



## **Bishop of the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church Robert T. Hoshibata**

A sansei, or third generation Japanese-American, Robert Tsugio Hoshibata was born and raised in Hawaii. He learned to know Jesus Christ and grew to love the church through the ministry of Wahiawa United Methodist Church in the plantation town of Wahiawa. At age 14, Bob made a commitment to enter the ordained ministry of The United Methodist Church. From that moment, the church occupied much of Bob's time and energy. He discovered and utilized gifts God had given him for ministry.

Following graduation in 1973 from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, with a B.A. with high honors, Bob studied at the Claremont School of Theology where he graduated with a D.Min. degree in 1977. While in seminary, Bob was named a Crusade Scholar and ordained deacon in 1974. After graduating from seminary, Bob was appointed to serve the North Gardena United Methodist Church and was ordained elder in 1979. After 7 years at North Gardena, Bob moved to the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference in 1984. For 14 years, he served as senior pastor for the Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church in Seattle, Washington. At

the invitation of Bishop Elias G. Galván, Bob was appointed Seattle District Superintendent until his election to the episcopacy in July of 2004 by the Western Jurisdictional Conference.

Bob has served as a member of the World Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, and as a board member of the General Council on Ministries for two quadrennia. His general church assignments have included the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (2004-2008); and the General Board of Church and Society (2008-2012, president 2012-2016). Currently he serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for Claremont School of Theology. He represented the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference at General and Jurisdictional Conferences in 1996, 2000, and 2004. Upon election to the episcopacy, he was assigned to the Portland Area (2004-2012), and in 2012 was assigned to the Phoenix Area (Desert Southwest Conference) then reassigned in 2016.

In June 2019, Bob was awarded a Doctor of Divinity Honoris Causa from Claremont School of Theology by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan, President of Claremont School of Theology.

Bob and his wife, Greta were married in 1974 and have three adult children and three grandchildren.

## Bishop's Award Recipients

During Annual Conference, Bishop Hoshibata celebrates laypersons in the church who have given extraordinary service to the Conference through their ministry



### **2013**

Laurie Lineberry – West District  
Walter Thompson – East District  
Glenda Hill – North District  
Sara Evans – South District

### **2014**

Dee Hicks – North District  
Carolyn Redmore – South District  
Twyla Thompson – East District

### **2015**

Kelly Deyoe – South District  
Dorothy D. DeLorenzo – North District  
Carol Armstrong – West District  
Karen Lynn McFarland – East District

### **2016**

Thomas Scott Bentley Jr. – West District  
Richard Duncan Spinning – South District

### **2017**

Paul Browning – East District  
Sharon Scobie – North District

### **2018**

Roann Wallace – East District  
Sally Hecht – East District

### **2019**

Robin Collins – North District  
Barbara Paulsen – North District  
Gretchen Lopez – South District  
Betty Mathis – West District

### **2020**

No awards given.

### **2021**

Randy Bowman – West District  
Marilee Miller Clarke – East District  
Julie O'Neal – East District

## **Incoming Bishop of the Desert Southwest Conference Grant Hagiya**

As a result of Bishop Hoshibata's request to retire on September 30, 2021, the Council of Bishops announced that Bishop Grant J. Hagiya, resident bishop of the California-Pacific Conference, will serve as the bishop of the Desert Southwest Conference for this interim time. This is not a plan to merge the two conferences. Rather, until the election of a new bishop for the Desert Southwest Conference, Bishop Hagiya will have responsibility for two conferences. Bishop Hagiya will begin serving the Desert Southwest Conference on October 1, 2021.

He graduated with an Educational Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Pepperdine University in 2012. Abingdon published his book, *Leadership Kaizen*, based on his dissertation on the Traits, Qualities, and Characteristics of Highly Effective UMC Clergy in 2013. He has worked and studied with Ron Heifetz and Marty Linksy at the Harvard Kennedy School, and is a member of the newly formed Adaptive Leadership network. He holds a Professional Coaching Certification (PCC) from the International Coach Federation as a professional certified coach. He is also a Gallup StrengthFinder Certified Coach. He is currently training as a Professional Team Coach with Peter Hawkins in his Systematic Team Coaching Training Program. He is a graduate of the Claremont School of Theology, where he received M.A., M.Div., and D.Min. Degrees. In 2019, he received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Claremont School of Theology. He is an Adjunct Faculty Member at Claremont, where he teaches Religious Leadership and United Methodist Studies.



Prior to his election to the episcopacy, he served as the Senior Pastor at churches in Berkeley, Gardena, and Los Angeles, California as well as the Los Angeles District Superintendent and Dean of the Appointed Cabinet of the California Pacific Annual Conference.

Elected to the Episcopacy in 2008, he served for eight years in the Greater Northwest Annual Conference, which includes three annual conferences: Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and the Pacific Northwest. He was a member of the Commission on the Way Forward, tasked with forging a strategy on human sexuality for The United Methodist Church. He is the current chair of the Council of Bishop's Task Force that plans the new Learning Retreats for all active Bishops. He is a former President of the College of Bishops for the Western Jurisdiction.

Grant is married to Janet, a retired high school librarian, and has three children, Lexie, Jamie, and Trent; and four grandchildren.

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