



## Pastor's Letter



Dear Church Family,

June 2026

If you've been hanging around church lately, you know we love an audacious vision. Our Resident Bishop, **Bishop Sandy Olewine**, has challenged our conference with a goal so big, it can only be described as "God-sized." She is calling on us to support **Miracle Sunday** to fund the global *Endowment for Theological Education*, equipping 500 additional clergy and lay leaders annually outside the U.S. This is an effort by the whole global body of the United Methodist Church.

This hits home because it is my exact story. Almost four decades ago, I arrived at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary with big dreams for ministry. I only finished my Master of Divinity because a generous donor in her 80s supported me through her endowment money. At an appreciation dinner, she sat with the patience of a saint, listening to this young student wildly gesture and stumble through her words. Without her singular act of generosity, I wouldn't be a pastor, I wouldn't be in Brentwood, and I wouldn't be serving this absolutely lovely congregation today. Decades later, my heart still overflows with gratitude for the soul who looked at a struggling student and said, "I believe in her."

Miracle Sunday is all about finding the next generation of leaders who have the call, but just need someone to open the door. Consider this: in the U.S., about **71%** of United Methodist clergy hold a master's degree in theology. In places like Africa, Europe, and the Philippines? **Fewer than 5%** have access to that same training.

The desire to lead with a vibrant Wesleyan mindset is there, but high costs, long distances, and language gaps stand in the way. Our California-Nevada Annual Conference has set an incredible goal of **\$1 million**. The global connection is already showing up big time—a single conference in the Congo recently raised over \$350,000! And the College of Bishops, over 100 Bishops, have pledged nearly \$500,000. Now it's our turn to help send future pastors to school.

Our special offering will be collected through **Sunday, June 7th**.

- **How to Give:** Make your checks payable to **BCUMC** with the memo line note "**Miracle Sunday**."

Let's join hands across the globe and be part of someone else's miracle story!

With joy, laughter, and so much gratitude,

Your Pastor, *Hyesung Lee*