



# MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

## Presbytery of San Gabriel

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Monday, January 28, 2019

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### PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Mideast Evangelical Church of Temple City in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, February 3, 2019

### ON THE CALENDAR

Saturday, Feb. 2 - Winterfest at Knox Presbyterian Church, Pasadena

Sunday, Feb. 3 - Souper Bowl of Caring, find resources at [Souper Bowl](#)

Feb. 4-13 - Living Waters for the World team members Rev. Rob Crowell, Wendy Gist, and Pat Martinez-Miller will be in Peru. Please keep them in your prayers.

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

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew

Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. - 2 Corinthians 5.14-18

I remember several years ago the first time I felt old. I was at a coffee shop, and saw a large number of young people gathering. This was in Los Altos, in the northern end of Silicon Valley, a very high-rent district. The young people were Caucasian, not making trouble, but they were all dressed in black leather and spikes, their hair stringy and unkempt. I watched them carefully and realized that if they got rid of all the Goth makeup and cleaned up a little, they would be very attractive young people. Why were they purposefully making themselves look so ugly?

That's when I realized I was old-that generation's idea of beauty and style was so alien to me that I could not understand or accept their choices, and I withheld my positive evaluation of their lifestyle until they conformed to my values. As I look back, I can add that of course they couldn't care less what I thought-they were living their lives fine without my acceptance.

I think this is happening in our church. A growing number of people live not attending church, and we churchgoers, who like church the way it has been, keep wondering when those young or new people will wake up and come back to us. But the young people now-who, by the way, are starting to outnumber us Baby Boomers-never went to church, so they aren't coming back at all. For them, to step into our churches is to step into foreign territory.

Now we assume that the way church worked for us should work for everyone else, and so we keep waiting for the day when the world will come back to what is now foreign land. We are like American tourists speaking English in France-perhaps if we just talk louder and slower, they'll get it. But the reality is, French speakers in their homeland don't appreciate being yelled at in a foreign language. We church goers are no longer the norm; we are the minority, so we can't assume people need to learn our language.

This is really painful for many of us, because we just can't understand how something as precious and life-giving as our church might not be the same for those who live outside our church. Everywhere I've gone, people say that if they can just keep doing church the way they do it, the world will wake up and come to them. I remember 15 years ago in Hawaii, with native Hawaiian elders who spoke passionately about reaching out to their young people. They knew that if they could reach them and make them memorize the Ten Commandments, they'd stop taking drugs. Some of us remember the best moments of our youth group and think if we repeat the activities of our youth group days, young people will swarm into the church.

But we are getting tactics confused with the essence of our faith. There is no one path towards salvation; we come to know God in different ways; that's why there are so many Christian faith traditions. It's not that we should keep trying to find the one way that everyone should follow; it's that we take different paths to find God. Now of course we Presbyterians have our own ways-we learn about God, and about Jesus Christ, by trusting what the Bible tells us; we tend to grow our faith through learned preaching rather than through ecstatic spiritual experience; we would prefer living out our faith in the world rather than shutting ourselves away from it.

But that doesn't mean we have to stick to all our practices. Indeed, if we prioritize the Bible's teaching, then we have to consider the repeated messages that in Christ, all is made new. We as followers of Christ are not called to stay still and preserve our traditions, we are called to allow lives to be changed not in our image but in Christ's-and we have to remember that Jesus Christ's way often offended the church leaders of his day.

So what do we do? Do we hold on to what we have, waiting for the world to come to their senses and come back to us? Or do we throw out everything that has been precious to us?

We have to be gentle with ourselves and with others. We appreciate that when everything changes around us, the comfort we received from familiarity is being replaced with an unknowable future. This is true in our nation and in our church. But just as we live into that future, we come to realize that it's survivable, even kind of exciting, and question those who yearn to Make America Great Again. My prayer is that as we live into the future church, we don't yearn to Make Our Church Great Again, but instead remember that our comfort, our confidence, our strength, our very future comes in Jesus Christ, not in the traditions we have developed to worship Christ, or even in the people who learned about Christ with us.

And again, let us have the mind of Christ as we care for each other as we live into this strange future. Who knows? God may bless us in ways we could not anticipate. This is coming true at West Covina, where the session and congregation chose to become a fellowship of the Presbytery, giving up their own control of their ministry and their property. After six months of letting go and struggling through the transition of this unknown territory (because there isn't really precedent for a chartered congregation to go back to fellowship status), West Covina is ready to receive Mary Ellen Azada and Jennifer Ackerman as their new co-pastors. Who would've thunk-two gifted, vibrant and experienced pastoral leaders coming after the people effectively closed their church.

As we look ahead to the future, we know that change can be painful and jarring. Some change is temporary, as we learn new behaviors and let go of what we know and love. Even if the ultimate outcome is better, the transition is uncertain and sometimes even violent. As we hear of the turmoil in Venezuela, as we pray for a more peaceable and just future for that nation, we also pray for our brother Ricardo Moreno, who has lived for the last two years under unjust accusations and has had to report to court on a monthly basis. He has yet another hearing this January 30<sup>th</sup>, where he may be brought to trial or exonerated. Let us pray that he is freed, that he may commit all his energies to the ministry of reconciliation to which he has been called. Ricardo is thankful for all prayers and offers of help, especially from Pasadena Presbyterian Church, where he served as CRE pastor for the Spanish Language Ministry. We thank God for keeping him safe but also pray for his freedom, and the resources for his life and future ministry.

Finally, remember two great events coming up in February-WinterFest this Saturday, and the conference on Peacemaking called "Peace-ing It Together." Scroll down for more information on these events being hosted by our own Presbytery. As we meet together, and worship, and learn, may we feel the upbuilding of the kingdom in our midst.

Peace,  
Wendy



## **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>



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



# Growing into Tomorrow ... Today

A retirement planning seminar



## Planning for retirement can be challenging.

This two-day seminar is for plan members retiring within the next 15 years. Look beyond finances to be informed, educated, and inspired for a journey toward wholeness in retirement.

- Identify key questions for discernment.
- Assess your financial readiness.
- Discuss healthcare and housing options.
- Create next steps in identity, relationship, housing, health, and finances.

## About Board University Education Seminars

Do you have questions about retirement, taxes, financial planning, or terms of call? Board University can help.

Attend our financial and retirement planning seminars led by Board of Pensions experts, and leave with answers, better questions, and trusted resources.

**Note:** Board University programs educate and inform attendees. Participants are encouraged to seek professional advice and counsel for specific tax and legal questions.



Learning through the stages of your life.  
**BOARD UNIVERSITY**

## Key Seminar Details:

February 13-14, 2019  
Westminster Gardens  
Duarte, CA  
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., PT, both days

Sponsored by HumanGood

- **Seating limit:** 30 registrants
- **Board's registration fee:** None
- **Local meal fee:** \$39.50 per person, for both days
- **Lodging:** See registration site for options
- Confirmations include pre-seminar work and meal fee payment instructions.

## Registration Information:

- **Registration closes January 28, 2019**
- **Please visit our site to register!**  
<http://www.cvent.com/d/gbqv3d>

## Have questions about the seminar?

Contact the Board of Pensions at 800-PRESPLAN  
Email [Education@pensions.org](mailto:Education@pensions.org)



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

**Save the Dates: Pray for Students on February 14 & 17**

On February 14, 2018, a former student entered the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida with an AR-15-style semi-automatic weapon. In 7 minutes he killed 17 students and adults. In February of 1893, Presbyterians first participated in the Universal Day of Prayer for Students, lifting to God the lives of children, teenagers and young adults. In February of 2019, these two anniversaries coincide in a way that calls the church to take seriously the steps needed to protect students and all of us from the crisis of gun violence in our nation.

[Download the Worship-Action Kit for Feb. 17](#)

The **Peace-ing It Together** conference is coming up on Feb. 23 at Knox Presbyterian Church in Pasadena. The planners are very excited about the day and hope you will be able to recruit people from your church and wider community to come! Please post the flyer, forward it, and get the word out. We hope to have a large group in attendance.

Thanks for letting others know about this exciting and important event! We hope to see you on Feb. 23rd.

Blessings,

Wendy Gist  
Mission Advocate for Hunger, Poverty, and Peacemaking Issues  
Presbytery of San Gabriel

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

# PEACE-ING IT TOGETHER

## How Individuals and Congregations Can Bring More PEACE Into Our World

Feb. 23, 2019 at Knox Presbyterian Church, 225 S. Hill Ave., Pasadena 91106

8:30 a.m. registration, 8:50 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Lunch included at no cost

**Are you looking for things you can do that make a difference?  
Come to the Peace-ing It Together conference for answers!**

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Sara Lisherness: Senior Director for Compassion, Peace & Justice; Presbyterian Mission Agency  
Rev. Emily Brewer, Executive Director, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Presentations, workshops, and resource tables will focus on:

#### 1. ADDRESSING VIOLENCE

- ✓ Engaging Congregations in Preventing All Forms of Gun Violence: Virginia Classick, Co-Chair, Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles
- ✓ Responding to Local Violence: Rev. Kyle Joachim, Silverlake Presbyterian Church (PC)
- ✓ Responding to Local Violence: Christa Wallis, First PC of San Bernardino

#### 2. BUILDING PEACE THROUGH INTERFAITH RELATIONS

- ✓ The Guibord Center's dinner & dialogue program: Lisa Patriquin, Tahil Sharma & Samia Bano
- ✓ Azerbaijan's Model for Religious Tolerance and Peaceful Coexistence: Nasimi Aghayev, Consul General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles
- ✓ Christian-Muslim Study Groups: Carole Wheeler, First PC of Newhall & Jamshed Yazdani, Newhall Unity Center

#### 3. TAKING ACTION FOR IMMIGRANTS

- ✓ Matthew 25 ministries: Rev. Dr. Matt Colwell, Pastor, Knox PC
- ✓ From Visitation of Detainees to Post-Release Assistance: Merilie Robertson, Woodland Hills PC & Beryl Smith, St. Mark PC, Los Ranchos Presbytery

#### 4. HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

- ✓ Jill Shook, Exec. Director, Making Housing and Community Happen
- ✓ Lori Gay, President & CEO, Neighborhood Housing Services of LA County
- ✓ Rev. Walter Contreras, Neighborhood Housing Services of LA County
- ✓ Amie Quigley, Director, Community Outreach, First PC of Hollywood

#### 5. DISMANTLING AND RE-BUILDING: THE CHURCH CONFRONTING RACISM

- ✓ Rev. Denise Anderson, Coordinator for Racial and Intercultural Justice, Presbyterian Mission Agency

There is **no cost to attend** this conference, but **please RSVP** to: [PeaceConfSoCal2019@gmail.com](mailto:PeaceConfSoCal2019@gmail.com) so we know how many lunches to have available.

Thanks to the following supporters: Synod of Southern CA & Hawaii JPIC; the Presbyteries of San Fernando, San Gabriel, Riverside, Los Ranchos, and Pacific; and First Presbyterian Church of Encino

All in attendance will be entered into the drawing to take home the quilt commissioned for this conference.

## Conference Program

8:30 - 8:50 Coffee and Registration  
8:50 - 9:30 Opening Worship - reflection by Rev. Denise Anderson & music by Zehnder  
9:30 - 10:00 "When Did We See You?" based on Matthew 25 - Sara Lisherness  
10:00 - 10:10 Break

10:10 - 11:10 Interfaith Peacemaking: Panel of different approaches  
Nasimi Aghayev - Consul General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles  
Lisa Patriquin, Tahlil Sharma, and Samia Bano - The Guibord Center  
Carole Wheeler - First Presbyterian of Newhall  
Jamshed Yazdani - Newhall Unity Center

11:10 - 12:10 "Dismantling and Re-building: The Church Confronting Racism" - Denise Anderson  
12:10 - 12:50 Lunch  
12:45 - 1:00 Music by Zehnder to bring us back together

### Breakout groups

This is your chance to go more in depth with speakers on the topic that most interests you.

1:00 - 2:00 Breakout Session #1 (please choose one)

**A. Addressing Violence** – in the Sanctuary

Engaging Congregations in Preventing All Forms of Gun Violence: Virginia Classick  
Churches Responding to Local Violence: Kyle Joachim and Christa Wallis

**B. Addressing Immigration Issues** – in the Atrium

Matthew 25 Ministries: Matthew Colwell

From Detainee Visitation to Post-Release Assistance: Merilie Robertson & Beryl Smith

**C. Housing and Homelessness Issues** – in the North House Dining Room

Jill Shook, Lori Gay, Walter Contreras, and Amie Quigley

**D. Modeling Religious Tolerance & Peaceful Coexistence** – in North House Lounge

Nasimi Aghayev, Consul General of Azerbaijan

**E. Interfaith Dialogue** – in the North House meeting room

The Guibord Center's Dinner and Dialogue Program: Lisa Patriquin, Tahlil Sharma, Samia Bano  
Muslim-Christian Study Groups: Carole Wheeler & Jamshed Yazdani

2:00 - 2:15 Break

2:15 - 3:15 Breakout Session #2 (please choose one)

**A. Addressing Violence** – in the Sanctuary

Engaging Congregations in Preventing All Forms of Gun Violence: Virginia Classick  
Churches Responding to Local Violence: Kyle Joachim and Christa Wallis

**B. Addressing Immigration Issues** – in the Atrium

Matthew 25 Ministries: Matthew Colwell

From Detainee Visitation to Post-Release Assistance: Merilie Robertson & Beryl Smith

**C. Housing and Homelessness Issues** – in the North House Dining Room

Jill Shook, Lori Gay, Walter Contreras, and Amie Quigley

**D. The Church Confronting Racism** – North House meeting room

Denise Anderson

3:20 - 4:00 "Trimming the Wicks: Ready to Act" – Rev. Emily Brewer, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship



## **\$2,000 Church Vitalization Grants**

Vision and Strategy Team invites your congregation to apply for a \$2,000 SGP Congregational Vitalization Grant

For more information, or to discuss congregational vitalization ideas, contact Jake Kim, Associate for Ministry Development for more information. [jakekim@sangabpres.org](mailto:jakekim@sangabpres.org) or call 626-487-1511

### **Resources from the Presbyterian Hunger Program for Lent and beyond**

*Tread Lightly for Lent* - 2019 Daily Reflection-Action Calendar can be found [HERE](#)

Promote Eco-Palms - find information, resources, and order palm fronds at [Eco-Palms](#)

Promote One Great Hour of Sharing - information and resources at [OGHS](#)

#### ***Considering Our Treasure: A Reflection on Embracing God's Economy***

Dive deeper into Luke 12:34 as you use this resource for learning, reflection, study, and action. Consider (alone or with a group) God's economy, where your treasure is and where it is being spent, and how your resources reflect God's love for creation.

Find the downloadable resource [HERE](#)

PowerPoints (Info about PHP's work, Hunger Action Congregations, Earth Care Congregations, and more) are available at [PHP PowerPoints](#)

## **2019 Presbytery Meetings**

January 15, 7:00-8:30 PM @ Knox, Pasadena (Tuesday evening)  
April 6, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon @ Divine Light, El Monte

June 8, 9:00 AM - Work Day @ West Covina Ministry Center  
September 14, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon @ Puente de Esperanza, La Puente  
November 19, 7:00 - 9:00 PM (Tuesday evening)

## 2019 Presbytery Minimums

Pastor's Minimum Salary: \$55,840

Travel/Professional Expense Reimbursement: \$2,645

Study Leave: \$985

## 2019 Mileage Reimbursement Rates:

Business .58 cents per mile

Charitable 14 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

### **Trinity Presbyterian Church is seeking to hire a part-time (5-10 hours per week) Music Director.**

Responsibilities include playing and conducting the music for Sunday worship services and rehearsing and directing the adult choir at weekly rehearsals.

Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the complete job description.

Contact - Trinity Presbyterian Church of Pasadena - 626 351-8823

### **Claremont Presbyterian Church**

#### **Facilities Manager**

Part-time Exempt

Basic Function - Under the direction of the Head of Staff, provide overall supervision of the maintenance and up-keep of all church facilities.

Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the complete job description.

Contact - Claremont Presbyterian Church 909 624-9693

### **Intern for Children: Music and Arts**

Claremont Presbyterian Church is hiring an Intern for Children: Music and Arts. This is a paid

internship that amounts to 2-5 hours per week.

Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the complete job description.

## **OUTREACH DIRECTOR (full-time) | POMONA HOPE**

Pomona Hope is a community-driven, faith-based, non-profit organization in the city of Pomona that works particularly with at-risk youth and their families to work together toward personal and community transformation. Pomona Hope hosts an After School Program for K-12 students, a Summer Enrichment program as well as parenting classes. The Outreach Director is a full-time salaried position, applicants must be bilingual in Spanish and English. Responsibilities include directing and overseeing all volunteer and intern recruitment and retention and developing all aspects of parent outreach. Please click the link

[HERE](#) for a full job description (*position opening in March 2019*).

## **SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (Undergraduate) | POMONA HOPE**

Pomona Hope's 10-week summer internship is an opportunity for undergraduate students to participate in urban ministry and gain professional experience while working with K-12 youth in the city of Pomona. Summer Interns live together on-site to develop relationships with each other and their immediate neighborhood. Interns facilitate Summer Enrichment with Pomona Hope, a 5-week program for K-12 students, by teaching daily workshops, planning field trips and mentoring High School volunteers. Interns also partner closely with First Presbyterian Church of Pomona's weekly youth ministry and annual Vacation Bible School. Learn more about Pomona Hope and find a full internship description and application [HERE](#) . Applications due January 30, 2019!



## ***ITEMS OF INTEREST***

### **Winter Camp for Jr. High and High School Students**

Big Bear Conference Center

March 22-24

Register by March 7th at [www.bblccc.com](http://www.bblccc.com)

### **Presbyterian Youth Triennium**

"Here's My Heart"

July 16-20 2019

Perdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Registration will open in late 2018 and conclude in May 2019

Visit [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)

for more information.