



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



Derek Nakano
SUPERINTENDENT

Cedrick D. Bridgeforth
RESIDENT BISHOP, GREATER NW AREA

Erin Tombaugh
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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Dear members and friends of Seattle First United Methodist Church. Grace to you and peace, in the name of our Creator, beloved Christ and powerfully present Holy Spirit!

I am writing today to share with you that Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth intends to appoint the Rev. Wongee Joh, to be Lead Pastor at Seattle First United Methodist Church, effective July 1, 2024.

Rev. Joh, an ordained elder and member in full connection in the Pacific Northwest Conference, is presently serving as the Pastor of Bellevue Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

Rev. Wongee was born in South Korea and immigrated to the US at the age of 7, and attended Loyola University of Chicago and Drew University Theological School in New Jersey. Early in her ministry career, she served the New York Annual Conference in traditional churches and collaborative church plants, and came to serve in the Pacific Northwest Conference in 2020. Rev. Wongee has a heart for preaching and teaching, training and empowering lay leadership, with strong administrative gifts and a compassionate presence in pastoral care. Rev. Wongee possess a passion for social justice, being unafraid to preach and lead on issues of racism, LGBTQIA inclusion, houselessness and poverty, and seeks always to lead the church toward having an outward focus of ministry into the community.

Rev. Wongee and spouse Ben are looking forward to meeting the people of Seattle First UMC and journeying together with you in ministry, as you look to the future with anticipation and hope.

Let us give thanks for the history of Seattle First UMC and the journey in ministry of Rev. Wongee and Ben, giving thanks to the God who is bringing these stories together "for just such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

I will be in prayer for Seattle First UMC, and for Rev. Wongee and Ben, as each prepares themselves for this new beginning! All thanks and praises be to God!

Rev. Derek Nakano
SeaTac Missional District Superintendent