



California-Nevada United Methodist Review

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News BREAKS

New missionary

Mt. Tamalpais UMC member Katherine T. Parker has been commissioned a United Methodist Mission Intern. The Mill Valley resident has been assigned to the Asian Rural Institute in Tochigiken, Japan. Parker will be involved in the institute's sustainable agriculture program and community development program for men and women from rural Japan. She will work and study in Japan for 15 months, then return to the U. S. for 16 months of action and education. Parker is one of 27 young adults commissioned in Atlanta, Georgia in August.

Annual Conf. Videos

Video cassettes of three Annual Conference sessions can be ordered for \$19.95 plus shipping. The sessions include Friday's "Spiritual conferencing" with sermon by the Rev. Pam Abbey, and discussion of homosexuality and the UMC by the Rev.'s Don Fado and Robert Kuyper. Other tapes available include the Saturday night Ordination and Sunday morning Celebration. Order forms are available online at the Conference website, <http://www.gbgn-umc.org/canv>, or by calling the Conference office at (916) 374-1500.

Jubilee house video

You can also order a 30 minute video showing the Habitat for Humanity house-raising as it happened from Tuesday, Aug. 8 through Sunday, August 13. Some would call it a miracle. Price is just \$15. Send a check payable to "St. Mark's UMC" marked "Jubilee Video". Order deadline: Sept. 29. The tapes will be mailed after that date. The address is "Jubilee Tapes", St. Mark's UMC, 2391 St. Mark's Way, Sacramento, CA 95864.

Here's 200 years of history



UM Review/Ted Langdell

Worshippers enter Gridley UMC on Aug. 20, a week before its pastor suddenly quit the UMC. Gridley has roots in the 200 year old United Brethren Church. The building here was built in 1950 to replace an 19th century castle-like structure which was sold to a Lutheran congregation which still uses it.

National celebration of United Brethren roots this month

By Janet Engle
Chairman, Conference
Commission on Archives
and History

This year we honor the 200th anniversary of the founding of the United Brethren Church, September 26,

1800, when they met for their first Conference in Frederick County, Maryland at the house of Brother Frederick Kemp. Founding fathers were Martin Boehm, a Mennonite preacher in Pennsylvania and Phillip William Otterbein, a German Re-

formed pastor in Baltimore. These ministered to a German-speaking population in early America.

A union with the Evangelical Association in 1946 be-

See UNITED on Page C3

New Bishop surviving whirlwind

Beverly Shamana is
'excited to be here';
is listening to all

By Ted Langdell

Bishop Beverly Shamana is still unpacking boxes during the evenings she's at home, and has yet to begin unpacking boxes with many of the items for her office. Even so, she's managing to sail through the whirlwind of telephone calls, meetings and appointments she has at the United Methodist Center in West Sacramento.

"It was just a warm arrival," the Bishop said during a half-hour interview with the Cal-Nevada United Methodist Review.

She arrived at the Episcopal Residence in Elk Grove Aug. 25, accompanied by a moving van. "With the help of some of the good folks of the Elk Grove and Florin (United Methodist) churches, I had a wonderful weekend of moving in. I felt very welcomed and very... invited into the Conference", Shamana said. Church members and Conference staff "brought food, plants and flowers and just wonderful things that helped me move in." With no children, Shamana is the sole occupant of the home, "and that's going to work out just fine," she said, smiling. She is looking forward to learning more and spending time with churches and individuals around the Conference.

Her first Sunday in the Conference, she popped into Florin UMC, incognito. Greeted enthu-



Shamana

Give us this day...

Joyce Sohl examines the Lord's Prayer as 'our daily bread' at Jubilee

By Review Staff

The Lord's Prayer (The "Our Father" to our Catholic friends) is the most important prayer in Christian tradition. More than 2,000 year old, it was Christ's simple response to his disciples request. Teach us to pray.

During the entire Jubilee 2000 week, the short, 64 word prayer

(65 if you count, "Amen") was illuminated phrase by phrase by some of the best minds in the Conference, and in United Methodism.

Each presenter read and reflected on a different phrase. Thursday morning, Aug. 10, the phrase was "Give us this day, our daily bread."

Joyce Sohl, Deputy General

Secretary, Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries opened her examination with the setting of the prayer: "In Luke, Jesus was praying and, when he finished the disciples asked him to teach them to pray and he gave them this

See BREAD on Page C2

See SHAMANA on Page C4

Review's imminent replacement 'faulty move' says Chico reader

Dear Editor:

The August 18, 2000 edition of UM Review states in an article by Review Staff, that "One of the more significant recommendations the national church's Communications Resourcing Team made—from your input—was for the Conference to publish its own newspaper, locally." I find this move faulty for a number of reasons:

1. Does this mean the publication of United Methodist news becomes a once-a-month process, rather than the bi-monthly *UM Review* publication? (i.e. Coordinated Mail replaces UMR)

2. Does the proposed "locally" published news piece eliminate such articles and news as . . . "Stop atrocities in Indonesia" (also Aug. 18, 2000 issue) which gives insight to a global concern about which United Methodists should be aware? Eliminating global news about The United Methodist Church would be a sad mistake. Not to mention national UM news.

3. The District pages in UMR were a valuable tool in highlighting news from each District. They provided a District, Annual Conference, national and global perspective, and an incentive for local churches to submit articles to UMR.

4. Perhaps a majority of persons participating in the Conference Communications Audit do sit hunched over their computers and can pull off "electronic news distribution." However, I find news in printed form (i.e. UMR) much easier to stuff in a beach bag or bring to a church committee meeting. As one who participated in one of the audit groups

(Redding, CA) I do not agree with the conclusions drawn from that process—namely the phasing out of *United Methodist Review*. Accepting change is not the issue: United Methodists need the broad perspective of news from throughout the denomination.

June E. Rothe-Barneson
Chico

At this point, the conference plans to distribute a mix of Global, Conference and select district news via electronic means and print twice a month.

Because of low penetration (circulation) within the districts, three out of seven discontinued using "District Pages" as a communication medium in the last 12 months. They have replaced the pages with District news inserts which are printed by local churches for placement

in Sunday bulletins or church newsletters.

The print publication (which will be mailed at no cost to Review readers who do not have e-mail or internet access will continue to provide a mix of Global, Conference and other important information.

Look for more details in our Sept. 29 issue, which will be the last edition of the California-Nevada Conference edition of the Review. The first edition of the interim "Newscope" style print publication is expected to be out in the first half of October.

As a new Conference Coordinator of Communications comes aboard, look for the Coordinator and the Communications Committee to re-examine what's needed to best communicate with Cal-Nevada United Methodist. As mentioned last issue, that include a traditional newspaper.

Loved Jubilee wrap up

Dear Editor,

Chuck Myer and Bill Sanford did a masterful job of capturing the spirit and delight of the Jubilee 2000 week.

(I attempted to write such an article for my own church newsletter, and it was a huge challenge!) Please thank them for highlighting the special moments of the week, and for reporting some of the feedback from my fellow Jubilee people.

I sincerely hope that the archives (and maybe the Review) will note that there were three courageous soloists who volunteered themselves for the Jubilee 2000 Chorus. Not only did we have Rev. Scott Wylie and Ray Jellison, but we also had the pure and lovely voice of Doreen Hart. (You might want to verify that name with the Chorus conductor, Doug Albertson of 1st UMC, Santa Rosa. That was the name I noted on the edge of my music, anyway.)

Still jubilant,

Bonnie Home
Almaden Hills UMC, San Jose

Conference's Primary Task

Our Primary Task is to provide and/or nurture listening, learning, teaching Christian spiritual leaders, both residential and itinerant, for each local congregation and for extension ministries.

—Adopted 1999 Annual Conference Session

BREAD: Not just lip service

(Continued From Page C1)

prayer."

"In Matthew, the setting is somewhat different. For the prayer is part of the teachings of Jesus that starts with the Beatitudes. Jesus admonishes his listeners, to pray in ways far different than those of the Jewish leaders or the Gentiles - don't pray for show nor pray a series of empty and many worded phrases."

"I contend that we who call ourselves Christians have messed up these teachings of Jesus over and over again. Many of the public prayers I have heard recently were more show than substance; more about the individual praying than the issues and needs of the community," she said.

"Jesus gave us this prayer. It honors and recognizes God as Creator, deliverer and lover of the world and it acknowledges that God has a vision of what the world should be," Sohl said. "But it is also a series of petitions that starts with very strong verbs - almost commands; give us, forgive us, save us. There is no nice language like please, no begging or whining allowed - it is clean and very clear."

"Give us this day our daily bread - the first of these petitions acknowledges that God is the source of all - that we are dependent on God for all of our daily needs - food, shelter, health, clothing."

"But," said Sohl, "give us this day our daily bread" is not just about my individual needs. Note, that singular words are not allowed in this prayer - it is *us*, not *me* and *our*, not *my*."

She said one radio preacher caused her to about jump out of her seat by starting with "My father."

"When we pray this prayer we are asking God to grant the basic needs to all God's children. We are acknowledging that every person has a right to and deserves to have their daily needs met," she insisted.

"No one person or group should have their needs met, while others go hungry or are homeless or don't have access to health care. This is real sticky for us who live in an affluent society - it requires that we pray

for those who are without whether they live next door or in another country."

"The word 'daily' is also very important," Sohl said. "It calls to mind the story during the exodus when the Hebrews attempted to hoard the daily manna provided by God. They soon learned that to collect more than was needed for the day was not wise - for the surplus spoiled. They finally accepted the fact that God was in charge of their future and God would provide for their needs each morning. This phrase calls into

question our consumer society - our greed, the uneven distribution of wealth and our emphasis on more instead of being satisfied with having our needs met. It also reminds us to live with God today - to live with God in the present as well as to believe that the future is in God's hands."

To pray "Give us this day our daily bread" is to intercede for God's children, Sohl told the gathering in the

Sonoma State University Gym. "This prayer of intercession visualizes a world where all basic needs are met. It is a vision of God's alternative to hunger and poverty. It is about justice. When we pray we are as Walter Wink says 'hammering away at God until something happens' or 'focusing for action - co-action with God' to bring justice to this world."

"The bread we will share this morning is a symbol of the body of Christ broken for us," Sohl related. "Jesus described himself as the bread of life and offers eternal life again and again to each of us as we commune together. This bread sends us into mission to the world - to heal the sick; to give bread to the hungry; to liberate the oppressed."

As we share, remember that this bread for the soul must lead us to provide bread for the world," she urged. "Commune together with Jesus Christ. Then go to fight against hunger, poverty, illnesses and all other injustices in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray 'Give us this day our daily bread'. Amen"

Sohl shared the Jubilee platform with Conference based musicians Jim and Jean Strathdee and a mass choir.



Joyce Sohl

The California-Nevada edition of the United Methodist Review is published every two weeks by the Conference Communications Committee, Aurelius Lindeen, chair. Find us online at: www.gbqm-umc.org/cnv

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Gridley and Biggs UMCs get interim pastoral support

Pastor exits denomination, surprising District Superintendent

By Review Staff

The departure of Gridley and Biggs Community UMC pastor Ben Kelly from the denomination, Sunday, Aug. 27 came as a total surprise to Shasta District Superintendent Ruth Ocera Cortez. She had spoken with him last week, before she went on vacation, "and never had an inkling" that Kelley planned to leave.

His departure follows other conservative pastors who are unhappy about what they consider "liberal" attitudes within the Cal-Nevada Annual Conference. Kelley was a Licensed Local Pastor, and had been serving both congregations since 1998, according to the 1999 Journal.

Cortez said providing pasto-

ral care to the members of the two churches is her first priority.

Retired pastor William Jefferies drove down from Chico to preach in both churches Sunday, Sept. 3, Cortez said. Yuba City First UMC's Lois Black and Chico-Aldersgate UMC pastor Neal Neuenburg will handle pastoral care for the churches on an interim basis.

Gridley UMC listed 53 members in the 1999 Journal statistics, with an average of 24 people in attendance at principal weekly worship services. The church traces roots to the United Brethren Church (later Evangelical United Brethren). Biggs Community UMC listed 86 members, with an average 46 in attendance at principal weekly worship.

Yuba City pastor also leaves UMC

By Review Staff

Former Yuba City First UMC minister Peter Cremer has turned in his elders orders.

In an e-mail to friends, Cremer said he'd driven from Yuba City to the Conference office in West Sacramento on Monday, Aug. 28 to do so. He confirmed his resignation for the Review, but said he didn't want to make a big deal out of it. He has been on sabbatical for more than a year.

Cremer is the sixth California-

Nevada Conference elder to resign since Annual Conference in June. He follows his former boss, ex-Yuba City First UMC senior pastor John Shepperd, II who left the United Methodist Church in July. (See July 21, 2000 Review)

Cremer had been a UM pastor since 1981, and served as the Yuba City church's Minister of Congregational Life until requesting sabbatical in 1999. He did not say what his future plans included.

UNITED: Brethren roots

(Continued From Page C1)

came The Evangelical United Brethren Church.

The EUB merged with The Methodist Church in 1968 to become The United Methodist Church.

Churches in our Conference with United Brethren heritage are: Durham; Gridley; Oakland-Rockridge; Riverdale; Sacramento-Riverside. Kerman-Beulah merged with Kerman First in 1995 to form the Kerman church. Selma-Christ merged

with Selma-First in 1972.

Clergy members of our Conference with United Brethren heritage include Harvey N. Chinn, Robert G. Keller and Philip R. Selfridge.

All these were recognized in the Conference plenary session on Saturday, June 17.

The national celebration of this Bicentennial will be held September 24-26, 2000 at the meeting of The United Methodist Historical Society at Wesley Memorial Church, Baltimore.

Cal-Nevada Conference takes Fresno-St. Luke's church to court

Involuntary leave of absence sought against St. Luke's pastor

By Review staff

A dispute over who's in charge at Fresno-St. Luke's UMC ended up in a Fresno County Superior Court September 7.

During a 50 minute meeting in chambers, Judge John Fitch denied a temporary restraining order sought by the Conference, which would have turned over control of Fresno's largest United Methodist church to the regional leadership.

Fitch ordered lawyers to agree on a trial date regarding control of the property, and a 364-day lease of the church facilities which the church board approved. The lease is with a non-profit corporation set up as a

community church by St. Luke's UMC members and leadership.

Pastor David Wainscott continues to preach at the church, despite being suspended Aug. 15 from all pastoral activity by the Conference, and the appointment of a retired pastor



Wainscott

to replace Wainscott, on an interim basis.

Wainscott told Fresno media he couldn't believe the denomination "took it to this level."

Because of Wainscott's refusal to step away from the church, the Conference is seeking an involuntary leave of absence.

Wainscott was suspended for starting the new congregation while appointed as a United Methodist pastor, (which he denies) and for advocating that churches upset with Bishop Melvin Talbert withhold their apportionments, and send them to an escrow account he and five other pastors had set up. A complaint has been filed against him.

Action on the complaint and the involuntary leave are pending. A hearing is set for Monterey, Sept. 26. If he bypasses the hearing, the involuntary leave could happen the next day.

Complaints dismissed against Bishop Talbert

Three church members were upset following "no charges" decision by committee investigating 68 pastors involved in gay holy union

"I feel justified and vindicated." That's retired Conference Bishop Melvin Talbert's reaction to learning that three complaints against him had been tossed out.

They related to the flap earlier this year about how an investigation was handled involving 68



Talbert

Conference pastors who attended a holy union for two women—to protest a United Methodist denominational ban on participating in such sacraments.

The complaints against were sent earlier this year to Bishop William Dew, president of the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops.

"I find no substance to the complaint against him and I find no fault with Bishop Talbert's response to the events which culminated in the decision by the Committee on Investigation on Feb. 8, 2000," Dew wrote on Aug. 3 to Jacque Vance, an Orangevale First UMC laywoman who filed the

first complaint. "Therefore, all complaints received concerning this matter are dismissed," Dew said.

"While there may be disagreement about the prudence of Bishop Talbert's remarks following the decision of the Committee on Investigation, he was exercising his freedom of expression as he fulfilled his understanding as bishop giving leadership in faithful exercise of paragraphs 414.1 and 414.3 of the Book of Discipline," Dew concluded.

Talbert was pleased with the outcome. "I believe that our church has a good process for dealing with these kinds of situations," he said. "I am very pleased that the process worked in my case."

"There was no question in my mind that this was the way it should have been, but when a complaint is filed, you never know how it's going to turn out until the appropriate authorities act," Talbert said Aug. 29.

Vance's pastor, the Rev. Mike Goodyear said the system is not fair. "The way the system is functioning now in the Western Jurisdiction, there is no justice," he said. "For us, it's a justice issue."

Vance had complained that Talbert set aside initial complaints filed by members of Orangevale First UMC soon after the Sacramento service. She also had said that the bishop put his annual conference above church law. During his remarks in February, Talbert had described the Annual Conference as a more fundamental covenant that "has precedence over this one narrow focus of law" (Paragraph 65) in the Book of Discipline.

The chairperson of the jurisdiction's episcopacy committee named a clergy member and a layperson -both from outside Talbert's and Dew's annual conferences — to work with the bishop on resolving the complaints. The committee finished its work in late July, and Dew wrote letters to the complainants in early August.

The dismissal of the complaints is final, Dew said. The church offers no other recourse for appeals in this kind of case, he said. (UMNS)

See the Conference website for a longer version of the story: <http://www.gbpm-umc.org/canv>, then click on the Review link.

SHAMANA: Learning how to 'Bishop' with your help

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stastically by a 12-year old boy in the parking lot, who asked if she'd ever been to the church before, and then showed the Bishop to the reception book. The youngster—who might be a *Review* reader—thought she looked familiar, and burst out with "I know you from your picture!" as Shamana signed the book with her title and name.

Her first day at work was Friday, Sept. 1. She has spent quite a bit of time listening, and plans to do a lot more.

"I'm excited about being in this Conference," Shamana stated, warmly. "There are wonderful ministries that are happening here. I just spent two days with about 30 pastors in our 'New Pastor's Orientation'. Hearing their excitement about their churches, their congregations, their call to ministry... what they want to do in the communities where they're appointed... that's exciting for me." She said that being able to share her hopes for their churches was a great way to begin her first days as a Bishop.

Shamana noted "wonderful youth ministries, to older adults, to working families. I'm anxious to learn more about that, to help promote that so we can tell the story of our Conference to other people in the denomination, and let them know what marvelous things are happening in this Conference."

The Bishop said she was really open to going where she was assigned. "I would be with people who cared about Christ. People who wanted to spread the Gospel. People that were invested in what God was doing in their communities."

People she's met tell her "they're very glad that I'm here." Before her election to the episcopacy in July, Shamana was the Cal-Pacific Annual Conference's Associate Council Director of the Council on Ethnic, Justice and Outreach Ministries, a post she held for 11 years. Before that, she pastored a church in Inglewood where people of three cultures worshipped, and another in Los Angeles, where the primarily African-American congregation was made up of two churches that had merged.

Along the way to becoming a Bishop, her careers have changed, and so has her life. Now 61, Bishop Shamana was born Beverly Martin in Los Angeles. She became Beverly Anderson when she married, then divorced after

ten years.

Shamana earned a Music Education and Choral Conducting degree from Occidental College there in 1961, and began teaching performance and choral music in junior and senior high schools. "It was a wonderful time that I enjoyed very much. However, I did feel that 40 years from then I didn't want to be in a school district."

An entrepreneur, Shamana has owned several businesses over the years, which she says, are an outward expression of God-given ability. "I had a manufacturing and retail business that was designing and machine-knitting clothes for men and women," Shamana said. "It was handcrafts, it was art, it was design... something that I still support very much."

"All of us have this creative... essence that God has given us and really expects us to use as our talent... as our ability," Shamana said. "So we're admonished not to bury it. Through Scripture, we know that." She insisted that to do so honors and worships God.

She continues to do so with a business called "Spirit of the Gourd". Shamana discovered gourds during various church-related travels and brought them home. "I discovered in 1993 that I could make them myself, and it was a whole new world that opened up to me, and allowed me to discover more of my own creative talent."

Through the gourd business, she's exhibited, sold, demonstrated and grown the vine vegetable, discovering more about "God within us, God's creation and God within me."

The urge to discover God led her to formal ministry. After interning at Southlawn UMC in Chicago, she graduated in 1980 from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree.

Ordination that year brought a change of name again, to something that was "universal", Shamana told the Los Angeles Times. She wanted something female, without "man," "he," or "him" in it. "Then I get this name—Shamana—that starts with shaMAN and ends with MANa and has man in the middle of it! "God has a sense of humor, doesn't she?"

Her name is a combination of "Shaman" and "mana". "Shaman" is the name generally given to American Indian medicine men, and to priests of a primitive religion who interpose themselves between the unseen spirits and the visible world. "Mana" is a Polynesian term for "a pervasive



UM Review/Ted Langdell

Newly appointed Bishop Beverly Shamana is animated during an interview in her office. While learning the job, Shamana said she's "going to call on God's people to do it with me."

supernatural power that may inhere in persons or things," according to Funk and Wagnalls' dictionary.

Her adopted name may be appropriate for her immediate role within the Conference.

Asked "Based on what you know now, what do you see as the top three things that the Conference needs to do in the year that began July 1, 2000?", Bishop Shamana said one thing would be "to build bridges towards each other." Acknowledging that there has been tension within the Conference, she said "Some churches and individuals feel isolated from each other."

"I want to talk to many of the pastors, many of the church leaders, and to see together how we might do that."

One of her first major opportunities to meet a large number of Conference leaders will happen at the former "Pastor's School", now called the "Spiritual Leader's Summit", to be held the last week of September. Clergy and lay leaders from around the Conference will gather at the Asilomar conference facility in the Santa Cruz mountains for three days of renewal and reflection.

Shamana will have her first large all-clergy gathering November 14, during a Convocation of Elders at Stockton Central UMC. Bishop Shamana is expected to lead worship at this gathering. "I'm not sure what I'll talk about, but I know I'll learn what's on the hearts of pastors and church leaders," Shamana said. "I'll use what

I learn there in terms of what I'll be doing in the next weeks and months."

Asked what she saw as her role or roles in the Conference, the Bishop said, "One role would be to be an interpreter of what God is doing among us. One who is able to say, 'There's where God is. Let's go there!'"

Another role is to reflect what's happening within the Conference. "To hold up a mirror and say: 'This is what I see... this is what we can see together. How can we work on this to either enhance it, to modify it or change it?'"

Speaking to churches which may be thinking about departing the United Methodist Church, Bishop Shamana wanted them to hear that, "I love them. And, that God does, too."

"I don't know those who have left," the Bishop acknowledged. "But, I know that whatever feelings they left with, we still care about them, and that we loved them while they were United Methodists... and that whatever congregation or group they become a part of, they're still a part of the Body of Christ. That's the most important thing."

For those still here, "and who want to strengthen our Conference, continue the ministries that are going on within the churches, I want them to know that I want to support them. And, that we want to support them as leaders in the Conference."

Shamana looks forward to continued church growth in Cal-Nevada. "Churches have found creative and innovative ways to grow their congregations. I would like to enhance the ways that we can help share those resources," she said.

Review readers submitted questions for the Bishop. One came from the Rev. Robert Kuyper, president of the newly renamed "Renewal Fellowship within the California-Nevada Annual Conference", the former Evangelical Renewal Fellowship. Kuyper asked whether there is a "scorched earth" policy against evangelical-conservative pastors within the Conference, as "Good News" magazine and former UMC evangelical pastor Ed Ezaki constantly allege. If so, would she continue it, or stop it?

"I believe we are all evangelical at our roots. That grows out of the Gospel," she said, "and the mandate of our founder, John Wesley." The Bishop hoped "we can see the commonality that we have as being an evangelical people called to make disciples for

Christ."

Fort Jones UMC member Pat McCallister asked, "whether or not Bishop Shamana will, in a proactive manner, address the 'divisive issues' in our Conference? That is, will she soon start meeting with representatives of both camps to work toward mutual forgiveness and the beginning of a new and productive relationship in and for Jesus Christ?"

"I do want to listen to different points of view about what has been divisive among us," Shamana replied, "and then find ways where we can come together and begin to bind up and heal our wounds."

Developing an "Ask the Bishop" forum is one communication tool the Bishop said she was willing to explore. "I think it would be an opportunity to really shape the future together and to get to know each other in different kinds of ways that perhaps, haven't been explored before. Technology. It's here for us. Let's use it," she said, as she noted that a desktop and laptop computer would be in her hands before the end of the week.

Another way the Bishop believes she'll learn more about the Conference is by visiting local churches, particularly as they celebrate milestones and anniversaries. She and Shasta District Superintendent Ruth Oceria Cortez "talked about a list of places I would go, because I've got a stack of invitations," Shamana said. "So I just laid them out and said, 'Now where do I need to be, given that I can't be everywhere?'"

Calling the episcopacy a "high honor", Shamana said she's humbled at the same time. "It's a way in which I would want to honor Christ, honor my colleagues and honor God's people. But I can't do this alone," she said.

"This is the first time I've ever done this," she chuckled. "My fourth day in the office... and so clearly, I have a lot to learn."

"Learning to Bishop", as she put it, is not a learning curve. "It's a wall. Straight up! So I going to be calling on you, and my colleagues, and people in churches to help me learn this job."

"So, don't be surprised if I come to you and say, 'Now, how would you do this? You think about it.' I don't have a preconceived notion of how 'Bishoping' is done," she concluded. "I've seen a lot of other people do it, but it's different for every person. And, so I'm going to have to shape it to my tenure and my time and who I am, but I'm not going to do that alone. I'm going to call on God's good people to do it with me."