

## Proclamation

- Whereas,** Reverend Michael Yoshii was born in Berkeley, California, graduated from El Cerrito High School and the University of California, Berkeley, then earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion in 1986; and
- Whereas,** In 1988, Reverend Yoshii became the pastor at Buena Vista United Methodist Church (BVUMC) in Alameda, a culturally diverse church with a history of outreach to the Japanese community, and dedicated to inclusiveness to all, regardless of age, ability, physical condition, race, gender, sexual orientation, or socio-economic class; and
- Whereas,** for the past three decades, Reverend Yoshii and his congregation have addressed human and civil rights issues, racial and socio-economic equity, community development, immigrant rights, affordable housing, mental health access in Asian communities, disaster relief and Muslim, Palestinian and Filipino rights and protections; and
- Whereas,** Reverend Yoshii worked with community members to lobby the Alameda Unified School District and the Alameda Board of Education to conduct a diversity audit, which led to new hiring goals to increase diversity among the district's workforce. He was also integral in the campaign to create more affordable housing in Alameda, particularly in the West End after the Alameda Naval Air Station closed; and
- Whereas,** In 2006, under Reverend Yoshii's advocacy and leadership, BVUMC became a Reconciling Congregation, acknowledging the history of exclusion of LGBTQ persons by the Christian faith and fully including LGBTQ persons into the life of the United Methodist Church; and
- Whereas,** Reverend Yoshii championed numerous programs designed to promote intercultural activities, justice, equity and inclusion. These include Coalition of Alamedans for Racial Equality (CARE) which he co-founded to address racial tensions in the city; the Alameda Multi-Cultural Community Center, serving as Founding Member and Chair; was a Founding Member of Renewed HOPE (Renewed Housing Opportunities Provided Equally) to help African-American families secure affordable housing in Alameda; Co-Chair of the Friends of Wadi Foquin, a Palestinian village, partnering with the Alameda Sister Cities Association to propose a Sister-City relationship with Alameda and Wadi Foquin; and
- Whereas,** Reverend Yoshii is widely known for his human rights advocacy and commitment to social justice, and as a man of peace and understanding. We are deeply grateful for his service to our community and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement, and in his new role as a grandfather.

**Now, therefore be it resolved,** that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, July 7, 2020 as

### Reverend Michael Yoshii Day

in the City of Alameda and encourage all residents to be inspired by, and emulate the compassion and advocacy for others, manifested by action to achieve social justice, demonstrated by Reverend Michael Yoshii.

  
Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft  
Mayor

