



*SEA- TAC MISSION FIELD*  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE



Derek Nakano  
SUPERINTENDENT

Elaine Stanovsky  
RESIDENT BISHOP, GREATER NW AREA

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

November 14, 2021

Dear members and friends of First United Methodist Church of Seattle.

I am writing to inform you that Bishop Elaine Stanovsky intends to appoint your Associate Pastor, Rev. Yvonne Agduyeng, as pastor of Redmond United Methodist Church, effective February 1, 2022.

I know that this information comes as a shock and surprise to you all, especially as this change comes in the middle of the appointment year, rather than our normal and expected time frames. Please know that this decision is not one that Bishop Elaine and the appointive cabinet came upon lightly, or that we did not fully consider the ramifications of this action upon the people and ministry of Seattle First UMC.

My prayer is that this will help you to see, in this situation, circumstances that the Bishop and Cabinet believe required immediate and decisive decision making and action, to address a concern of utmost importance to one of your sibling local churches in our Pacific Northwest Conference.

In our UMC appointment system, the Bishop and Cabinet are charged to discern and act with the whole church in mind, seeing the needs and concerns of individual churches, but also seeking to keep in view the larger concerns of the greater whole. In many ways, our Bishop and Cabinet are called to think of our Conference as "one church with many doors," doing our best to appoint pastors to ministry contexts that provide the best fit for the flourishing of a single church and its pastor, but also be concerned and act for the flourishing of every church in every ministry context and community.

Rev. Yvonne has served you faithfully, and I know you have come to appreciate her gifts, her warm and compassionate spirit, her commitment to justice and her love for the church and the community. And truly, you have nurtured all of these well and faithfully in her, as Rev. Yvonne has grown in her gifts and skills, her vocational identity and her pastor's heart, in her time together with you. I pray that you will have the opportunity and time to express your appreciation for Rev. Yvonne's ministry with you, and to bless her as she goes off to this new assignment.

I will be working with Rev. Jeremy, your SPRC and Church leadership, to help address your ministry needs and concerns in light of this change. Please rest assured that our Bishop and Cabinet desires the very best for you, for the continued flourishing of your ministry, and will do everything we can to support you in this time of transition and change. May God's blessings and peace be with you all, that even in unexpected change, we might know and believe that God is with us, and is leading us into the light of a new day.

Rev. Derek Nakano  
SeaTac Missional District Superintendent