

As you know, the United Methodist Church is currently in an impasse over topics associated with human sexuality. During the first week of 2020, the United Methodist church crafted a proposal, The Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation, to help the church to avoid continued harm to the LGBTQ community and define a process for the separation of the church. The primary purpose of the proposal is to create a mechanism for churches and annual conferences to leave the church who can not live in a church where all are welcomed.

Please remember that this is only one of several proposals that will be voted upon at the May 2020 General Conference in Minnesota. This proposal needs to be adopted by delegates to General Conference, but at the moment, this is an important step as we try to figure out how to be the church and a witness of God's love in our world today. This proposal, if approved, will likely be modified during the conference. Although we do not know how it will be modified, below is a summary of the original proposal.

The Protocol would:

- Maintain The United Methodist Church intact. Churches wishing to stay within the UMC would not be required to conduct a vote to stay in the United Methodist Church.
- Allow local churches and annual conferences that choose not to remain affiliated with The United Methodist Church to leave, while maintaining their property, assets, and liabilities. It is anticipated that a new traditionalist Methodist denomination will be created.
- Commit \$39 million to racial and ethnic inclusion and anti-racism work.
- Convene the first session of the post-separation United Methodist Church, perhaps before leaving Minneapolis in May, to create four regional conferences.
- Allow for the first session of the newly established North American Regional Conference to act on proposals to remove prohibitive language regarding LGBTQ clergy and weddings. In the meantime, signers to the Protocol have agreed to abeyance on complaints against clergy for related offenses.

I am saddened that the church, that I am called to, will be forever changed. I am also grateful that the church recognized the differing positions and actively finding a way to stop the harm that has been inflicted upon the LGBTQ community. Although definitive decisions have yet to be made about the future of our church, I have faith that God's love will prevail and the ministries of Simpson UMC will continue for future generations. I find hope in Bishop Karen Oliveto's words:

"I ask you to join with me in praying fiercely for our church and to hold in tender care those who feel they will need to separate from the larger body. Pray for our delegates, who will be receiving this protocol. Pray for all those who are lost, lonely, broken and afraid who are looking for love, light, healing and hope. Then rise from your knees to be emboldened to extend a hand to everyone to join us on this Expedition to which God has invited us."

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to have a conversation with me.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leah



Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who participated in our annual poinsettia fund raiser! Your loving generosity resulted in a net increase of \$114 to the choir contingency fund.... And of course, the visible result of our beautiful sanctuary dressed for Christmas. Thank you!

2019 Poinsettias

From

Tad Asano
 Jacqueline, Karla & Chris Cornish
 Kazuko Dishong
 Mary Everitt
 Carol FitzSimons
 M/M Tom Fujita

 Dan, Patty & Allyson Goto
 Families of Gordon & JoAnn Studebaker,
 Jim & Sharon Tingstrom, & Dan, Patty &
 Allyson Goto
 Ruby Hada
 Mary Ida
 Julia Kamura & Bess Joko
 George & Ruth Kawamura
 Paula Matsumoto

 Noelle Maynell
 Robin Miyahara
 Ritsuko Munn
 Don Nakama
 Jane, Kristen & Heather Nakama
 Ken & Charlotte Namba
 Nobuko Ninomiya
 Mary Nishiyama
 Yasuko Nonaka
 Paul & Janet Sasa
 Marlene Sessions
 Ruth Shinto
 Catheryn & Gloria Smith
 Chen Wu
 Calvin Yukihiro

In Memory Of/In Honor Of

Clifford Cornish & Uncle Tony Sandoval

 Yukio Steve Takara
 Rev. Jonathan Fujita, Sumiko Fujita Haynes, Erik Haynes,
 Ichiro Fujita, Jean Ward & Masaye Esther Fujita
 George & Helen Goto
 Jess & Mary Masunaga

 Ted Hada
 Tom Ida
 Tom & Ruth Kamura, Richard Joko
 Wally & Masae Sagara, Eijiro & Koto Kawamura
 Sam & Doris Matsumoto, Kristine Motoyoshi,
 & Kelly Dolezal
 Shur & Teru Aoyagi, Toshi Okazaki

 Denny, Terry & Eugene Munn
 Edna Nakama & Jimmy Nakama
 Mary & Naoye Suzuki
 M/M Charles Miyoshi, M/M Seiichi Namba

 Rose Nishiyama, Alice Hatasaka
 Mas Nonaka & Miyako Smith
 Harry & Mary Ida
 Tad & Mae Shimizu
 All family who have passed
 Miyako & Johnnie Smith Jr, Rubye Smith & Mas Nonaka
 Charles Wiencek
 Robin Furuta

A special thank you to Ruth Shinto for the two beautiful large poinsettias.

“Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same.” – Flavia Weedn

On December 29th, we said Farewell to Debbie Willeford (Choir Director) and Sheri and Scott Pelletier (Children and Youth Directors). Each has been a part of the life of Simpson United Methodist Church for many years and have contributed to our ministries in countless ways.

We celebrated Debbie's retirement which marks the start of a new phase in her life. Debbie has offered her musical gifts, dedication and leadership to the choir and congregation. Scott started a new full-time job. Scott and Sheri have led our young people and helped them develop a faithful relationship with God.

Farewell marks a new beginning in life. Here's wishing success, happiness and love!

Grace and Peace,

Choir, Children's and Youth Director Positions

Matthew 28:19, commands us to go into the world making disciples of all nations. Through the Holy Spirit, we model and teach others of God's unconditional love. The world is transformed when we share this love with others. Simpson has been teaching and empowering disciples for generations through the ministries of the church. Music and leading young people are and will continue to be vital ministries at Simpson. The SPRC and I have been actively working to recruit for these positions.

We met with the choir to listen to their suggestions and feedback. We have advertised the Choir Director Position on seven different job posting sites. While we wait for inquiries, we have offered Chen Wu additional compensation to lead choir rehearsals in preparation for Chancel Choir performances twice a month. Rehearsal dates will be shared through email communications and church announcements.

Since the SPRC was recently notified of the vacancies for the Children's and Youth Director Positions, we are in the initial stages of recruiting. Several months ago, we met with our youth to develop an understanding of their desires and hopes to enhance the Youth Program in the future. This information was very helpful and will inform how the SPRC recruits for these positions. We are also excited to begin using a new curriculum which is written by a reverend who leads a Youth Program in the United Methodist Church. This curriculum provides meaningful lessons based upon scripture and discussions on how to live out our faith.

Until we fill these positions, we need your help! We need volunteers to lead a class. We also need individuals to offer special music during worship. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Mari, Chen, Jacque or me with the date you would like to volunteer.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leah

Church News

CELEBRATING HINA MATSURI

(Doll Festival) 1968—2020 (March 7-8) Daylight Saving Time also begins on March 8.

Our Annual Hina Matsuri, the Doll Festival, is fast approaching! Mark your calendar for the first weekend in March, Saturday the 7th and Sunday the 8th. Make certain you invite your friends and neighbors, especially if they know nothing about Japanese Culture. This is a great way for them to get a sample of what the culture of Japan is all about. The event is free, with all donations gratefully accepted.

We will have a display of Dolls, Arts & Crafts, Origami demonstrations, Kimono Exhibit, Ikebana, Bonsai, Shodo (Calligraphy), Judo, Karate, Kendo, Aikido and Archery. Tea Ceremony will be performed and explained. We will have performances in Odori (Japanese Dance), Children's Songs, Yo-Yo, Koto, Shamisen, Violin, Shakuhachi and Taiko (Japanese Drum & Percussion). Light Japanese lunch will be sold.

This is one of the few opportunities and an especially fun time to wear a beautiful Kimono, Yukata or Happi Coat you have packed away and we would like to have lots of people wearing them! We can have someone dress you in the Kimono, if you have forgotten how or never knew.

Please call Kazuko Dishong (303-234-0555) or Jacqueline Cornish (303-594-3501) if you have something you would like to exhibit or volunteer to help! Thank You.

The Hina Matsuri Committee

AN INVITATION – JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY

The O.N.E. Committee would like to invite anyone interested to join us in planning for 2020. Our mission includes outreach to the local neighborhood and to the wider community; nurturing our congregation; and, make Simpson UMC's mission known to all. We will be meeting on Sunday, January 12 after worship service to work on plans to meet our mission goals. You don't need to join our committee but are welcome to come and give your ideas! Hope to see you on January 12th, 2020.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Happy New Year!! 2019 was an exciting and productive year for the beginning of our Strategic Plan effort. In May Pastor Leah and 11 of our parishioners and two consultants in an intense three month planning effort endeavored to recreate our Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles. As part of this effort we articulated strategic goals, objectives, strategies and timeframes in a comprehensive Strategic Plan document. (Available on our website SimpsonUMC.com) Beginning in August the hard work of the Implementation stage of the Plan began. We recruited team members to form two of the four teams called for in the Plan. The other two teams will be created in early 2020. The four teams are the Cultural Team, the Community Outreach Team, the Membership Enhancement Team and the Financial Viability Team. The Implementation phase will continue over the course of three years so there will be ample opportunities for any and all of the congregation to be involved and we will be asking for your help. There are four Sponsors for the Plan. They are Pastor Leah, George Kawamura, Charlotte Namba and Noelle Maynell. The role of the Sponsors is to track and assure the goals of sustaining and growing the church as outlined in the Strategic Plan are met. The Sponsors will monitor the chosen strategies and hold ourselves and the teams accountable to agreed upon measures of progress.

We are on a journey and mission of commitment to respect our past traditions and to effect progressive change in our beloved church. We are looking forward to a full and rewarding 2020!

Community Corner

Sakura Foundation is pleased to bring **Linda Harms Okazaki** to the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library as she presents **"Finding Your Nikkei Roots in the U.S. and in Japan"** on **Sat, Feb 8th at 10 am**. This informative workshop will cover historical events and laws in Japan and the U.S. which led to immigration, getting organized in genealogy, researching basic U.S. documents such as vital, census, land, military records, naturalization and internment records.

Registration is just \$25 and can be found at SakuraFoundation.org. **Pre-registration is required.** Handouts and a light lunch will be provided.

Questions? Contact Stacey Shigaya at staceys@sakurafoundation.org or 303.951.4486.



**FINDING YOUR NIKKEI ROOTS
IN THE U.S. AND JAPAN**

Sat, Feb 8, 2020 | 10a-2p
Doors open at 9:45am

Blair-Caldwell African
American Research Library
2401 Welton St, Denver

*A seminar on
Japanese
American genealogy
presented by*

 **SAKURA
FOUNDATION**

REGISTER ONLINE ONLY BY FEB 1 AT SAKURAFoundation.org

COST: \$25, INCLUDES INFORMATIONAL HANDOUTS AND LUNCH

REGISTER EARLY TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT, NO WALK-INS

We are grateful for the many ways people support our church with generous gifts. It is part of our tradition to publicly thank those who give special gifts. However, as some prefer to donate anonymously, this is not a complete list of donors.



*In
Loving
Memory*

Given by:

Kathleen Albertus, Donna Cole,
Dorothy Gorai , Tom Koshio, Laura
Masunaga, Tadashi Kaneda,
Shoji, Tami & Ayumi; Evelyn
Hayashida; June Matsuda; Betty
Mulvey; Mary Nishiyama; James
Shinto; Gloria Zakus

In Memory of:

Mary Masunaga

Dorothy Gorai
The Hamai Family
Evelyn Hayashida
Russell Ota
Randy & Cynthia Shioshita

Jane Hada
Mitchell M. Hamai
Casey Hayashida and Marge Ota
Geri Ota
Jane Shioshita and Larry Goto

Russell Ota: **In Thanksgiving** for the birth of grandson Rylan Oliver Ota to parents Stuart & Alex Ota

Boiler Fund: Ruth French, Elizabeth Sato

Postage: Jacqueline Cornish

Roof Repair: Dion Dishong

Thanksgiving: Aki Doi Akiyama, Sue Arai, Cheyenne & Janeal Bailey, Masako Furuiye, Sachi Goto, Esther Hashiba, Ben Ichikawa, Mae Ida, Mary K. Ida, Julia Kamura, Dorothy Okita, Thomas Nakai, Donald Nakama, Joel Nishida; Mary Nishiyama, Alben Sakaguchi, Catheryn Smith, Ruthe Terada, Grace Tochiara, M/M Terry Wong, Carol Yamamoto

Thanksgiving Ministry Food Baskets: Calvin Yukihiro

Utilities: 3rd Monday Knitting Group, Paula Matsumoto, Friday Bridge Club


Youth Fundraiser for Camp: Isami Terada, Ruthe Terada

Thank you to John Hall for ordering our new defibrillator!

December Newsletter Assemblers—12/3/19

Esther Hashiba, Jane Nakama and Grace Tochiara REALLY could not get the Newsletters out in a timely manner without you.

You are very much appreciated!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3	4 11:30 11:30 am Shinnenkai Potluck for Taiko
5 8:30 am—Hina Matsuri Planning Committee 10:00 am HOLY COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE	6 10:00 Staff Meeting	7 9:30 am Assemble January Newsletter for mail 7:00 pm Taiko	8	9	10 10:00 am Game Day	11 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko 1:00 am—Funeral Service 2:30 pm—Break Bread at Littleton UMC
12 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE Parent/Youth Meeting 11:15 am Trustees 11:15 am O.N.E. meets in downstairs kitchen	13 10:00 Staff Meeting	14	15 Newsletter Articles due to Office today 	16 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	17	18 9:00 am –Japanese Language Class 9:30am – Taiko
19 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 am—Knit & Crochet	20 Office closed Martin Luther King Jr. 's Birth- day observance	21 10:30 am Taiko	22 11:00 am Asian Pacific Development Center Lunch 6:00 pm Finance	23	24	25 9:00 am –Japanese Language Class 9:30am – Taiko
26 8:30—S.P.R. C. 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15—Ad Council	27 10:00 Staff Meeting	28	29	30	31	

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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ARVADA, COLORADO
PERMIT NO. 11

January 2020

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Or Current Resident

