

N. MEMOIRS

FULL MEMBERS – ACTIVE

Michael Lee Seui He was born June 2, 1972, and died on April 11, 2024, inside his beloved Kalevaria United Methodist Church in Tacoma, WA. Rev. Michael L. Seui, current pastor of Kalevaria UMC, died tragically of a heart attack. He is survived by his beloved spouse, Faiilefa Seui, at 609 E. 35th St., Tacoma, WA 98404, and their four children: Wesley Seui, Palepa Fia Seui, Calvary Seui, and Junior Seui, all residing at the family home.

Rev. Michael L. Seui became a full member of the PNW Conference in 2004. His service to the PNW Conference began in 2006 when he was appointed to Tacoma: Calvary, then given the new name Kalevaria United Methodist Church. He has faithfully served that appointment since 2006.

Two memorial service times for Rev. Michael Lee Seui were held, the first on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., led by the Samoan community, at Kalevaria United Methodist Church, 601 E 35th St, Tacoma, WA 98404.

Monday, May 20, at 10 a.m., a second memorial service was held at Kalevaria UMC, with Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth preaching. It was followed by burial at Mountain View Cemetery and a reception at 1:30 p.m. at McGavick Conference Center.

FULL MEMBERS – RETIRED

David Leroy Ernst Retired Elder David Leroy Ernst died on June 11, 2023, at Wesley Homes in Des Moines, WA. He is survived by his beloved spouse, Llewellyn A. Ernst and their daughter Lisa Priestley at 4902 95th Ave. W., University Place, WA 98467.

David Ernst got his undergraduate degree from Seattle Pacific College in 1955 with a Music Minor and a History Major. Then, he went on to Western Evangelical Seminary from 1955 – 1959 and was awarded the MTS degree: Master's in Theological Studies. Finally, in 1963, he graduated from Claremont School of Theology with a Master of Theology.

Reverend David L. Ernst was initially licensed in the EUB Church before 1968 and the merger with the Methodist Church. In 1968, he became an approved supply pastor in the Pacific Northwest Conference at Seattle: Skyway and became an Elder in 1969. His service record is as follows: Seattle: Skyway; Olympia: St. Andrews; Mount Vernon: First; Tacoma: First; and Gig Harbor. The Reverend David L. and Llewellyn A. Ernst entered

retirement on July 1, 1993. In retirement, Dave became a Chaplain at Wesley Homes Lea Hill.

The memorial service to celebrate the life and ministries of Rev. David L. Ernst was held on June 30, 2023, in Des Moines, WA. Cards of condolence may be sent to his daughter, Lisa Priestley, at the above address.

Juli (Julia Cooper) Reinholz Juli, 71, of Walla Walla, died September 17, 2023, at her home surrounded by her family. She was born September 7, 1952, to Theodore L. Cooper and Mary Jean Swisher at Ft. Belvoir, VA. She was a sister to Theodore Cooper Jr., William Cooper, Constance Kaiser, and Sarah Curry. She married David Reinholz in 1974, and they had two children, Victoria and Katherine. She traveled the world with her husband's military career and ensured the adventures were shared together as a family.

Juli embodied the ability to search, uncover, and find her calling. She graduated with multiple college degrees in Business, Education and, ultimately, a Master of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Seminary. She was ordained as a United Methodist pastor in 2012. She led a church in Battle Ground, WA, and used her gifts to guide as District Superintendent for the Pacific NW Conference. She was the Senior Pastor at Pioneer United Methodist Church in Walla Walla, WA, and retired in June 2021.

She was passionate about social justice, caring for others with a kind heart, full inclusion, and speaking up for those who could not. Her vast community work included creating an overnight shelter for women, children, and their pets in Walla Walla. She served on the board of the Walla Walla Immigrant Rights Coalition and the Central Washington Justice for Our Neighbors. She supported the YWCA, teaching classes on compassion and the Enneagram for the staff, board, and the public.

Juli is survived by her husband, two daughters, two grandsons, Landon and Caleb Andrews, and one granddaughter, Evelyn Wolf. She will be dearly missed by those who had the opportunity to know her, both within her family and her community.

Celebration of Life services will be on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at 2:00 PM, at Pioneer United Methodist Church, 209 E. Birch St., Walla Walla. Memorial contributions may be made to the YWCA through the Herring Groseclose Funeral Home, 315 W. Alder St., Walla Walla, WA 99362.

Gisela (Ehrentraut) Taber Gisela Ehrentraut Taber passed away on September 22, 2023, at age 81. Gisela was born to Balduin Ehrentraut and Margaret Mohr on November 26, 1941, and lived the early years of her life as a German refugee evading the war. In 1950, Gisela, her parents, and her elder sister, Helga Wilkins, emigrated to Colfax, Washington. She excelled academically, graduating as valedictorian of Pullman High School and earning her bachelor's and master's degrees from Washington State University.

In 1969, her son Andrew was born to her and her then-husband, Ronald Taber. She raised him as a working mother, setting an important example as a hard-working career woman.

Gisela was an outspoken feminist and became executive director of the Washington

State Women's Council in 1971, which lobbied on behalf of bills about women's rights. She was integral in the fight for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in the western states.

As a devoted Christian, she pursued an education at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, and graduated in 1990. Her service in the PNW Conference also started in 1990 and began at Davenport-Edwall, where two years later, she was ordained as an Elder in the PNW Conference. Rev. Gisela was appointed to Monroe in 1994, Kirkland: Lake Washington in 1999, and Sequim: Trinity UMC in 2001. She retired in 2007. Gisela enjoyed her retirement close to family in Olympia, WA, doting on her grandchildren, who regularly went to Oma's house for swimming and treats.

She lived generously, intent on leaving the world a better place than when she came. She adored her cats Hans, Mitzi, and Mordecai. Gisela was a pillar of her family and will be deeply missed. She is survived by her son, Andrew Taber, granddaughter Alexis Taber, and grandson, Alexander Taber.

Gisela's memorial service was held privately with family.

Johann Christiaan Neethling was born in Pretoria, South Africa, on December 26, 1946. He attended high school in Vanderbijipark, South Africa, and went to Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa, now named Makhanda. He graduated with a BA in Systematic Theology in 1966 and attended Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena from 1967 to 1969 before returning to Rhodes University for his M. Divinity degree in 1974.

He and Anne had met at Rhodes University. When he left for Fuller in Pasadena, she followed him six months later and they were married on June 17, 1968. In the fullness of time, they had three children: Maria, born in 1971; Gabrielle, born in 1974; and Marieke, born in 1977.

Johann pastored in 8 different churches of different race groups in South Africa between 1972 and 1986. The family had to move to the US because they were threatened by the SA Police to be put in jail for working against the Apartheid system. So it was that before arriving in the Pacific Northwest Conference, Johann and Anne were in service to many different UMC churches/communities in South Africa, Indiana, New Mexico, and Texas. In 1995, Johann completed an MA in Counseling from Webster University in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was appointed to Odessa, TX: Highland UMC and Estancia UMC in the New Mexico Conference from 1997 – 2002.

Moving to the Pacific Northwest, he was appointed to Skamokawa in 2003 and Morton Community UMC in 2004. He became board-certified for Chaplaincy work by the Association of Professional Chaplains and endorsed by the UMC GBHECM in 2005. He volunteered as the staff chaplain at the Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, WA during that time. In 2006, Johann became the Director of Spiritual Care for Providence Marianwood, Issaquah, WA, and the following year, was appointed to Marianwood Issaquah, WA, from 2007 until 2013. Taking a break for the first time, he went on Transitional Leave and, in April of 2015, was appointed to Providence Mt. Carmel in Colville, WA.

Johann was always involved in the communities they lived in: he served as the first white

pastor to join the all-black Southside Ministerial Alliance in Odessa, TX; he developed a middle school community service program at a local nursing home, a Family Life Center with Computer Education classes and an Exercise Gym for underserved families in Odessa TX, initiated and developed elementary after-school reading programs in TX and New Mexico, trained as an ESL instructor and taught classes to Mexican farm workers in Estancia, NM, served as a Middle School Conflict Mediation Director in Indiana and NM, as well as initiated a school-wide recycling program in Indiana.

How could one person fit so much into one day, let alone a life? He was a keen observer of people and their needs. He brought people together, built warm, cooperative relationships, and was skilled at relating to many different types of people. He made himself readily available to others with humor and a positive outlook.

His spouse Anne chose the following words to describe her beloved Johann: Caring, Humorous, and Positive, with an amazing ability to Bring People Together.

Retired Elder Johann C. Neethling died in Ocala, FL, on October 19, 2023. He is survived by his beloved spouse, Anne Neethling, at 9728 SW 94th Ave Unit C, Ocala, FL 34481, and their children Maria Henderson, Ocala, FL; Gabrielle Statkus, Ocala, FL; and Marieke Colby, Tiptecanoe, OH.

Hazel Anne Burnett was born in Boise, Idaho, to Hazel E. Cleveland Burnett and Blaine Walter Burnett. She grew up in Seattle and earned a BA at the University of Washington in 1951 and an MA in Religious Education from Hartford Seminary in 1953. In the 1950s and 1960s, she was Director of Christian Education in churches in Southern California. In 1970, she returned to Seattle.

She enrolled at the Pacific School of Religion in 1976. In 1979, at age 50, she graduated and was ordained to ministry in the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church.

During her 20-year pastoral career, she served churches in Eatonville, Centralia, and Vancouver, Washington. She cared for parishioners and colleagues, being present in their joys and griefs. Her spirit of hospitality made room for many. She was also good fun!

After retirement, Hazel Anne returned to Seattle, participating in the Queen Anne United Methodist faith community, volunteering at a homeless shelter, and continuing her involvement in PEO. She focused on inner growth and enrolled in the Academy of Spiritual Formation in California. Renewing her interest in traveling with friends and family, she explored ancestral roots and cultural forms of spiritual practice.

In accord with her faith, Hazel Anne was a lifelong advocate for justice and inclusion. She was active in the United Methodist Reconciling Ministries Network for LGBTQ+ members and leaders and supported the Southern Poverty Law Center's work.

Hazel Anne Burnett is survived by cousins Tracy Harris and Sue Riggs and by many close friends she made through the years.

Her memorial service was held on Monday, April 8, at 1:30 PM at Queen Anne United Methodist Church, 1606 5th Avenue W, Seattle, 98109. Memorial gifts may be made to

Queen Anne United Methodist Church.

Paul Jennings Beeman was born in Boston, Massachusetts, to Chauncey and Cora Belle (a Christian radio personality in the Midwest in the 30's) Beeman. Raised in a staunchly Oxford-style Methodist household and after graduating from high school, Paul briefly attended Asbury College in Wilmore, KY. It was while being raised and educated in these strictly conservative Christian environments that he realized his religious beliefs were far more liberal-while no less profound- than those around him.

He graduated from Valparaiso University and then Garrett Evangelical Seminary. He served as Associate Pastor at The Chicago Temple following graduation, then two small churches in Hekla and Euclid, NY. He became Director of Public Relations for the South Dakota Conference before being recruited to serve in the same capacity in the Pacific Northwest Conference in 1962. Paul served in that capacity until 1965. In 1965, he was appointed to Bellevue: St. Peters. He was there when they built their first building. In 1969, he was appointed to serve as District Superintendent in what was then the Spokane District. In 1973, he was appointed to First Church, Olympia, where he served eleven years. In 1984, he took a sabbatical and, with Betty, moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to assist his oldest son, Rick, in pursuit of multiple business ventures. From there, he and Betty decided to return to ministry and the Pacific Northwest. He returned to ministry at St. Paul's in Everett and ultimately retired from Aldersgate UMC in Bellevue.

Beyond his ministry, Paul constantly desired to see justice served. In the 60s, it was striving to advocate for equal rights regarding race. In the late 80s and 90s, it was around equal rights for gays and lesbians nationwide. He served two terms as National President of PFFLAG; he and Betty were a significant part of The Reconciling Network and advocated for hundreds of young adults their families had rejected.

He was preceded in death by his parents and Betty, his life partner of over seven decades. He is survived by their four children: Rick, in Santa Rosa, CA; Brad (spouse Dorothy), in Hoodspport, WA; Judy Beeman Graham (spouse Lenore), in Palm Desert, CA, and Cle Elum, WA; and David (spouse Justin), in Berkeley, CA. There are seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

R. (Randall) King Rockhill was born on May 18, 1941, at Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle to Randall and Willa Rockhill. He grew up in nearby Renton, Wash., where he attended Sartori Grade School and Renton High School, graduating in 1959. He was an honor student, played trumpet in the band under his father's direction, and turned out for track. In his sophomore year of high school, he met Alice Temple, who later became his wife of 62 years.

King attended the University of Washington and was a Phi Kappa Psi fraternity member, where he majored in history while playing bridge and attending ROTC. He married Alice on March 17, 1962, and then attended Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, N.J., to become a lifelong United Methodist Church (UMC) Minister. During seminary,

daughter Wendelyn was born in 1964, and King served in a student church in Dingman's Ferry, Pa. In 1965, he served as associate minister at Haller Lake UMC under Larry Linnemann. Son Jason was born in 1967.

In 1968, King was assigned to the Garfield/Farmington churches in eastern Washington. This charge, off and on, extended to forty-six years. During that time, King served on the Whitman County Mental Health Board, on the staff at Washington State University's Koinonia House, studied and taught at WSU while working on a Ph.D. in history, taught religion at the University of Idaho, organized the construction of LaDow Court Assisted Living under a newly created hospital district, was associate director of Pastoral Institute, and the first director of Rural Ministries Resources (RMR) along with LIMPOP (limited population) small church ministry. He continued to play trumpet in multiple bands, was president of the Appaloosa Museum board, and performed hundreds of weddings with panache, storytelling, and celebrations of love. He retired in 2004 and moved to Harvard, where he became a gentleman farmer and logger, riding Appaloosa horses and raising organic beef. King was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2015 at age 74 years. He and Alice moved back to the Seattle area, building a house on Whidbey Island in 2016. This allowed them to be closer to family, including his children and grandchildren. He died in Memory Care on Friday, March 22, 2024.

King is survived by his wife Alice, daughter Wendy and her husband Joe; grandson Tristan Alving and his wife Jamie; son Jason and his wife Carol; grandson Tyler and partner Corinne, grandson Alex and wife Pearl; and great-grandsons Wally and Magnus; as well as King's sister Shari Fisher and her daughters and granddaughters.

King will be remembered for his compassion, engaging personality and preaching, love of music, and willingness to serve. He and Alice enjoyed a life of many blessings, including a loving and supportive family, good friends, wide-ranging travel experiences, and a long marriage.

A celebration of his life was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 First Ave. NE, Seattle.

Bill (Wilfred) Leeroyo Johnson was born in Seattle, WA, on January 4, 1934. He graduated from Bellingham High School in 1952 and received his undergraduate schooling at Western Washington College of Education, where he met and later married Nancy P. Pedersen on June 12, 1955. While in school at Western (Bellingham), Bill began doing pulpit supply at Blanchard from Jan 1955 until June 1956. Graduating from Western in 1956, they moved to Evanston, Illinois, and he attended Garrett Biblical Institute, as it was known in those years. He was ordained a deacon in June of 1958. He served as a local pastor at Bardolph-Adair (Central Illinois Conference) from 1956-1958 and then as a probationary member, serving at Lake Mills UMC (East Wisconsin) from 1958-1960. He graduated from Garrett in 1960 and was ordained Elder in June 1960.

In 1960, Reverend Bill Johnson served the Pacific Northwest Conference in the following appointments: Snohomish; Tacoma: Fern Hill; Marysville; Spokane: St. Paul's; and

Ephrata. During the early years, Bill and Nancy welcomed three children into their lives and became a happy family: Kellee Jayne in 1958, Kimberlee Jill in 1961 (at Snohomish), and Kirk Adam in 1963 at Tacoma: Fern Hill UMC.

In the spring of 1976, Rev. Bill Johnson was elected to the position of Assistant Representative of the Western Jurisdiction on the National Camping Committee, responsible for giving guidance, directions, consultations, and training events for the Western Jurisdiction of the UMC. Also, in 1976, Bill received his Doctor of Ministry from the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Bill was known for his congeniality and ease with people, relatable sermons, and fun-loving spirit with youth and young adults. He was very interested in getting kids to conference summer camps. This writer can testify as a young high schooler in the Marysville years. He was known as “RJ” to the UMY group at Marysville United Methodist Church. He is remembered as a fun-loving presence who consistently came to the meetings on Wednesday nights at the church in support of the adult leaders as well as the kids. His presence always lifted spirits, and the youth knew they were important to him and, by extension, to the church. He and his family brought new life and energy, as well as new families during those years, and he is remembered with love. He and Nancy retired in 1983.

His beloved spouse, Nancy, considers his legacy in the memories of all his friends and family to be “a good friend and a great father” and chose “Dedicated, Loving, and Lots of Fun” to describe her life companion.

Retired Elder Wilfred (Bill) L. Johnson died in Bellingham, WA, on April 7, 2024. He is survived by his beloved spouse, Nancy P. Johnson, at 20 Nelson Lane, Lopez Island, WA 98261; their three children, Kellee Johnson-Moore of Woodinville, WA; Kimberlee Johnson of Twisp, WA; and Kirk Johnson of Blaine, WA; and their five beloved grandchildren.

A memorial service to celebrate Rev. Bill Johnson’s gifts and ministries was held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at the Marysville United Methodist Church.

Hiroyasu Iwabuchi a longstanding minister of the United Methodist Church who only fully retired four years ago from Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, passed away on the evening of April 15, 2024, in Kita-Karuzawa, Japan. He is survived by his wife of nearly 58 years, Hiroko, and his two children, Maya and Luke.

Rev. Hiro and Hiroko moved back to Japan in 2020 after 51 years in the United States, a decision that proved to have a myriad of challenges but which meant that they could return to their homeland.

Rev. Hiro was born on July 17, 1940, in Kawasaki, Japan, to parents who moved from northern Ibaraki in search of a better life near the country’s capital. His father worked as a framer of kakejiku, or painting and calligraphy, the quintessentially Japanese artisan skill of mounting works by noted artists of the time onto scrolls made of beautifully ornate silk fabric. Hiro often spoke about what it was like to survive World War II and his profound

sadness for the cultural effect that the devastating aftermath had on his people. Seared into his children's memories are the scars on his head and left hand from being hit by an American GI vehicle at age 5, after which he was whisked to an army hospital and stitched up without anesthetic.

Post-war, occupied Japan was a massive reckoning for the young Hiro. Though he somehow managed to keep up morale at school as a diligent student, it was going to the cinema after school where he found solace and escape through the heightened world of Hollywood movies. He quickly acquired an almost encyclopedic memory of which actor starred in what, which later in life proved to be a surprisingly effective weapon during bouts of Trivial Pursuit and pub quiz nights. He was particularly drawn to the films of Gary Cooper and Gregory Peck, which usually feature a lone man facing seemingly insurmountable odds. The movie theatre was also where he discovered his love for music. One can imagine this youngster being swept up and overwhelmed by the lush orchestral sounds of film scores while gazing at the big screen. Any mention after that of Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Concerto, and his face would soften as he'd pipe up, 'Ah, Brief Encounter!'

As a teenager, Hiro befriended the Fittz family, American missionaries, in Tokyo, and became a Christian at age 17. This led to his enrollment at Tokyo Christian College, where not only did he flourish academically but also where he found his calling to the ministry. Here, he would meet his future wife, Hiroko, and they married in 1966. Their first child, Maya, was born in 1967. He was briefly employed at Yokohama Bible Church as a junior minister during this period.

In 1969, Hiro moved his young family to the United States, accepting a scholarship to study at Wheaton College, Illinois, where he received two Master's degrees. He was then offered a post-graduate place at Fuller Seminary in Los Angeles. He relocated his family to a new city, this time additionally with 2-year-old Luke in tow. He was awarded another Master's degree and a Doctorate in Missiology for his efforts at Fuller. In LA, he found the opportunity to formulate his future ministry, culminating in his appointment at West Los Angeles United Methodist Church and permanent residence in the US. He stayed on for 12 years, followed by another 11 years at the Japanese American United Church in Manhattan, NYC. He then made his final ministerial move to Seattle, WA, at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, where he served for 21 years.

Rev. Hiro was fiercely devoted to all three of his church tenures from coast to coast. He never tired of encouraging and comforting his congregations through the spiritual teachings that he so ardently embraced. He spoke fondly and proudly of his work, acknowledging the vast complexities that a vocational life brings, and firmly believed in the power and compassion of his God. He will be remembered for his unwavering generosity, 'out-of-office hours,' his quickness to laugh at anything goofy (he loved Mr. Bean, after all), his relish for travel, his beautiful light baritone singing voice, his penchant for a romantic melody, and his passion for good pizza and ice cream.

Ruth D. Mathis On a rainy 34-degree Fahrenheit January 16, 1937, morning in Panama City (NW Florida), Ruth Mathis Dickenson was born. She spent her childhood in

Chipley, Florida. She was the firstborn to the Dickenson family and was to be the son and heir. She grew up being loved, cherished, and nurtured for herself. She was raised in a ten-room house in that Florida town, and four years later, her younger sister was born. They were baptized Methodist and taken to Sunday School and church. They were told about Great Grandpa Howell, who rode a southern Alabama Methodist circuit. Her parents exhibited great faith in her and her ability to care for herself and to achieve her personal goals.

She graduated from Florida State University in 1955. She became the first Kindergarten teacher at Kate Smith Elementary School in Chipley. She taught Kindergarten and second grade in Florida schools for two years before moving to California to marry the boy next door, now a Navy pilot. This is another chance to learn and grow in faith. They moved five times, had two girls, Grace and Amy, and left the Navy. They had their third little girl, Linda, in Maryland and began moving again, three moves in three years, and finally settling in Kennewick, WA. Ruth and the girls found a loving, supportive community within the local church in each place.

Ruth entered seminary at Iliff School of Theology in 1983, and the rest is history. She returned to the Pacific Northwest area and served the PNW Conference in the following appointments: Cathlamet UCC-Skamokawa Parish in Wahkiakum County, WA, from 1985 – 1989; Anacortes United Methodist Church from 1989 - 1992. Ruth served as a District Superintendent for the United Methodist Church in Spokane, WA from 1992 - 1998. In 1998, she became pastor at Mill Plain United Methodist Church and served there until her retirement in 2005. Ruth, not wanting to stop serving others, became a hospital chaplain at PeaceHealth Medical and pastored at Fern Prairie United Methodist Church in retirement. Ruth enjoyed creating new activities, especially for the youth of her congregation, as well as working many summers at Ocean Park, hosting a variety of retreats over the years. In her retirement, Ruth enjoyed volunteer work when she was not enjoying Burger King and Diet Pepsi. She was the mother of three daughters, Linda Jean Thompson of Gainesville, GA, Grace Dasinger of San Diego, CA, and Amy Heath of Vancouver, WA. She also has three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Ruth Mathis, age 87, passed from natural causes on April 18, 2024. The Celebration of Life service for Ruth was held on Saturday, May 11, at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Mill Plain United Methodist Church, located at 15804 SE Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA. In lieu of flowers, Ruth asked that any contributions go to the Ruth Mathis scholarship fund at Mill Plain United Methodist Church or the Ocean Park Retreat Center and Camp.

(C.) Cornelius Harry Garrison was born to Alyce (Frey) Garrison and William H. Garrison Sr. on June 30, 1927, in Patterson, New Jersey. He had one older brother, William H. Garrison III, born 1922 – 1/25/1977. His mother would live until 1992, and Harry was the son who would outlive his father and brother, caring for his mother when she needed him as the only child alive in his mother's elder years.

Harry graduated from Patterson High School in 1945 and entered the US Navy that same year. By 1950, he was enrolled at the College of Puget Sound (later to be Univ. of

Puget Sound) and had met and married Maxine (Miki) Shaw. Harry graduated in 1955 with a Business Administration degree. Miki and Harry had four children together, some before seminary and some during the seminary years. Bruce Garrison was born in 1953, Dan Garrison was born in 1958, Jane Garrison was born in 1962, and Kim Nagel was born in 1966.

In 1956, Harry began work with the YMCA for several years, first as Director in Chicago, then to Portland, OR, and finally to Wenatchee, WA. In 1963, he was a student at Garrett Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, and a student pastor at the Methodist Church in Bondville, IL. By 1965, he was a senior at Garrett and had received a glowing recommendation from the Champaign, IL, District Superintendent to Bishop Everett W. Palmer in Seattle, WA. In 1966, after graduating with his Bachelor of Divinity, he was admitted to the PNW Conference. His beloved spouse, Miki, was a supportive and talented person, playing organ, directing, and singing in choirs. She was a member of the early interpretive liturgical dancing movement, sharing this part of herself at the Annual Conference in Illinois in 1965. She would go on to become, besides the mother of a parsonage full of children, a big part of Harry's ministry at his first four churches as organist, choir director, secretary, etc. They married in 1950, and they divorced in 1985. Both would go on to serve in the PNW Conference, as Miki became a Diaconal Minister, and Harry was appointed to two more churches before he retired.

His son Bruce says of his father, "As my father and pastor, my dad always accepted everyone for who they were. He always listened with an accepting and open mind. He always looked for the good in people. His ability to reach out and communicate with the youth of his congregations was amazing. He was loved and respected by all who met him. The three words Bruce chose for his father were Compassionate, Caring, and Strong.

Harry was a Little League coach, a Jaycees member, and a Chamber of Commerce Chairperson as a member of his communities. He was an advocate for LCBTQIA+ rights within the church and the community. He would be so pleased with the General Conference decision of 2024 removing barriers to God's children. He is smiling down on us!

Reverend C. Harry Garrison served in the PNW Conference at the following churches: Tacoma: Browns Point; Cashmere; Seattle: Highland Park; Seattle: Tibbetts; Vancouver: Mill Plain; and Burlington. In 1989, Harry was remarried to Betty (Thoman) while serving Burlington UMC. They retired in 1991. In retirement, Rev. Harry and Betty Garrison lived in Kona, Hawaii, for two years and served the Kona UMC from 2004-2005. He and Betty successfully got the church back on its feet and continues in its ministries today.

Rev. C. Harry Garrison died on May 7, 2024, in University Place, WA. He is survived by his beloved spouse, Betty Garrison, at 2602 S. Union Ave., Apt #D206, Tacoma, WA 98405, by seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and his children: Kim Nagel of Tacoma, WA; Bruce Garrison of Peoria, AZ; Jane Garrison of Tacoma, WA; and Dan Garrison of Wenatchee, WA. Harry was pre-deceased by his first wife, retired Diaconal Minister (Maxine) Miki (Shaw) Garrison Craighead, on December 5, 2020.

SPouses of Retired Full Members

Mary Elizabeth (Cooper) Braun was born in Gadsden, Alabama, to Jettie Merle (Farabee) and Alcie (Al) Lee Cooper, Sr., on September 11, 1936. She had two younger siblings, Jane and Al, Jr. She attended A.L. Miller High School in Macon, GA, and went to Wesleyan College in Macon, GA. 1954 – 1958.

After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Wesleyan College, she entered a master's program at Drew Theological Seminary. (1960-1961) It is at Drew where she met David Braun, whom she married on June 17, 1961.

Reverend David and Mary Braun came to the Pacific Northwest Conference from the Troy Conference (New York) in 1961, and the following are the appointments served in the Pacific Northwest Conference: Kendrick-Julietta, Idaho; Pasco: Riverview; Parkland; Marysville; Tacoma: Mason; and Bellevue: First. They retired in 2000.

Mary was an avid reader, enjoyed puzzles, and loved giraffes, accumulating a collection of over 100 giraffe figurines of various sizes and materials. She will be remembered for her intelligence, direct honesty, and generosity. She had a memorable laugh, a beautiful smile, and an easy manner with those who knew her and remember her well.

Mary passed away at age 87 at home. She is survived by Dave, her husband of 62 years; three daughters, Margaret (Meg) R. Lozada of Issaquah, WA; Vivian J. Braun Goodell, San Diego, CA; and Ellen E. Braun, Bellevue, WA. She and Dave have six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. There was no service, as per Mary's wishes. Those honored to know and learn from her will not forget this wonderful woman.

Surviving Spouses of Deceased Members

Sara Jeanne (Mather) Lyon was born November 19, 1925. She was educated in Tacoma schools and attended Lincoln High School in Tacoma, WA, where she graduated in 1944. She went to the College of Puget Sound and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with honors in 1948. During her sophomore year, Sara met Bob Lyon, a new student at CPS, at the Bethany UMC church MYF meeting at the parsonage. She was the Bethany organist in those years, and they soon became a 'couple' and were married at Bethany on April 20, 1949.

Bob also graduated in 1949, and they soon headed out to Evanston, IL, to attend Garrett Evangelical Seminary. Robert Jay Lyon and his beloved Sara served in the Southern Indiana Conference before transferring to the PNW Conference in 1953. They had been married four years when they arrived in the Pacific Northwest. He was appointed to the following locations in the PNW Conference: Redmond, Okanogan-Malott, Stanwood, Tacoma, St. Paul's, Camas, Spanaway, and Eatonville. He and Sara retired in 1991.

In retirement, they both became interested in and active with shortwave radios, a hobby

they shared.

Sara, the surviving spouse of Rev. Robert J. Lyon, died on September 17, 2023. Her beloved “Bob” predeceased her on April 29, 2016. Sara is survived by their son Mark S. Lyon at 508 Milroy St., Olympia, WA 98502. The memorial service to celebrate Sara Lyon’s life and ministries was held Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church, located at 540 School St. SE, Lacey, WA 98509-3866.

Judith Anne (Borseth) Hullin on April 6, 2024, Judith Anne Hullin, beloved sister, mother, and grandmother, passed away peacefully at home on Mercer Island at 81.

Judith was born in Cordova, Alaska, on October 7, 1942, where her parents, John and Judy Borseth, managed a salmon cannery during World War II. After the family moved to Seattle, she attended View Ridge Elementary School, Eckstein Middle School, Roosevelt High School, and Whitman College before graduating from the University of Washington with a B.A. in Mathematics in 1966.

She began a career as a computer programmer, one of relatively few women in the field, first at Boeing and later for many years at the Washington Natural Gas Company. In the years leading up to Y2K, she played a key role in preventing computer malfunctions that could have brought about the end of the world or, at the very least, delays in the dispatch of gas bills.

Judith, an avid and accomplished skier, met Dezso George-Falvy in the lift line at White Pass in 1962. They ended up sharing a lot more than a chair ride. The couple were married in 1963 and settled on Mercer Island. They had two children, Jane and Dean, and remained married for 17 years.

In the late 1980s, Judith reconnected with David Hullin, a United Methodist Church pastor and a childhood friend from View Ridge, after their parents had become neighbors again in a retirement community. Judith and Dave were married in 1989 and enjoyed 33 happy years together until Dave’s passing in 2022.

Judith became an active member of the United Methodist community, first in the Delridge neighborhood of Seattle, then at Trinity UMC in Ballard, and later at Mercer Island UMC. She reinvigorated the choir, spent Wednesdays weeding the garden, served on the finance committee, and supported the church in many other ways. She volunteered for Mary’s Place, tutored math students, battled the scourge of tobacco as a Smokenders instructor, and was an ardent supporter of Planned Parenthood.

She shared her husband Dave’s passions for golf and the Seattle Mariners, each bringing joy and sorrow in roughly equal measures. From her mother, she acquired a sharp mind for Scrabble, which always spelled trouble for her opponents.

Judith took exceptional pride in her Norwegian heritage. Together with her sister Jeri and brother Jay, she bravely revived an annual family tradition of ingesting lutefisk on Christmas Eve. She played an active role in the Sons of Norway Lodge, took every opportunity to wear her traditional bunad, marched in the Syttende Mai parade in Ballard, and

deepened ties with relatives in the old country. Echoes of this Nordic past could also be found in her wry, understated sense of humor.

Judith was relentlessly upbeat, always believing in “the power of positive parking,” which gave her an uncanny ability to find a parking place right next to her destination. She believed wholeheartedly that you can change your circumstances by changing your attitude – and lived that philosophy. Against all odds, she survived an aortic dissection in 2017 and, after that, lived each day grateful for the gift of life. She let people know how much they mattered and how their lives were full of possibility. All who knew her will miss her kindness, gentleness, and giving spirit.

Judith was preceded in death by her husband, Dave, her brother, Jan, and her sister, Jerilyn. She is survived by her brother Jay Borseth (Mary Lynn), her children Jane Reynolds (Craig) and Dean Falvy (Lisa), and her grandchildren Jonathan Theodore, Miles Falvy, and Leo Falvy.

Judith was remembered at a Memorial Service held at the Mercer Island United Methodist Church on Saturday, May 18th at 2 p.m. In lieu of gifts and flowers, memorials in Judith’s name may be made to Mary’s Place or Planned Parenthood.

BELOVED SERVANTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CONFERENCE WHO HAVE DIED SINCE THE LAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Claris Fern (Sloan) O’Connor was born on December 10, 1931, in Libby, Montana. Her parents, Orville Kenneth and Helena Ellen (Zornes) Sloan, brought their first child home to Troy, Montana. Her mother had just turned 17. Claris was soon followed by her sister Joyce and brother Monte. She cared for her sister and brother as a second mother as a small child. Claris, a shy child, entered school early at the age of 5. Her family moved often, sometimes only staying a few months at any one place. Her shyness, red hair, and poverty didn’t make the constant moving easy. During WWII, the family lived in Manchester, Washington, where she remembered seeing navy ships and barrage balloons near their home. Following the war, her parents divorced, and later, her mother married Orville’s older brother, Walter Sloan. He brought not only her cousins, Iola and John, to be her stepsiblings, but he also brought stability to Claris’ life for the first time. Her cousin, Skip Walters, lived with the family for a while, making him seem like a brother.

Claris graduated from Rogers High School in Spokane class of 1950. On June 27, 1953, she married William D. O’Connor. For a few years, Claris worked in the tower of the Spokesman-Review. Moving to the Shadle area house she lived in for the rest of her life, Claris and Bill had a son, William (Billy), in 1954 and a daughter, Joyce, in 1957. Claris and Bill created a showcase backyard, which was twice featured on the Spokane garden tours. Claris was a dedicated mother studying subjects that interested her children. Together, they learned about dinosaurs and the planets and visited museums. She was reading classical works and

Mad Magazine. She and her mother instilled an early love of reading and learning in Billy and Joyce. In 1983, Claris earned an A.A. degree from SFCC, taking one class at a time and maintaining an A average.

She was actively involved in her church, Fowler UMC, teaching Sunday School, supporting and participating in mission trips to Mexico, representing the congregation at many Annual Conferences, and supporting the camping program. In 1969, she was hired as the Administrative Assistant of the Spokane District United Methodist church. For 35 years, Claris was the confidant and counsel to 7 District Superintendents, kept accurate books, supported and at times chastised clergy, and was the Registrar and Treasurer for Twinlow Camp. As a registrar, she ensured no child couldn't go camping because of a lack of funds. She would find donors and personally contact families to ensure campers could attend. Extremely organized, all books and work would be updated every Friday because, as she often said, "you might get hit by a bus!" In 1994, she was awarded the Bishop's Award for outstanding service to the United Methodist Church.

Claris was involved in the Associated Garden Club of Washington and Sandy Hill Spaldettes Garden Club of Spokane as a master arranger and judge. In 1973, she was named Woman of the Year by the Washington Associated Garden Club. The same year, she began training as a Master Certified Graphoanalyst through the International Graphoanalysis Society. This led to making lifelong friends and teaching handwriting analysis classes in Spokane and on cruise ships. In all, she went on 102 weeks of cruises and trips. She also did occasional handwriting work, helping hire individuals and performing forensic analysis. Her cruises and travels took her to many countries, including Egypt, Spain, Portugal, England, and France. Her favorite place was Florence, Italy. On one trip to Costa Rica, she snuggled with a sloth, falling in love with them. She collected sloths for years.

In her 80th year, she traveled with her son Bill to Israel and with her daughter Joyce to Rugby, England. She loved to travel, loved her dogs, especially Sport and Dylan, and especially loved her children. On July 5, 2023, at 91, Claris died peacefully, survived by her children Bill O'Connor and Joyce O'Connor, her favorite son-in-law, Tom Magee, and her chosen son, Art Hayashi. She is also survived by her uncle Richard Zornes, grandchildren Nicole and Jessica, four great-grandchildren, beloved nieces and nephews, extended family, and many friends. She was predeceased by her husband, Bill, in 2007, her parents, siblings - Iola Olsen, Joyce Birch, Monte Sloan, and John Sloan, and her cousin, Gale (Skip) Walters. A memorial gathering was held at her home on October 7th. Memorials may be made in her honor to Camp Twinlow, 22787 N Twinlow Rd, Rathdrum, ID 83858.

Richard Lee Holmes, was born on December 28, 1948. He died on May 19, 2024, on his way to lead worship in Central Park, WA.

At age 55, Richard L. Holmes began serving the Pacific Northwest Conference in 2004 as a Lay Volunteer in Ministry by DSA (District Superintendent assignment) to Central Park United Methodist Church in the LIMPOP program (Limited Population Program). By 2008, Bishop Grant Hagiya transferred him from his layperson-assigned status to Local Pastor status. He continued serving at Central Park UMC and volunteered in

numerous community capacities, advocating for veterans and people in need. He also participated with Twin Harbors churches, leading worship during regular pulpit exchanges.

2015 was Pastor Richard Holmes' last year as the PT local pastor for Central Park UMC. After 2016, he stayed busy in the district and among other things, provided pulpit supply to Ocean Shores UMC and took CLM cycle courses A-D classes at Mill Plain UMC in Vancouver, WA, as well as providing leadership to the Safe Sanctuary program as Designated Safety Officer and Disaster Response Contact for Central Park UMC. By no means had this man stopped serving Christ in his community! He had been representing Central Park UMC on a current district visioning project, recommending ways for churches to plan together and engage in community partnerships to address unmet needs at the time of his death.

He is survived by his spouse, Connie Holmes, in Lacey, WA, and their grown children. He will be remembered for his big smile and great laugh. He will also be remembered for being instrumental in keeping his church connected during the pandemic, as he led the tech efforts during those tumultuous years.

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Clergy and Laity Memoirs compiled and written by Cathy Lang

### DISCONTINUED CHURCHES

#### **BELLEVUE: KOREAN UMC OF SEATTLE CLOSURE**

Korean United Methodist Church of Seattle was founded in 1979 in Seattle, Washington, with the goal of creating a Korean American faith community to serve Korean immigrant families who came to America with the dream of success and prosperity.

On July 19 of that year, Rev. Jong-Won Kim and a group of local Koreans and Korean college students began their initial meetings with prayers, bible study, and outreach ministry. Their vision was to build a faith community of Korean immigrants in the Seattle area, to make disciples of Jesus Christ and enable their congregation and members to become contributing members of the society. Early Korean communities settled in Seattle, and its neighboring cities like Shoreline, Edmonds, Lynnwood, and Everett. Those loosely connected, diverse Korean communities were in need of God's grace and mercy to settle in the new.

land, and to become an essential part of their local communities, they needed a venue to engage and weave their way through the fabric of society. It is always challenging to become a part of something without losing your own identity. The Pacific Northwest Conference recognized this need and decided to launch a new Korean United Methodist Church in Seattle area.

From these humble beginnings of the Korean UMC of Seattle was created a meaningful

ministry that has served the Korean and Korean American community for 44 years through the vision of the PNW Conference and a group of dedicated and faithful people who answered God's call. We give thanks to God for the journey of the Korean United Methodist Church of Seattle, and for this first vision that has inspired the birth of Korean congregations, Tacoma First Korean United Methodist and Good Seed Korean United Methodist Church.

### **LAPWAI UMC CLOSURE**

The Indian Mission at Lapwai was first organized by the Presbyterians in 1836. In 1898, the Methodist Episcopal Church assigned its first pastor there, and by 1910, the Lapwai leaders asked to be accepted into the Methodist Church with their sixty members. Over the years, the church was blessed with strong membership and equally strong lay participation in its ministries.

In recent years, congregant participation has decreased. As with many congregations, COVID-19 played a role in their continuing decrease, and by 2021, they became a Lay-Led Congregation.

In 2022, the Lapwai congregation began conversations with the Inland District Superintendent, Rev. Daniel Miranda, and the director of the Circle of Indigenous Ministries (GNW), Rev. Dr. Allen Buck, about the possibility of the land being returned to the Nez Perce Tribe. At a charge conference on September 5, 2023, the Lapwai congregation voted to close their church with a recommendation to the PNW Board of Trustees that they consider returning the land to the tribe.

A service of faithful completion has not been held as we wait for an appropriate time to celebrate the land's return to the Nez Perce tribe. The Nez Perce, also known as the Nimi'ipuu, have resided on that land in Idaho for thousands of years before the church was established there.

### **NEZPERCE UMC CLOSURE**

Nezperce UMC, located in the town of Nezperce, Idaho, became a mission in 1886. By the following year, it became a formal congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In recent decades, it has been served by pastors Glenn Kennedy, Joel Aosved, Todd Scran-ton, Cynthia Roberts and Barbara Essen. Certified Lay Minister, Dennis Long, served as their last pastor for 11 years until 2022.

The congregation, numbering between five to a dozen attendees, was not able to recover from the outcomes of COVID-19 and the high cost of heating their drafty building. In November 2022, with only one official member on record, the church voted to move toward closure. Due to health issues with their pastor, the closing service was postponed. The certified lay minister assigned, Dennis Long, passed away in 2023.



On April 28, 2024, a service of faithful completion was attended by a dozen congregants, including Rev. Barbara Essen, as well as another twelve or so members of the Nezperce community. We celebrated 138 years of faithful service with sadness and joyful stories.

















