



Presbytery of San Gabriel

MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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Monday, August 20, 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

[A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA](#)

[INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKERS](#)

[FREE ALPHA COURSE](#)

[SPIRITUALITY AND AGING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM](#)

[2018 REVIEW OF RECORDS](#)

[2018 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS](#)

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#)

PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church of Hacienda Heights in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, August 26, 2018.

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tuesday, August 21 - Committee on Representation and Nominations 12:30 at SOTV, Hacienda Heights

Chaplain for Retired Presbyterian Church workers, Rev. Lauren Evans will be on vacation this week.

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

Let them curse, but you will bless.

Let my assailants be put to shame; may your servant be glad. - *Psalms 109:28*

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. - *Romans 12:17*

August 20, 2018: Righteous Indignation

Lately it seems I've been spending more time with lawyers than with pastors or elders. A week ago, I spent Wednesday with the Sheriff and Friday at court, on two different issues.

When I have mentioned this to others, they sometimes assume it's due to some problem within the church. The recent report on sex abuse by clergy in Pennsylvania gives credence to such assumptions. So I guess the one good thing about these cases is that neither situation was caused by conflict within the body, but by persistent, malicious attempts to take advantage of our churches.

Indeed, this may be the first time I've encountered such intentional persecution. All my life I've joked that I'm a walking security risk because I've been pretty trusting, and thank God I've had plenty of reasons to think the best of others. I've left purses in shops and restaurants only to have people run to bring them to me, and I've left keys in the doors of cars and houses, yet I've never faced the kinds of concerted campaigns to persecute us as we're dealing with now.

Even with conflicts within the church, I tend to believe that the opponents are trying to be faithful, but they have differing perspectives or kinds of brokenness that distort a virtuous intent.

So as I continue to battle these forces that persevere in defrauding or stealing property entrusted to our churches, I am also battling to discern Christ's way in facing these attackers.

My response so far is evolving, and by no means do I share this as some perfect model of Christian ethics in action, but it is important for us to examine how life's challenges affect us and our faith, and how our faith guides our responses to life's challenges.

Since both of these issues have required action in civil law, it is easy to feel helpless and dependent on the experts, our attorneys. We have two attorneys working with us. Both are dedicated Christians; one is an elder who is married to a pastor, and the other is taking seminary classes. But in a past situation, I had to deal with an attorney who charged forward like a raging bull without concern for preserving relationships, Christ's call for mercy, or for that matter depleting our financial, spiritual, and human resources. My experience back from my "Managers and the Law" class at Apple Computer is that while lawyers counsel the client, it's ultimately the client's decision whether to follow the lawyer's advice. [The other important learning from that class was the immense respect our system has for separation of church and state-so civil courts do not want to interfere with church governance, as long as the church follows its written policies. Good advice for us, to have written policies we can live with, and to follow them.] Thank God for attorneys who can hear our peculiar understanding of mercy as well as justice. For instance, our current corporate president wanted to shield some people who were caught up in one conflict; it was the attorney who remembered to make a point of making that happen with the court.

Another common response to violations against us is to seek revenge, or become overly protective in the future. Of course the prayer Jesus taught us includes the plea to "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"-or "forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us." So while we Christians are called to forgive, we are tempted to close up our churches and our hearts from anyone else who might do us harm. One of the great challenges to church growth is our attempts to protect our churches from those we believe to be risky, which may include those who look like someone who has hurt us in the past, or someone who behaves or dresses in an unusual manner, or whose language or background are unfamiliar. What about those we know to have done harm in the past?

When I was a Stated Clerk, I held an annual training for the clerks of session, and gave a little quiz. My favorite trick question was "True or False: The Book of Order states that no person shall be denied membership to a church unless they are deemed to be dangerous to the welfare or unity of the congregation." I was impressed that some clerks knew this to be false. G-1.0302 states:

No person shall be denied membership for any reason not related to profession of faith. The Gospel leads members to extend the fellowship of Christ to all persons.

Failure to do so constitutes a rejection of Christ himself and causes a scandal to the Gospel.

This mandate causes us to welcome, among other people, registered sex offenders. So the savvy clerks shared how their churches have developed methods to protect their churches while also welcoming those who have been known to do harm to others.

In my experience, this is the crux of our problem: how do we combine forgiveness with accountability? Too often I have counseled churches with elders or staff who have been problematic, and the session's response has been to either look the other way, or to seek exclusion. It's hard to take the third way of addressing the issue directly, respectfully, compassionately, and decisively. To look the other way for fear of conflict gives the offender-and the rest of the church-the signal that the negative behavior (such as bullying or gossiping) is acceptable, even effective. Abusive husbands who were "forgiven" by a conflict-avoiding church have said this allowed them to continue their abusive behavior. To exclude those who offend us denies our call to be forgiving and welcoming.

Remember, all are welcome, but not all have the gifts to lead. And all are welcome, but no one has the right to break the sacredness of the church as sanctuary, as refuge.

So how do we as Christians welcome all, forgive even those who sin against us, but also care for all that have been entrusted to us? As our world becomes increasingly diverse, as our church traditions go through fundamental change, and as more and more people have less and less respect for the church, we all must consider how to deal with this challenge. We can look to the early church for guidance, when Jews were expected to welcome Gentiles, ex-slaves were asked to forgive their masters, and Christians came to be led by one who tried to kill them. While the early church did not have the task and benefit of stewarding the abundant wealth of the PC(USA), Jesus told several parables about servants being entrusted with property. So we do have guidance, and ancestors in faith to learn from.

May we live out our faith as welcoming, caring, forgiving people to all we encounter. May we have the perseverance to protect and use wisely the gifts entrusted to us. And may we always look to Christ for guidance and salvation, as we continue to seek to serve him in a world that does not know him.

Blessings, and prayers for you and your churches,
Wendy

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

**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 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/>

Vision and Strategy Team Resources:



Free Alpha Course Conference in Santa Monica

Are you interested in:

Reaching un-churched people in your community, and helping them to explore Christianity in a fun and meaningful way?

Attend a free Alpha-Conference:

Venue: Vintage Church, 1015 California Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90403

Date: 10 am Tuesday Oct 2 - Noon Wednesday Oct 3

The Alpha Course is a proven congregational development tool.

For more information contact: Jake Kim, Associate for Ministry Development for San Gabriel Presbytery at jakekim@sangabpres.org or visit <https://www.vintagechurchla.com/alpha-con> or www.alphausa.org

SACP Brochure

2018 Spirituality & Aging Certificate Program



**A course integrating
faith and practice for those
working with and caring for
the older members of
our community**

Programs for older adults often rely on outdated models that do not reflect current cultural trends or an incomplete understanding of the deeper issues faced by persons in the later stages of life. Frequently, what's both lacking and needed is attention to spirituality in the aging process.

In the Spirituality & Aging Certificate Program, participants gain an understanding of the essential role spirituality plays in the aging process and how attending to the spirituality of older adults can enhance the efficacy of health care and congregational services for them. The certificate program is designed to increase awareness of spirituality in aging and empower participants to engage older adults spiritually in a holistic manner that is sensitive to spiritual formation and human development.



The Certificate Program on Spirituality & Aging will be offered starting in September 2018 with a retreat, followed by four courses, held monthly on Saturdays from 9 am to 1:30 pm. The program location is determined by registration.

Orientation Retreat	September 8, 2018
Course 1: Aging Defined	October 13, 2018
Course 2: Spirituality and Aging	November 10, 2018
Course 3: Aging in Context	January 12, 2019
Course 4: Spirituality & Organizational Theory	February 9, 2019

To contact us, and for continuing education and other information, please see the reverse.



Continuing Education Credit

The Spirituality and Aging Program meets continuing education requirements for:

- ❖ BBS
- ❖ RCFE
- ❖ CAMFT
- ❖ BRN
- ❖ NHA
- ❖ Your denomination

To Learn More

Visit <http://sccsa.ntswest.org> and contact us at 626-765-9500 or info@ntswest.org

Co-Sponsors



[New Theological Seminary of the West](http://www.ntswest.org)

We are people who are excited to be part of a new way of doing seminary – serving and building up faith communities by offering a new theological education resource in Southern California. **New Theological Seminary of the West** offers graduate programs, lay leader education, continuing education for faith leaders, members, and clergy, programming for churches, and independent study options.

Learn more at: www.ntswest.org

At **HumanGood**, we strive to be more than just a provider of senior living communities. We are on a mission to help older adults reach their full potential. As a local nonprofit organization, we are committed to the notion that better physical environments, better service, and better lifestyles lead to the rich, purposeful life everyone desires and deserves.

Learn more at: www.humangood.org

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](#)

2018 Presbytery Meetings

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

2018 Presbyery Minimums

Pastor's Miminum 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

Quick Links

www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Church Administrator

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1757 North Lake Avenue, 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 church members, staff and visitors. This position has responsibility for facilities operations, maintaining the church calendar, scheduling events and the use of church space. He/she will work closely with the accountant to ensure that financial statements are accurate and timely. The person in this position will also assist the Personnel Committee in Human Resource matters.

Qualifications include:

- 3-5 years of supervisory experience including experience in the area of accounting and administration;
- 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: \$42,500 - \$47,500 based on experience and ability with medical coverage included.

To apply: Submit resume, and cover letter in pdf format to the attention of the Personnel Committee at admin@wpcpas.org. Please go to our website:

www.wpcpas.org

for a detailed job description. Applications will be received until the position is filled.

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



ITEMS OF INTEREST

What: Monte Vista Grove Homes Community-wide Fall

Event Includes a pancake breakfast, plant and used furniture, clothes, books, odd n' ends sale. Featuring live entertainment, a silent auction, and fun for kids!

When: October 6, 8-11am*

*Stores stay open until 12pm

Where: 2889 San Pasqual St. Pasadena, CA 91107

Why: To support Monte Vista Grove Homes in providing holistic, compassionate and loving Independent Living Care for retired ministers and missionaries who have served the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. for 20 years or more. Funds raised will also support the community-at-large in Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Skilled Nursing facilities

Stewardship Kaleidoscope

September 24-26, 2018- St. Louis, MO

[Register Here](#)

Save the Date - La Casa's Annual Fundraising Dinner

Thursday, October 11, 2018 6 P.M.

LA/San Gabriel Hilton