

## **MONDAY MORNING UPDATE**

## **Presbytery of San Gabriel**

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Monday, July 15, 2019

### IN THIS ISSUE

<u>A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA</u>

**BOUNDARY TRAINING OFFERED IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** 

**IMMIGRANT ACCOMPANIMENT ORGANIZER** 

2019-2021 BOOK OF ORDER

2020 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PEACE TRIP TO KOREA

SAVE THE DATE 2021 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN GATHERING

**GRATEFUL STEWARDSHIP** 

PRESBYTERIAN PLANNING CALENDAR

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - SUMMER CONFERENCE

**2019 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS** 

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** 

**EVENTS OF INTEREST** 

### **PLEASE REMEMBER**

Please remember Occidental Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, July 21, 2019

### ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday, July 15 - Personnel Committee 1:00 at Westminster, Temple City

Tuesday, July 16 - Representation and Nominations 3:30 at Hacienda Heights, SOTV

Thursday, July 18 - Administration and Finance 2:30 at the Presbytery Center - Elder Lounge

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

**Reflection: Judgment and Justice** 

There are many reasons that we humans fall into discord and disagreement. Sometimes this happens simply because the same word many different things in our minds, but we assume we all think the same thing.

Personally, I believe this is a big problem with the word "church." When I used to do a lot of church transformation consulting, I would talk about the act of "discovering" the church's vision. An important part of this discovering is the realization that everyone has a vision of what church is supposed to be and do, but they often don't articulate it and aren't even aware that their visions differ-so people regularly run up against each other's unspoken visions. So an important part of the visioning process is to "un"-cover, or "dis"-cover, our particular visions of church, and come to a shared understanding so we can all move in a more coordinated direction.

Every once in a while I am reminded that we run into similar pitfalls with the word "justice." I believe that one way people differ theologically is based on how we understand God's justice.

When I think of "justice," I think of three different forms (this is not an academic paper, so please forgive this amateur's thoughts on the subject):

- 1. Retributive justice, which requires punishment and restitution to neutralize the guilt of the offender. When Christians talk about the crucifixion of Jesus as "buying" our freedom, it means that God's retributive justice against the sinfulness of humankind had to be satisfied with punishment that Jesus took upon himself, for our sake.
- 2. Distributive justice, which seeks to allocate resources more evenly across all people. This was described multiple times in the account of the Acts church, where "they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need." (Acts 2:45) Note that the distribution is not measured by who deserves more or less; it is just based on need. (In fact, the judgment was directed against those who attempted to withhold personal wealth from the community.) When you think of the early church members giving their all to a community that came to include ex-slaves and slave masters, Jews and Gentiles, women and men, the radical nature of this vision of distributive justice is pretty amazing-our efforts at multiculturalism has nothing on our early church ancestors!
- 3. Restorative justice, as I mentioned in my column on May 28<sup>th</sup>, attempts to provide healing for both victim and perpetrator by bringing them together for a facilitated conversation that enables them to speak their truth and come to see each other as people who can forgive, accept forgiveness, and reconcile. I am most inspired and challenged by this work, which is so often carried out by Christians who are seeking to forgive, as Jesus forgives us, and as Jesus commands us-and in this forgiving, other children of God are given healing mercy that is the manifestation of the grace of Jesus Christ.

This probably reflects my personal bias, but I believe that the mistake we make is our focus on retributive justice. Worse, we may think it is our job to mete out retributive justice. However, my reading of the Bible says that it is only God who should choose to enact retributive justice-and that sometimes God chooses NOT to, often to the dismay of God's vengeance-seeking children. The words in Acts 9:16 come from Jesus, who directed the believer Ananias to receive and heal the stricken Saul, whom Ananias knew to be a persecutor of Christians. Ananias initially resisted the order to open his home to this murderer, but retribution is the sole responsibility of the Lord, not of Ananias.

Frankly, it would be easy and even satisfying (in a broken human way) for us to practice our form of retributive justice-which may be why God wants to keep that to the judgment of Jesus Christ, "who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place and removed the whole curse from me." (Heidelberg Catechism, Question 52).

Instead, we are told repeatedly that our job is to practice distributive and restorative justice, as God has shown to us. The prophets through the millenia, Jesus in feeding the five thousand and reaching out to the outcast, the calls for mercy to the widow, the orphan, and the least of these point to our call to offer mercy and tangible help to all, especially those in need. And perhaps the most effective witness of Jesus' claim on our hearts is the ability to forgive, which is the foundation of restorative justice. We know restorative justice is possible because of the world-changing willingness of Nelson Mandela to reconcile with members of the Apartheid government in South Africa that imprisoned him for 27 years, and more locally we remember the Amish families of schoolgirls killed at Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania, and survivors of the saints killed in Emanuel AME Church in Charleston,

South Carolina. The forgiveness offered by those who have faced evil unleashed on the innocent-but also countless other, more personal, acts of forgiveness and reconciliation-help to make visible God's kingdom of heaven.

Even as we continue to call out injustice in our world, and seek to prevent the abuse of the most vulnerable in our midst, let us seek to practice distributive and restorative justice, as we live as bearers of Christ's mercy for this broken world. What an awesome responsibility, and a most amazing opportunity to reflect God's glory.

In Christ, Wendy

### **Boundary Training Offered in Multiple Languages**

The Synod of Southern California and Hawaii has arranged with Dr. Kibbie Ruth to hold several trainings to prevent sexual harassment and misconduct. The Commission on Ministry of San Gabriel Presbytery is requiring that any new pastor, or any pastor who for whatever reason has not been to a recent training, attend one of these trainings. In addition, the morning session of each day is designed to satisfy the new sexual harassment prevention training requirement of the State of California for all employers with five or more employees (this includes churches with staff of five or more).

The training is \$10 for the morning or \$15 for the whole day (including lunch), and you have the choice of three days and locations. Each training will begin at 9 am and end by 3 pm.

- September 5 (Thursday), Union Church of Los Angeles, 401 E 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90013. Phone (213) 629-3876. Translation will be provided for Spanish, Korean, Taiwanese, Mandarin, and Arabic speakers.
- September 6 (Friday), Shepherd's Grove Presbyterian Church, 4445 Alton Pkwy, Irvine, CA 92604. Phone (949) 786-9627. Translation provided for Vietnamese, Korean, Taiwanese, and Indonesian speakers.
- September 7 (Saturday), Emmanuel Presbyterian Church,588 Camino Manzanas, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. Phone (805) 498-4502. Translation provided for Spanish and Korean speakers.

Anyone is welcome to attend the training, but it is mandatory for San Gabriel Presbytery minister members doing public ministry who have not attended a recent training, and for the employees of any church with staff of five or more who have not arranged for such training themselves.

Click <u>here</u> for more information and links to on-line registration for the trainings.

Click **HERE** to download a copy of the flyer.



God intends for the church and its ministries to be a safe place for all to encounter God and grow into lives of service and fulfillment. We are called to be a holy community.

PresbyterianMission.org

Learn to establish and maintain safe relationships and faith communities including prevention of child abuse. domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual harassment, professional misconduct and other abuses of power.

Teaching Elders are required to attend both morning and afternoon sessions. All others are required to attend the morning session and strongly encouraged to attend the afternoon session.

Event Facilitator . . .

### Rev. Dr. Kibbie Ruth

Senior Consultant Kyros Ministry, San Mateo, CA.

For over two decades Kibbie Ruth, MA, DMin,

has taught abuse prevention and

intervention strategies, and consulted on cases throughout the country. Dr. Ruth concentrates on religious issues of abuse as the Founder and Senior Consultant of Kyros Ministry. She works with judicatories and congregations to establish safe relationships and faith communities, including prevention of child abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual harassment, professional misconduct and other abuses of power.

Registration is handled through Eventbrite.

### Three Locations

Please select the ONE event location that best fits your needs. Each event is 9 am to 3 pm; lunch provided.

The registration fee for Teaching Elders/Ministers is \$15.00 and \$10.00 for all others. Payment may be submitted upon registration OR paid at the door. Payment details will be found on the registration page for each of the locations (links below, in the "REGISTER" boxes).

September 5 (Thursday)

REGISTER: Sept. 5 Los Angeles

### Union Church of Los Angeles

401 E 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90013 (213) 629-3876 Translation provided for Spanish, Korean, Taiwanese, Mandarin, Arabic speakers

September 6 (Friday)

REGISTER: Sept. 6 Irvine

### Shepherd's Grove Presbyterian Church

4445 Alton Pkwy Irvine, CA 92604 Phone: (949) 786-9627

Translation provided for Vietnamese, Korean, Taiwanese, Indonesian speakers

September 7 (Saturday)

REGISTER: Sept. 7 **Thousand Oaks** 

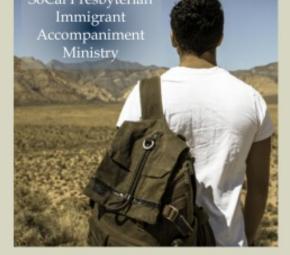
### Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

588 Camino Manzanas, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 Phone: (805) 498-4502

Translation provided for Spanish, Korean speakers

Questions? E-mail Fried Wilson at the Synod office.

How can you and your congregation get involved?



I was a stranger and you welcomed me...

SoCal Presbyterian Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry is a growing network of Presbyterians around Southern California, in ecumenical collaboration with the Matthew 25/ Mateo 25 SoCal Movement, striving to follow Christ's call

to welcome the stranger by opening our churches, homes, and hearts to sisters and brothers seeking asylum.

Our mission is to strengthen and expand a faith-rooted, compassionate response to immigrants and refugees in our communities by equipping, empowering, and supporting congregations and individuals to joyfully and faithfully engage in accompaniment and advocacy.  Be a part of a team of people who commit to coming alongside a family or individual in the asylum process. This may include things like visiting, providing transportation, assisting with translation, gathering necessary clothing/home goods, or purchasing grocery gift cards.

#### Consider Becoming a Host

 Extend hospitality by welcoming an asylum seeker -family or individual- into your home or church. The SoCal Presbyterian Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry and our ecumenical partners will support you, your family, and your church family as you live into the blessings and challenges of sharing life together.

### Detention Center Visitation

Join us for one of the monthly opportunities to be a part of this powerful ministry
of presence. Showing up and being willing to listen are profound ways to foster
hope and offer welcome.

### Speak Out for Change

 Join people of faith in education and action for just public policies that promote welcome and flourishing within our communities, our region, and across our nation.



Kristi is in her final year at Fuller Theological Seminary where she is pursuing a Master of Divinity in preparation for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She served for seven years in El Salvador as a PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker, and since returning to the U.S. in 2017 has served as Parish Intern for Pastoral Care at Claremont Presbyterian Church. Kristi has a passion for bringing people together and fostering relationships of mutual accompaniment. She is thrilled to be a part of this ministry and the new ways that God's Spirit is moving in and through our Presbyteries to offer hospitality and hope to some of our most vulnerable siblings.

Click **HERE** to download a copy of the flyer

The PDF of the 2019-2021 Book of Order is now available. Click HERE to download a copy



### 2020 Presbyterian Women Peace Trip to Korea

A group of 15 Presbyterian women will travel to Seoul and Jeju Island, South Korea April 19 -May 1, 2020, for PW's Peace Trip to Korea.

The purpose of the trip is:

1. To meet and worship with our partners in the Presbyterian Church of Korea and the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, strengthen our relationships, and establish our solidarity with our sisters for peace in the

Korean Peninsula.

- 2. To learn the untold history of Korea and the impact of the United States upon the lives of Koreans before and after the Korean War by visiting historical sites and engaging in conversations with our Korean partners.
- 3. To gain a better understanding of the context of the Korean conflict and prepare to be better equipped advocates and participants in a peaceful solution.

Lodging: Atrium Hotel (106 Changgyeonggung-ro, Inui-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul)

Cost: \$2,500 plus airfare to Korea

The deadline to apply for the trip is September 19, 2019.

The application form is attached.

To ask a question or to learn more about the PW Peace Trip to Korea, contact Cheri Harper.





Click **HERE** to download a participation application

## It's Official! We're Gathering!

The Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. just cast a

diaminous voic for the 2021 officially wide Gathering of 1 respytchan women:

When: August 5-8, 2021 Where: St. Louis, Missouri

Click **HERE** to download a copy of the flyer

# Grateful Stewardship:

Strategies to help your church fund its mission

Maggie A.F. Harmon, esq. Presbyterian Foundation Ministry Relations Officer, Southwest

> Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Includes lunch

El Sueno, Westminster Gardens 1420 Santo Domingo Avenue Duarte, 91010

All church leaders and pastors welcome!

Sponsors



PRESBYTERY OF SAN GABRIEL



Westminster Gardens

## **Presbyterian Planning Calendar 2019-2020**

Please note that the 2019-2020 calendar will not be available to ship until August 2019.

This 16-month calendar- **starting with September**, **2019**, **and ending with December**, **2020**-contains many planning aids for pastors and other church leaders. Includes lectionary for Sundays and special days, liturgical days, liturgical colors, resource information for PC(USA) programmatic emphases, updated synod, presbytery and Presbyterian Mission Agency staff directories, color foldout synod/presbytery and world maps.

Available August 2019.

Click HERE to download a copy of the flyer
Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii
2019 Summer Conference
Love Your Neighbor
July 19 - 21, 2019

Chapman University ~ Orange, CA

with

## Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nordquist

Keynote Speaker, presenting on the 2019 - 2020 Horizons Bible Study Love Carved In Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments

Susan Jackson-Dowd
Executive Director, Presbyterian Women Inc.

Rev. Ann Hayman Dean, 2019 Summer Conference

## Plenary - Breakout Sessions - Mercado - Worship



Registration is now available from PWP and PWC Moderators, and PWS's Digital Platforms

Leadership Grants are also available



Click **HERE** to download complete schedule and a registration form

Click <u>HERE</u> to download a scholarship application - The deadline for scholarship applications is May 31st!

## **2019 Presbytery Meetings**

September 14, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon @ Puente de Esperanza, La Puente November 19, 7:00 - 9:00 PM (Tuesday evening) @ Trinity, Pasadena

### 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

### **Quick Links**

www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

# Claremont Presbyterian Church is seeking to hire an Administrative Assistant for Finance and Personnel

1111 N. Mountain Avenue, Claremont

909 624-9693

This Bookkeeping position is a Part-time and Exempt Position

Click **HERE** for a complete job description.

# 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



## **EVENTS OF INTEREST**

### STEWARDSHIP KALEIDOSCOPE

The Pulse of Generosity-Vital Signs of a Healthy Stewardship

September 30 - October 2, 2019

Catamaran Resort - San Diego

For more information and to register, visit www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org

## Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network National Conference

Octobor 15 18

Laws Lodge, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary for more information contact Pat Baker at <a href="mailto:pat@sapctucker.org">pat@sapctucker.org</a> or 678-438-3673 Or visit <a href="https://www.poamn.org/">https://www.poamn.org/</a>

### **Save the Date**

The Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Inc. just cast a unanimous vote for the 2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women! August 5-8, 2021 - St Louis, MO

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