



Tuesday, January 21, 2020

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[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)

## PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Praise Community Church of Covina in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

## REMEMBER PUERTO RICO

You may have heard about the multitude of earthquakes hitting the island of Puerto Rico for the last three weeks. Our own Roberto Ramirez, who just completed his term as Moderator of the Presbytery, comes from the region most directly impacted, and was under care of the Presbiterio del Suroeste (Southwest Presbytery) before ordination. He is arranging with the Presbytery to take donations directly, so if you would like to give, please send donations to San Gabriel Presbytery and we will send it on.

Here is a note from Roberto on the situation in his hometown:

*As all of you may already know, Puerto Rico is again in a crisis and humanitarian situation. Since December 28, the southwest region of the island has been rocking hard every day with earthquakes stronger than a magnitude of 2.0 with six or more of those stronger than 5.0, the majority of them with a very shallow depth going no deeper than 10-15 km. The most damaging ones happened January 6 and 7, when tremors of magnitude 5.8 and 6.4 hit the town of Guanica and several nearby towns, damaging houses and buildings and forcing people to sleep outside.*

*The presbytery directly affected is "Presbiterio del Suroeste" (Southwest Presbytery). So, I am asking for San Gabriel Presbytery members and churches to*

1. Keep PR in your prayers, and
2. Consider making monetary donations for our sister Presbytery.

People are in need of food, medicine, and shelter, as well as emotional and spiritual support.

## DAVID CORTES-FUENTES AND JOSEY SAEZ ACEVEDO HERE THIS WEEKEND

Our dear friends and colleagues, David Cortés-Fuentes and Josey Saez Acevedo, will be coming to Southern California this weekend to visit with the "home team" before starting their new work as education consultants with partner churches in the Caribbean region, with a home base in the Dominican Republic.

Josey will be at La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church this Sunday, January 26, and David will be in Claremont with Claremont Presbyterian and Emmanuel. They would be available to visit elsewhere Friday night, Saturday, or Sunday in the late afternoon or evening. If you would like to see them or invite them to your faith community, please contact them directly at [jsaez958@gmail.com](mailto:jsaez958@gmail.com) and [dcortes44@live.com](mailto:dcortes44@live.com).

In her new role, Josey is collaborating with the Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana (Evangelical Dominican Church) to develop and adapt Christian Education curricula, particularly for children and youth, based on the priorities of her partners. David is collaborating with several regional partners as Regional Theological Educator and Curriculum consultant. For more information on Josey and David's ministry, click [HERE](#).

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*  
(Ephesians 4:4-6)

### Reflection: One Voice

It has been a very full week in the life of Christ's church. Last Tuesday we gathered for the first Presbytery meeting of the year. It was a very full meeting, with good participation, many decisions, and lots of prayer. We officially welcomed Rev. Ally Lee as Administrative Presbyter and Associate Stated Clerk, and approved or renewed several pastoral calls. We installed Karen Sapio and Deborah Owens as Presbytery Moderator and Vice Moderator, and thanked Becca Bateman and Roberto Ramirez as outgoing and incoming moderators for the Presbytery Executive Commission. And we gave grants to Community Presbyterian Church in El Monte for their food pantry ministry, and to Puente de Esperanza in La Puente for their CaliCenter community center for families.

But last Tuesday's Presbytery meeting will be most remembered for three major actions:

1. We examined and approved for ordination Peter Hawisher-Faul, who is being called as co-pastor with wife Rev. Kelsey Hawisher-Faul to Radford Presbyterian Church, Virginia. Last night, Peter was ordained at Pomona Presbyterian Church, and we celebrate and bless him and Kelsey as they begin their ministry together.
2. The Presbytery's policy on minimum compensation for pastors was consolidated, updated, and expanded to include different forms of paid leave such as Sabbatical, Personal Time Off (which incorporates sick leave, personal leave, jury duty, etc., in one leave of 12 days per year, as long as three days are always available for sick leave), and Family Leave (providing for 8 weeks for critical life events such as the birth or adoption of a child, or caring for a parent with critical medical needs). It also brings together several policies that have been approved over the years, and reaffirms that all pastors are compensated equivalently.
3. The Presbytery voted to dismiss Alhambra True Light Presbyterian Church, responding to several years of discernment on the part of the church, and over two years of work between teams appointed by presbytery and church to pursue reconciliation and, having determined that reconciliation was not possible, negotiate terms of dismissal. Those terms can be summarized as \$1.5 million (\$500,000 upon dismissal, then \$100,000/year for 10 years), and a 10-year reversionary period (ATLPC must continue doing ministry in the Reformed tradition in their location for 10 years before the Presbytery releases any claim on the property).

This last weekend were the memorial services for Tom Duggan and Jake Kim, attended by Presbytery members at both. Tom had passed away back in October, and the service was a time of shared love and thanksgiving for the many decades of ministry and family unity that marked Tom's life. I was at Jake's service, at Church of the Valley in Apple Valley, where Jake had just been installed as pastor in October. Church of the Valley had been dismissed by Riverside Presbytery to ECO, so we had just released Jake to ECO last September.

Jake died suddenly from an aortic aneurysm three days before Christmas. He was 48, and leaves his wife Yuni and two young sons, Ari and Avi. If you would like to share your condolences, you can send cards to Yuni and contribute to Ari and Avi's college fund by sending checks made out to Church of the Valley, 20700 Standing Rock Ave, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

The suddenness of Jake's death, right after starting this most promising ministry and after this move to a new community for his young family, has shocked all of us, and a couple of the memorial speakers shared their anger over this tragic death. As hard as it was to say good-bye, the congregation asserted our faith in God by singing "How Great Thou Art" at the end of the service. The hymn was sung with all the power, all the anger, all the faith that was held in the hearts of the people, as if we were giving it all to God-or trying to convince ourselves that God understands and has a purpose, even though we cannot understand any of it.

The last time I felt the power of a congregation singing their emotions and their faith was at the beginning of the meeting with the congregation of Alhambra True Light Presbyterian Church, when they confirmed their support for the terms of dismissal. Tears were shed during the singing of both these hymns, as we considered the depths of the bonds that were being broken.

But for myself, they demonstrated how unified we still are, even in the face of death and division, because we know that mortal death does not separate us, and denominational differences do not permanently divide the one church of Jesus Christ. We continue to share memories and learnings, hymns and prayers, traditions and worship, personal relationships, and the possibility for ways to still be Christ for each other and the world. When we sing these old hymns with the force of memory of so many lives joined in Christ, we are all still one.

In life and death, our temporary divisions fall away. I noticed that during Jake's service, the PC(USA) was mentioned several times, though ECO was never named. The reception was like a family reunion; Don Maddox was there, as he had served as an interim for Church of the Valley years ago. A woman serving at the reception told me that she knew we were praying for them because Bill Hansen (their former pastor who lives at Monte Vista Grove) told her so. I told her that we named Jake during our Presbytery communion, remembering that at Christ's table we are joined with saints across time and space-and she wept.

Thank God for the Lord's Table, for beloved hymns, for the Lord's Prayer, for all the ways that we can gather even in the face of death and division, and with one voice, one faith, one plea for peace, we can witness to our one Lord, who is above all and through all and in all.

In Christ,  
Wendy



### **Register Now for Our Annual Winterfest Event!**

We are excited to welcome Dr. Charlene Jin Lee as our plenary speaker, as well as many gifted leaders from San Gabriel Presbytery who will offer workshops on a variety of ways our churches can engage the world. The cost is \$10/person.

*All churches who register five or more participants by January 31 will receive the sixth registration for free and a complimentary resource bundle.*

Register at: the Presbytery meeting or via -  
<https://knoxpresbyterian.breezechms.com/form/Winterfest2020>



Pacific & San Gabriel Presbyteries, Peacemaking Program, and Presbyterian World Mission are partnering to coordinate a **study seminartrip to the Southern Border (Tijuana) February 29-March 1, 2020**. [Click here for more information on the border trip](#). Please share the flyer with anyone in your congregation who might be interested in this opportunity.

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**



**THE U.S. SOUTHERN  
BORDER: WHAT IS  
HAPPENING AND  
HOW PRESBYTERIANS  
CAN RESPOND**

**Sat., Feb. 29 – Mon., Mar. 2, 2020**

We'll travel from Los Angeles to Tijuana, Mexico to visit a migrant shelter and have interactions with important actors offering humanitarian and legal services to asylum seekers being forced to wait in Mexico. We will stay overnight in Tijuana, Mexico and on Sunday will attend a binational worship experience right on the border. Monday will be a full day, hosted by Pacific Presbytery, in meetings and conversations to further understand the context and gain tools and insight to discern ways we can get involved, offer support, accompaniment and much needed advocacy. This seminar is sponsored jointly by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, World Mission and Pacific and San Gabriel Presbyteries.

For more information:  
[TRACEY.KING-ORTEGA@PCUSA.ORG](mailto:TRACEY.KING-ORTEGA@PCUSA.ORG)



## **BEWARE OF SCAM EMAILS**

A few of our congregations have recently received scam emails. Please be careful when opening links or attachments and only open links or attachments from senders you know. Check the email address to be sure it is your contacts email address and not just their name with an unknown email address. Below are two articles about recent email scams:

Gift Card Scam: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-co-cr-gift-card-scam-20191231-bwik253n6bc7pd6sbdimcs5xu-story.html>

And here is one describing the payroll scam: <https://www.checkmatepayroll.com/payroll-fraud-alert-direct-deposit-scam/>

[Click here for full flyer.](#)



## What happens to worship music when Adam Tice and Sally Ann Morris meet?

*Two brilliant writers of contemporary, thought-provoking texts and tunes inspire!*

Save the dates:  
February 21-23, 2020

Calvary Presbyterian Church, South Pasadena

Specific Program information-free and open to all, will follow

Explore the fine art of hymn writing: you'll be singing, writing, listening, crying and laughing and making new friends. Listen to and learn from the remarkable contributions Adam and Sally have already given us in *Glory to God*, and that's just the beginning!

Sally and Adam were featured presenters at the 2019 Montreat Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, North Carolina. Plan to join us at Calvary as we bring a taste of Montreat to Southern California.

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



San Fernando Valley



REFUGEE CHILDREN  
CENTER, INC.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY REFUGEE CHILDREN CENTER, INC.  
15435 RAYEN STREET  
NORTH HILLS, CA 91343  
TEL: (747) 529 – 4783

E-MAIL: [SFVRCC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SFVRCC@GMAIL.COM)

## Looking for Donations!

At the moment, the SFVRCC currently assists about 200 minors and their families (80 families) who have immigration active cases. These families would really appreciate the following donations:

- Donate electronic gift cards that will buy groceries, i.e., Ralphs, Superior, any amount is welcome.
- Donate electronic gift cards that will buy clothing i.e., Target, Walmart, any amount is welcome.
- Donate school and art supplies from our SFVRCC Amazon Wish List at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3HDK9KDWB8NYG>
- Donate Tap Cards, purchase them at <https://www.taptogo.net/TAPPurchase>
- Donate hygiene/toiletry kits
- Financially donate to our organization where you can also find a breakdown of your dollar work <https://www.noestassolonorthhills.org/donate-now.html>

For further questions you may contact:

Amanda Escobar Romero, Social Service Department Coordinator

[aeromero.sfvrc@gmail.com](mailto:aeromero.sfvrc@gmail.com)

Mairym Medina-Sanchez, Immigration Legal Service Department

[mmedina.sfvrc@gmail.com](mailto:mmedina.sfvrc@gmail.com)

Frida Ramirez Aldapa, Operations Coordinator

[fraldapa.sfvrc@gmail.com](mailto:fraldapa.sfvrc@gmail.com)

Mayra Medina-Nunez, Associate Executive Director

[mayramn.sfvrc@gmail.com](mailto:mayramn.sfvrc@gmail.com)

Fred Morris, Executive Director

[fcad@aol.com](mailto:fcad@aol.com)

Thank you!



# RISE

## WINTER CAMP

BIG BEAR LAKE CHRISTIAN CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Junior High and High School Students

March 20 - 22

*Register at [bblccc.com/march-madness](http://bblccc.com/march-madness)*

*Email [bigbearlakechristianconference@gmail.com](mailto:bigbearlakechristianconference@gmail.com)*

### Presbytery Meeting dates for 2020

Saturday, March 28 - 9:00 am at Korean Good Shepherd in Rowland Heights

Saturday, May 30 - 9:00 am - GA Co-Moderator Rev. Cindy Kohlmann  
at Iglesia de la Comunidad in Los Angeles

Saturday, September 26 - 9:00 am at San Marino Community Church

Tuesday, November 17 - 7:00 pm at Westminster PC in Pasadena

## 2020 Presbytery Minimums

Pastor's Minimum Salary: \$57,685

Travel/Professional Expense Reimbursement: \$2,735

Study Leave: \$1,020

## 2020 Mileage Reimbursement Rates:

Business 57.5 cents per mile

Medical 17 cents per mile

Charitable 14 cents per mile

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, CA has an immediate for a full-time Custodian.

Daily duties include (but not limited to):

Minor building maintenance and repairs, attention to yardwork and landscaping duties, maintain general exterior and interior appearance of the Church and property, creating and following a general maintenance routine, the ability to lift up to 100 lbs, ensuring the general safety and cleanliness of the building and property. Assisting with Church services and special events. Click [HERE](#) for a complete job description.

Please send resumes Westminster Church via email to [admin@wpcpas.org](mailto:admin@wpcpas.org), attn.: Trina

### 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 April 13, 2020, with preference given to applications arriving by January 31, 2020!

**La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church** has an opening for a position titled Communications and Office Administrative Associate. This is a Full-Time position - 36 hours per week. Benefits according to the Personnel Policy. Resumes should be sent to Shelly Ulrich at [shellyulrich55@gmail.com](mailto:shellyulrich55@gmail.com). Click [HERE](#) to download a complete job description.

La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church has an opening for a Bookkeeper. This is a part-time position. Click [HERE](#) to download a complete job description. Materials requested in the job description should be mailed to:

La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church  
1040 Baseline Road  
La Verne, CA 91750

**Calvary Presbyterian Church of South Pasadena** is seeking a thoughtful, energetic, and creative candidate for our Children & Youth Ministries position. This is a full time, salaried position. Hours negotiable. Click [HERE](#) to download detail/job description.

For more information about our church please visit [www.cpcsouthpas.org](http://www.cpcsouthpas.org).

Please send a cover letter and resume to The Rev. Millason Dailey, [millason@cpcsouthpas.org](mailto:millason@cpcsouthpas.org).

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Save the Date

The Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Inc. just cast a unanimous vote for the 2021 Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women!

August 5-8, 2021 - St Louis, MO



