



# **PRESBYTERY OF SAN GABRIEL**

**Saturday, February 3, 2024**  
**Presbytery Meeting**  
**9 AM In-person**

**Northminster**  
**Presbyterian Church**

**400 Rancheria Road**  
**Diamond Bar, CA 91765**



PRESBYTERY OF SAN GABRIEL

# **PRESBYTERY MEETING**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024 AT 9:00AM**



## **NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**400 RANCHERIA ROAD  
DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765**

Check-in and registration begins at 8:30AM.

The Presbytery Meeting will begin at 9:00AM and will end by 10:00AM before the WinterFest Plenary Session.



## PRESBYTERY OF SAN GABRIEL

# OFFERING



15701 Hill St. La Puente, CA 91744

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

(626) 333-7204

**East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless (ESGVCH)** is a Mission Partner with our Presbytery. It is a non-profit, 501c3 charitable organization with a mission to bring hope and restore dignity to individuals and families who are homeless in the San Gabriel Valley region. Their goal is always to assist people to find permanent housing and assist them to become self-supporting. Toward this end, ESGVCH:

- Provides emergency and transitional shelter programs
- Alleviates hunger by providing food
- Assists with basic daily needs: clothing, hygiene, and transportation
- Stabilizes individuals and families by making referrals for housing, jobs, education and healthcare
- Raises community awareness about issues related to homelessness
- Works collaboratively with others to end hunger and homelessness

### Text to Give

Text (626) 469-5775

Simply text the amount you'd like to give to this number. First time givers will be prompted to provide a payment method via secure web page.

### Donate Online

Go to  
[www.sangabpres.org/donate](http://www.sangabpres.org/donate)

Select "Give to Presbytery Offering" from the dropdown menu at the bottom of the page.

### Donate In-Person or by Mail

Mail a check to:  
Presbytery of San Gabriel  
9723 Garibaldi Avenue  
Temple City, CA 91780

Memo: February Offering





**San Gabriel Presbytery invites everyone to attend**

# **BECOMING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY**

**A LENTEN SERIES OF SELF-REFLECTION &  
COMMUNITY GROWTH**

*A six week series designed to create space to continue the journey  
towards racial justice and healing. Each week will include  
whole-group learning and facilitated small-group reflection time.*

**OPENING & CLOSING GATHERINGS  
PRESBYTERY CENTER IN TEMPLE CITY  
9723 GARIBALDI AVENUE, TEMPLE CITY 91780  
SATURDAYS: FEB. 10 & APRIL 6  
TIME: 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM**

**WEEKLY SESSIONS  
ZOOM MEETING  
TUESDAYS: FEB. 13, 20, 27; MAR. 5, 12, 19  
TIME: 7:00 PM-8:30 PM**



*Led by Dr. Tracey Shenell  
Pastor, Speaker, Coach,  
& Consultant*

For questions email: [info@traceyshenell.com](mailto:info@traceyshenell.com)



**PRESBYTERY OF SAN GABRIEL  
STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING  
February 3, 2024  
Northminster Presbyterian Church, Diamond Bar**

8:30 am     *Registration and Hospitality*

**DOCKET**

9:00 am	Call to Order Land Acknowledgement/Opening Prayer Welcome	Moderator, RE Pat Martinez-Miller  CRE Sam Bang, Co-Pastor, Northminster Presbyterian Church
9:07 am	Stated Clerk's Report	RE Carrie Kohler
9:12 am	Justice, Peacemaking and Mission	TE N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie
9:17 am	Commission on Ministry	TE Cyndie Crowell
9:27 am	Representation and Nominations	TE Margarita Reyes
9:30 am	Presbytery Executive Commission	TE David Tomlinson
9:35 am	Worship Installation of Moderator and Vice Moderator Communion <i>Today's offering will go East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless. Please make checks to San Gabriel Presbytery, or go to <a href="https://sangabpres.org">sangabpres.org</a> and click "DONATE"</i>	RE Pat Martinez-Miller
9:55 am	Adjournment and Benediction	Vice Moderator, RE Helen Darsie

***Upcoming 2024 Presbytery Meetings:***

Tuesday, April 16	7PM	Zoom
Saturday, June 15	9AM	Huhuunga
Tuesday, September 17	7PM	Zoom
Saturday, November 16	9AM	TBD



**Presbytery of San Gabriel  
Stated Clerk's Report  
February 3, 2024**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Stated Clerk brings the Consent Agenda for vote (Items 1-8):

1. That enrollment of minister and elder commissioners be by enrollment list, excuses properly filed with the stated clerk be honored, and all honorably retired ministers and out of state ministers be excused unless enrolled as present.
2. That the minutes of the Stated Meeting of November 18, 2023, be approved.
3. That the proposed docket distributed in the packet be approved.
4. That all corresponding members voted upon and registered in writing with the stated clerk be seated.

***Recommended by the Commission on Ministry:***

5. That the Presbytery concur with TE Brian Gaeta-Symonds and Claremont Presbyterian Church to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective January 21, 2024. Brian has accepted a call as Pastor of All Peoples Presbyterian Church in Cathedral City, in the Presbytery of Riverside.
6. That the Presbytery approve TE Michael Roffina, Presbytery of San Fernando, as Fill-In Pastor (10-15 hours/week) for Calvary Presbyterian Church, effective January 19, 2024, for six-eight weeks at \$35/hour, and that the Presbytery grant him permission to labor within our bounds.
7. That an Administrative Commission be formed to determine the future of Village Presbyterian Church, and that the following people be appointed to serve:  
TE Robert Crowell, Pastor of Village Church  
TE Mariko Yanagihara, Retired  
RE Paul Ashworth, Live Oak Community Church  
RE Anna Puentes, Village Presbyterian Church.
8. That RE Edgardo Cedeño-Díaz be added to the Chartering Commission for GKI LA.

**FOR INFORMATION**

1. Statistical Reporting: Statistics for 2023 may be submitted now. The deadline for submitting reports is **Monday, February 12, 2024**. Instructions and login information were emailed to the Clerks of Session and Pastors in early January. Please contact the Stated Clerk for Administration ([statedclerk@sangabpres.org](mailto:statedclerk@sangabpres.org)) if you have questions.
2. The Presbytery staff is working to finalize financials (unaudited) for 2023, and has not yet been able to complete the Financial Review for 2022. An update, and the year-end preliminary reports, will be provided by the next Presbytery meeting.



3. Presbytery Meeting Schedule for 2024:

Tuesday, April 16	7 PM	Zoom
Saturday, June 15	9 AM	Huhuunga (with Day of Service)
Tuesday, September 17	7 PM	Zoom
Saturday, November 16	9 AM	TBD.

4. Please submit your request to be excused to [statedclerk@sangabpres.org](mailto:statedclerk@sangabpres.org) in advance of the meeting.

5. Information for your reference:

**2024 Presbytery Minimums**

Full-Time Salary & Housing	\$67,565.00	(Half-time: \$33,782.50)
BOP: 39% of effective Salary	\$26,350.35	(Half-time: \$15,878.25)
Travel/Professional Expenses	\$ 3,205.00	(Half-time Associate: \$1,602.50)
Continuing Education Expenses	\$ 1,190.00	(Half-time Associate: \$ 595.00)
Paid Study Leave: 2 weeks		
Paid Vacation: 1 month (4 Sundays)		
Paid Personal Time Off: 12 days; 3 days are always available for sick leave.		

6. Just a reminder – If you make a motion on the floor that changes the printed handouts substantially or is a new motion, please write out your motion and turn it in ahead of time to the stated clerk. It is always helpful to present action items in writing in advance.



# MINUTES FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN GABRIEL STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING

November 18, 2023

Praise Community Church / GKI LA, Covina

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

The Presbytery of San Gabriel convened on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 9:00 am, in person at Praise Community Church, in Covina. A quorum was present as reflected in the roll. Moderator RE Pat Martinez-Miller called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. TE Wendy Tajima was the Stated Clerk for the meeting.

## ENGAGE IN GOD'S WORK

### OPENING WORSHIP

The Presbytery of San Gabriel was invited into worship with a recorded video of Inquirer Veronica Ota, singing *Holy Spirit* as a prelude. TE Peter Tan-Gatue, pastor of Praise Community Church, welcomed the Presbytery members. In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the Presbytery opened in worship singing *O God, the Creator*, a hymn written by Elizabeth Thunderbird Haile of the Shinnecock people, and TE Cecil Corbett of the Nez Perce / Choctaw people who was a Presbyterian pastor. RE Mona Morales Recalde, member of the Gabrieleño / Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, gave a land acknowledgement and opened the meeting in prayer.

### REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

TE Wendy Tajima reported.

**The Presbytery moved, seconded, and voted to receive the following information items from the Stated Clerk's report and to approve the following consent agenda (Items 1-9) by voice vote:**

### CONSENT AGENDA

1. That enrollment of minister and elder commissioners be by enrollment list, excuses properly filed with the stated clerk be honored, and all honorably retired ministers and out-of-state ministers be excused unless enrolled as present.
2. That the minutes of the Stated Meeting of September 19, 2023, be approved.
3. That the proposed docket distributed in the packet be approved.
4. That all corresponding members voted upon and registered in writing with the stated clerk be seated.
5. To receive preliminary year-to-date financials through September 30, 2023.
6. To approve the Redress of Imbalance for 2024.
7. To approve the following Terms of Call (annualized) for CRE Andrew Ritiau, Live Oak Community Church, Temple City, effective October 1, 2023:

Cash Salary	\$40,565.00
Housing Allowance	\$27,000.00
Medical Benefits	\$18,918.00
Pension/Disability	\$7,432.15
One month paid vacation	
Two weeks paid study leave (cumulative up to 6 weeks)	
Paid personal time off of 12 days, including 3 days sick leave (no year to year accrual).	



8. To approve the following Terms of Call for TE Magdy Girgis, who is employed as the Associate for Middle Eastern Intercultural Congregational Support by the PC(U.S.A.) Mission Agency, half-time:
  - Cash Salary \$27,492.00
  - Housing Allowance \$8,554.00
  - Board of Pensions Pastor's Participation
  - Paid Vacation: 27 days
  - Paid Study Leave: 10 days.
9. To approve the following Terms of Call for TE Ralph Su, who is employed as the Associate for Asian Intercultural Congregational Support by the PC(U.S.A.) Mission Agency, full-time:
  - Cash Salary \$31,130.36
  - Housing Allowance \$42,000.00
  - Board of Pensions Pastor's Participation
  - Paid Vacation: 22 days
  - Paid Study Leave: 10 days.

## NECROLOGY

The Presbytery gave thanks for the lives and ministries of the following minister members of the Presbytery who passed away since the November 2022 Presbytery meeting:

- Rev. William Stackhouse, November 23, 2022
- Rev. Pasquale (Pat) A. Castellano, February 9, 2023
- Rev. Dr. Cyris Heesuk Moon, March 5, 2023
- Rev. Raymond (Kay) Brown, March 14, 2023
- Rev. Roger Shervington, March 17, 2023
- Rev. Garth Moller, May 25, 2023
- Rev. George Pope, August 17, 2023.

## REPORT FOR THE RECORD

Communion was served in the September 19, 2023, Presbytery meeting, celebrated by TE Beth Putney and CRE Andrew Ritiau.

## INFORMATION

1. Records Review: The following churches have completed their 2022 Records Review: First Presbyterian Church (Altadena), Arcadia Community Church, Claremont Presbyterian Church, Community Presbyterian Church of El Monte, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church (Claremont), First Taiwanese Presbyterian Church (Pasadena), Grace Taiwanese Presbyterian Church (Temple City), Northminster Presbyterian Church (Diamond Bar), Praise Community Church (Covina), San Marino Community Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church (Pasadena).  
Thanks to the Clerks of Session and Pastors for your faithful diligence! For those not listed, please contact Wendy Tajima for a review of records, or recording of your review.
2. Statistical Reporting: Statistics for 2023 may be submitted online starting Friday, December 1, 2023, through February 1, 2024. Instructions will be emailed to the Clerks of Session and Pastors in early December.
3. The Presbytery of San Gabriel has renewed our Multi-Peril and Umbrella Insurance Policies with Church Mutual for 2024, effective October 1, 2023.
4. Past members of the Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission are:
  - Class of 2022: TE Marsha Fowler, RE Cliff Yang
  - Class of 2020: TE Jeff O'Grady, RE Jack Orswell
  - Class of 2018: TE Karen Berns, TE Millason Dailey.



5. The 2022 minutes of the Presbytery of San Gabriel were reviewed on October 31, 2023, by the Synod. There were three minor errors: no record of past PJC members whose terms have expired in the last six years, no clear confirmation of the Presbytery's Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy, and no recorded report from Synod Commissioners. There was an exception as the Presbytery did not hold an annual Financial Review.
6. The Presbytery has employed two Certified Public Accountants, one to complete the Financial Review for 2022, and another to help the Presbytery office compile the needed documentation for the review. It is hoped that the review will be completed before the end of 2023.
7. Presbytery Meeting Schedule for 2024:
 

Saturday, February 3	9AM	Northminster, Diamond Bar
Tuesday, April 16	7PM	Zoom
Saturday, June 15	9AM	Huhuunga (tentative)
Tuesday, September 17	7PM	Zoom
Saturday, November 16	9AM	TBD
8. Please submit requests to be excused to [statedclerk@sangabpres.org](mailto:statedclerk@sangabpres.org) in advance of future meetings.
9. Information for reference:
 

**2024 Presbytery Minimums**

Full-Time Salary & Housing	\$67,565.00	(Half-time: \$33,782.50)
BOP: 39% of effective Salary	\$26,350.35	(Half-time: \$15,878.25)*
Travel/Professional Expenses	\$ 3,205.00	(Half-time Associate: \$1,602.50)
Continuing Education Expenses	\$ 1,190.00	(Half-time Associate: \$ 595.00)

Paid Study Leave: 2 weeks  
 Paid Vacation: 1 month (4 Sundays)  
 Paid Personal Time Off: 12 days; 3 days are always available for sick leave.  
 \*BOP minimum medical dues is \$12,500, so dues for half-time pastors at presbytery minimum is: \$12,500 (medical) + \$3,378.25 (10% Salary/Housing) = \$15,878.25.
10. Just a reminder – If you make a motion on the floor that changes the printed handouts substantially or is a new motion, please write out your motion and turn it in ahead of time to the stated clerk. It is always helpful to present action items in writing in advance.

### **Executive Presbyter's Report**

TE Wendy Tajima reported on the State of the Presbytery; see attached.

### **Administration and Finance Committee**

TE Roberto Ramírez reported for the Committee.

TE Roberto Ramírez reported on the Q3 financials, and noted that there is a Property Team reviewing the best use of real estate assets of the Presbytery. He also stated that the budget task force presented a budget draft to the Executive Commission. CRE Sam Bang gave a summary of said proposed budget for 2024, which is recommended for adoption by the Executive Commission.

**With no second needed as the motion came from the Executive Commission, the Presbytery moved and voted to adopt the 2024 Budget.**

TE Roberto Ramírez then made a motion from the floor that the apportionment for 2024 be \$70 per member, which is unchanged from 2023.



**The Presbytery moved, seconded, and voted to set the apportionment for 2024 at \$70 per member.**

### **Education, Equipping, and Empowerment**

RE Helen Darsie reported for the Committee.

RE Helen Darsie thanked the Presbytery members who gave input through the Fall Interest Survey, and introduced CRE Sam Bang, who gave a short report of highlights from the survey. He highlighted the Presbytery's interest in caring for our unhoused neighbors and in strengthening the bonds we have with our local Indigenous hosts – the Gabrieleño / Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians.

RE Helen Darsie then promoted the upcoming WinterFest in February 2024, including the schedule of sessions. She also presented the offer of \$100 gift certificates to Homeboy Industries for the top five most intergenerational church teams.

### **Commission on Ministry**

TE Cyndie Crowell reported for the Commission.

She reported on the recommendation to commission two ruling elders to provide pastoral services for Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church in Claremont. She introduced RE Jorge Gomez and RE Rosario Orosco, who each read their statement of faith. The Presbytery asked several questions of them.

TE Cyndie Crowell presented the terms of call for RE Jorge Gomez and RE Rosario Orosco, each as ¼-time Commissioned Ruling Elders for pastoral service.

**With no second needed as the motion came from the Commission on Ministry, the Presbytery moved and voted to commission Ruling Elder Jorge Gomez and Ruling Elder Rosario Orosco, each as a 25%-time Commissioned Ruling Elder for pastoral service for Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church in Claremont, for a one-year contract effective October 1, 2023, with a six-month evaluation on April 1, 2024, for review of salary, possibly expanding the commission, and further differentiating the job descriptions. TE Amy Mendez will continue as Moderator of the Session and supervisor for both CREs. Terms of call for each CRE as below.**

	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
Salary/Housing	\$16,443	\$1,370
Professional Expenses	\$780	
No benefits (25%-time position)		

TE Cyndie Crowell asked them the constitutional questions for CREs, and upon their affirmative answers, she congratulated CRE Jorge Gomez and CRE Rosario Orosco as they enter the ministry.

TE Crowell then explained the recommendation for leadership at Filipino Community United Presbyterian Church, who has requested the approval of a six-month agreement with TE Bear Ride and Dr. Tracey Shenell to provide pastoral service. TE Ride would be the Bridge Pastor of record at ¼-time, moderating Session, serving sacraments, and acting as head of staff. Dr. Shenell would be the Director of Ministry at ¾-time, leading in worship, providing pastoral care, leading in vision development and community outreach, and doing administration. Dr. Shenell holds an M.Div. and D.Min. from Fuller, and



has pastoral experience, but is relatively new to the PC(U.S.A.). The hope is by the end of the six-month agreement, she and the church will confirm that it is God's will for her to seek authorization as a PC(U.S.A.) pastor, likely as a Commissioned Ruling Elder.

**With no second needed as the motion came from the Commission on Ministry, the Presbytery moved and voted to approve TE Bear Ride as Bridge Pastor and Moderator of Session for Filipino Community United Presbyterian Church, at 25%-time, from November 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024, with compensation as outlined below.**

	Annual	Monthly
Salary/Housing	\$16,891	\$1,408
Professional Expenses	\$801	
No benefits (25%-time position)		

**With no second needed as the motion came from the Commission on Ministry, the Presbytery moved and voted to affirm Dr. Tracey Shenell's pastoral service to Filipino Community United Presbyterian Church, at 75%-time, from November 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024, with compensation as outlined below.**

	Annual	Monthly
Cash Salary	\$ 5,676	\$ 473
Housing Allowance	\$44,998	\$3,750
Professional Expenses	\$801	
Medical/Pension Benefits	\$19,763	\$1,647

TE Cyndie Crowell introduced TE Deetje Tiwa, a member of San Francisco Presbytery. TE Tiwa has come to Southern California to serve as interim pastor for GPIB-USA, the Indonesian fellowship in Claremont. As TE Tiwa is retired, the Presbytery followed the practice that retired teaching elders do not need to read their statement of faith, nor leave the room for voting. Since GPIB-USA does not recognize the jurisdiction of the Presbytery, her terms of call are not being voted on. TE Crowell confirmed that COM has met with TE Tiwa and recommends that she be received by the San Gabriel Presbytery as a minister member. TE Deetje Tiwa introduced herself, and the Presbytery asked several questions of her.

**With no second needed as the motion came from the Commission on Ministry, the Presbytery moved and voted to receive TE Deetje Tiwa as a minister member of the Presbytery of San Gabriel, upon her transfer from the Presbytery of San Francisco.**

TE Cyndie Crowell then celebrated the work that GKI LA's leaders have done to get to this point of being recommended for chartering with the PC(U.S.A.). She thanked the committee, made up of Rev. Ann Oglesby-Edwards, Rev. Bryce Little, and Rev. Peter Tan-Gatue (the pastor of GKI LA's partnering congregation), who walked with them through elders training, the development of a mission study, financial forecast and full revision of their bylaws in order to align with the Constitution of the PC(U.S.A.). TE Crowell invited TE Oglesby-Edwards to speak.

TE Ann Oglesby-Edwards reviewed the work with GKI LA over the years, and thanked Praise Community Church for their support of GKI LA, especially in modeling so well the work of Session. After giving a summary of all the work that had been done, the committee then recommended to COM that GKI LA be chartered as a PC(U.S.A.) congregation.

**With no second needed as the motion came from the Commission on Ministry, the Presbytery moved and voted to approve the chartering of GKI LA as a member church of the Presbytery, through a chartering commission with members as follows:**



**Ruling Elder Pat Martinez-Miller**

**Ruling Elder Seree Yenjai**

**Teaching Elder Peter Tan-Gatue, Moderator of the Commission**

**Teaching Elder Ann Oglesby-Edwards**

**Teaching Elder Deetje Tiwa.**

**The chartering service is scheduled for Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 3pm, at the home of GKI LA and Praise Community Church.**

Lastly, TE Cyndie Crowell ended her report by praying for all the aforementioned ministries and their newly commissioned leaders:

CRE Jorge Gomez and CRE Rosario Orosco at Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church

TE Bear Ride and Dr. Tracey Shenell at Filipino Community United Presbyterian Church

TE Deetje Tiwa at GPIB-USA

The congregation of GKI LA.

The Presbytery meeting took at 15 minute break, with Vice-Moderator Peter Tan-Gatue assuming the role of Moderator after the break. The Presbytery was called back to the meeting with a recorded video of Interwoven New Worshiping Community, singing *Come On and Bless the Lord*.

### **Executive Commission**

TE Dave Tomlinson reported for the Commission.

TE Dave Tomlinson introduced the Presbytery's Executive Commission (PEC) report, mentioning that the budget was presented by the Administration and Finance Committee. The PEC approved the meeting scheduling for 2024, which is included in the Presbytery Meeting packet. He also indicated that the sale of the property of the former St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church has been closed, and the Presbytery received \$1.7 million in net proceeds. TE Tomlinson then called TE Cyndie Crowell forward to present the report from the Administrative Commission for Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church.

TE Cyndie Crowell gave background on the work of the Administrative Commission, as well as the recommendations to the Presbytery. She introduced TE Harlan Redmond to share the vision of Interwoven in a renovated Eagle Rock location.

**With no second needed as the motion came from the Administrative Commission for Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery moved and voted to commit to plan for the renewal of ministry at the site of Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church, with investment in the major renovation of the property, with the eventual goal of establishing Interwoven there, and that the Eagle Rock Administrative Commission be expanded to provide care and oversight for the following:**

- 1. The current Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church**
- 2. Renovation of the property**
- 3. Interwoven New Worshiping Community as it moves to Eagle Rock and progresses toward chartering as a congregation.**

**With no second needed as the motion came from the Administrative Commission for Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery moved and voted to:**

- affirm the election of TE Harlan Redmond and RE Carolyn Harris**



- accept the resignations of RE Ellery Atienza and TE Wendy Tajima
- elect TE Deidra Goulding
- affirm the full involvement of Bryan Quintas of Interwoven

related to membership on the Administrative Commission for Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church.

### **Committee on Representation and Nominations**

In the excused absence of members of the Committee, TE Wendy Tajima reported for the Committee as an ex officio member.

TE Wendy Tajima presented the statistics for the year.

**The Presbytery moved, seconded, and voted to receive the Report on Representation.**

TE Wendy Tajima thanked those who have completed their terms of service to the Presbytery in 2023. With gratitude for those stepping forward to serve, TE Tajima presented the slate of nominees on behalf of the Committee. There was an opportunity to bring nominations from the floor.

**The Presbytery elected the following leaders:**

**TE Peter Tan-Gatue, Moderator of Presbytery**  
**RE Helen Darsie, Vice Moderator of Presbytery**  
**RE Pat Martinez-Miller, Chair of Executive Commission**

**For Class of 2026:**

**TE Deidra Goulding, member of Administration and Finance Committee**  
**TE Duane Bidwell, member of Commission on Ministry**  
**TE Sophia Eurich-Rascoe, member of Commission on Ministry**  
**RE Jorge Gomez, member of Commission on Preparation for Ministry**  
**TE Dongwoo Lee, member of Commission on Preparation for Ministry**  
**RE Jess Wong, member of Education, Equipping, and Empowerment Committee**  
**TE Beth Putney, member-at-large of Executive Commission**  
**Maggie Njoroge, member of Justice, Peacemaking, and Mission Committee**  
**TE Vikki Randall, member of Justice, Peacemaking, and Mission Committee**  
**RE Ron Schooler, member of Justice, Peacemaking, and Mission Committee**  
**RE Robert Louie, member of Permanent Judicial Commission**  
**TE Catharine Grier Carlson, Synod Commissioner**  
**RE Yvonne Harmon, Synod Commissioner**  
**TE Bryce Little, Committee on Representation and Nominations (nominated by PEC)**  
**TE Margarita Reyes, Committee on Representation and Nominations (nominated by PEC)**

**RE Melinda Forbes, General Assembly 2024 RE Commissioner**  
**TE Deidra Goulding, General Assembly 2024 TE Commissioner.**

TE Wendy Tajima prayed for those elected and for those continuing in service.



## **Justice, Peacemaking, and Mission Committee**

TE N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie reported for the Committee.

TE N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie introduced the Presbytery Offering for the month of November, including two ways to be channels of God's blessing. She invited RE Mona Morales Recalde and Wendy Gist to describe them. RE Mona Morales Recalde described her tribe, the Gabrieleño / Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, and its work to distribute gift cards to all Native Americans in need in the LA area. Wendy Gist described the gifts of cold-weather and travel gear for migrants being released from the Desert View Annex near the Adelanto Detention Center, which goes with the additional emergency funds given by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Wendy Gist also encouraged people to give money during today's closing worship, which would be used to purchase gift cards for Native neighbors in need.

TE N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie presented the 2024 grants for the El Monte Initiative: \$34,000 to Puente de Esperanza Presbyterian Church for the CaliCenter community services program, and \$15,000 to Community Church of El Monte for the Food Pantry.

She closed her report by reminding the Presbytery of the Christmas Joy Offering in December.

## **Closing Worship**

TE Wendy Tajima read John 6:68-69 and, with the sure knowledge that Christ is Lord, read the necrology and prayed for the saints who have gone before us.

TE N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie called for an offering, and prayed over it after receiving.

TE Peter Tan-Gatue and TE Pipi Dhali served Communion. The congregation of GKI LA beautifully sang the Lord's Prayer in Indonesian.

TE Peter Tan-Gatue called for adjournment and led the benediction. The meeting closed at 11:57 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rev. Wendy Tajima, Acting Stated Clerk for Administration

WT:am



## REDRESS OF IMBALANCE for 2024 – Effective January 1, 2024

Roll of Teaching Elders = 173      Less non-participating TE= 54      **VOTING TEs = 119**

CHURCH	RULING ELDERS	2 X B/O	Additional	TOTAL
1.	Altadena, First	2	1	3
2.	Arcadia, Arabic Evangelical	2	1	3
3.	Arcadia, Arcadia	2	1	3
4.	Arcadia, Capstone	2	1	3
5.	Arcadia, Village	2	1	3
6.	Azusa, Filipino	2	1	3
7.	Claremont, Claremont	2	1	3
8.	Claremont, Emmanuel Hispanic	2	1	3
9.	Covina, Faith Grace	2	1	3
10.	Covina, GKI-LA (tent.)	2	1	3
11.	Covina, Praise Community	2	1	3
12.	Diamond Bar, Northminster	2	1	3
13.	El Monte, Community	2	1	3
14.	El Monte, Divine Light	2	1	3
15.	Hac. Hts., Shepherd of Valley	2	1	3
16.	La Puente, Puente de Esperanza	2	1	3
17.	La Verne, La Verne Heights	2	1	3
18.	Los Angeles, Eagle Rock	2	1	3
19.	Los Angeles, Glendale Korean	2	1	3
20.	Los Angeles, Iglesia de la Comm.	2	1	3
21.	Los Angeles, Occidental	2	1	3
22.	Monterey Park, Taiwanese	2	1	3
23.	Pasadena, First Taiwanese	2	1	3
24.	Pasadena, Knox	2	1	3
25.	Pasadena, New Hope	2	1	3
26.	Pasadena, Pasadena	4	1	5
27.	Pasadena, Trinity	2	1	3
28.	Pasadena, Westminster	2	1	3
29.	Pomona, First	2	1	3
30.	Rowland Heights, Korean	2	1	3
31.	San Marino, Community	6	1	7
32.	South Pasadena, Calvary	2	1	3
33.	Temple City, Grace Taiwanese	2	1	3
34.	Temple City, Mideast Evangelical	2	1	3
35.	Temple City, Live Oak	2	1	3
TOTALS		76	35	111

3 Commissioned Ruling Elders + 4 Executive Commission Elders = 7

TOTAL RULING ELDERS= 118



## REDRESS OF IMBALANCE

Annually, the stated clerk shall ascertain the number of resident Teaching Elders (TEs) duly enrolled and the number of Ruling Elders (REs) churches are entitled to send as commissioners.

In the past the Book of Order established the number of REs particular churches are entitled to send as commissioners according are as follows: under 501, 1 elder; 501-1000, 2 elders; 1001-1500, 3 elders; 1501-2000, 4 elders; 2001-3000, 5 elders; 3001+ 1 more elder for each 1,000 additional active members or major fraction thereof. In addition to commissioners from churches Commissioned Ruling Elders and the RE members of Presbytery Council are also elder commissioners.

When the number of Teaching Elders is larger, the stated clerk shall report the imbalance to the presbytery for the purpose of redressing the imbalance between Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders. The stated clerk shall then assign additional Ruling Elder commissioners to the particular churches according to the following priorities:

- a. double the commissioners allocated by the Book of Order, and;
- b. By action of the Presbytery Council, Sept. 30, 2014, the reverse alphabetical additions from past years were removed and every church was granted one additional RE representative to presbytery. By this means all churches benefit equally.

**NOTE: Presbytery has voted to use active participation of honorably retired members as a criterion in determining balance.** (54 non-participating minister members were noted in determining balance.)

Ruling Elder commissioners elected by the particular churches shall be enrolled as members of presbytery upon filing with the stated clerk a certification of election by registering.



## WHO MAY VOTE AT PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

The voting members at presbytery meetings are as follows:

1. Elder commissioners from the churches or duly elected alternates when the elder commissioner is not present.
2. Minister members of the presbytery including temporary minister members (but not corresponding members) from other denominations.
3. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator of presbytery.
4. Elder members of the Presbytery Executive Commission including the immediate previous-year moderator of presbytery who chairs the Executive Commission.
5. Any Commissioned Ruling Elder who was given the right to vote as a provision of the commission.

Note: Members of presbytery committees do not have a vote at presbytery meetings unless they qualify under a provision of 1-5 above. No one may vote or cast a ballot on behalf of another member; you must be present to vote.

Corresponding members of presbytery have voice but not vote.



**Presbytery of San Gabriel**  
**Executive Presbyter's Report**  
**November 18, 2023**

**John 6:60-61, 66-69**

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you?"

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

If I had to look back on this year, I can't help but see how I started the year in Israel and Palestine, and we are all now immersed in worry over Israel and Palestine. In between these two bookends, there is much that I celebrate about the life of this presbytery—so much so that I feel unsettled that we have been so blessed when so many are suffering. When I think about 2023 in San Gabriel Presbytery, here is what comes to my mind:

- Early on, we had a WinterFest that named two key priorities for the presbytery at large: our growing relationship with the **Gabrieleno/Tongva tribe**, and our efforts to contribute to the call for **affordable housing** in our area. In fact, two state bills that we advocated for—both of which passed—are AB 776, which Gov. Newsom signed last month on Indigenous People's Day, which renames the 210 freeway and requires the erection of highway signs to acknowledge and honor the first peoples of this land; and SB 4, which waives the zoning restrictions if churches seek to use some of their property for affordable housing. We are now looking to continue supporting our Indigenous neighbors, such as with today's offering which will help the tribe to provide assistance to all Native Americans in Los Angeles. And we are looking for ways to offer space for affordable housing—which will also contribute to our resources for ministry.
- We are making significant progress in several Presbytery priorities. **Habitat for Humanity** has been clearing out the Baldwin Park property, and they gained public funding for the building of the new housing that will be sold to local families, and the new house and adjoining units for the Presbytery, that we may continue to be a faithful presence in Baldwin Park. The work of several **administrative commissions**—Baldwin Park, Grace Los Angeles, St. Andrew's, and Eagle Rock—has either been completed or hit major milestones. And Wendy Gist has been a great organizer for the **immigrant ministry efforts** across the Synod.
- Our **new worshiping communities** continue to develop their ministries:
  - You will hear today about a commitment being proposed to support Interwoven's vision.
  - At our September Presbytery meeting, we celebrated God's blessing on the ministry that is now called Live Oak Community Church in Temple City.
  - Haven New Worshiping Community's relationship with Claremont Presbyterian Church has become a catalyst for the whole Claremont community to coalesce in their care for LGBTQ residents and their families.



- You will be asked today to approve the chartering of GKI LA, which will become the first Indonesian member church in our presbytery.
- We are finding gifted and well-suited **pastoral leaders** for our churches, such as Occidental, Altadena, Emmanuel, FCUPC Azusa—and several of us have helped with Eagle Rock. Frankly, finding the best pastors and preachers has not been easy post-COVID, and I have spent an extraordinary amount of time and energy either filling the pulpit or looking for guest preachers in the last couple of years for churches without pastors. It is a blessing to worship with folks, and I thank God for many who have been willing to help, but this has been a big part of my work in the last year or two.
- We have gained **new energy, expertise, and perspective from new friends**, or significant visits from thought leaders like Bruce Reyes-Chow. As we hear from folks who have recently graduated from or are still in seminary—especially Princeton and Fuller—some of us have been challenged to learn about their markedly different concerns and priorities. Among other things, they are raising the need for the church to be more inclusive, to respond to climate change, and they are looking at social enterprise as a tangible connection with the community, and as a supplemental income source for the post-Christendom church.

And as we look ahead to 2024, there is much to celebrate. My hope is that WinterFest will again be a herald of what is to come, as we consider how we can grow together more as the Beloved Community. One of the things we are asked the most is to help build relationships across the presbytery. And while I brag about our diversity, I know that we have not done near enough to learn from each other about our different experiences and perspectives that would give us a larger view of the grace of God. A couple of plans are already in place to build on this. One is our annual work day on June 15<sup>th</sup>. That work day was one attempt at bringing folks together over service projects, and our hope this year is that we will work with each other and also with the **Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy**—the first landback in Los Angeles.

And during the season of Lent, we are proposing a Presbytery-wide series of meetings, called **Growing as the Beloved Community**, for all members of the presbytery to see and hear each other in meaningful ways, pushing beyond the easy and inaccurate narratives that block our vision of who God has put us together with as one body of Christ. We are even suggesting that churches use this series as your Lenten study for 2024, as together we reflect on the incredible gifts God has given us in our own experiences and in each other—and the ways we dismiss or minimize them.

As I mentioned, I do believe we have been unusually blessed this year. Obviously this is not my doing—as you’ll hear later today, we have over 90 individuals elected to lead in various aspects of the Presbytery’s ministry, and that doesn’t count the congregational leaders, Synod and national church supporters, and community partners who help make it possible. And I am amazed at the ways God comes through for us, even when we fear that we don’t have the resources to move forward.

However, I also know that there is much to fear and to grieve. St. Andrew’s has closed down, and as much as we hope the people of Eagle Rock would embrace an exciting but very different new future, their church family as they have known it has been dissipated. We all have friends and colleagues who have passed away, or have moved away to other states. And the continuing uncertainty of COVID and other challenges of the world keep us unsettled. Even the prospect of



a series of meetings when we are asked to move beyond easy categorizations and assumptions about ourselves and each other can be unsettling. And, of course, there is so much suffering in the world—so if we are unusually blessed, as I believe we are, what is our responsibility to be a blessing to others?

The excerpts I read today from John 6 reflect the ways that the reality of Jesus' gospel proved to be too unsettling for some of his own followers. When he was healing the sick and feeding the crowds, they were too happy to follow. But when he started saying disturbing things about eating his flesh, they were understandably a little weirded out. As Jesus reflects in his question to his closest disciples, they were offended by the way Jesus would bring about our salvation. And honestly, wouldn't all of us wish that we could have Easter without Good Friday?

It is difficult to believe as Peter does, when things do not go the way we want or we think should happen. And we cannot assume that every shiny new object is God's answer to our concerns or uncertainties. But we are called to discern together the will of God, and to be faithful—not self-sufficient, not always cheerful, not even always successful, but faithful. And as we step forward in faith, and care for each other and the world around us, and as we confess that we must always rely on God's grace for every breath we take, we are freed of the burdens of pretending to be God, so that we may serve God in all the surprising ways God calls us. We have no way of knowing what comes next—but to whom can we go? We have come to believe and know that Jesus Christ is the Holy One of God. And if so, may we live, and love, and commit ourselves to the mission of Jesus Christ for this time, and this place. Thank you for listening, and considering. Amen.



**Presbytery of San Gabriel**  
**Justice Peacemaking and Mission Report**  
**February 3, 2024**

The Justice Peacemaking and Mission Committee met on Zoom on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, with a quorum present, and makes the following report to the Presbytery.

**FOR ACTION**

In light of the Executive Commission voting to open every Presbytery meeting with a land acknowledgement, the Justice Peacemaking and Mission Committee recommends that the Presbytery of San Gabriel adopt the following as the standard acknowledgement for the Presbytery:

We acknowledge the land we inhabit today was once known as Tovangaar, the unceded land of the Gabrieleño-Tongva people. We show our respect to our Gabrieleño-Tongva hosts with whom we have partnered for decades, as well as all Indigenous people, past, present, and future, and honor their labor as original caretakers of this land. We acknowledge their presence and connection to this land. We respect their ancestral ways and knowledge.

May we strive for reconciliation and cultivate a harmonious relationship with the land and its original caretakers, promoting justice and equity for all. We commit to uplifting the Gabrieleño-Tongva people. We commit to acknowledge the history, and join together in caring for this land and join in partnership in supporting the First People of Los Angeles.

Thanks to JPM member, RE Mona Morales Recalde, member of the Gabrieleño-Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians and elected commissioner with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, who offered guidance for this acknowledgement, including noting San Gabriel Presbytery's long-standing partnership with the tribe.

The Committee commends to the Presbytery a list of resources for connecting with our Indigenous hosts at the following website: <https://linktr.ee/GabrielenoTongva>. This link will also be added to the "Resources" section of the Monday Morning Update. One resource that is highly recommended is listed as "They Thought They Could Kill Us" under the Videos section.

**FOR INFORMATION**

1. Today's Presbytery Offering goes to the East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless. Go to <https://www.esgvch.org/> for more information. Offering will be received at the Presbytery meeting (make checks payable to San Gabriel Presbytery), or give online at <https://sangabpres.org/donate/> and choose "Give to Presbytery Offering."
2. The JPM Committee worked in cooperation with the Education Equipping and Empowerment (EEE) Committee on the WinterFest session on "Responding to our Unhoused Neighbors." A resource list of community agencies who work with the homeless is being developed for our churches, and will be made available at the WinterFest panel on Friday night. The resource list will also be made available through the Monday Morning Update "Resources" section.
3. Lent and Easter are coming soon! Please remember the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, which is often received on Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, or throughout Lent. The offering goes to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (which helps fund our Immigrant Advocacy ministry), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (which helps fund our Mission Advocate), and Self-Development of People (which recently made a grant to the Gabrieleño-Tongva tribe as they seek federal recognition).



4. The Committee also worked with EEE and Dr. Tracey Shenell to offer the Presbytery-wide Lenten series, "Becoming the Beloved Community." The series will be previewed February 3<sup>rd</sup> immediately after the Presbytery meeting, and the initial session is Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 am—noon (lunch provided) at the Presbytery Center, 9723 Garibaldi Avenue, Temple City. All are invited to attend—no registration needed—and you may participate even if you cannot attend all the sessions.
5. The organizing meeting for the Central America Migrant Mission Network will take place March 19-27 in El Salvador, and N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie, Margarita Reyes, and Wendy Gist will be going from San Gabriel Presbytery. Wendy secured funds from the Synod to cover the registration fees.



75  
YEARS



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MATTHEW 25





**Presbytery of San Gabriel**  
**Report of the Commission on Ministry**  
**February 3, 2024**

The Commission on Ministry met on January 8, 2024 via Zoom with a quorum present, and brings the following report and recommendations to the Presbytery.

**For Action:**

1a. That RE Tracey Shenell be commissioned as a CRE to become the full-time pastor of Filipino Community United Presbyterian Church (FCUPC), Azusa, with TE Bear Ride as mentor and with the requirement that within the first year before the CRE status is renewed, she is to enroll in a COM-approved course in PC(U.S.A.) polity.

1b. That the following annualized Terms of Call between Tracey Shenell and FCUPC be approved, effective February 1, 2024:

Cash Salary	17,000.00
Housing Allowance	50,565.00
Benefits (medical, pension)	26,350.35
Professional Expenses	3,205.00
Continuing Education	1,190.00

2 weeks paid Study Leave

1 month paid Vacation, including 4 Sundays

12 days Personal Time Off, including 3 days for sick time at any time.

2. That TE Tom Rennard, Retired, be received as a member of the Presbytery upon his transfer from the Presbytery of Riverside.

***Included on Presbytery Consent Agenda:***

3. That the Presbytery concur with TE Brian Gaeta-Symonds and Claremont Presbyterian Church to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective January 21, 2024. Brian has accepted a call as Pastor of All Peoples Presbyterian Church in Cathedral City, in the Presbytery of Riverside.

4. That the Presbytery approve TE Michael Roffina, Presbytery of San Fernando, as Fill-In Pastor (10-15 hours/week) for Calvary Presbyterian Church, effective January 19, 2024, for six-eight weeks at \$35/hour, and that the Presbytery grant him permission to labor within our bounds.

5. That an Administrative Commission be formed to determine the future of Village Presbyterian Church, and that the following people be appointed to serve:

TE Robert Crowell, Village Presbyterian Church

TE Mariko Yanagihara, Retired

RE Paul Ashworth, Live Oak Community Church

RE Anna Puentes, Village Presbyterian Church.

6. That RE Edgardo Cedeño-Díaz be added to the Chartering Commission for GKI LA.

**For Information:**

1. The new worshipping community Interwoven has begun holding their services at Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church at 4:00 p.m. on Sundays.

2. The Annual Salary Review forms have been sent out to the Stated Clerks/Churches. Please be sure to fill these out and return them as soon as possible. The Statistical Reports to Office of the General Assembly are due by February 12th. The Annual Teaching Elder Report forms were approved and will be sent to minister members soon.



## Faith Journey- Tracey Shenell

I was born in Cairo, Illinois, on the Mason-Dixon Line, so I consider myself a Southern in many ways. My faith journey began at a young age when I started to question why God allowed my brother to die. My elders warned me, saying, "Chile, we don't question God. We will never understand His ways." Later in life, I understood that only the latter part was true. Despite the warnings from my elders, I continued questioning God, but I never felt chastised. Rather I sensed God's presence listening and drawing nearer.

My Christian upbringing shifted as my family dynamics changed, from Roman Catholic Church in Latin with my mother's family in Cairo, IL, to Baptist churches with my stepfather's family in Magee, MS, and Holiness Sanctified churches with my father in Southern, IL. When we relocated to Joliet, IL, my mom sent my brother and me to VBS at local churches. I attended youth group at an AME church in junior high with friends. These experiences gave me a general understanding and belief in the Triune God. But the sermons my grandma preached to me about God and life on our front porch took a deeper root. Grandma Brown helped me to see that God was not confined to four walls. She helped me to see how, despite our own brokenness, God's love and grace were sufficient. She taught me about liberation, justice, and the importance of loving others, but only if we can truly love ourselves. Her connection to God as she put her hands and feet in the soil taught me to honor, respect, and love God and all of creation.

Eventually, our family landed at Sacred Heart Parish, a Black Catholic Church. Here I learned the church's role in fighting injustice as we actively advocated and protested. In high school and later at DePaul University in Chicago, I continued to express my faith through the school through the Gospel Choir, drama, and dance. This allowed me to cultivate relationships with people from various expressions of faith. I became involved with InterVarsity and answered an altar during a Black College Student retreat. I realized that much of my faith had been about activities and a bit of belief but didn't really move me towards a transformed life. While studying for the LSAT, I sensed a call into ministry. This wasn't support by my family or Gospel Choir friends who didn't believe in women in pastoral ministry. I studied and began worshiping at a Church of God church, connected with the holiness movement Church of God-Anderson. I still doubted my own call as a woman in ministry and believed I'd mostly work with youth and at faith-based non-profits. After preaching my first sermon in class the encouragement and affirmation I received from Dr. Pannell, allowed me to begin to see myself as a preacher. I continued working in various aspects of ministry at the church and was eventually ordained locally at Pasadena Church of God, where I served as a bi-vocational pastor for 14 years before taking a break from ministry and continue my studies.

During that my time in my DMin studies, I embraced liberation and womanist theology and began to deconstruct White Jesus and other things I needed to unlearn from the evangelical church. I began to rebuild a progressive theology that allowed me to embrace all of me as a Black Woman who saw liberation and wholeness as a part of how we were called to live out our faith. During this time, I found my pastoral voice and continued to care for and walk with God's people in non-traditional ways. While finishing up my DMin, I was invited to apply as an associate pastor of a non-denomination church in DTLA that had been planted by a Korean Presbyterian Church. Here, I was able to embrace language to articulate what it meant to be fully inclusive of my LGBTQI+ siblings and to name many of the ways Whiteness had negatively impacted Black Indigenous People of Color and women. I'm grateful for the many places and expressions of faith that have shaped me. In this new season of life as a divorced single mother of two Black teens who question as much as I did. I am committed to cultivating healthy rhythms for myself, my family, and others as we continue to encounter God, who helps is helping us to navigate and address the brokenness in ourselves and the world. I don't know what the next chapter holds, but I'm committing to being open to the mysterious sovereign activity of God leading and guiding me.



## Statement of Faith: Tracey Shenell

I believe in God, who self-reveals as the Trinity. Though the Trinity is a deep mystery, I affirm both the traditional understandings of the Triune God and newer and more expansive ways of understanding God's work in our world. I believe that God continues to reveal themselves in ways we can understand and relate to today.

As Creator, for me, God is the Womb and Giver of Life. In complete sovereignty, God made themselves known to the world as the Word made flesh through the womb of Mary, a girl who embraced her call, birthed, and raised a radically subversive child born under the empire. Jesus, the Incarnate Word, demonstrated life in the new realm where the captives are to be set free in body, mind, and soul and cultivate a more inclusive world. Like many with a prophetic voice, His message and lifestyle led to His state-sponsored execution. Yet, through God's sovereign and gracious power, His life, death, and resurrection were used to redeem and reconcile all who seek it, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, or social status. I trust in the power and mystery of the Holy Spirit, who I know as the Mother of Creation, who guides, empowers, and journeys with us. She enables us to see and discern God's will for our lives and the world while revealing God at work in all of Creation.

As a Black woman raised in the US, a Womanist and Liberation hermeneutic informs how I engage with Scripture. I acknowledge the authority of Scripture and interpret it through the lens of reason, tradition, and experience, recognizing that – while inspired by God – it is also a product of people, time, and culture. I joyfully affirm the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which are signs of God's covenant love. Through baptism for both believers and their children through God's sovereignty, we are reminded of the death and resurrection as we are renewed. Like Baptism, the Lord's Supper is a visible sign of God's invisible grace and unconditional love available to all who profess faith in Christ. Through this sacrament, we are invited to remember and reflect on God's liberation action from generation to generation as we communion with one another

I appreciate the Reformed tradition of the Presbyterian Church, emphasizing communal discernment and voice that builds and sustains the covenant community by the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit. In my ministry I am committed to cultivating a covenant community of believers that welcomes and affirms all of God's Beloved, because we are all created in the image of God and deserving of love, respect, and dignity. I believe God calls people to service in the world. As such, I am committed to journeying with the community as it continues to be a space of faith, hope, love and to be a witness to the world of God's liberation and transforming grace.

I believe that in addition to proclaiming the gospel, the Church has a prophetic role to play in society and must recapture its voice and mandate to challenge systems of injustice and oppression. The Church's work is to shelter, nurture, and advocate for the rights and well-being of all people, including the marginalized, the oppressed, and the vulnerable in such a way that all folks are liberated. I believe the Church needs to encourage social righteousness as it continues to show the Realm of God to the world.



## Short Biography of Thomas Gordon Rennard

I'm a Jersey boy who came west for seminary, met and married a Californian and have stayed since. I came to Fuller Theological Seminary to prepare to be a mission co-worker. I had left the Army which paid for my undergraduate degree at Wheaton College and required four years of service, as an artillery officer.

While in seminary I was appointed a volunteer in mission/seminary intern with the Presbyterian Church USA for a year of service in Lesotho, Southern Africa. While there I had a deep realization that "I was a pastor" and returned for my final year of seminary to prepare for pastoral ministry through the guidance of Knox Church/Pasadena and the Presbytery of San Gabriel.

I was ordained by the Presbytery of San Fernando in 1989 to be the associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills. I took a sabbatical in 1993-4 and then was made Stated Supply of Community Church, El Monte in 1995, and served the Pasadena Church as Interim Associate Pastor (1996-1998) and San Marino Community Church Presbyterian in 1998. I became a trained Interim Specialist in 1999 while the Interim Pastor at Claremont Presbyterian Church (1999-2000). I directed Field Education at Fuller Seminary from 1995-1999. In 2000-2001 I was the Interim Pastor at the Union Church of Lima, Peru and was the Interim Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of San Gabriel from 2001-2005.

In 2006 we moved to San Bernardino where I recruited students for San Francisco Theological Seminary/Southern California and directed the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate in San Bernardino where we built two houses. In 2007 I was installed as the pastor of Community Presbyterian Church of Crestline and then served interims or bridges beginning in 2013 in Redlands, Temecula, Hemet, and Big Bear. In 2019 I was called to the Transitional Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Riverside. I retired from presbytery and congregational service on January 1, 2023. Since January I served in the Food Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino and sung in the choir. My wife, the Rev. Sandy Tice, and I moved to Monte Vista Grove Homes on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Statement of Faith  
Thomas Gordon Rennard

I believe that God is the font of all that is good and pure and holy in the created universe. There is nothing outside of God's love and protection, and all things were made for God's delight.

I believe that Jesus is the "exact representation of God's nature" and with the Creator and Sanctifier loves the world with an undying love. Jesus walked the earth as a Palestinian Jew and gave his life for the sins of the world. He was resurrected on the third day and now intercedes on our behalf within the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

I believe the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus in the world and in all creation this day. He is the Lord and Giver of Life, and all things exist by the Spirit's will. The Holy Spirit leads us in the life of faith, hope and love.

I believe the church is "the provisional demonstration of what God intends for all humanity." It is to be salt and light and to work toward the kingdom of God in this present world. It awaits the coming of its Savior and Lord with bated breath.

I believe the Word and Sacraments are the ways we are taught and demonstrate that God reigns. The Word is found whenever the Scriptures are expounded and lived, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are means of grace where the real, spiritual presence of Christ is first experienced (in baptism) and is continuously given (in Communion) to the world.

All praise belongs to the name into which I've been baptized, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit who loves me and guides me without error.



**Presbytery of San Gabriel**  
**Executive Commission Report to the Presbytery**  
**February 3, 2024**

The San Gabriel Presbytery Executive Commission (PEC) met on Zoom on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, and Friday, January 12, 2024, with a quorum present, and makes the following report to the Presbytery.

**FOR INFORMATION**

1. On behalf of the Presbytery, the Executive Commission approved the housing allowance for teaching elders on Presbytery staff. See attached.
2. On behalf of the Presbytery, in response to a recommendation from the Administration and Finance Committee, the Executive Commission voted to utilize the proceeds of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church property sale as follows:
  - commit up to \$1.2 million as a matching grant for Phase One of the renovation of the Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church property as the home base for Interwoven
  - establish an unrestricted account of \$500,000, named after St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

**Background:** The net proceeds of the sale of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church property was \$1,707,728.85, received on November 13, 2023. The full amount was immediately invested in a 6-month treasury bill, earning 5%. It is expected that this 6-month investment will yield \$42,700. The most recent estimate for the renovation of the sanctuary/fellowship hall building of Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church (ie, Phase One) is \$1.6--\$2.0 million. Harlan Redmond has begun talking to prospective donors, and projects that a match of \$1.2 million will give him room to raise funds to cover not only the renovation costs, but an added 10% to help with operating expenses of the Interwoven new worshipping community.

The Administrative Commission for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church requested the establishment of an unrestricted account to be named as a legacy to that congregation.

3. The Commission voted to open every Presbytery meeting with a land acknowledgement, in compliance with General Assembly guidance and in honor of our Indigenous hosts, the Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians.
4. On behalf of the Presbytery, the Executive Commission approved Elder Carrie Kohler as Acting Stated Clerk for Administration, effective January 15, 2024. Her contract runs until April 30, 2024, for \$45/hour at approximately 25%-time, with a minimum of 12 hours/week. In compliance with the Presbytery bylaws, the Personnel Committee expects to present Elder Kohler for election for a 3-year term at the Presbytery meeting on April 16, 2024.



**Presbytery of San Gabriel**  
**2024 Presbytery Payroll**  
**effective 1/1/24**

**Clergy with Housing Allowance**

Last Name	First Name	Position	Annualized		
			Salary/Housing	Cash Salary	Housing Allowance
Tajima	Wendy	Executive Presbyter	112,970.00	46,970.00	66,000.00
Frasher	Diane	MVGH Chaplain (50%)	38,625.00	18,625.00	20,000.00
Redmond	Harlan	Interwoven Pastor	80,000.00	23,000.00	57,000.00
Redmond	Harlan	Outreach Chaplain (25%)	18,025.00	18,025.00	-
Mendez	Amy	W. Covina Pastor (75%)	64,000.00	39,000.00	25,000.00
Dhali	Pipi	GKI-LA Pastor (80%)	54,804.33	35,390.25	19,414.08

**Staff without Housing Allowance**

Last Name	First Name	Position	Annual Salary	Other Pay
Salyards	Steve	Stated Clk/Judicial		200/mo+
Bang	Sam	Associate Exec (75%)	67,800.00	
Gist	Wendy	Mission Advocate (33%)	25,675.00	
Gist	Wendy	Immigrant Accomp (50%)	35,945.00	
Crowell	Rob	Chaplain/WG		700/mo+
Marmol	Amy	Temp Admin		35/hour
		actual hrs, 6/1 - 11/30	199.75	6,991.25
Vacant		Stated Clk/Admin (50%?)	36,360.00	
Vacant		Property Manager	12,000.00	