



Presbytery of San Gabriel

MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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Monday, October 8, 2018

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PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Iglesia de la Comunidad Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, October 14, 2018.

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Wednesday, October 10 - Education Committee 3:30 at Fuller Seminary

Justice Peace Making and Mission at Knox, Pasadena

Thursday, October 11 - Administration and Finance 2:30 at Pasadena, Pasadena

Saturday, October 13 - Review of Records - 10:00 at New Hope, Pasadena

Executive Presbyter, Wendy Tajima and Stated Clerk Diane Frasher are attending the Mid-Council Leaders Gathering in Chicago and will be out of the office Monday and Tuesday.

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

Shout out, do not hold back!

October 8, 2018: Voices of the Voiceless

Hello from Chicago!

I am writing from the Mid-Council Leaders Gathering, an annual meeting organized by the Office of the General Assembly for synod and presbytery staff and stated clerks, known by veterans as the Polity Conference. In even-numbered years like 2018, it's a meeting to review what happened at the recent GA, and figure out what we need to do to follow up. In odd-numbered years like 2019, the meeting is held in the host city of the upcoming GA, so we can scope out the conference site, hotels, and restaurants. Regardless of the year, it's a time to connect, to give feedback to national leaders, and gain some training.

Yesterday turned out to be a very enlightening and empowering day. It started with Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett, the new President/Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, speaking at breakfast with her constant passion for mission, calling us all to be "love with skin on it" for the world. She shared a compelling concept, that the church needs to be *kenotic*, as we empty ourselves in order to welcome the world. I am so grateful to be on the team with Bong Bringas to call Diane to this critical position; she fulfills so well the most urgent request from the larger church—a person of faith who can communicate and inspire mission for the church. I also heard from a couple of friends what Bong had already told me, that her first board meeting was a great initial start for the new design of the PMA and its board.

The morning continued with some insightful remarks from Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, the Stated Clerk. He continues to challenge the church to be relevant, and to use our still-abundant resources to stand with Christ on the margins. His call for hope and responsibility was magnified in the stirring sermon from Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, co-moderator of the General Assembly. Focusing on Isaiah 58, Cindy asked what fast do we choose—do we put on mournful faces and focus inwardly on the loss of members and churches, or do we instead lift up our heads and fast from our attachment to being right, to shy away from risk or God's call to us to move beyond our comfort zones.

Because it was World Communion Sunday, Rev. Kohlmann requested the worship leaders to find people who could participate in many languages. What resulted was an intriguing illustration of the complexity of language and ethnicity. For instance, I was approached by Jihyun Oh, who thought I could do the words of institution in Japanese. I explained that I did not speak Japanese, and the best I could do would be to say "the body of Christ" and "the bread of Christ" in Hawaiian. She approached Elder Elona Street-Stewart, Executive of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, whose heritage is with the Delaware Indian nation. I approached two white leaders who have served among the indigenous people in Alaska. If we all were able to participate, we could have had four indigenous languages represented.

Instead, the two white leaders could not participate, and Elona could not speak the language of her people, because the last person who was fluent in Delaware Indian just died, so effectively the language is dead. So the only indigenous language represented was Hawaiian, but it was spoken by a Japanese-American woman from the North American continent.

Jihyun was able to locate others who contributed Spanish, Korean, Portuguese, and French. But there was a moment that brought all of us to tears. Rev. Raymond Meester, Stated Clerk of Homestead Presbytery in Nebraska, whose parents were deaf, had been using American Sign Language to translate the words of institution over the bread. Then it was his turn to give the words of institution, which he gave silently over the cup.

I can't explain the impact it had on all of us, to watch him signing to a totally silent room, but I get teary every time I remember it. It was more than beautiful-I think ASL always is. I thought it might be because Elona had just told me how her language had just died. But others said that they also responded just as strongly to the silent words of blessing and sharing of the cup.

Perhaps it was just the fresh awareness of a totally new way to receive the word of forgiveness of sins, the new covenant sealed in the blood of Jesus. Or perhaps it was a reminder of the importance to listen for the voices of the voiceless, voices that can be so lovely if we only stopped to listen. I was reminded of the part of the confession *A Brief Statement of Faith* 10.4, when it says:

In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

There are so many silenced people all around us, even in the church. I even experienced being silenced at dinner the same day, as someone decided that my voice was not sufficient, until he turned to someone else to confirm it.

I pray that we can take more brief sacred moments when we stop, look to Jesus, and receive the message that we too often neglect. And may our churches be those sanctuaries of grace, where the gospel is proclaimed through all forms of word, deed, gesture, and music; where those whom the world has ignored can be seen, heard, and respected; where all the nations of the world and all of Creation may rejoice in praise, bow down in worship, and reflect God's glory.

I return Tuesday night, and look forward to some celebrations for La Casa de San Gabriel and Pomona Hope this week. And a month from now, November 17th, the West Covina Ministry Center plans to hold an open house and thrift store with some beautiful clothing and other items. Details to follow.

Listening for God's quiet voice,
Wendy

SITE PASTOR FOR WEST COVINA

The West Covina AC has developed a job description for a half-time site pastor. This innovative position calls for a pastor who can be a pastoral presence for the Community Presbyterian Fellowship, facilitate cooperation among the ministries located at the West Covina Ministry Center (aka the Community Presbyterian Church site on Vine Avenue), and oversee the management of the property. The half-time position is temporary for now, but may grow if the pastor helps to develop a vision for new ministry at the Center. See the full job description [HERE](#).

Ordinations and Installations

Following is a list of upcoming Ordinations and Installations in our Presbytery. We invite everyone to attend and join in these wonderful celebrations.

- Oct. 28, 9 am, San Marino Community: Jessica Vaughan Lower's installation
- Nov. 4, 2:30 pm, Pasadena Presbyterian: Steve Wiebe's ordination and installation.



Patient support during a hospital stay and having someone who can advocate for you are critical to good healthcare outcomes. What does it take to successfully navigate your hospital stay? [In this session](#), we will cover a range of topics including:

- How to prepare for your stay
- Who and what you will need in the hospital
- How to take charge of your care

Our speaker will be Douglas Edwards, director of church outreach at HumanGood, California's largest nonprofit provider of senior living services.

Event Details:

Friday, October 5
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Westminster Gardens
1420 Santo Domingo Ave., Duarte

Space is limited.

[RSVP online](#) or by calling (626) 376-9745 today.

We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Your friends at Westminster Gardens

Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the flyer



**FALLING APART . . .
... OR MOVING TOGETHER?**

THE STORY OF THE POST-REFORMATION CHURCH
Sundays, September 23 - November 4
4:00 - 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall



Led by Dr. Becky King Cerling, who earned an M.Div. at Fuller Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in European Medieval History and the History of Christianity from the University of Southern California. She currently serves as Executive Director of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC--a place where scholars and religious leaders strive to think together for the good of the world. She also is an affiliate faculty member in Church History at Fuller Seminary and ready for call in the PCUSA. She and her husband Lee have enjoyed 25 years of marriage and are parents to Ella and Brendan.

The Reformation—and then what?!

We know what happened in the Reformation: Martin Luther stood firm, Catherine Zell took Luther's ideas to heart and interpreted scripture, John Calvin transformed Geneva . . . but what happened afterwards? Did people shake hands and agree? Or agree to disagree? Not so much. This fall, we will look at the aftermath of the Reformation in both the Catholic and Protestant churches—in Europe and around the world. Join us!

September 23: Reformed Consequences: the context and issues facing post-Reformation Europe.
(this lecture will end early @ 5:00 pm)

September 30: The (never-ending) 30 Years War.

October 7: The emphasis on orthodox beliefs—as a way of guaranteeing belief and belonging.

October 14: The swing toward warm-hearted pietism—focused more on love of God and neighbor than on strict beliefs.

October 21: Reforming Catholics: The Council of Trent and the Jesuits

October 28: International Celebration Dinner Event!

November 4: The Church moves on—and out from Europe.

Please go on-line for more info: smccpby.com

Contact Peggy Flynn at pflynn@smccpby.com if you'd like to receive updates/info via email.

Tapestry Youth Collective Fall Retreat 2018

When: November 10-12

Register: online

[3https://smcc.breezechms.com/form/Tapestry13](https://smcc.breezechms.com/form/Tapestry13)

Where: Big Bear Christian Conference Center, located at 575 Prairie Ln. Big Bear Lake, CA 92315.

Cost: \$150 Payment option on the form or you may pay through your church
For scholarship information please use form.

Who: Middle & High School students from the San Gabriel Presbytery, Riverside Presbytery, or Presbytery of Big Bear.

Churches are partnering with Tapestry for this 7th annual Fall retreat. Tapestry is a collection of Presbyterian Churches. We have several Tapestry events a year, so students are expected to see some familiar faces! This is a great opportunity to unplug from our busy lives, build new relationships, play some games, and most important, worship together and grow in our faith. We hope to see you all there! Registration is open! Questions, contact Rev. Becca Bateman, FamilyMinistries@smccpby.com
Associate Pastor of Family Ministries
San Marino Community Church



Winterfest 2019: Mobilizing the Church to Serve

The San Gabriel Presbytery's Annual Winterfest will be hosted at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Diamond Bar on February 2, 2019. This year's theme is *Mobilizing the Church to Serve*. We are eager to welcome Rev. Alexia Salvatierra as our plenary speaker. This year's workshops will focus on mobilizing our churches to serve in our local community and beyond in addition to providing training for elders, deacons, and clerks of Session. All members of your church are encouraged to attend!

The cost is \$10. **All churches who register five or more participants in Winterfest will receive a free resource bundle as well a sixth registration for free.**

Register

at: <https://knoxpresbyterian.breezechms.com/form/Winterfest2019>

BOARD OF PENSIONS UPDATE

[Read the September Board Connections!](#)

Annual enrollment starts next month

Your chance to elect, or make changes to, your benefits coverage for 2019 is October 29 through November 16. [Learn how to get ready for annual enrollment.](#)

Education for all

The Board of Pensions encourages and supports lifelong learning to promote spiritual, health, financial, and vocational well-being. [Read more about our comprehensive offerings.](#)

Retirement readiness starts now

Will you be financially prepared when it's time to retire? [Here are some steps you can take now to prepare.](#)

Get help with work, life, and everything in between

Need to locate before- or after-school care this fall? The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can help. [Find out what other challenges the EAP can help you manage.](#)

Earn your reduced deductible now

Only two months left to answer the Call to Health and earn reduced medical deductibles in 2019. [Check out the new challenges.](#)

Seminarians: Last call for healthcare enrollment

Inquirers and candidates for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have until September 15 to elect healthcare coverage in either the PPO or the EPO. [Read more about eligibility and costs.](#)

Review your Employer Agreement on Benefits Connect

Employers and congregations: Log on to Benefits Connect to review, update, and submit Employer Agreements for 2019, due October 12. [See details.](#)

2018 REVIEW OF RECORDS

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

2018 Presbytery Meetings

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

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

Quick Links

www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SITE PASTOR FOR WEST COVINA

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

Save the Date - La Casa's Annual Fundraising Dinner

Thursday, October 11, 2018 6 P.M.

LA/San Gabriel Hilton

LEARN HOW TO MAKE DISCIPLES

ADVANCE YOUR BOUNDARIES

Sign Up For The 3-Day Conference

Please join us for the 2018 Bridges Annual Conference at The Oaks Camp and Conference Center, which will be held Friday, 4pm, November 2nd through Sunday, 1pm, November 4th.

Author and speaker Alex Absalom will help us develop customized spiritual practices for ourselves and our unchurched friends that actually fit our modern, busy lives.

And for those already discipling people outside the church, Alex will also help us learn how to gather people together in the Spirit of Jesus

There will be plenty of good food, conversation, and activities.

Alex Absalom. Alex Absalom is a writer, thinker and practitioner on the art of leading in a disciple-making, mission-focused culture. He writes two or three times a week on intentional missional leadership at alexabsalom.com.

Pricing ranges from \$49 to \$299 for children, youth, Bridge Leaders, members of the Presbytery and her congregations and others. All are welcome. Registration is available here: <https://bridgesus.org/>

Pilgrim Place 70th Annual Festival

625 Mayflower Rd., Claremont

Friday and Saturday, November 9 & 10

10 am to 4 pm

Free Admission - Music - Food

Visit www.pilgrimplace.org for more information.