

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO

## Church Charge Conference Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 – 5 pm via Zoom

Gathering & Welcome	Patti Blakeslee, Church Council Chair
Introduction of Rev. Sandra K. Olewine	Rev. Trudy D. Robinson
Scripture reading Isaiah 58:6-11	Bonnie Schwartz, Lay Leader
Reflection	Rev. Sandra K. Olewine <i>South District Superintendent</i>
Call to Order & Election of Secretary	Rev. Sandra Olewine
Approval of minutes, November 7, 2021	Rev. Sandra Olewine
Ending Spiritual Hunger Video	Rev. Trudy Robinson
Nominations Report for 2023	Rev. Trudy Robinson
Approval of Candidate for Ministry-- Continuing as a declared candidate: Pamela Henson	Rev. Sandra Olewine
Approval of Certified Lay Servant and Recommendation for Certification as Lay Speaker: Pamela Henson	Rev. Sandra Olewine
Clergy Compensation	Lynette Williamson
Membership Report	Demmie Divine
Pastor's Reports	Rev. Trudy D. Robinson Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka Rev. Brittany Hanlin Rev. Tamara Walker
Blessing and Sending Forth	Rev. Sandra K. Olewine

## **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SAN DIEGO**

### **Church Charge Conference Meeting Agenda**

**Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 12 noon via Zoom**

Rev. Sandra K. Olewine, South District Superintendent, welcomed all attendees at 12 noon.

Rev. Trudy Robinson, Lead Pastor, introduced Rev. Sandra K. Olewine as the Presiding Elder for the meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Michael Mitchell, District Lay Leader, offered a scripture reading from Matthew 25:31-40.

Rev. Olewine offered a reflection on the past year while looking forward.

#### **Election of Secretary:**

Rev. Olewine called the Charge Conference meeting to order and asked for nominations for Secretary. Linda Hawk was nominated, accepted the nomination and motion was made, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

#### **Approval of Minutes November 7, 2021:**

Rev. Olewine asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion made, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

#### **Parables of the Pandemic Video:**

Rev. Trudy shared a video with all attendees on the parables of the pandemic.

#### **Nominations Report for 2022:**

Rev. Trudy Robinson, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the slate of continuing members and candidates for each of the committees. Each committee has three classes with three members in each class. A motion to approve the nominations slate as presented was made, seconded and approved by majority vote.

#### **Candidate for Ministry Yearly Report:**

Pamela Henson, candidate for ministry, provided a yearly report on her candidacy journey.

#### **Lay Servant Minister:**

Pamela Henson, candidate for lay servant minister, provided an update on her goal to serve as a Lay Servant Minister.

### **Clergy Compensation for FY 2022:**

Dana Hook reviewed the proposed pastoral compensation packages for Rev. Trudy Robinson, Rev. Jessica Stryko, Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka and Rev. Tamara Walker Thode. These packages were submitted to the Finance Committee for inclusion in the FY 2022 operating budget. Motion was made, seconded and approved by majority vote to approve the pastoral compensation packages for FY 2022 as recommended by the Pastor Parish Relations Committee.

### **Membership Report:**

Demmie Divine shared the 2021 Membership Audit of the Local Church and supplement that broke down the membership summary into the various categories required by the Conference. The Membership Report was approved as presented by motion made, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

### **Blessings and Sending Forth**

Rev. Olewine thanked all members present for attending today's Charge Conference and wished everyone a blessed holiday season.

### **Note:**

Year in Review Reports available online:

Pastors' Reports	Dana Hook
Pastor Parish Relations Committee	Laurie Tucker
Board of Trustees	Jean Service
Finance Committee	Carl Meuser
First United Methodist Foundation	

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hawk  
Secretary

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SAN DIEGO**  
**Lay Leadership for 2023 and beyond**  
**Nominations Report**  
**Church Conference – November 2022**

**Ministers with Charge Conference Affiliation**

Gary Anderson	Djalma Araujo	Gary Clore
Jason Constantine	David Corbin	Pam Daniel
Lori Doyle	Peggy Goochéy	Susan Gregg-Schroeder
Kevin Jones	John Miyahara	J. James Mowry
Noel Phelan	Richard Smith	James W. Standiford
Mark Trotter	Robert D. Youmans	

**Continuing in the Candidacy Process:** Pamela Henson

**Church Council**

Thank you Class of 2022! Bill Joyce, Bill Stephenson, Kay Gilbert

Council Chairperson: Patti Blakeslee	Vice-Chairperson: Erik Wilde
Lay Leader: Bonnie Schwartz (2023)	Lay Leader: John Mathison (2023)
Lay Leader: Susan Ladrido (2023)	Lay Leader: Laurie Tucker (2023)

Term Ending – 2023	Term Ending – 2024	Term Ending – 2025
Simon Mayeski Jacob Steele Joyce Marsh	Lindsay Renovales Darrell Netherton Patti Blakeslee	Philip Jeter Ross Stone Michael Zimbric
Term Ending – 2026	Term Ending 2026	Term Ending 2027
Carol Blessing Berkeley Lai (youth) Belen Poltorak	Sharmon Davis Pam McMaster Erik Wilde	Todd Vollstedt Kevin McBryde Barbara Weicksel

**Board of Trustees**

Thank you Class of 2022 and moving member! Laurie Tucker, Joanne Jackson, Todd Cloaninger, Craig Petty

Officers to be determined at first meeting

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Cheryl Slavik	Ray Henderson	Amy Moberly*
Woody Woodward	Janice Lau	Janice Rodebush*
Nick Hubsmith	Mandy Woods*	Mel West*

### **Pastor-Parish Relations Committee**

Thank you Class of 2022! Marian Hart, Becca Vitale, Lynette Williamson, Polly Cipparone

Chairperson: ***Dan Lai***

<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>
Dan Lai	Ron Bower	Joy Bush
Dave Watters	Clayton Hoyle	Kalen Michel
Roger Booth	Jan Trujillo	Joyce Sernaker

### **Finance Committee**

Thank you Class of 2022! John Buesing, Brian Murray, Kevin McBryde

Chairperson: Rebecca Luers Vice Chair: Noel Haskins-Hafer\*

<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>
Rebecca Luers	Noel Haskins-Hafer	Bob Hemstead*
Lembi Saarman	Katherine Stone	Tom Trujillo*
Shelby Secoy	Rick Cook	Erik Holmgren

### **Nominating Committee**

Thank you Class of 2022! Carole Porter, Jean Service, Mandy Woods

Chairperson: Lead Pastor, Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>
George Wesley	Frank Jonasson	Lynette Williamson*
Todd Vollstedt	Cheryl Slavik	
Brad Lentz	Marian Hart	

### **Lay Members to Annual Conference 2022:**

<b>Lay Members</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year Served</b>		
Jason Tucker	1999	Les Smith	2018
Sharmon Davis	2012		
Simon Mayeski	2018	<b>Alternates</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> year served</b>
Belen Poltorak	2015	Christine Hoffman	2021
Lembi Saarman	2016	Laurie St Gean	2021
Lynette Williamson	2014	Ray Homan	2014

## **Board of First United Methodist Foundation of San Diego**

Thank you Class of 2022! Scott Caprio, Jim Ferris

Chairperson: Carl Meuser

<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>
Carl Meuser	Norma Brownell	Janice Lau
Chrissy Masuda	Carlos Martinez	
Jacob Steele	Cheryl Slavik	

## **Additional Lay Leadership Positions and Committees**

### **Neighborhood Small Group Leaders**

Hillcrest/Mission Hills.....Nick Hubsmith  
 Mission Valley/Serra Mesa..... Barbara & Bob Horton  
 Del Cerro/San Carlos.....Carol Hartupee & Jack Hoover  
 University Heights/North Park/South Park/Normal Heights/Kensington.....  
 .....Ron Bower & Jane Ferris  
 UTC/La Jolla/Del Mar.....Bob Hemstead  
 Coronado/Downtown.....Bruce Johnson  
 Tierrasanta.....collective leadership

### **Affinity Small Group Leaders**

The River (LGBTQIA group).....Barbara Weicksel, Chair  
 Spiritual Journey Group.....Laurie St. Gean, coordinator  
 Younger Adults.....Jason Tucker

### **Program and Ministries Leaders:**

Caring Hearts.....Rev. Tamara Walker, facilitator  
 Covenant Circle Planning Team.....Carol Hartupee, Chair  
 C.R.E.W.....Mike Sorce, Chair  
 Cultural Events Committee.....Betsy Mueller, Chair  
 Friday Men's Group.....Mike Sorce, Chair  
 Hearts of Christianity.....collective leadership  
 Koinonia.....Roberta King, Chair  
 Memorial Garden Committee.....Chuck McPherron, Chair  
 Midday Gatherings.....TBD  
 Monday Meditation Group.....Sam Dove  
 Pew Pocket Stuffers.....Gloria Lane  
 Prayers and Squares.....Betty Leal, Chair  
 Racial Justice Grants Committee.....Dione Taylor, Chair  
 The River (LGBTQIA).....Barbara Weicksel, Chair  
 Sanctuary Decorators.....Susan Mattheis

San Diego School of Christian Studies.....Kay Gilbert, Chair  
 .....Lembi Saarmann, Treasurer  
 Stephen Ministry.....Lynette Williamson, Sandy Price, Rick Cook  
 United Women in Faith.....Barbara Fulcher, Chair

**Missions & Outreach**.....Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka, facilitator  
 Angel Tree.....Marilyn Scheibal  
 Cherokee Point Elementary School  
 Food Ministries  
     Wesley Food Ministry.....Noel Haskins-Hafer  
     Showers of Blessings.....Katherine Stone  
     OB Emergency Food Inc.....Brenda Blake, liason  
 Global Missions Committee.....Beryl Flom, Chair  
 Interfaith Shelter Network.....Linda Thornhill & Cathy Spies  
 Racial Justice.....Dione Taylor, Chair  
 Refugee Ministries  
     Christ Ministry Center & Safe Harbors Network.....Kay Gilbert  
     Ukranian Refugees.....Jim Jackson  
 Shoes That Fit.....Sandy Lawrence

# 2022 CHARGE CONFERENCE



## Membership Audit of The Local Church

DISTRICT	CHURCH CITY	CHURCH NAME
South	FUMC San Diego	First United Methodist

### Baptisms (All Ages) (see ¶215, identify each as a baptized or professing member)

	NAME	DATE	BAPTIZED / PROFESSING	CHILD / ADULT
1	Total baptisms			11/ 1
2	Received as baptized members - see attachment 1a			11
3				

### Professing Members Received (Profession of Faith, Transfer, Restored, Other)

	NAME	DATE	METHOD OF MEMBERSHIP (Profess, Transfer, etc)
1	2 Adults, 1 Youth received - attachment 2a		Profession of Faith *
2	4 Adults received - attachment 2b		Reaffirmation or Restored
3	8 Adults received – attachment 2c		Transfer from UMC
4	1 Adults received – attachment 2d		Transfer from Other
5	* No confirmation class		

### Inactive Members (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years)

	NAME	DATE	HOW LONG? CONTACT EFFORT?
1	Inactive members – attachment 3		

### Professing Members Removed by withdrawal, death, transfer to other UMC, transfer to other denomination)

	NAME	DATE	WHY?
1	8 Removed by withdrawal - attachment 4a		Withdrawal
2	40 By Charge conference - attachment 4a		Charge conference action
3	3 By transfer to UMC- attachment 4b		Transfer to UMC
4	7 By transfer to Other Denomination attachment 4c		Transfer to Other
5	39 By Death - attachment 4d		Death

Total Number of Members at Last Church Conference:

2173

Total Members Received since Last Church Conference: +

16

Total Members Removed since Last Church Conference: -

97

Total Membership at THIS Charge Conference:

2092

SIGNATURE OF PASTOR

*Rev. Judith Polini*

DATE:

November 27, 2022

SIGNATURE OF MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

*Debra K. DeWitt*

DATE:

November 27, 2022

SIGNATURE OF CHARGE CONF SECRETARY

Linda Hawk

DATE:

November 27, 2022



**Supplement to Membership Audit**  
**First United Methodist Church of San Diego**  
**(For the period beginning November 1, 2021 and ending October 31, 2022)**

**MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY**

**1) Baptized members received (11)**

**a. Infants and children (11)**

Adams, Elizabeth	11/21/21
Papa, Jared	11/28/21
Williamson, Mac	12/12/21
Williamson, Kirby	12/12/21
Medan, Benjamin	01/16/22
Espiritu, Eli	03/20/22

Murray, Cameron	03/28/22
Coleman, Amaru	04/24/22
Coleman, Emori	04/24/22
Chingwena, Alexander	08/14/22
Bandurski, Joshua	09/11/22

**Adult Bap**

Tavakoli, Laleh	01/3/22
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**2) Received into Professing membership (16)**

**a. Received by Profession of Faith (3)**

Hubert, Yasmin	01/09/22
Delgado, Navil	10/16/22
Manjarrez, Cody	10/16/22

**b. Received by Reaffirmation of Faith or restored (4)**

Troxel, Therrol	05/01/22
Troxel, Nikki	05/01/22

Hemstead, Robert	09/25/22
Schrock, J Kent	10/16/22

**c. Received from other United Methodist churches (8)**

Buckley, Anne	12/05/21
Divine, Robert	12/05/21
Ahern, Charles	04/03/22
Huden, Davinee	04/03/22

Doyle, Marilyn	09/25/22
Doyle, James	09/25/22
Garner, Anita	09/25/22
Sundstrom, Judy	10/16/22

**d. Received from other denominations (1)**

Hoover, Jack	04/03/2022
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### 3) Inactive Members - Initial attempts have been made to contact these people 2020-21

Borkoski, Ken	Glud, Heather	Roberts, Tammy
Boysen, Erik	Holladay, Judith	Rockey, Francine
Boysen, Jacqueline	Holladay, Richard	Sharp, Cindy
Brauer, Lori	Luz, Jacob	Sharp, Chip
Cohenour, Mark	Martens, Kristina	Sitz, Elaine
Dawes, Barbara	Martens, Michele	Simpson, Roberta
Doerr, Donovan	McConnell, Jonathan	Thurston, Susan
Donalson, Wes	Orton, Douglas	
Donalson, Libby	Riggs, Lauren	

### 4) Removed from professing membership (97)

#### a. By Charge Conference or withdrawal (48)

King, Robert	12/01/21 wd	Furstenfeld, Gary	07/26/22 ccr
Major, Sandra	12/01/21 ccr	Furstenfeld, Matt	07/26/22 ccr
Snoberger, Luanne	12/01/21 wd	Grable, Alexander	07/26/22 ccr
Oftedahl, Linda	12/13/21 wd	Jester, Ann	07/26/22 ccr
Baldwin, Andrew	06/29/22 ccr	Jester, Brian	07/26/22 ccr
Ball, Briony	06/29/22 ccr	Johnson, Donna	07/26/22 wd
Borkoski, Ken	06/29/22 ccr	Scofield, Dirk	07/26/22 ccr
Divine, Brian	06/29/22 ccr	Scofield, Lara	07/26/22 ccr
Divine, Cassie	06/29/22 ccr	Chandler, Mary Lou	09/25/22 wd
Flemming, Jessica	06/29/22 ccr	Clowney, Frank	10/07/22 ccr
Gibson, Bradley	06/29/22 ccr	Clowney, Carrie	10/07/22 ccr
Gibson, Jill	06/29/22 ccr	Clowney, Michael	10/07/22 ccr
Mattson, Jeffrey	06/29/22 ccr	Ketcham, Brian	10/07/22 ccr
Smith, Natalie	06/29/22 ccr	Van Milligan, Mark	10/12/22 wd
Smith, Claire	06/29/22 ccr	Anderson, Susan	10/31/22 wd
Stewart, Rebecca	06/29/22 ccr	Anderson, Kate	10/31/22 ccr
Clark, Heidi	07/22/22 ccr	Anderson, Nicholas	10/31/22 ccr
Clark, Michael	07/22/22 ccr	Bergman, Abby	10/31/22 ccr
Del Principe, Charmain	07/22/22 ccr	Sernaker, Matthew	10/31/22 ccr
Heil, Anna	07/22/22 ccr	Sernaker, Emily	10/31/22 ccr
Whitman, Kurt	07/22/22 ccr	Washburn, Laura	10/31/22 ccr
Whitman, Suzanne	07/22/22 ccr	Washburn, Ryan	10/31/22 ccr
Ball, Briony	07/26/22 ccr	Wilson, Kristi	10/31/22 ccr
Carpenter, Sam	07/26/22 wd	Wilson, Michael	10/31/22 ccr

#### b. By transfer to other United Methodist churches (3)

Kucera, Rick	11/15/21	Smith, Sylvia	10/17/22
Kucera, Terry	11/15/21		

**b. By transfer to other denominations (7)**

Wicks, Stanley	01/16/22
Childs, Lola	03/08/22
Childs, Rick	03/08/22
Hamilton, Tom	05/19/22

Hamilton, Carol	05/19/22
Stevenson, Carolyn	09/29/22
Owens, Marilyn	10/12/22

**a. By death (39)**

Nelson, Leroy	04/06/18
O'Leary, Miriam	04/13/19
Barker, George	10/28/19
Burnside, Connie	09/26/20
Turnblad, Jodi	05/05/21
Gokenbach, Ray	11/11/21
Nichols, Edith	12/05/21
Christensen, Kathee	12/08/21
Allday, Judith	12/11/21
Forbes, Augusto	12/13/22
Eusebio, Oscar	12/16/21
Crakes, Donna	12/19/21
Twyman, Daniel	12/23/21
Forman, Carol	01/05/22
Ambrosio, Pepito	01/11/22
Waggoner, Alberta	01/18/22
Wilson, Robert	01/24/22
Divine, Eileen	01/28/22
Jarrard, Thomas "Ted"	02/07/22
Nilsson, Marta	02/08/22

Dana, Alaine	02/10/22
Wright, Joyce	02/21/22
Hipp, Betty	03/09/22
Peter, Fred	04/25/22
Mixson, Riley	04/27/22
Whitmore, Jean	05/04/22
Troxel, Nikki	05/16/22
Shields, JoAnn	06/06/22
Anderson, Roscoe	07/11/22
Anderson, Skip	07/27/22
Sisson, Mona	08/01/22
Ghio, Elena	08/06/22
Wagaman, Carol	08/10/22
Richey, Ralph	08/12/22
Hutchins, Martha	08/26/22
Hermann, John	09/10/22
Churchill, Kevin	09/25/22
Radican, Jack	10/15/22
Wheelock, Ann	10/23/22

## **Year-End Lead Pastor Report for Charge Conference 2022**

### **Rev. Trudy D. Robinson**

#### **What a strange time to be in ministry!**

Strange because...

1. We are coming out of a pandemic and things are not going back to the way they were;
2. The Church and its relationship to a changing culture is more pronounced as we come out of a pandemic;
3. No one has any solid answers for what changes are necessary to create space for the church to adapt and function in this changing culture;
4. The changes are needing to have happened yesterday, as people's engagement with the Church has been changing long before the pandemic, as has the sustainability of Churches' operating budgets.

#### **Five Points of Vision**

Nevertheless, we recognized opportunities during the pandemic that First Church continues to lean into. We call them our five points of vision.

1. As the church was tiptoeing out of the pandemic and heading towards more in person gatherings, we made dinner reservations and plans to hike all around San Diego as part of the strategy for gathering neighbors and people with similar interests into small groups. These events have created connections where there were none. This will continue to be a focus in the coming years as we develop ways to empower people to be disciples where they live.
2. The church affirms its commitment to racial justice through the Endowment that raises our awareness, increases our involvement, and amplifies the voices of nonprofit organizations working to combat racism and provide direct services to people of color in the San Diego region. We continue to do the work of dismantling racism within our hearts and our institution.
3. Our conversations around Affordable Housing continued this year as we have been exploring a land lease to allow Habitat for Humanity to develop and manage our property in Ocean Beach. We've learned just recently that this will not work as presently discussed. So we will continue to explore possibilities. We see the need in Ocean Beach and our desire is to be faithful to God's call to serve the community.
4. The Dream School of the Arts made progress at a much slower pace than we had hoped, as the construction and remodeling of the building was deterred due to the high demand of contractors. But the dream is alive, as conversations are happening within our congregation and with local school principles. Excitement grows as possibilities are being made concrete.
5. As some people returned to worship regularly in the physical sanctuary on Sunday morning, we continue to have many more watching the service online. As we sought to reach a greater online audience with an abbreviated service we called "Variations", we discovered we were not reaching anyone beyond those already connected to the church. We realized we needed to know more about the digital world and how to analyze and adjust our efforts. We shifted direction with this point of vision and entered into a new relationship to help us with this.

#### **Staffing and Administration**

Our Director of Communications retired in June allowing space for us to revision the church's communications for the 21st century. We worked with consultant Damian Geddry and hired Puzzle Pieces Marketing Company to help us strategize to create an online presence that will reach a broader, more diverse audience with an intentionally focused identity. We are only a few months into this strategy but the way in which it already has our staff and ministry leaders

thinking beyond the walls of the church to communicate with the larger community is remarkable.

In the Spring, we welcomed Brian Lustig as our Director of Choral Activities and Dana Zimbric as the Director of Children's Music Ministries. With this new staff, Director of Music Ministries Dr. Jaebon Hwang is bringing a new repertoire, greater quality, and renewed interest to all our choirs.

In September, we welcomed Rev. Brittany J. Hanlin as the Teaching Pastor at Water's Edge Faith Community. The transition has not been easy as the congregation needed to let go of a beloved pastor and receive someone's who's gifts and leadership style are different. Rev. Brittany has a brilliant mind, a love for God, and a heart for the Gospel of Jesus. We are blessed by her leadership.

We are blessed with many people who have named the church in their estate plans. We are grieving the loss of wonderful members this last year, as we do every year. The legacy of these Covenant Circle members has enabled us to do many things beyond what our operating budget can afford. We are lucky. Part of our work in the coming year will be to explore the tension between the lacking sustainability of our operating budget and the abundance in our undesignated funds in the Foundation, with the explicit focus on asking if we are investing the foundation funds in what is needed for the church of the future. This will involve some significant study and conversation about the changing culture, the church's mission, and the kind of adaptability that is needed. The study and conversation will be the foundation for some imaginative and creative exploration of new ways of being the church in today's world. We expect the process will produce a forward-thinking plan for staffing and funding our mission and ministries.

### **The Changing Church**

This is a strange time to be in ministry. But I find it to be very exciting time because I believe in God who reconfigures life after the trauma of death. I believe God is active in our world doing something new, and we can trust in God as we learn from others. I also believe people at First Church believe these things as well.

Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

## Report for Charge Conference 2022

### Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka, Pastor of Discipleship

The third year is the charm. I met wonderful people during my first year (2020-2021). We've connected meaningfully through my second year (2021-2022). And God is doing amazing things through us in my third appointment year with First Church.

Each year, my goal was and will continue to be the same—connecting members and friends in **small group** settings, empowering folks to care for one another and to live out their faith in their day-to-day life, equipping our disciples to step up into the leadership, and thus igniting deeper relationship with God as well.

The outcome of this year's ministry exceeded my expectation. Some of the people I met through neighborhood gatherings, walks, book studies, and other events organically stepped up to be the organizers. These leaders are turning our occasional gatherings into regular small groups: **neighborhood groups and small groups by interests and age-demographics**. What's fascinating about these small groups is that each group has evolved and continues to develop further as they meet, with a growing sense of identity and purpose.

**Existing small groups by mission and outreach** are well established with solid leadership and years of experience. Their excellent work makes First Church known to the world. It brings me joy when leaders of these groups reach out to me for consultation and theological insights as they adapt to the new and changing reality.

Four **quarterly church-wide gatherings** are planned, with different themes, to weave together off all these small group efforts. The next one is scheduled on January 15 to renew our baptismal vow to live out our faith in our daily life.

First Church had a great number of **visitors** this year, a few each Sunday. Our Hospitality and Front Office Coordinator, Pam Hanson, and Director of Member Care Ministry, Demmie Divine made a great team to organize worship volunteers, welcome and follow up with new visitors both in-person and online, and to move our repeating visitors toward **membership**. Expanding the online and in-person **new membership classes**, I plan to launch some **online small groups** and **newer small groups**.

Welcoming new members through **baptism** was humbling experience for me. I had the privilege of tag teaming with Rev. Trudy and the joy of meeting with every candidate and their parents in the case of children for baptism.

I take every encounter, whatever form it may be, as an opportunity for **discipleship**. In each conversation, I listen, provide pastoral care, offer a bit of teaching and provide organic leadership training in the context of 1-on-1 meetings, small groups, mission and outreach, and service projects.

This year, I was invited to **preach and teach** quite often outside my usual contexts stated above. It was not an easy stretch, but I enjoyed new learnings from each preparation. Rev. Trudy made herself available for brainstorming and consultation, and showered me with her words of affirmation throughout the year. I did not see it then, but in retrospect, I now see her intentional discipleship to nurture the next generation of leaders.

I will continue to do the same thing in all my discipleship efforts, making myself available for conversations with my friends and leaders. Now, my invitation is open to you all, my friends and trusted leaders, to join me in **building a deeper relationship with God and each other**. Let's **follow Jesus** and be joyful each day!

## **Report to the 2022 Church Conference**

### **Rev. Tamara Walker, Pastor of Congregational Care**

Pastoral Care is my passion. This position suits me beautifully and I am so grateful to be here. My deepest calling, I believe is to hospice care and pastoral care. I am a hospice chaplain. It was my privilege for 10 years to embrace this role. In this new position, as Pastor of Congregational Care I have expanded my understanding of and ability to care for multiple people with multiple needs. It has been an experience of learning how to manage and work with committees and groups committed to caring. I have a group of Stephen Leaders, a Caring Hearts Group who together care for our shut-ins, a prayer group that prays for the whole church and that enables me to know and triage more needs in this large congregation. I oversee a Prayers and Squares ministry that offers prayer quilts to anyone in need of prayer. I would prefer to stay in this role- and pastoral care work is where I am most suited and where I thrive.

I have learned that it is difficult to get to know a large church. Pastoral care is not just care of the community of faith but for the individual. It has taken me four years to get to know this church and the people. (Covid was not kind in this regard and face to face time was lost but not connection.) It also takes time to earn the trust of the congregation and I sense that the many seeds that have been planted through the last four years are yielding a beautiful harvest of caring. Our congregation is growing in caring for one another. Spiritual growth and a genuine desire to grow in faith and in faithful action is alive and abuzz in our congregation. It seems to me that my work here should continue while there is momentum and trust. It would be difficult for someone to come in and start fresh. This church has had a great deal of change in the last 6 years and the healing of rifts and distrust are evident. There was a spirit of fear, sorrow and uncertainty about pastoral leadership and grief from loss of trust and hope, when I arrived. Healing is happening now and I would like to see it strengthen and grow. I would like to lay good groundwork and preparation of lay leaders, in the area of pastoral care so that the pastor who follows me can continue the care and not have to reinvent the process. Much is lost in that time.

Funerals, Memorials and the follow up grief work is another piece of my pastoral care in this congregation. I have officiated many services for our congregation members, their families and San Diego community families. We have a Memorial Garden on our campus and many of our members choose to be interred here, near the sanctuary garden that they viewed throughout their faith journey with us. We follow up our services with grief support in the form of calls, cards, four resources over the course of the first year of bereavement about grief and affirming their own process through it. We provide three grief support groups each year, two in person- Spring/Fall and one on-line - Summer. Our Fall group this year included 8 of our church folk. We have 5-12 each session.

We initiated a support group that meets monthly for the Caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's. This stemmed from a three meeting presentation that we offered about

Alzheimer's and Dementia. We learned a great deal about the disease, but also that far more people are facing this and caregiving now than we were aware. We tried an Art Therapy group for kids in grief and a Youth in grief support group but it was not readily attended, these youth received continued support through our New Life Counselling Center. We know the need is there and will try again this next year. We will also be initiating support groups for folk Living with Cancer, Auto Immune and Chronic Pain, Living with Divorce for Adults and Kids and continue to offer sessions to help our community Normalize Living with Mental Illness and other disabilities.



Church Conference 2022  
**Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin, Teaching Pastor**

I have been serving as a pastor at First UMC since September 1, 2022. Serving as the Teaching Pastor to the Water's Edge Faith Community over the last two months has sharpened my both my ministerial and leadership skills. I am still very new to the FUMC community and my report will reflect my limited time in leadership. I look forward to growing with the congregation as we journey together.

**The Affordable Housing Project** in Ocean Beach is still a dream of our community, however we've had a setback in our development. Due to the space (number of units) and height restrictions for building, Habitat for Humanity recently notified us that the cost of living would be too high and unsustainable for low-income families to maintain. This news is disappointing, but the Affordable Housing committee will reconvene to explore alternative solutions.

Water's Edge partnered with the **OB Food Bank** this month to host a hot lunch of grilled cheese sandwiches and soup for our neighbors in the community. This is an opportunity for the church to deepen our community connections while meeting some of the immediate needs of our neighbors in need. We are patronizing a local restaurant in Ocean Beach for the sandwiches called, Mad Munch Grilled Cheezer Company. By working with local businesses and organizations we begin to strengthen our relationships in the community.

Each week I meet with the **Water's Edge Care Team** to discuss the needs of our congregants. During these meetings I learn about the congregation as whole, while also learning the pastoral needs of individual congregants. This team has been an integral part in keeping me abreast of needs as I continue to cultivate relationships.

Leading **worship** each Sunday continues to expand my theology and my preaching practice by deepening my relationships with members of the congregation. As we move into the season of Advent, we prepare ourselves to the newness of life that Christ brings. We are in the process of hiring an **Interim Music Director** to begin in the new year. I have been working with members of the PPRC ensure a good working process and an agreeable solution. It is my prayer for the Water's Edge congregation to continue to open ourselves to the new and good thing God is doing in our midst.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin