

We hear you!

***Preparing for our next Lead Pastor
Winter 2019 Update***

As you know, a new Lead Pastor for First United Methodist Church of San Diego (FUMCSD) soon will be appointed by the bishop of the California Pacific Annual Conference, Rev. Dr. Grant Hagiya. The United Methodist Book of Discipline determines this bishop-led selection process in consultation with the Pastor Parish Committee of the congregation. Throughout the fall, our church's Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) has advised the bishop on our church's needs and goals, and provided context for the congregation's desired qualities and characteristics for our new lead pastor.

Although the PPRC does not vote for or select the lead pastor -- it ultimately is the bishop's decision -- the congregation's voice and prayerful considerations matter. That's why, over the past few months, the PPRC solicited your feedback and suggestions and shared them with Bishop Hagiya.

The PPRC received dozens of comments. Across the board, members of our congregation **share a desire for a lead pastor who demonstrates:**

An exceptional ability to understand and explain God's Word

A passionate preacher, truthful teacher, and biblical scholar with an earnest relationship with Jesus Christ. Our church members are seeking a theologian who can clearly and effectively communicate complex scriptures and topics, and emotionally engage with our congregation. The lead pastor should be relatable and unafraid to draw upon real-life examples in his/her teachings.

A deep love for and acceptance of all people

The kind of person who connects well and sincerely with everyone. Members have voiced a desire for a lead pastor who is approachable, visible and welcoming. This person should have a heart for children, and support the spiritual growth of all generations of our congregation. A sturdy moral compass, ethical foundation, and strong character guide his/her relationships.

Transformational leadership

In addition to being a great preacher, our members are seeking an experienced leader who mentors with enthusiasm, is collaborative and inclusive of all team members, and is open to diverse social and political views. With humility and confidence, this new lead pastor is willing and able to address current events, financing challenges, and parishioner concerns with grace, respect, and professionalism.

A commitment to the San Diego community

Our church members are civic-minded and desire a lead pastor who has heart for service and will drive and inspire us to deepen our discipleship and reclaim our civic relevance through

radical hospitality, generosity, and service to our region and neighbors on both sides of the border.

A respect for our history while embracing what's next

We desire a leader who appreciates our church traditions, and also is responsive to our changing needs. The new lead pastor should not be afraid to ask, "what's next?" and should encourage and shepherd us through strategic change, organizational discipline, and new styles and opportunities for worship, discipleship, and service.

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, led by chair Bonnie Schwartz, looks forward to sharing additional updates with you as we receive them. The goal is for our new Lead Pastor to be appointed in the spring of 2019 and begin serving our church in July. In the meantime, your feedback and questions are always welcome. Please email the PPRC at questions@fumcsd.org.

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