Dear Holman Family and Friends,

We are still journeying together in the Easter Season. Step by step…

God created a diverse world and Holman UMC loves and celebrates all God’s children. During the month of May in the United States we celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Holman UMC will continue to uphold our long tradition of partnership(s) with the Asian American Pacific Islander Community.

The month of May also brings an incredibly special occasion, Mother’s Day! I am wishing a Happy Mother’s Day to all women who display motherly love to others in her community. Being a Mother is more than a biological role, many without their own children demonstrate loving service to others. The Holy Bible highlights the significance of a Mother’s role in the Old Testament and New Testament. Thank God for those serving in motherly roles that have helped shape our lives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has started to diminish in some areas of our community, but it has not disappeared. Please continue to take care of yourselves (and others) by washing your hands, wearing masks, social distancing, and utilizing the vaccine(s). Unfortunately, millions of people feel isolated, tired, and depressed among other emotions during this global pandemic. Consequently, this might be a good time to refocus our minds and refresh our energy. I look forward to leading a Bible Study on “The Spiritual Aspects of Self Care” during the month of May on the following Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm: May 12th, 19th, and 26th.

Finally, we end the month with Memorial Day, on Monday, May 31st. It is on this day our country recognizes the sacrifice of American men and women of different religions and ethnic backgrounds that perished in military service for our country protecting our freedoms. May our brothers and sisters rest in eternal peace.

Michelle and I continue to pray for our church community as together we follow step-by-step in the footsteps of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Be well and stay healthy and full of appreciation and faithfulness.

God Bless You!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Ken Walden
Senior Pastor
Holman United Methodist Church
Report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Systemic Racist Police Violence Against People of African Descent in the United States

An International Inquiry finds, the Police killings of Black Americans amount to crimes against humanity.

On the heels of the Derek Chauvin trial, human rights experts call on The International Criminal Court prosecutors to open an immediate investigation. On Monday, the United States Department of Justice announced that it was holding a civil rights inquiry into police practices in Louisville.

The gravity of what is taking place, the systematic killing and maiming of unarmed African Americans by police are crimes against humanity that should be investigated and prosecuted under international law. The human rights experts from 11 countries hold the United States accountable for a long history of violations of international law that rise in some cases to the level of crimes against humanity.

Before the Commission accuses the US of violating its international human rights obligations, both in terms of laws governing policing and in the practices of law enforcement officers, including traffic stops targeting Black people and race-based stop and frisk; tolerating an “alarming national pattern of disproportionate use of deadly force not only by firearms but also by Tasers” against Black people; Lethal police violence against black people by officers’ failure to provide medical attention. Lethal police violence against Black people experiencing mental health crisis. Operating a “culture of impunity” in which police officers are rarely held accountable while their homicidal actions are dismissed as those of just “a few bad apples.”

Colette Flanagan, Founder of Mothers Against Police Brutality, whose son was murdered by the police said, “We are into orchards of bad apples with trees that have diseased roots tainted with racism and white supremacy, and they are bearing rotten fruit.”

The Commissioners also charge that African Americans are frequently subjected to torture at the hands of police. They assert that the use of chokeholds and other violent restraints arrests are tantamount to torture – also a crime against humanity under international law.

Jilani, President of the World Organization Against Torture, said that last week’s guilty verdict in the Floyd killing substantiated the commission’s views. “It clarified for us that the use of force during the arrest of an individual is not just dehumanizing, it clearly amounts to torture and potential loss of life.” The report arose directly out of the moment that swept the country in the wake of Floyd’s murder last May. As protests erupted across the nation and around the world, the families of Floyd and other Black people killed by police in recent years petitioned the United Nations to set up an official inquiry into the shootings.

A panel of commissioners from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean was assembled to look into police violence, and the structural racism that underpins it. Virtual public hearings were held earlier this year, with testimony from the families of the victims of some of the most notorious police killings in recent times.

(Continued on page 4—REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION)
May Celebrants

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Learn to relax. Your body is precious, as it houses your mind and spirit. Inner peace begins with a relaxed body.

Norman Vincent Peale
(Continued from page 2—REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION)

Among the 44 black people who died or were maimed by police and whose cases were put under the commission’s spotlight were: Floyd; Sean Bell, killed on his wedding day in 2006 after police fired 50 bullets; Eric Garner, who died in a chokehold in 2014 crying “I can’t breathe”; Tamir Rice the 12-year-old playing with a toy gun shot in 2014 seconds after police arrived; Michael Brown, the unarmed 18-year-old whose killing ignited the Black Lives Matter movement; Freddie Gray who died in 2015 after enduring a “rough ride” in a police van; and Breonna Taylor, killed as she was sleeping in a police raid on her home in March 2020 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jilani stated that as a native of Pakistan who has participated in many UN investigations probing human rights abuses, she is familiar with accounts of extreme brutality by law enforcement. “But even I found the testimonies we heard in the US extremely distressing. I was taken aback that this country, which claims to be a global champion of human rights, itself fails to comply with international law.” She added that as she listened to relatives of police shooting victims relate their stories, “it became clear that this was no longer an account of individual trauma, it was an account of trauma inflicted on a whole section of the US population.”

The Commission’s report puts the human impact of systemic discrimination against African Americans in stark terms. It says that the US is operating two systems of law.

“One is for white people, and another for people of African descent,” it said.

In the course of the public hearings held in January and February, relatives gave a more personal impression of what such trauma entails. Nicole Paultre Bell, the wife of Sean Bell, testified: “Imagine living in a world where you must explain to your children that their father, an unarmed bridegroom on the morning of his wedding, can be justifiably killed in a hail of 50 police bullets.”

One of the most visceral accounts was given by Dominic Archibald, the mother of Nathaniel Pickett who was gunned down by a police officer in 2018, for doing nothing other than walking unarmed across the street. In her testimony, Archibald began by explaining that “Nate” was her only child. “When Nate was killed, every hope and dream in my head was destroyed, taken and relegated to a statistic,

“He was my legacy, my faith in the present moment, and my hope for the future. Can I ever put this impact into words? Would anyone ever understand?” she said.

The report gives its own searing figures. Unarmed Black people are almost four times as likely as their white equivalents to be killed by police.

Since 2005, about 15,000 people have been killed by law enforcement – a rate of about 1,000 every year. During that same period, only 104 police officers have been charged with murder or manslaughter in relation to the incidents, and of those only 35 were convicted of any crime.

The commissioners make a number of demands on the US government and Congress. They want to see demilitarization of local police forces, and prohibition of no-knock warrants that allow officers to raid the homes of Black people like Breonna Taylor’s without warning and often without cause.

They also want an end to qualified immunity through which police officers avoid civil lawsuits. The commissioners say the loophole “amounts to condoning brutal police violence”.

They call on the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC to initiate an investigation into crimes against humanity committed and condoned by officials in the United States against people of African descent.

Jilani said she hoped that the US government would see that such an action would support much needed change. “We felt that the US would benefit if individual police officers further deterred from resorting to unjustified force, knowing that some kind of international criminal responsibility might be held against them.”
When we think of the word love we tend to associate it with our feelings for others, that is, the people we care for. We don't usually associate it with people we don't like, such as the neighborhood bully or with the person who has hurt us. The truth is that love is more than feelings and feel-good emotions. When we love we must love everyone, yes, even the unlovable (remember the neighborhood bully?).

Let us pose this question to you: you love God, right? Why do you love Him if you can't see Him (take a moment to answer that question). If you love God, then how is it that you can't love the unlovable, the bully, the one who hurt you? You see, the thing is, God, who we cannot see, lives inside of us (hello Holy Spirit!) - "I will fear no evil for Thou art with me." (Psalm 23:4) Because He is in us we must love others, just as He loves us. When we receive love, especially the love the Father has for us (which he showed us when He gave Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins) we are able to give it to others. The Bible says this: “If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has been perfected in us” (4:12).

So, L.O.V.E. (love overcomes virtually everything) means we overcome the negative feelings we have for those who have hurt us in any way or even for those who are different from us. Love is like a river that flows into streams and then into oceans that spread out and go everywhere. Love starts with God and is given to anyone who will accept it. We learn about love because we are first loved and then we give it to our family and friends and they give it to others. It spreads out and goes everywhere. This is God’s Spirit being made perfect in us.

Remember what it says in scripture: “No one has seen God” (4:12) but we are able to see God’s Spirit in those we love.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help us to love others the way you love us. Especially show us how to love the unlovable. In Jesus’ name, amen.

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES—LOVE BALLOONS
This can be played as a relay with 2 teams who run to the designated area and stomp and pop a balloon and retrieve the little slip inside the balloon that has words about LOVE inside, and then run back to the next team player; or, each child can be given a balloon to pop and do the same as the relay, but all at one time. Children can take turns in a circle, reading what their paper says about LOVE, and then tape or glue onto a LOVE poster board, with hearts all around the outside border.

REFLECTION:
It isn't always easy to love your enemies, but there are some good reasons for doing it.
• It demonstrates the love of God to others.
• It sets a good example for others to follow.
• It turns enemies into friends.

MEMORY VERSE: "Let us love one another, for love comes from God."
1 John 4:7)
We gather for dynamic worship!

Lay Servant Ministries
BASIC CLASS

Dates: TUESDAYS
May 4—25, 2021 California: 6 – 8/9 pm
Location: Zoom
Cost: FREE if you RSVP,
but you must provide your own book
No registration deadline, but participants limited to 30!
Class is open to participants from ALL districts.
This class is sponsored by South District Lay Servant Ministries.

About the Course
God calls you to a life of servanthood as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
This course will give you a variety of opportunities to serve in your
local and the greater church community. This is the first class
towards being a Certified Lay Servant, Lay Speaker or Lay Minister.
The five sessions include: Ministry of the Baptized, Leading,
Caring, Communicating and Into the World. You will also learn
about the history of Lay Servant Ministries and develop a personal
testimony.

Course Book
Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant’s Book
by Sandy Jackson with Brian Jackson
Available at Amazon, Cokesbury or Upper Room.
For additional information on attendance, requirements,
and registration please contact
Pam Churness, CLM, South District Director Lay Servant Ministries
(619.972.7113: pamplorifyinggood@gmail.com)

Lay Servant Ministries
ADVANCED COURSE:
Advanced Course: Living Our Beliefs
the United Methodist Way 2021

Dates: Thursday, MAY 6
& Wednesdays, MAY 12-26, 2021
California & Hawaii
Location: Zoom
Cost: FREE, but you must acquire
your own book (see details)
No registration deadline, but course will
close at 30 participants.
Class is open to participants from ALL districts.
This class is open to participants from all Cal-Pac districts
and sponsored by South District Lay Servant Ministries.

About the Course
Living Our Beliefs: You can believe anything and be a Methodist, just so long
as you’re sincere. Such a misperception has deep historical and cultural
roots. Explore a basic explanation of the beliefs and practices of the United
Methodist Church as defined in Part II of The Book of Discipline. Uncover a
deeper understanding and experience of Christian faith as you embrace the
United Methodist way. The Instructor is Pam Churness, Certified Lay Minister
(CLM), South District Director of Lay Servant Ministries.

Course Book
Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way
by Kenneth L. Carder
Available at Amazon, Cokesbury or Upper Room.
For additional information on attendance, requirements,
and registration please contact
Pam Churness, CLM, South District Director Lay Servant Ministries (619.972.7113;
pamplorifyinggood@gmail.com)
REGISTER HERE: LIVINGOURBELIEFS

LOOKING AHEAD

Worship Celebration
11:00 A.M.
VIA RADIO BROADCAST ON
KJLH RADIO 102.3 FM
WWW.KJLHRADIO.COM
LIVE STREAM VIA YOUTUBE
(HolmanChurch)

Sun. MAY 2 5th Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion Sunday
• Scriptures: Psalm 11:25-31; 1 John 4:7-12
  “LOVE ONE ANOTHER”
  Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden

Sun. MAY 9 6th Sunday of Easter
Mother’s Day
• Scriptures: Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6
  “A MOTHER’S LOVE”
  Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden

Sun. MAY 16 7th Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday
• Scriptures: Psalm 47; Luke 24:44-53
  “YOU ARE WITNESSES!”
  Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden

Sun. MAY 23 DAY OF PENTECOST
Heritage Sunday
• Scriptures: Psalm 104:24-34; Romans 8:22-27
  “HELP IN WEAKNESS”
  Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden

Sun. MAY 30 TRINITY SUNDAY
Memorial Sunday
• Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8; John 3:1-17
  “WHO WILL GO FOR US?”
  Rev. Louis Chase
Golf with the Pastor
FELLOWSHIP, FUN & FRESH-AIR
Saturday, May 15, 2021
@ Brookside Golf at the Rose Bowl
1133 Rosemont Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91102

BREAKFAST→ 8:00 AM        TEE-OFF→ 10 AM
SINGLE $70.00 / FOURSOME $280.00

For additional information sign up please contact
Al Dixon: 213.272.9271 - alphamaurice@gmail.com
Church of the Bells—www.holmanumc.com

Confirmation needed by Sat. 5-8-2021 at 12 noon
Sunday, May 9, 2021, marks the first Mother's Day celebration for embracing the essence of my Mother's spirit. Following the transition of my Mother's passing on December 23, 2020 (five months shy of her 93rd birthday, May 2, 2021), I find myself reminiscing on the various seasons of our mother-daughter relationship, engagements, pursuits, experiences, and the likes. Remembering the relentless and peaceful days, I am mindful that I am always the child as a little girl and adult even though circumstances require role adjustments.

Executing my new duties and responsibilities as her conservator and primary caregiver was far from being a piece of cake, especially when circumstances dictated taking the lead in making decisions related to her well-being and limiting her input. My Mother was often adamant about reiterating, she was the Mother's Mother and would say, "I had you; you did not have me." Even with her fading voice during her last few days, she still gave me good instructions on dealing with life. Simply amazing, genuinely given, and humbly accepted as an act of love.

As I progressively acknowledged that once the Mother, always the Mother, no matter what changing conditions warrant, a great deal of intentional diplomacy governed the relationship. I stood on the message from Deuteronomy 5:16, “Honor your Father and your Mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.” Motivated by a renewed attitude, I moved forward with an enriched, encouraged, and enthusiastic acceptance of my new season.

Understanding and accepting the aging process as a part of the family evolution is paramount and requires loving management. One of the guidelines to follow is to cling to the "Golden Rule." "So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you…” (Matthew 7:12). With wisdom and knowledge, we can provide the same grace and mercy the Spirit of God extends to us, incorporate scripture into real-life experiences.

As the later years progressed, the responsibilities of Mother and Daughter adjustments became apparent, and we followed suit each passing day with mutual respect. Some days were characteristic of the tumult of the raging seas. In contrast, other days manifested into the calmness and buoyance of the ocean waves with soothing sounds that echoed instructions to abide in peace and be still. The days that beamed and radiated like the sun's rising of a brand-new day and sailing ships fading into the sea's vanishing depth at the sunset brought us joy.

My Mother represented an anchor of life attached to a solid foundation that sustained, protected, supported, and encouraged my faith walk, which led to open doors of opportunities. With zealous resilience, my Mother's commitment to motherhood modeled God-Spirit-filled greatness. Anna Belle Troy Mitchell, a Proverb 31 Woman, was a dynamic entrepreneur, healthcare and daycare provider, tailor, mentor, and living disciple.

During my sobering moments, I recognize that this combination of emotions impacts my being. Recalling the past and looking towards the future is acceptable if they do not impede my present modus operandi. I must be mindful to stay in the "NOW IS" and know that living in the "NOW IS" empowers.

Recognizing I am not alone, I look to my God-given friends in gratitude for all they are and pray that the friendship continues to be beyond what I imagine and desire. As this 2021 Mother’s Day approaches, I reflect with deep appreciation on how my Mother cared for the family and others, and pray that I can follow her example, and live her legacy.

With gratitude and love, I give thanks!!

By Diane Mitchell Henry
“Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Romans 8:34 NIV

If you were walking or driving by 7516 Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA on March 27, 2021, you would not have spotted the Easter bunny. You would have seen over 20 Faith Foster Families Network (3FN) members, doing what we do best, staying engaged with our community and meeting the needs of our at risk families during this covid19 pandemic. This is historically the time that families and communities come together to celebrate the resurrection of Christ through age old traditions of Easter egg hunts, the giving of Easter baskets and taking pictures with the Easter bunny. In light of the restrictions still in place for large gatherings, 3FN took the initiative to pivot on these rituals and found a way to honor and celebrate Christ’s resurrection in a safe and joyful manner. With the help of our community partners, ministry members, DCFS, and Every Table, we distributed over 350 meals and Easter bags filled with school supplies, chocolates and holiday candies, socks and other fun toys to resource families for their children. We must remain diligent during this pandemic to connect with families with the love of Christ in our hearts and a tangible offering of support in our hands.

Keep watch for our next outreach event in May 2021 for National Foster Care Month

If you would like to know more about 3FN and/or participate in our next event, visit the website at https://www.faithfosterfamilies.org/.
In his book "Everyone Can Do Something," Jason Johnson says, "We're not all called to do the same thing, but we're all certainly capable of doing something".

Our kids in care outside of their homes need us to show up! In big and small ways. Don't overthink it. Holmanites have done simple yet impactful things that make a difference. For instance, a Disciples Bible Study class made 14 Hygiene kits for foster youth. Another member and a few of her fellow Holmanites, blessed a young person who has just transitioned out of the system, with a monthly food gift card. The Holman Foster Care Ministry team has volunteered to wrap Christmas presents, create Easter bags and contributed school supplies for children / youth in foster care. It's not hard! However, EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING!

MAY IS FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH—The Faith community is called to this ministry (James 1:27). The theme for 2021 is "Foster Care As A Support To Families, Not A Substitute For Parents." Nationally there are over 423,000 in care. In L.A. County over 35,000 children are in care. We are Calling You To Action

WHY WE OBSERVE NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH (from National Today website)

1. Children are our future
It may sound corny but it’s true. When we invest in our youth we invest in the future of civilization and we need to ensure we give them every opportunity possible.

2. Foster care does a Lot
Foster care plays a critical role in providing young people who have had to be removed from their homes a critical place of refuge. It is an invaluable resource for keeping children safe in temporary circumstances and providing stability, direction, and comfort to our nation’s most vulnerable sons and daughters.

3. Foster care saves lives
The main reason foster care exists is to remove children from harmful situations and help get them into safer environments. This program has saved countless lives over the years through prevention, education, and fostering to provide the best circumstances possible for our youth.

Contact us at info@faithfosterfamilies.org or call, 323-531-7900.
Visit our website at www.faithfosterfamilies.org
EVERYTABLE Partnership—There are numerous unsung heroes among us and one of those is the wonderful organization, Everytable. Since Thanksgiving 2020, Everytable in partnership with 3FN and the Department of Children & Family Services, has delivered a weekly box of five prepared meals to 95 families in So. L.A. who are either foster families or impacted in some way by the child welfare system. Everytable believes “that nutritious food is a human right”. They are eager to serve in areas where the need is the greatest, often in areas that are considered “food deserts.” On behalf of 3FN and families impacted by the child welfare system, we say thank you, thank you! You are a great partner, with great people serving a great product.

EAVE Sessions—Kicking off the new year, 3FN has hosted four virtual events, entitled EAVE. The acronym stands for Education and Volunteer Engagement. The goal is of the series was to raise awareness and educate the faith community and the community at-large about foster care. The series also aimed to serve as a motivation for involvement in support of foster children, former foster youth and foster parents. Everyone can do something. The need exists for resource parents (foster parents), emergency foster parents, respite care parents, foster youth mentors, resource family mentors. Not ready for a big commitment, volunteer for one of our events. And of course, you can always donate! 3FN will host a fall 3 part EAVE series in September. Please stay tuned.

Easter Bag Blessing—We held our Easter Bag Blessing event on March 27th. We have shared a little about that experience with photos below, and a short reflection on page 9 of this Bellringer issue, with additional photos. Together we CAN make a difference!!
Living Kidney Donor Sought

Rev. Thomas C. Hill, III is a member of the Holman family. He served the Holman people as Associate Pastor from 1982 to 1990. During that time, his wife, Carla, and their two daughters, Jennifer and Rachel, were also active in the life of the church. Even after Rev. Hill took administrative and superintendent positions in the Cal-Pac Conference, the family continued to make Holman their church home. I know the Hills are treasured and much-loved members of this church.

Rev. Hill served the Holman people in countless ways. Now it is our turn to be of service to him and his family.

Rev. Hill needs our help now. He needs a kidney transplant. He has been on the waiting list for a kidney for over 6 years, but no match has yet been found.

Unfortunately, kidney failure is common in African Americans, who have a higher incidence of both diabetes and high blood pressure. This is so, in large part, because African Americans do not receive the same attention and quality of care by the medical and scientific community as do Caucasians.

While awaiting a kidney transplant, Rev. Hill is kept alive by dialysis, 3 days a week, 4 hours each session. But dialysis has its own risks. And even at its best, it is not a permanent solution. Dialysis is no substitute for a healthy kidney. This means that the only way that Rev. Hill can be restored to good health is by someone donating one of their kidneys to him.

There is good news about kidney donation though! If we are healthy, we can live our full length and health of life with just one good kidney. That means any one of us who is a good match for Rev. Hill could be a living donor. We could give Rev. Hill one of our kidneys (I like to think of it as our “extra” kidney) and both go on to live a long and healthy life.

There is another bit of good news about living kidney transplants. There is something called Paired Donation. In that case, two or more people needing kidneys, who have willing donors who aren’t a good tissue match for them can “swap” kidneys if the donors are good matches for each other’s friend or loved one.

For that reason, I have passed on the results of my own HLA tissue typing (done by a simple blood draw) to Rev. Hill’s transplant coordinator. As a Caucasian, it is unlikely that I will be a good match for Rev. Hill, but perhaps someone out there who could use my kidney would have a friend who is a good match for Rev. Hill, and both people could be restored to good health.

There are a number of ways we can help. First, we can keep Rev. Hill, his family and his medical team in our prayers. And we can pray that a donor will step forward soon. Second, we can tell everyone we know about Rev. Hill’s need for a kidney and about the possibility of their becoming a living donor. Third, we can get more information about being a living kidney donor ourselves. We can discuss it with our own doctor or with Rev. Hill’s transplant coordinator. Most importantly, we can pray about whether we are being called by God to be a donor. Fourth, we can get tested to see if we are a good match for Rev. Hill. This starts with giving a simple blood sample for HLA tissue typing.

If we’re a good match, additional testing is done to ensure our good health and our suitability as a donor.

Two important things to remember: First, you can explore this anonymously, if you prefer. Second, at any step along the way, potential donors can change their mind.

You should know that all the members of Rev. Hill’s family have been tested and unfortunately none is a good match for him. This is not unusual. It means that someone outside Rev. Hill’s family will need to step forward to save his life.

April was organ donor month. For more information about living kidney donation or to get tested, please call Rev. Thomas Hill at 323-294-7030. Or if you wish to explore this anonymously first, you can call the Cedars-Sinai Transplant Center directly at 310-423-2641 or 800-303-6235.

Thank You, and May God Bless You and Yours,

Gisele Fontaine
SENATE BILL ADDING 2 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE REPS TO SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PASSES CALIFORNIA SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE, MOVES TO NEXT STEP

SB 342 creates partnership between Senator Lena Gonzalez, San Diego County Chair Nathan Fletcher and Communities for a Better Environment

Sacramento, Calif. – The Senate Environmental Quality Committee today passed Senate Bill No. 342 (SB 342) out of committee and is now headed to the Senate Governance and Finance Committee. The bill adding two environmental justice representatives to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) was introduced by Senator Lena Gonzalez and sponsored by San Diego County Board of Supervisors’ Chair Nathan Fletcher and Communities for a Better Environment.

AQMD regulates air emissions from stationary sources located in the South Coast Air Basin. SB 342 will empower community involvement and promote equity by adding two environmental justice representatives to the South Coast Air Quality Management District governing board. Currently there are 13 members composed of representatives from all across the south coast air basin region. The two new members will be required to live in and work directly with communities in the South Coast Air Basin that are disproportionately impacted by high levels of pollution. Adding these seats will empower the community and enhance local decision-making.

“The voices of low-income communities of color disproportionately impacted by air pollution must be heard and involved in the decision-making process at AQMD in order to achieve environmental justice, a healthier future and cleaner air for all” said Senator Lena Gonzalez. “I am proud to author SB 342 to empower community involvement and promote equity as we address air pollution challenges that threaten the health of Californians and I am thankful for the partnership and support of Chair Nathan Fletcher and environmental justice advocates such as Communities for a Better Environment.”

The addition of environmental justice advocates to AQMD would follow similar actions by the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and California Air Resources Board (CARB)—both entities that have benefited from community voices. Chair Fletcher serves on both CARB and APCD and has firsthand experience for how each entity has been strengthened by their environmental justice representation.

“Air quality and the protection of public health is vitally important. It is a moral obligation and goes beyond a local challenge, it is one that we must tackle together as a state,” said Chair Fletcher during today’s testimony. “Changing the AQMD composition proposed under SB 342 will create greater participation and consideration of multiple sides of air quality challenges. It also places more focus on accountability and relief for communities overburdened by air pollution. Passing this bill is the right thing to do and I appreciate Senator Gonzalez for her partnership.”

“We greatly appreciate the leadership of Senator Gonzalez in recognizing that AQMD needs to start listening to and addressing the needs of working class communities of color by putting in place aggressive health protective policies,” said Bahram Fazeli, Director of Research and Policy at Communities for a Better Environment. “This can only be done by reforming AQMD at the top and adding environmental justice voices to the Board.”

The partnership between Senator Gonzalez, Chair Fletcher and Communities for a Better Environment is one rooted in their dedication and tireless work for a clean environment. All provided passionate, fact-driven testimony in support (Gonzalez, Fletcher & Fazeli) of SB 342 during today’s Environmental Quality Committee Hearing.

To learn more visit: https://sd33.senate.ca.gov/
To learn more visit www.SupervisorNathanFletcher.com.
To learn more visit: http://www.cbecal.org/
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Cost: FREE
RSVP Deadline: MAY 4, 2021

All pastors, ministry leaders, and anyone who leads ministry during pandemic are invited to attend.
This event is sponsored by Cal-Pac New Ministries EMT.

About the Speaker:
OLU BROWN is the Lead Pastor of Impact United Methodist Church in metro Atlanta, which is one of the fastest growing United Methodist Churches in the country. As a Church Planter, Coach, Facilitator and Servant Leader, Olu has been equipped and developed in helping churches and church leaders live into their prophetic voices. After living in Atlanta for twenty years and being in close proximity to the voices and places of the civil rights movement of the 50's and 60's, Olu is uniquely capable to teach and lead church leaders in understanding the importance and the power of the prophetic voice. He believes it is critical for leaders to be able to understand the future and how to navigate a pandemic with passion and hope of a future filled with promise.

Zoom information will be sent to you by Connectional Ministries closer to the event date.

For questions about this event, contact Rev. Anthony Boger, Associate Director of New Ministries EMT, at aboger@calpacumc.org or 626.568.7353.

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FOR YOUR SPIRIT

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Hebrews 11:1

WORD FOR THE SOUL

What we do in life echoes in eternity.

The DEADLINE for the next Issue of the Bellringer is Sunday, May 16, 2021 for the JUNE publication. Bellringer deadline is every THIRD Sunday.

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