



## Presbytery of San Gabriel

# MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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Monday, June 18, 2018

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### PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Claremont Presbyterian Church of Claremont in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, June 24, 2018.

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### ON THE CALENDAR

**223rd General Assembly June 16th - June 23rd in St. Louis, MO**

Executive Presbyter, Wendy Tajima will be out of the office attending General Assembly June 15-23

Stated Clerk, Diane Frasher will be out of the office attending General Assembly June 19 - 23

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**Mission Co-Workers Ryan and Alethia White are in our area through June 27 and are available to speak with your church groups.**

They serve with the Iranian Presbyterian Church in Berlin, which is a community of farsi-speaking migrants from Iran and Afghanistan. Many in the congregation came to Germany in the last three years and are still in the asylum process. Ryan and Alethia help provide spiritual support through the weekly worship services and Bible Study along with working to network with other organizations who can help provide social assistance. In the midst of a difficult and chaotic period of life for many, the Iranian Presbyterian Church seeks to foster a space of peace where people can encounter the living and loving God through Jesus Christ. You can reach them via email at <[alethia.ryan@gmail.com](mailto:alethia.ryan@gmail.com)> to set up a time.

**There are currently two gatherings scheduled in San Gabriel Presbytery:**  
Wednesday, June 13, 7-8 pm at San Marino Community Church  
Friday, June 22, 7:30-8:30 pm at Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church (see flyer [HERE](#))

## A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. - *Galatians 3:28*

June 18: A Brave, New, Non-Binary World

I am writing from the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri. Here's a photo of our representatives, in their first plenary session: Young Adult Advisory Delegate Sophia Alecci (who has become one of the leaders among the YAADs), Ruling Elder Commissioner Deborah Owens, and Teaching Elder Commissioner Bear Ride.



So far the biggest news has been the election of co-moderators Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and Rev. Cindy Kohlmann.



My personal claim to fame is that Cindy is a good friend of mine, so I got to spend election night backstage. Here's a not-great photo that gives you a glimpse of the rites of leadership passage in the PC(USA). This photo includes all six candidates, who ran in three teams: from left to right, Cindy and Vilmarie, co-moderator candidates Revs. Eliana Maxim and Bertram Johnson, and vice moderator candidate Rev. Ken Hockenberry, who ran with moderator candidate Elder Chantal Atnip. Guiding them with prayer and experience is Elder Heath Rada, moderator of the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (co-moderators of GA222, Tawnya Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, were on stage).



The election is always met with acclamation, and sometimes some controversy-in this case, the YAADs' disappointment as the commissioners voted differently than the YAADs. But this election seems to have a historic element. Though it hasn't been published yet, it appears that Vilmarie, a native of Puerto Rico, is the first Latinx GA moderator.

No, you did not just catch me in a typo. The term "Latinx" is a new gender-neutral term for a Latin-American person. Off-hand, I can remember the evolution of the term from Latin-American, to Latin (or Hispanic), to Latino, to Latino/a or Latin@, to Latinx-or Latine. The term "Latinx" seems to come from writers in Mexico and academics in the United States who do not restrict gender identity as binary. So the term can simply mean everyone. But some people do not identify as male OR female; they are either "gender fluid" or "gender expansive." The language is itself fluid, as it attempts to describe this fast-moving issue of gender identity-and yes, honestly I am confused about this new language also. But in my confusion, I have been advised by our younger generation to still listen to their perspective with

respect even if I don't understand what they are saying.

Now Vilmarie is decidedly Latina, a woman ruling elder married to Rev. José Manuel Capella-Pratts, pastor of First Spanish Presbyterian Church in Miami, Florida. Cindy used the term "Latinx" to emphasize that Vilmarie is the first person of her community, male or female, to be elected Moderator of the PC(USA). Cindy had to repeat this to me, because I couldn't believe it was true, but I just went over the list of all GA moderators since John Witherspoon in 1789, and I didn't see anyone I knew to be Latino-oops, I mean Latinx.

Why am I attempting to explain this? Because the topic has come up recently, especially with our younger generation. But in some ways, it's just a new casting of old challenges to the ways Western society tends to force everything into two adversarial camps-so you are in or out, right or wrong, with us or against us. The reality is, of course, that there are infinite varieties of people and perspectives, and it reduces our understanding to enforce these false dichotomies.

Ironically, the big "a-ha!" moment for me came because I have become increasingly concerned that the conservatives in the PC(USA) are either distrusted or ignored by our church leaders. Rev. David Won, who helped with Korean Good Shepherd, and a friend are board members of the Fellowship Community, and I have heard that this group has lost some energy. At the same time, many in the PC(USA) confuse the members of the Fellowship Community with those who have left the PC(USA), especially for ECO, and so they look with suspicion at the Fellowship Community members as if they are going to seek dismissal. On the contrary, the Fellowship Community members have made a commitment to stay PC(USA), not to debate with the church but for reasons that include shared mission, heritage, or a sense of God's calling. By staying PC(USA), they have faced pressure and criticism from those who did leave for ECO. Attending a Fellowship GA debriefing Sunday night, I heard the leaders describe the group as I have understood it-a gathering of what is now a conservative minority in the PC(USA), where they do not have to feel alone.

So what does non-binary gender identity have to do with the Fellowship Community? Not what you think-though it's still probably an area of disagreement, there was no mention of sexuality in the debrief, and the Fellowship Community members do not seem to have any desire to revive that argument. No, my "a-ha" moment came when I was expressing a hope that when the PC(USA) leaders brag about how inclusive we are, they value theological diversity as well. As someone who was raised in a classically liberal Presbyterian church, I have greatly benefited from the faith of evangelical Christians, especially in the areas of Bible study, clear theological beliefs, and appreciating our personal relationships with Jesus Christ. The problem has been when we fail to learn from each other, but instead attempt to force the other to come to our side of any particular debate. How can we continue to have lively, challenging theological discussion without falling into divisiveness? A colleague suggested that we learn to appreciate "non-binary theological diversity"-because, in theology as well as in other parts of life, we need not reduce our understanding to conservative or liberal, disciple or heretic, relevant or backwards.

May we learn to accept the will of God even when the answers given to us are not binary, predictable, or even comfortable. May our confidence in God's grace infuse all our deliberations, at all levels of the church, that we may be open to whatever God has in store for us. And may we take the time to listen with respect to each other-be they conservative, liberal, young, or older-that we may better taste the complex and diverse mix of lives and faithfulness that gives us an even more complete glimpse of our very big God.

I ask your continued prayers, not only for the commissioners and advisory delegates

of this GA but also anyone who feels disrespected or not heard by those with authority-and, I pray that we all keep our ears and minds and hearts open, for that is how we will grow in understanding and compassion.

May you feel the comfort and challenge of Jesus this week,  
Wendy

The booklet for the GA is available on-line. It includes all the information about the logistics, schedule, and worship resources for the week. You can find information about GA at <https://ga-pcusa.org/> --and if you want to download the book, look for the red icon on the left-hand of the screen.



If you want all the detail on the overtures and business of the GA, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/> This is constantly updated throughout the week.

And if you want to feel like you're there, you can get the Guidebook app that includes lots of information, daily news, and regular updates as the business changes. You can get the app at <https://guidebook.com/g/ga223/>

May we as a church continue to listen for God's voice, and in all we do and say, may we reflect the light of Christ.

## Presbyterian Women

The Synod PW Fall Gathering will be October 6th at Westminster Gardens. If you didn't attend the recent Spring Gathering, you missed a great time! Thanks to the ladies of Diamond Bar: Northminster for hosting a lovely day. There were about 75 in attendance and we commissioned almost 30 people who will be attending the National Gathering in Louisville. Besides a short business meeting and a great lunch, we made about 50 sani-pantis and cut out fabric for many more.

BTW, it's not too late to register for Louisville. The deadline is July 7th. You can download a form at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering).

## A MESSAGE FROM TAMARA ABHARI FOR MEHDI'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

Dear Family and Friends,

It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart that I write to inform you that Mehdi, my soulmate of 60 years, passed away on May 10, 2018.

The memorial service is scheduled on:

Saturday, June 23, at 3:00 pm at  
Westminster Gardens  
1420 Santo Domingo Ave.  
Duarte, CA 91010

It was Mehdi's wish that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to [World Mission](#) of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

## 2018 REVIEW OF RECORDS

Saturday, October 13, 2018 at New Hope Presbyterian Church, Pasadena

## Meet us in St. Louis Meet us at Stewardship Kaleidoscope September 24-26, 2018

Looking for ways to transform how your church or judicatory views stewardship? This year's Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference will help you think about generosity in a whole new way! Stewardship Kaleidoscope is an annual event offering keynote speakers and workshops to renew your mind, and worship experiences to renew your spirit. There will also be plenty of time for incredible networking opportunities with others passionate about generosity and giving. Since you've attended a previous Stewardship Kaleidoscope event, we thought you'd want to be among the first to know about this year's transformative event. [SEE MORE](#) and [REGISTER HERE](#)

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## 2018 Presbytery Meetings

September 15, 2018 @ Calvary Presbyterian Church, South Pasadena  
November 10, 2018 @ First Thai Presbyterian Church, Covina

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## 2018 Presbytery Minimums

Pastor's Minimum Salary: \$53,745  
Travel/Professional Expense Reimbursement: \$2,550  
Study Leave: \$950

### **2018 Mileage Reimbursement Rates:**

Ministry .545 cents per mile                      Charitable 14 cents per mile  
Business .545 cents per mile

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## **Quick Links**

[www.sangabpres.org](http://www.sangabpres.org)

[www.synod.org](http://www.synod.org)

[www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

[www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org)

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church is looking for a Children's Ministry Summer Intern**

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- \* Teach Sunday school as assigned by the Children's Ministry Director;
- \* Spend time interacting with children on Sunday mornings;
- \* Plan and lead special activities/events for children and families throughout the summer;
- \* Work with adult volunteers;
- \* Other duties as assigned.

**Please click [HERE](#) for a complete Job Description**

La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church  
1040 Baseline Rd., La Verne, CA 91750  
909 593-1017  
[www.lvhpc.org](http://www.lvhpc.org)

### **Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church**

1111 No. Mountain Ave., Claremont, CA, 91711 is looking for a Temporary pastor, or Student Pastor, half time, who would like to offer his or her leadership in the work and growth of our ministry to the hispanic people in the area where we are located.

The position requires preaching on Sunday morning, conducting a Bible study

every Friday evening, some visitation, and cooperating with other activities of the church.

Salary according to experience and preparation.

Please send your resumé to Zoila A. García, Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church, 1111 No. Mountain Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. Or to [iglesiapresbyterianemmanuel@gmail.com](mailto:iglesiapresbyterianemmanuel@gmail.com)

### **Church Administrator**

Pasadena Presbyterian Church, 585 East Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena is seeking an individual to be responsible for efficiently administering the office operations in order to provide a welcoming and well run church, for the church members, staff and visitors. The current office operations staff includes a full-time facilities director, a full-time bookkeeper, a full-time administrative assistant and a part-time administrative assistant. This position will assist the Personnel Committee as the primary resource person for human resources matters. He/she will also work closely with the bookkeeper to ensure that financial statements are accurate and timely.

Qualifications include:

- 5+ years of supervisory experience including experience in the area of Accounting and Human Resources
- Experience working in a non-profit organization, preferably a church
- Strong working knowledge of office computer systems: Outlook, Excel, Word, PowerPoint, church accounting software, database software and willingness to learn new systems.

Compensation: \$65,000 - \$75,000 based on experience and ability with medical coverage included.

To apply: Submit resume, and cover letter pdf format to the attention of the Personnel Committee at [ppchr@ppc.net](mailto:ppchr@ppc.net). Please go to our website: [ppc.net](http://ppc.net) for a detailed job description. Applications will be received until the position is filled.

### **PRAISE BAND WORSHIP LEADER - SUNDAY MORNING**

Calvary Presbyterian Church in Riverside, CA, is looking for a talented singer/musician and worship leader for our Sunday 8:45 a.m. Contemporary worship service, *The Gathering*. Coordinating with the pastors, Worship Leader selects all songs for this service to compliment the scripture texts.

Also directs Praise Band including two vocalists and one pianist/vocalist; leads monthly 2-hr. practice;

and 30-minute warm-up on Sunday morning before worship. Ideally, Worship Leader would have

3+ years of experience leading praise worship and band, play guitar or other instrument, and

have experience working with and encouraging other musicians to create spirited, inspired

praise worship. We are a vibrant downtown church with 30-40 people in this service.

Paid position. Send details to Debbie Neal at [church@calvarypresch.com](mailto:church@calvarypresch.com)



### **Open Position - Director of Outreach**

Claremont Presbyterian Church is seeking a Director of Outreach. This is a full time position.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree and three years' experience working in a church, nonprofit, or similar organization. Some post-graduate work preferred. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

To apply: Submit resume, cover letter, and three current references in pdf format to [claremontpresapnc@gmail.com](mailto:claremontpresapnc@gmail.com). Applications will be received until the position is filled.

Click [HERE](#) for a complete job description.



## ***ITEMS OF INTEREST***

**This year the Office of Hispanic/Latino-a Intercultural and Congregational Support is hosting a Pastoral Leadership Development Seminary in Mexico City on July 18-22.**

*Would you help us share the word with Hispanic and Latino-a leaders in your Presbytery and consider supporting them so that they can have a time for continuing education and network with other leaders in the PCUSA?*

During the event, leaders will have the opportunity to engage in Intercultural Reading of the Bible and our guest speaker Dr. Hans De Wit\* will guide them in this popular and contextual method of reading the bible within their diverse faith communities as well as within their presbytery as a tool to encounter people from different cultures and build bridges of understanding so we may intentionally give steps toward becoming the beloved community that we are called to be in the Gospel.

The cost to attend is \$450.00 which includes 4 nights of a shared hotel room, one dinner, 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, a guided tour to Teotihuacan and materials. For more information and questions, contact Marissa Shearon at [marissa.shearon@pcusa.org](mailto:marissa.shearon@pcusa.org) or 502-569-5385.

**Save the Date - La Casa's Annual Fundraising Dinner**

Thursday, October 11, 2018 6 P.M.

LA/San Gabriel Hilton

