



Lake Tahoe Fellowship Retreat Northern California Japanese Christian Church Fellowship (NCJCCF) Sunday, July 22- Friday, July 27, 2018

January 31, 2018

Happy New Year from the Lake Tahoe Fellowship (LTF) Board!

Come join us at the 39th Annual Lake Tahoe Fellowship Retreat at the beautiful lakeside Zephyr Point for fellowship and spiritual growth. Last year, we had 49 conference attendees and we anticipate more this year! We have much information to share.

The dates of the retreat are Sunday, July 22 through Friday, July 27, 2018.

The LTF Board has met several times since the conclusion of the 2017 retreat. We have compiled thoughtful suggestions from last year's evaluations and believe these will be reflected in the 2018 retreat. The fees will include meals and gratuity for kitchen staff for the entire conference, comfortable rooms, snacks, most workshops, other amenities, great fun and fellowship. We have included the schedule from 2017 to give you an idea of the variety of activities we had last year.

There are ways to cut costs if you wish: Volunteer, run a workshop, tell your story and/or ensure your registration forms are postmarked by 3/2/18! Our volunteers are truly indispensable! We appreciate their willingness to share their expertise, creativity and invaluable service! This year we are offering one discount per person, whichever is greater, not including the early bird discount.

Please consider telling your story and becoming a "Faith Journey" speaker. Each individual has their own story and the conference participants always have their faith renewed after hearing these stories of warmth, humor and day-to-day life.

The Board also approved a \$50 late registration fee (forms and check postmarked after 3/16/18). Please get your paperwork in on time; this assists us with planning and making our commitments to Zephyr Point.

Cancellation refunds will be prorated depending on when the cancellation is made. No refunds will be given after 7/10/18.

Our keynote speaker this year will be Reverend John Oda. His theme is, "Planted by God." As a novice gardener he loves to plant vegetables in the summer. Seeing his garden grow reminds him so much about one's spiritual life - the need for good soil to start a good garden, the importance of strong roots, keeping the weeds at bay and harvesting the fruit.

Rev. John Oda is an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church and currently the pastor at Lake Park United Methodist Church in Oakland, CA. He holds a Masters of Social Work from the University of California at Berkeley and Masters of Divinity from the San Francisco Theological Seminary. He is currently serving the National Board of PFLAG (formerly known as Parents and

Friends of Lesbians and Gays). He is a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry in the California Nevada Annual Conference, the current Chair of the National Japanese American United Methodist Clergy Caucus, Circuit Leader for the AO Circuit and Co-Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of PFLAG. He is the past recipient of the Bishop Mel Talbert Racial Justice Award, Spirit of Solidarity Award from the American Muslim Voice and was awarded a Special Commendation from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for his work to bridge Muslim/Christian divisions in the city.

Rev. Oda is a second career minister. Previously he worked in various positions in Higher Education and his last non-church gig was as an Executive Director of a California state-wide non-profit. In his limited spare time he loves to work out, spend time with his 18 year old daughter, travel, go for long walks with his dog Hennessy and watch sci-fi movies with spiritual overtones.

At each retreat, we designate one evening to install new Officers and have a Memorial Service to remember our loved ones that have passed away in the past year. If you would like to light a candle in their memory, list your loved ones in the designated area on the registration form.

Please consider taking the bus transportation with United Coach Tours as parking spaces are very limited. The cost of the bus is approximately \$3,000 Round Trip from San Jose to Zephyr Point with stops to and from Berkeley United Methodist Church and Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church. Cost per person is \$125 from the bay area and \$100 from Sacramento. Maximum on the bus is 48 riders. Any shortfall in riders will cause the excess cost to be funded by the LTF fund (reserves).

You may also consider bringing your family, as day camp is available for children. Contact Lori Lee at (916) 730-0601 for additional information.

Looking forward to seeing you!

In Christ,

LTF Board members:

Jim Mar – Wesley, San Jose

Roy Takeuchi – Wesley, San Jose

Philip Yuki – Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church

Reverend Barbara Horikoshi-Firebaugh – Faith United Methodist Church, Sacramento

Its Yokota - Wesley, San Jose

Joanne Kumano – Wesley, San Jose

Jill Kanemasu – Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church and

Lori Lee – Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church

Attachment