



## Presbytery of San Gabriel

# MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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Monday, July 16, 2018

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### PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Faith Grace Chinese Presbyterian Church of Claremont, in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, July 22, 2018.

### ON THE CALENDAR

Mission Advocate, Wendy Gist will be on vacation July 5 - July 29

### A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God. - *Ephesians 2:19*

#### July 16, 2018: Foreigners in Our Own Land

I did have the opportunity to visit Santa Fe, New Mexico, for a few days last week. I have often gone there, and at different times I have appreciated different aspects of the area. One place I always visit is the IAIA (Institute of American Indian Arts) Museum of Contemporary Arts. They always have new exhibits, especially showcasing young indigenous artists, and I always learn something about identity, or justice, or culture, or inspiration, or . . .

The artists often use different media, and video has become quite popular. In one room, there was a single installation by Nicholas Galanin (Tlingit/Unangax), "Wake Me from the American Dream," 2016. This work consists of two different video clips

running simultaneously on two different screens, mounted on opposite walls. On one screen, there is a scene of extreme American consumption (a large crowd tearing down a gate to get into a department store, recalling those Black Friday stampedes when people get trampled by shoppers rushing to get to the best bargains). The audio track is that of a crafts show explaining how to make a dreamcatcher, an Ojibwe tradition that has been appropriated and popularized among the dominant culture as a "marketable Native crafts item." On the other screen shows a non-indigenous scholar, who has never visited Tlingit land, teaching the Tlingit language and demonstrating a traditional Tlingit dance to a Tlingit audience.

When I first stepped into the room, I struggled to keep track of the two screens, presenting incompatible scenes at the same time. I then focused on each screen separately, and found that each screen presented incompatibility as well, though all shared the one consistent theme, what happens when an indigenous culture is wholly taken over by the dominant culture, even to the point of the dominant culture teaching their version of the indigenous culture to the descendants of that culture.

As I sat in the room, taking in both screens, I realized that the competing media demonstrated the split identity experienced by any of us considered "bicultural"-ie, those whose traditional values are challenged by the dominant culture. We attempt to honor the values we cherish, but it's difficult to hold to this in the face of more pervasive, louder, and more dramatic imagery from the dominant culture. And as the voices of our current society overcome the voices of our ancestors, we are subject to others from outside our community who judge us or tell us what is appropriate for our people. (I have had that happen, by the way, as well-meaning White liberals tell me that I'm not "Japanese enough" because I don't fit what they've learned about Japanese culture.)

As Christians, as citizens of the kingdom of God, we are all bicultural, because the values of God's realm are also challenged by the dominant culture, even as the dominant culture appropriates Christian culture and claims to teach us what it means to be Christian. (I experienced this phenomenon as a pastor, when working with new church members whose faith was first formed by Christian talk radio, or responding to a church member whose understanding of the PC(USA) was informed by internet searches which led him to the Presbyterian Layman.) But our bicultural Christian identity needs to be nurtured more conscientiously, because for most of us, our mother culture is that of the world.

So what are we to do? We can strive to listen for the still, small voice of God amidst the storms of dominant culture media. We can focus on nurturing community that gives a glimpse, a taste, of God's kingdom as a hope-filled contrast to the brokenness of the world. We can invite others to join our community, while being proactive in teaching them the ways of our Lord, which are not the same as the ways of the world. And we can be strengthened by reading Scripture, the most certain way of learning about God, as well as listening for God through prayer and worship, and connecting with other citizens at the kingdom table when we take communion.

It helps to first be aware that the world's culture, and American culture, is not necessarily of God. So let us not simply follow whatever we are told, especially from the loudest voices, and those who claim to know the mind of God. And let us be strong enough in the faith and Word of God, that we may assess what is around us in light of the standards of the kingdom of God, that we may not only be citizens in good standing but ambassadors of Christ, helping others to know the grace of Jesus Christ, whose love can overcome even the fear and hatred that infects the world around us.

May we rejoice and give thanks for the community of God's realm, and live out of the

laws of that kingdom, the laws of justice and peace, of grace and gratitude, of faithful and joyous obedience to the Lord of Love.

Blessings,  
Wendy

**Are you interested in learning about root causes of poverty and injustice?  
Would you like to share in mending the brokenness that exists in our  
world?**

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program brings leaders from partner organizations to interpret issues of peace and justice each year. By sharing stories of their work and witness, these International Peacemakers help us understand peace and justice concerns around the world.

Come hear firsthand from both an International Peacemaker and a Mission Co-worker who represents the PC(USA) in Haiti. Together Fabienne Jean and Cindy Correll will share stories of connection and partnership between the PC(USA) and ministry partner FONDAMA.

Fabienne and Cindy will be in Southern California from September 22-26.

Please contact Liz Daley at [Liz@Daley.name](mailto:Liz@Daley.name) to schedule a visit.



Fabienne Jean is the coordinator of Hands Together Foundation of Haiti. Known by its Haitian Creole acronym FONDAMA, the network is part of an initiative of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Her role is to work with the member organizations to find lasting solutions to the problems that impoverish the population of Haiti. The member organizations serve their individual communities in promoting agriculture, environmental improvements, clean water, and education. The organizations address root causes of the country's poverty such as land-grabbing, food imports, and climate change by creating campaigns to reduce their harmful effects.

Cindy Correll worked as reporter and editor for The News Leader in Staunton, Va., until leaving to serve as a Mission Co-worker with PC(USA) in 2013. She serves as a companionship facilitator with the Presbyterian Hunger Program's Joining Hands network in Haiti.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/international-peacemakers/>

**International Peacemaker from Haiti coming to Los Angeles in September**

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program brings leaders from partner organizations to interpret issues of peace and justice. The Presbytery of San Gabriel is hosting an International Peacemaker and a Mission Co-worker from Haiti. Together Fabienne Jean and Cindy Correll will share stories of connection and partnership between the PC(USA) and our Haitian ministry partner FONDAMA, an organization working to find lasting solutions to the problems that impoverish the population of Haiti including; land-grabbing, food imports, and climate change. Fabienne and Cindy will be in Southern California from September 22-26.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/international-peacemakers/>

If you would like them to speak at your church contact Liz Daley. [Liz@Daley.name](mailto:Liz@Daley.name)

## 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).

## 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

### **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)



## ***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

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