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Fifteen Dynamic New Racial Ethnic & New Immigrant Worshiping Communities



Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries

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“Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.”—Luke 13:29 (NRSV)

In the following pages, we invite you to explore 15 dynamic new racial ethnic and new immigrant worshiping communities. Over 50 percent of the new worshiping communities are racial ethnic, new immigrant or intercultural, as well as being led by these individuals. Most of these worshiping communities are significantly younger than the PC(USA) as a whole. New immigrant worshiping communities are the fastest-growing communities of faith in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The movement to grow new worshiping communities has been ignited. This is a movement toward growth, mission and outreach, and reaching new and diverse people in Christ’s name.

In Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries, we collaborate with congregations and mid councils, assisting in the church’s efforts to become more diverse and igniting the movement to grow multiracial, multilingual, and intercultural worshiping communities. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has established ambitious goals to develop and grow racial ethnic and new immigrant worshiping communities. To support this ministry, visit www.pcusa.org/raciaethnic and press the red “Donate” button at the top of the page or call 1-888-728-7228 to donate to Fund E048310, “Development of Racial Ethnic and New Immigrant Worshiping Communities.”



Presbyterian Mission Agency
Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202-1396
800-728-7228, ext. 5848
pcusa.org/raciaethnic

New Life Triangle

newlifetriangle.org
5408 Duraleigh Road
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 443-0987

Rev. Samuel Son
sonsamuel@gmail.com
Presbytery of New Hope

New Life began as an English ministry of the Korean Duraleigh Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. The church's vision changed when non-Koreans began worshipping there. By August 2014, New Life had become a multi-ethnic community.

Leaders at New Life understand that Christ challenges the barriers created when society divides people into categories based on race, class, or other traits. New Life realized that in order to be truly multi-ethnic, it had to be multi-class. The community welcomed the homeless as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Leaders at New Life say, "Diversity is hard, but it is the whole point of the gospel. The gospel is reconciliation between God and humanity, between you and me across all cultural and class differences."

New Life and a nondenominational church formed a partnership. The two communities see their differences as secondary to the love they share for Christ. New Life welcomes people of all ethnicities and denominations, reflecting Christ's love for all people.



Judah Fellowship Christian Church

Judahfellowship.org
1000 Bryn Mawr Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

412-552-3032
Rev. Shanea Leonard
Pittsburgh Presbytery

Judah Fellowship Christian Church is a different church for a diverse people. Intentionally created to be different, Judah Fellowship exists to further the work and mission of Jesus Christ through outreach and social justice, as it seeks to eliminate bigotry, intolerance, and hatred in the community. Judah is dedicated to being a voice in the community, a leader in justice, a beacon of hope and love for the wounded, and a true witness to the gospel.

Led by the Rev. Shanea Leonard, Judah Fellowship offers several outreach and justice ministries. The community ministers to and with individuals who are incarcerated and transitioning to and from incarceration, as well as their families. The community helps ex-offenders find housing and employment and advocates for more effective programs for senior residents of Pittsburgh.

Judah Fellowship partners with a number of outside ministries and organizations ensuring that the work and Word of God benefit all people. Some of Judah Fellowship's partners include the Pittsburgh Faith Consortium, Pittsburgh Black Pride, New Voices of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, Klear Star

Productions and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center.



THREE

Shalom International Ministry

Shalominternationalministry.com
5140 Memorial Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Greater Atlanta Presbytery

404-438-2362
Rev. Gad Mpoyo
Shalomministry11@gmail.com

Shalom began as a community that worshiped in people's homes to meet the spiritual needs of people who had come to Clarkston, Georgia, as refugees and immigrants. Immigrants, refugees, and the Tri-Presbytery New Church Development Commission founded the ministry. The Shalom community grew to more than 50 adults in worship and 40 children who attend the children's program.

The refugees and immigrants have few possessions and are attempting to learn English and to find employment. Many are also coping with past trauma.

Although refugees and immigrants are faced with challenges when they come to the United States, they come with tremendous gifts and skills. The community at Shalom shares these gifts with one another in order to overcome the barriers that exist to thriving in this country.

The Shalom community consists of individuals from 16 countries including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Ghana, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Bhutan, and the United States. Many of these individuals are Christians whose faith has sustained them, while others are of other faiths who wish to be in community.



Mandarin-Speaking New Worshiping Community

<http://wpcdbq.org/mandarin-speaking-ministry-in-dubuque/>
 2155 University Avenue Rev. Moses Wu
 Dubuque, IA 52001 wumoses@hotmail.com
 563-495-1606 East Iowa Presbytery

When the Rev. Moses Wu and his wife Tina were students at Dubuque Theological Seminary, they started a ministry reaching out to Mandarin-speaking students on the campus of Dubuque University. When Tina graduated from seminary last summer, the President of Dubuque Seminary encouraged Moses and her to stay and form a new worshiping community for Mandarin-speaking students and people in the area.

The community worships at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Sunday mornings. Five families attend the service, and their children participate in Sunday school, church activities, and youth handbell choir. The second week of each month, members of the Mandarin-speaking ministry serve as liturgists, ushers, and greeters and provide music for the worship service.

Hospitality is an important part of the Mandarin-speaking ministry. New Mandarin-speaking college students are welcomed and introduced to host families, and students have an opportunity to fellowship with each other. Some of the highlights of this hospitality ministry include a Lunar New Year Dinner, and a Lunar New Year Celebration. The ministry is offering to teach Chinese to Americans interested in sharing the gospel with their community.



Presbyterian Church Shekinah Fellowship

150 Middlesex Street
Lowell, MA
603-943-5762

Rev. Paulo Lima
pcsm@usa.com
Presbytery of Northern New England

Presbyterian Church Shekinah Fellowship ministers to Portuguese-speaking new immigrants in Lowell, Massachusetts. There are more than 7,000 Brazilians living in Lowell and another 4,000 in neighboring areas. The Rev. Paulo Lima was living in Nashua, New Hampshire, when immigrants asked him to come and start a worship service in Lowell since there were no Portuguese-speaking congregations in the area.

Inspired by the Great Commission, the Shekinah Fellowship established church cells, groups of four to fifteen people who gather to experience the love of God. The cells have these objectives: serving communion, building (spiritual growth), evangelism, service, and nurture. Cell leaders are trained in visitation and pastoral care. Cells meet on weekday evenings, and then the whole community gathers for worship on Sunday. When the entire community gathers for worship, those who have been trained to lead cells also help lead the worship services.

The Shekinah Fellowship has helped Brazilian immigrants adjust to life in the United States. The community has focused on helping the Brazilian community with immigration and health care issues. Each Monday Lima is available to answer members' questions about immigration, health care, and the legal system.



South Louisville Preston Highway Ministry

Louisville, KY Eladoz27@gmail.com
 Rev. Elmer Zavala Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky
 502-415-1080

The South Louisville Preston Highway Ministry with Hispanics/Latinos – as in Louisville, Kentucky, was established in response to the growing number of immigrants moving into the south Louisville area. The ministry includes helping Hispanic immigrants obtain employment, education, health care, and other services. In four years, the ministry has grown to approximately 25 families of 150 people.

The ministry consists of 10 base house churches in three worshipping circles. Regular worship in the home churches has continued, and once a month the entire circle gathers together for worship at Beechmont and Fourth Presbyterian churches. In addition, there are leaders or hosts of 10 house churches, those who make preparations for those gatherings, and those who help lead the monthly worship services. The community envisions increasing the number of house churches to 24, providing more formalized leadership training, and impacting more people through its ministries.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Elmer Zavala, the South Louisville Presbyterian Highway Ministry has led more people to Christ, cared for the sick, repaired homes, advocated for justice and fairness for new immigrants, and developed new leaders of house churches.



Galilee Korean Presbyterian Church

Galileepc.org

1021 Hudson Road

Greenville, SC 29615

864-438-3486

Rev. Se Joon Kim

Ksjpcusa@yahoo.com

Foothills Presbytery

Galilee Korean Presbyterian Church began serving the Korean immigrant community in Greenville, South Carolina, more than two and a half years ago. There are approximately one thousand Korean residents in Greenville, South Carolina. Galilee Korean is the only Korean church in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) within a hundred miles.

Galilee Korean currently meets at the St. Giles Presbyterian Church and has joined that congregation in supporting area ministries such as Soles for Souls, Spread the Warmth, and the Stamp Ministry. The two communities have distributed more than four hundred pairs of shoes to those in need and donated twenty-one 40-gallon bags of coats, socks, sweaters, and blankets to five charity organizations.

The church provides ministries to help Korean immigrants and their families to learn English as they grow in their faith in Christ. These ministries include a Korean school for second-generation and other Korean Americans and computer classes taught in Korean for adults. The church has also started Hope College, which offers hope of a new life to Korean immigrants over the age of 65 through classes, games, and songs that help them to learn to speak English.



First Thai/Laotian Presbyterian

<http://www.firstthailaopresbyterian.com/worship-team.html>

4601 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

Las Vegas, NV 89108

702-243-0913

Rev. Dr. Prachuab Dechawan

pdechawan@yahoo.com

Nevada Presbytery

First Thai-Laotian began as a ministry of 15 people who wanted to reach the estimated 15,000 Thai and Laotian persons in Las Vegas. The majority of the first generation of these immigrants attended Buddhist temples, but due to the language barrier, the younger generations had begun to drift from the faith of their parents.

First Thai-Laotian became aware of homeless persons living in the bushes around the community. Since the community began a homeless ministry, it has helped move ten people off the streets and sent two members to the Lay Preachers Academy in Austin, Texas, a training event that involves more than a hundred Asian lay leaders.

First Thai-Laotian has grown to 68 members and 27 children and increased its connections to other racial ethnic worshipping communities in Nevada Presbytery. While predominantly Asian, the worshipping community has African American, Hispanic/Latino-a, and Caucasian members. The community worships in a geographic area surrounded by homelessness and poverty, offering alcoholics, those addicted to drugs, and those seeking employment a place where they can turn to Christ.



Syrian Congregation

2850 Fairview Road
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Rev. Adel Malek
adelwmalek@gmail.com

714-557-3340
Presbytery of Los Ranchos

The seeds for planting the Syrian congregation in Costa Mesa, California, were planted 12 years ago when the Rev. Tim McCalmont, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, met a young woman from Homs, Syria. Soon the young woman and her parents began worshipping at the Church of the Covenant. Later violence erupted in Syria. McCalmont and the pastor of the Presbyterian church in Syria where the family worshiped began praying for one another. Syrian immigrants in Costa Mesa began being connected to the Church of the Covenant. To help meet the spiritual needs of the Syrian immigrants, McCalmont started an Arabic-speaking Syrian fellowship.

The Rev. Adel Malek, who pastors an Egyptian worshipping community in Huntington Beach, California, led the first worship service. The community has grown to 60 participants in less than six months.

Many Syrian immigrants were forced from their homeland and are now waiting to find out if they have been granted asylum. The Syrian community provides a safe space for them to worship in their native language and to build a community where they can grow and share in the love of Christ.



Trinity Fellowship

42323 3rd Avenue
Bronx, NY 10457
Rev. Ebenezer Annor

718-731-5888 or 315-794-8861
Presbytery of New York City

A few years ago, West African immigrants began meeting and praying regularly in the Bronx, New York. The small group, led by the Rev. Ebenezer Annor, grew, and by 2011, the Presbytery of New York City recognized Trinity as a fellowship. Today, 80 to 100 people gather at a storefront for worship each Sunday. Trinity offers Bible study, caring and prayer ministries, counseling services, and outreach to those who are homeless.

Trinity has a vision of starting a worship service for individuals who are struggling with addictions to alcohol and drugs. In addition, this new worshipping community hopes to find another location where it will be possible to build a daycare center and a soup kitchen to care for homeless persons.

Trinity continues to develop ministries and programs that reach out to West African immigrants who live in the Bronx, sharing the love of Jesus Christ.



The Downtown Church

Downtownchurch.me
1415 Blanding Street, Suite #6
Columbia, SC 29201
New Harmony Presbytery

803-875-0156
Rev. Amos Disasa
Emily@ourdowntownchurch.org

“Found: just church, no fluff”— that’s the ethos of the Downtown Church, a cross-cultural worshipping community that does not offer a laundry list of “stuff.” Instead, this Presbyterian worshipping community in Columbia, South Carolina, welcomes people from all places, wherever they are on their life journey.

The Downtown Church is located in downtown Columbia because, in the words of one of the worshipers, “we want to use our gifts and talents and relationships to compel meaningful change in this city. That means we must embrace the challenges and the opportunities present on our front steps.



The Downtown Church:

- Welcomes all people from all places
- Is a work in progress, committed to following Jesus
- Asks honest questions and finds God in seeking answers
- Follows Christ by serving and interacting with its neighbors downtown, and
- Strives to shape culture as it shapes us

4 Pointes Church

4pointes.org

1155 Mt. Highway

Atlanta, GA 30338

404-692-4404

Rev. Peter Lim, peter@4pointes.org

Greater Atlanta Presbytery

4 Pointes Church reaches out to second- and third-generation Korean Americans, and also to other racial ethnic young adults in Atlanta. This worshipping community has grown to more than a hundred worshipers. Its leaders initially gathered, aware that only 10 percent of 50,000 second – and third-generation Asian Americans were going to church on a given Sunday.

Led by the Rev. Peter Lim, 4 Pointes Church provides young Asian Americans with an opportunity to explore their faith and to ask honest questions about Christianity. 4 Pointes empowers people to challenge life’s status quo, in order to live extraordinary, Christ-centered lives. It’s a Korean American English Ministry (EM) congregation, having branched out from Bethany Korean Presbyterian Church in Marietta, Georgia. Its worshipers meet at the Seigakuin Atlanta International Japanese School.

Unique to 4 Pointes are its EcoGroups, the foundational “ecosystem” of the worshipping community. It’s in these EcoGroups that real relationships are forged, as life is lived together in intentional communities where spiritual formation and transformation occur. It also seeks to be intergenerational by including all ages through relationships and families.



Riverside/Nueva Rivera Presbyterian Church

46040 Center Oak Plaza #130
Sterling, VA 20166
National Capital Presbytery

Rev. Edwin Andrade, Rev. Brian H. Clark
(co-pastors)
edwin@riversidechurch.com
brian@riversidechurch.com
riversidechurch.com

Riverside or Nueva Rivera Presbyterian Church is a bilingual congregation with a unique approach to connecting with the larger Latino-a community. The church's co-pastors lead two worship services – one in English, followed by another one in Spanish. In addition, the church has a worship service on Saturday evening, inviting those who attend to “come as they are” in attire ranging from athletic wear from a game to sweatpants to clothing for a Saturday night out.

Riverside offers children's and student ministries (6th - 12th grade) and adult ministries through small groups that seek to make an impact on the community and the world with Christ's love. The church also sponsors Sonrise, a free summer camp for elementary school children and makes a practice of welcoming potential new members in a more relaxed, casual way by inviting them for a cup of coffee to talk about their faith. To the members of Riverside, worship is when people say, “I saw God today.”



The Fellowship Place

Facebook.com/thefellowshipplace
Rev. Michael Robinson
3148 Freedom Drive
Charlotte, NC 28208

980-833-4837
Rev. Michael Robinson
mikear@bellsouth.net
Charlotte Presbytery

The Fellowship Place (TFP) is mission-minded, taking the gospel beyond the walls of the church and into the city.

“We didn’t know the best way to help at first. We just started sharing the love of Jesus Christ through our actions . . . you know, food, clothing, shelter, the basic essentials. Those are the needs of our people, so this is where we began,” said the Rev. Michael Robinson, pastor of this worshiping community.

The Fellowship Place is a cross-cultural fellowship that worships in the Freedom Mart Shopping Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. It is a come-as-you-are worshiping community where believers worship, praise, and thank God in an atmosphere that is free, comforting, loving, caring, and inviting. Recently, the worshiping community has partnered with a local hotel to provide quarterly feeding and clothing for low-income residents. It remains the safe and comfortable place in the neighborhood, where the needs of worshipers are met, where hands are lovingly extended and where hearts and souls are mended.



Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship

mepftucson.weebly.com
2450 East Fort Lowell Road
Tucson, AZ 85719
520-404-0547

Rev. Georges Bitar
gebitar@yahoo.com
Presbytery de Cristo

Guided by the Spirit of God and sensing a need for a Middle Eastern fellowship in Tucson, Arizona, the New Church Development Committee of Presbytery de Cristo and Middle Eastern Ministries in the Office of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries paved the way for the Rev. Georges Bitar and his family, refugees from Lebanon, to develop the Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship.

The Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship works with Christian Arabs from the Middle East who reside in Arizona. This worshiping community is language- and culture-specific for its Middle Eastern participants. Northminster Presbyterian Church provides space for worshippers to come together. This Arabic-speaking fellowship welcomes and embraces not only all Christian Arabic-speaking immigrants and refugees, but also those from different faiths who want to come and worship with them and share faith, music, and food. There are Jordanians, Syrians, Lebanese, Palestinians, Iraqis, Egyptians, and Sudanese who worship together. The majority of worshippers are refugees from Iraq. Others are immigrants who have been in the United States for many years.



RESOURCES

Offices in Racial Ethnic and New Immigrant Intercultural Ministries

You have just experienced some of the dynamic new racial ethnic and new immigrant worshipping communities in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

To learn more about these and other ministries, please contact:

African American Intercultural Congregational Support

Rev. Sterling Morse

sterling.morse@pcusa.org

502-569-5114

African Intercultural Ministries

Vacant

Asian Intercultural Congregational Support

Rev. Mei-Hui Lai

mei-hui.lai@pcusa.org

502-569-5682

Hispanic/Latino-a Intercultural Congregational Support

Vacant

Middle Eastern Intercultural Congregational Support

Rev. Magdy Girgis

magdy.girgis@pcusa.org

502-569-5252

Portuguese-language Intercultural Congregational Support

Rev. Almir Dias

almir.dias@pcusa.org

502-569-5252

Korean Intercultural Congregational Support

Rev. Sun Bai Kim

sunbai.kim@pcusa.org

502-569-5683

Native American Intercultural Congregational Support

Rev. Irv Porter

irv.porter@pcusa.org

502-563-5331

Mission Program Grants

Tim McCallister

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502-569-5230



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