Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church in Burlingame Hyatt, CA. It was my honor to serve the conference of more than 350 churches as a part of the worship leaders. Aeri Lee, the Music Director of Oakland Chinese Community UMC and Pacific School of Religion’s adjunct faculty of Christian Worship, and Rev. Andrea Davidson, Senior Pastor of Taylor Memorial UMC in West Oakland where I have served with the Blues Gospel band led the music team.

While serving at JAUC in the NY Annual Conference, I retain the membership in my home conference in Cal/Nev at this moment. Working with two annual (regional) conferences is a little complicated, which I am hoping to simplify soon, but does have an advantage for us. In fact, we just received the grant from a California-based National Federation of Asian American United Methodists for our Young Family Ministry. With the total more than $7000 Young Family Ministry Fund, we are considering the renovation of our nursing room and hiring a childcare specialist on Sundays.

“The Journey of a Connectional People—Connectionism in the United Methodist tradition is multi-leveled, global in scope, and local in thrust. Our connectionism is not merely a linking of one charge conference to another. It is rather a vital web of interactive relationships.” - The United Methodist Book of Discipline, ¶ 132, the denominational constitution states.

As globalization progresses, the distance of coast-to-coast is shrinking rapidly. I am in a sense, a product of the connectionism: a pastor from California that serves at a NY church.

The Worship Leading Team served the four-day conference that more than 500 people attended daily from 8am to 8pm or 8am to 10pm. There were numerous services between the discussion, decision-making and programs during the conference: Opening Service, Memorial Service, Fixing Appointments for clergies, Commission and Ordination Service, Closing Service and so on.

The team rehearsed on Tuesday for five straight hours. During the conference, we also rehearsed during the lunch break and sometimes after the end of the evening sessions. Serving Brothers and Sisters in Christ at the holy conference was an intense and exhausting but still wonderfully uplifting experience. During the conference, as soon as I went back to a Burlingame UMC member’s house where I stayed, I fell asleep until early next morning. “Why are we doing this?” Being exhausted, some of us could not help asking ourselves. A fellow team member, Rev. Dan Damon, the pastor of The First United Methodist Church in Richmond, CA and a renowned hymn writer calmly said that it was his duty to “serve.”

Serving requires a strong sense of duty, responsibility, and commitment in addition to love for brothers and sisters. Service is an important part of our faith tradition. “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (1 Peter 4:10)

It has been a whole year since JAUC started serving the communion not only by the pastor but also by the church lay leaders. Theologically, it is important for us to embody what we believe into our actions in order to live out our faith. We serve each other, sisters and brothers in Christ. Christianity is a communal faith tradition. We gather at Lord’s Table to share the Lord. Communion table is a beautiful ritual that embodies our faith tradition.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline states ¶ 130.

Faithful Ministry—The people of God, who are the church made visible in the world, must convince the world of the reality of the gospel or leave it unconvinced. There can be no evasion or delegation of this responsibility; the church is either faithful as a witnessing and serving community, or it loses its vitality and its impact on an unbelieving world.

“whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.” (Matthew 10:42) Love to God is measured by our actions toward little ones. For example, children. Children do need help and assistance but will not give us immediate rewards. We must serve others.
unconditionally. I would like to invite you to engage in actions to serve the community. Grace and Peace,

◊ Church Activities & Schedules ◊

- **Sunday School**  Our Sunday School is on summer break until September. Stay safe everyone!

- **Pastor’s Vacation**  Pastor Takahashi will be on summer vacation from July 7 to 13 and from August 11 to 17. Mr. Ken Kurihara will preach during the service on July 13, and Rev. Kei Okada will preach on Aug. 10. Our Music Director Ms. Noriko Kumada will also take a vacation from July 20 to 27. Ms. Dorothy Chen will serve as a pianist during the two Sunday services.


- **Bible Study**  Pastor Takahashi is holding a Bible study in the Sunday School classroom on the 4th floor every Sunday (except 1st Sunday), from 1:30pm. We reread the Scripture verses for the day and share our reflections and impressions each other. Please join!

- **Fellowship**  We have fellowship time at church every 3rd Friday. On July 18, we will gather at 6:30pm and make omusubi. Pastor Takahashi’s Bible study will follow the meal. Everyone is welcome.

- **June Board Meeting**  The June Board of Directors meeting was held on June 29, and the following agenda was discussed: (1) Repair plan of the Social Hall ceiling; (2) Necessity to repair the elevator (in order to clear violations; seeking estimations now); repair of the front door (completed; cost $283); (3) Necessity to repair the parsonage bathroom and the stoop ($5,850 was approved); (4) Pastor Takahashi’s UMC Conference participation; (5) Outreach to a Japanese group in Astoria; (6) Ideas of summer events.

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**Haruyama Scholarship (Ms. Imado)**  Justin Haruyama Scholarship committee met at JAUC on June 11th. There were five candidates, and four of them received scholarships (In alphabetical order): Mr. Ken Kurihara (Union Theological Seminary), Mr. Mitsuyoshi Nakamura (Asbury Theological Seminary), Mr. Tomohiko Nakamura (Fuller Theological Seminary) and Mr. Joshua Ryo Nelson (Princeton Theological Seminary). Congratulations! Next year will be the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Justin Haruyama Scholarship. There may be a celebration, such as a reunion event for past recipients. It also can be a time for a fund raising campaign. Sayoko Yoshida asked to retire from the Committee. We thank her for her many years of service for this committee. We appreciate your continuous prayers for this ministry.

- **Grants & Donations**  As mentioned in the Pastor’s Message, we received an endowment grant from the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists in California for the JAUC Young Family Ministry. Based on her will, JAUC will also receive an approximately half a million dollar donation from the legacy of Ms. Yoshiko Watanabe, who passed away in May. Let us thank God for His mercy.

- **Finance (Ms. Baumann)**  The following is our total income and the expense between January and May 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offering – Pledge</td>
<td>18,216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offering – Others</td>
<td>21,772</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Dividend</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profit/Loss</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Thank you for your offerings:**  Kumiko Baumann, Sheila Bennet, Junko Clarke, Rika Downs, Tony Fotnakis, Takumi Fukunaga, June Goldberg, Tomie Hara, Chizuko Imado, Hideko Iyoda, Yoshiko Kasuga, Kaoru Kobayashi, Sue Kubo, Noriko Kumada, Ken & Noriko Kurihara, Harry Kuwada, Keijiro Motoi, Tomoyo Nishiwaki, Junko N. Hasegawa, Osamu Sagae, Masayo Sonoda, Hanako Sun Hua,

Summer Children Camp

The Discovery Children Camp 2014 (for 3rd to 10th grade) will be held at Camp Qunitipet, Shelter Island, from July 20 to Aug. 1. The theme is the “Joy of Sharing.” Rev. Akio Iyoda continues to serve as the Camp Director. As of July 9, 14 children have applied, and four counselors (including Rev. Iyoda) will accompany them. Please pray that God will guide the children with His Spirit and Christ’s Good News will spread in camp.

Local Church Network

Rev. Terino will be leaving

Rev. Takako Terino, who has served as the Director of the SMJ (Special Ministry for Japanese) for these three years, will leave NY at the end of July and move to New Mexico. She will be trained as a chaplain in Albuquerque and serve there. During the period when we did not have a pastor, Rev. Terino kindly came to JAUC to preach every month and held Bible study sessions. We appreciate her kindness and dedication, and we will pray that God will bless her future service.

New Pastor Arrived at Tukahoe!

Rev. Yasuhiro Miyauchi, a new pastor for the New York Japanese Church in Tukahoe, safely arrived from Hokkaido on July 24. He will start from the Sunday July 6 worship service. The Tukahoe Church has been searching for a new pastor since 2011. May God bless Rev. Miyauchi’s ministry so that he will bear much fruit for Christ!

Japanese Church Family Camp

The 5th East Coast Japanese Church Family Camp will be held at Honor’s Haven (Ellenville, NY) from Aug. 30 to Sep. 1! The guest speaker is Rev. Nanus Cho, the senior pastor of the Shoutai Kirisuto Kyokai (Japanese Christian Alliance) in Japan. Programs will be conducted in Japanese, but there will be simultaneous English and Korean translation and baby-sitting service. The final deadline for applications is Jul. 15. Ms. Chizuko Imado and Ms. Tomoko Sugawara are the contact persons for JAUC.

July JCFN/VIP Meeting

The July VIP Meeting will be held at JAUC on July 14, from 7:15PM. This time, we will not have a guest speaker, and we will study about the “dangers surround the cultic religions who call themselves Christianity.”

Rev. Sakurai

Rev. Chizuo Sakurai, pastor of the Jesus Community / Calvary Chapel Kokubunji in Tokyo, came to JAUC and held Bible Study sessions on July 4 and 5. This was his third visit to JAUC. About 15-20 people, both from JAUC and the New Jersey Japanese Church, attended the sessions and studied the meaning of faith and the practice of Christian love.

Prayer Requests

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

People in the midst of the Middle East crisis (Iraq, Israel, and Palestine); The 300 female students kidnapped by the terrorists in Nigeria; those who lost their families due to the sinking of the Korean Ferry Seoul and the gas explosion in East Harlem; families of the passengers and the crew of Malaysian Air Flight 370, still missing since Mar. 8; those still suffering from the after effects of the Typhoon in the Philippines, Hurricane Sandy and the Japan Earthquake; Rev. Brian Kido Chase, Michiko Gorman, Rev. Randy Hongo, Rev. Peter and Mrs. Kimi Igarashi (Ms. G. Yoshida’s parents), Toshio Iwasa, Yung Kim, Hiroshi & Yoshiko Kurihara (Mr. Kurihara’s parents), Ai Oguchi (Westminster Japanese Church, Atlanta), Nanako Oguri; Hisako Okuda, Rev. Takemi Sasamori, Umeko Takeshige’s mother, Yuriko Tomita, Kentaro Yoshida, John Yoshinaga.