



El Camino Real District

**California-Nevada Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church**

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Sandra K. Olewine, Bishop
Rev. Samuel Hong, District Superintendent

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June 1, 2025

Sally Hansen, SPRC Chair
Eureka First United Methodist Church
520 Del Norte Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Members of Eureka First United Methodist Church,

Peace of Jesus Christ be with you. After prayerful consideration, Bishop Sandra K. Olewine, in consultation with the Cabinet, has discerned a new pastor, Rev. Amy Beth Durward, to serve your church as Senior Pastor, effective July 1, 2025.

Pastor Amy Beth has led her ministry with a deep and consistent commitment to recognizing and responding to the needs of the community—creating safe, welcoming spaces and embodying God's grace through concrete acts of compassion and justice. She holds a Doctor of Ministry in Transformational Leadership and Social Justice; her doctoral research focused on the spiritual and communal importance of sabbath, particularly in the fast-paced, high-demand context of Silicon Valley. Among her many gifts, preaching stands out as her greatest strength. With a conversational style, she brings Scripture to life in ways that speak clearly and powerfully to the issues and challenges of today. She is also a capable and insightful administrator, drawing on her introspective and detail-oriented nature to provide steady, thoughtful leadership. Further, she takes great joy in helping lay members identify and nurture their own callings, firmly believing that the church thrives when all God's people actively engage in ministry together for the sake of their community.

Under her faithful leadership, I trust that Eureka First will grow in mission and ministry as we work together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. During this important time of transition, I ask you to pray for Pastor Amy Beth and to welcome her warmly into your community. I also encourage you to pray for Pastor Rebecca, as she prepares for her next chapter in ministry. May we trust in God's guidance, knowing that He will lead us forward through this pastoral transition.

Blessings,

Rev. Samuel Hong
El Camino Real District Superintendent

On behalf of Rev. Blake Busick
Great Northern District Superintendent