## Lake Tahoe Fellowship Retreat Northern California Japanese Christian Church Fellowship (NCJCCF) Sunday, July 20- Friday, July 25, 2025

February 24, 2025

Greetings from the Lake Tahoe Fellowship (LTF) Board!

The dates of our retreat this year are Sunday, July 20 through Friday, July 25, 2025.

Last year, we had a waitlist and were completely full before the early bird date. If you are thinking of coming, please get the registration form in with your payment as quickly as possible. The early bird deadline is March 21, 2025 and must be postmarked by this date. The early bird discount is now \$25.

Our keynote speaker this year will be Reverend John Miyahara. His theme is, "Flourishing in a Life of Faith." John was highly recommended by several participants and we look forward to his presentation.

**Rev. John Michio Miyahara** is a native of Denver, CO, but now claims Honolulu, HI, as his hometown.

In 1995, he graduated from the Boston University School of Theology and the same year was also ordained Deacon in the former Rocky Mountain Annual Conference. Rev. Miyahara was ordained Elder in 1998. In 2017, he transferred his membership to the California-Pacific Annual Conference. Throughout his ministry career he has served on annual conference and denominational leadership teams. Rev. Miyahara served parish churches in Washington State and Colorado from 1995-2001.

In 2001, he moved to Carlisle, PA, where he was the Director of Religious Life & Community Services at Dickson College until 2007. Chaplain Miyahara entered the Navy reserve in 2001 and went to full-time active duty in 2007. He has been assigned to shore and operational billets in Earle, NJ, Norfolk, VA, Quantico, VA, New Orleans, LA, Pensacola, FL, Washington DC, Guam, San Diego, CA, Pearl Harbor, HI, and Bremerton, WA.

CDR Miyahara is currently stationed in San Diego, CA and lives with his wife Andrea and their son Ben.

We have relaxed our Covid-19 restrictions. We are no longer asking for current vaccinations, but hopefully we all will use common sense and wear a mask if needed. We will be providing hand sanitizer and masks in our main meeting room.

Our fees do go up every year. These fees will include meals, comfortable rooms, snacks, most workshops, golf carts, other amenities and gratuities for kitchen staff.

If you wish to cut some costs: Volunteer, run a workshop, share your faith journey and/or ensure your registration forms are postmarked by 4/19/25. Our volunteers are truly indispensable! We appreciate

their willingness to share their expertise, creativity and invaluable service! You may take one discount, in addition to the early bird discount.

Please consider being a "Faith Journey" speaker. Each individual has their own story and the conference participants always have their faith renewed after hearing these journeys. If you would like to share your journey please email Lori at <a href="mailto:shoppinglori@sbcglobal.net">shoppinglori@sbcglobal.net</a> or include a note with your registration.

If you have a talent and would like to run a workshop, please do! We are especially looking for those geared to our male conferees and arts and crafts as this is always mentioned in our evaluations.

Snacks are always in abundance at our retreat. If you would like to bring some and share, your snacks will be placed on the "Table of Plenty." Please sign up to replenish the snacks or help package the extras for the bus ride home.

The Board also approved a \$50 late registration fee (forms and check postmarked after 4/20/2025). 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. <u>No refunds</u> will be given after 7/10/25.

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 or since our last conference in 2024. 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 our offered bus transportation with United Coach Tours as parking spaces are very limited. The cost of the bus is approximately \$4600 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 \$170 from the bay area and \$145 from Sacramento. Maximum on the bus is 48 riders. Our Lake Tahoe Fellowship reserves have always subsidized this mode of transportation.

Invite a friend or relative to experience this awesome time of fellowship!

Looking forward to seeing you!

In Christ,

## LTF Board members:

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