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The Racial Ethnic TORCH



**Grow, Transform,
Empower, Lead,
and Develop**



The Racial Ethnic TORCH

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A message from the director, Rhashell D. Hunter

The General Assembly Mission Council has a new name. We are the Presbyterian Mission Agency. We also have a new Mission Work Plan, which was approved at the 220th General Assembly (2012). The Mission Work Plan, 2013-2016, has the following directional goals:

- Cultivate, nurture, and sustain diverse **Transformational Leaders** for Christ’s mission
- Make, receive, and send **Compassionate and Prophetic Disciples** who demonstrate and proclaim God’s justice, peace, and love in an increasingly globalized world
- Ignite a movement within the PC(USA) that results in the creation of 1,001 **New Worshiping Communities**
- Engage and join with **Young Adults** in reforming the church for Christ’s mission

We also have two organizational goals:

- **General Assembly Engagement**
- **Organizational Excellence.**

The Presbyterian Mission Agency will “inspire, equip, and connect the PC(USA) in its many expressions to serve Christ in the world through new and existing communities of faith, hope, love, and witness.” This is our mission.

Our vision statement further expresses who we are: “Presbyterians joyfully engaging in God’s mission for the transformation of the world.”

In this issue of the *Racial Ethnic Torch*, you will read more about the ways that we are developing transformational leaders, making compassionate and prophetic disciples, igniting a movement to create 1,001 new worshiping communities, and joining with young adults in reforming the church.

We want to join with you, so that together we will be part of the movement, transforming the church in this bold, new era.



On the cover: More than 100 leaders from the PC(USA) met in the Dominican Republic for the Hispanic/Latino Pastoral Development Seminar (see page 2).

Save the Dates

November 1–4, 2012, The Annual New Immigrants and Emerging Ministries National Convocation, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

This event provides opportunities for face-to-face dialogue among new immigrant leaders, mid council staff, and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) staff as equal partners in the denomination to identify common strategies to effectively grow worshipping communities in a cross cultural context. For information, contact Angel Suárez-Valera, at angel.suarez@pcusa.org.

March 11–13, 2013, The Coordinating Committee for Korean American Presbyteries Annual Consultation and Conference, Louisville, Ky.

Sponsored by the office of Korean Emerging Ministries, participants will include executive presbyters, stated clerks, and the moderators of the four nongeographic Korean mid councils as well as staff from the Office of the General Assembly. For information, contact Sun Bai Kim, at sunbai.kim@pcusa.org.

January 24–26, 2013, The New Multicultural Church Institute at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J.

As part of the multicultural church growth strategy, approved by the 219th General Assembly (2010), the office of Multicultural Congregational Support initiated a partnership with Princeton Theological Seminary to establish a multicultural church institute on the East Coast. This is a course to “train the trainers” in multicultural church growth. For more information, contact Raafat Girgis at (502) 569-5233.

March 3, 2013, Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), *Women Transforming the Church in an Emerging New Era*

On Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, we celebrate women through whom God is transforming the church in an emerging new era. Although the official Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday is March 3, 2013, your congregation or women’s groups may use the resource on any day that you choose. The Celebrate the Gifts of Women resource will be available in the November/December issue of *Horizons* magazine, as a free download from www.pcusa.org/women, and free from Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS)—(800) 524-2612 or www.pcusa.org/store, item 27501-13-001. A limited number of bulletin covers are also available from PDS; item 27501-13-000; \$5.00 for a pack of 25. The bulletin cover will be available as a free download from www.pcusa.org/women, after the materials are published this fall.

March 1–15, 2013, 57th Session, UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, N.Y.

CSW will be held March 1–15, 2013. The theme for 2013 is “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.”

Fast Facts

Presbyterian congregations

Did you know that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has 10,466 congregations and 1,952,287 members?

out of ten congregations (73 percent) have 200 or fewer members. The average, or mean, size of a Presbyterian church is 195 members. The median size is 97. More than three-fourths (79%) have 250 or fewer members. Half (51%) have 100 or fewer.

Did you know that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has 173 presbyteries and 16 synods?

Did you know that Presbyterian churches tend to be small? About seven

Source: Clerk’s Annual Statistics and Research Services of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

On the front cover of each *Racial Ethnic Torch*, you will see our mantra: *Grow, Transform, Empower, Lead, and Develop*. The core ministry and the purpose for our work in the Racial Ethnic and Cross Cultural Ministries offices are:

- **Church Growth**, with a focus on new worshipping communities
- **Transformation** of existing congregations
- **Social Justice and Empowerment**
- **Leadership Development**, with a focus on developing racial ethnic, women, and young adult transformational leaders, and
- **Cross Cultural Ministries**

Thus, our mantra is *Grow, Transform, Empower, Lead, and Develop*. The Racial Ethnic and Cross Cultural ministries offices *inspire, equip, and connect* racial ethnic and new immigrant worshipping communities and develop and empower racial ethnic and new immigrant leaders. The ministry area does this through training, coaching, resource development, leadership development institutes, networking, and providing grants to congregations, racial ethnic schools and colleges, and racial ethnic and immigrant members and leaders. In *Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women*, we engage the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in its mission to become more diverse and inclusive of racial, ethnic, cultural, and language groups, and we equip women for leadership in all ministries of the church.

Developing Transformational Leaders

Presbyterian Leaders Meet in the Dominican Republic

By Héctor Rodríguez

More than 100 teaching and ruling elders and PC(USA) staff met in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in August to participate in the Hispanic/Latino Pastoral Development Seminar. Rev. Edesio Sanchez-Cetina, an expert in Bible translation from the United Bible Societies, was the keynote speaker.

Workshop topics included “Multicultural Ministries in the Hispanic Context,” “Financial Planning for the Church and for the Pastor’s Family,” “The Art of Being a Pastor’s Wife or Husband,” and a dialogue about actions adopted by the 220th General Assembly (2012) related to Hispanic/Latino leadership development.

Rev. Héctor Rodríguez, associate for Hispanic/Latino—a Congregational Support, and Marissa Galvan-Valle, associate for Resources and Relationships, said leaders from around the United States and Puerto Rico attended the seminar for study, reflection, and renewal.

Women Transforming the Church in an Emerging New Era

On Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, March 3, 2013, we will celebrate women through whom God is transforming the church in an emerging new era. Although the official Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday is March 3, 2013, congregations or women’s groups may use the resource on any day that they choose. The Celebrate

the Gifts of Women resource will be available in the November/December issue of *Horizons* magazine, as a free download from www.pcusa.org/women, and free from Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS)—(800) 524-2612 or www.pcusa.org/store, item 27501-13-001.

We know that God has always been at work forming and reforming the church, but these days, that sense that we are being reformed feels more powerful than it has in a while. We see the different ways that Presbyterians are responding to that sense of reformation by the such various movements within the denomination as NEXT Church and the Fellowship of Presbyterians, as well as in new and exciting programs of the denomination like “For Such a Time as This” and “1,001 New Worshiping Communities.” God’s Spirit is clearly stirring up restlessness with the status quo and also breathing in new life.

The 2013 Celebrate the Gifts of Women resource is written by Rev. Shannon Kerschner, pastor of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church in Black Mountain, N.C.

Celebrating Our Sisters and Brothers in the Presbyterian Church of Korea

The sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh resounded with the voices of a Korean choir and Korean ministers on July 3, 2012, as the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) celebrated the 100th anniversary of the General Assembly of the Korean church, whose seeds were planted by PC(USA) missionaries.

Linda Valentine, executive director of

the Presbyterian Mission Agency, said the mustard seed planted 128 years ago by Presbyterian mission workers grew into the largest Presbyterian church in the world, the PCK.

Rev. Sun Bai Kim, associate for Korean Emerging Ministries, offered a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the past 100 years, and he prayed for the next 100.

Rev. We Kun Park, former moderator of the General Assembly of the PCK, said, “We will never forget the love of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We are indebted.”

“To repay our debt,” he continued, “we are trying to give our love to the people around us.” The centennial celebration continued when the General Assembly of the PCK met in Seoul, South Korea, in September.

Korean American ministries are also strong in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Korean American Presbyterians today are grateful to the PC(USA) for their mission work in Korea, and they also engage passionately in their own mission work. This is reflected in the 412 worshiping communities, including congregations, Bible study fellowships, and new church developments. Currently there are four nongeographic Korean-American presbyteries: Hanmi (So. Calif.), Midwest Hanmi, Atlantic Korean American, and Eastern Korean Presbytery. Korean Presbyterian churches are served and supported by the National Council of Korean Presbyterian Churches and the Coordinating Committee for Korean American Presbyteries.

Korean Americans are grateful for the legacy of the Reformed tradition and its Korean ministries in the PC(USA). A delegation from the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly visited the PCK as it celebrated its 100th anniversary at its General Assembly, September 17–19, 2012, in Seoul.

Imagine wanting to deepen your faith and finding the door locked.



Now, imagine you're the key that people need.



Would YOU open the door for others?

New immigrant and racial ethnic communities often face challenges, such as language barriers, the need for resources, and immigration issues—or they simply don't feel there is a place for them in many churches.

Help others find a spiritual home, share the gospel, and together with us, worship Christ Jesus. Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries has set a goal to raise \$1.5 million over the next three years to develop racial ethnic and new immigrant worshipping communities.

Please help with your gift today.

Enable us to inspire, equip, and connect those who seek to deepen their faith in new worshipping communities. Join us as we come together, changing lives through Christ's love. Support current and emerging racial ethnic and new immigrant worshipping communities.



Please mail your gift to RE&WM—Racial Ethnic and New Immigrants Initiative, or make a donation online at www.pcusa.org/racialethnic. Be sure to ask your employer if they have a matching gift program for charitable donations.

To learn more about Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries, go to www.pcusa.org/racialethnic.

YES!

I want to help support the important work of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries:
Racial Ethnic and New Immigrants Initiative

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

My check payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is enclosed. ECO Project #E048310.

Credit card: VISA MasterCard Amex Discover Account # _____
Expiration Date _____ / _____

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Signature _____ Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Please mail this form and your donation to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Igniting a Movement to Create 1,001 New Worshiping Communities



Dynamic New Racial Ethnic and New Immigrant Worshiping Communities

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has set a bold new initiative to grow 1,001 new worshiping communities in the next 10 years. Racial ethnic and new immigrant worshiping communities will be a large part of this growth. As you may know, new immigrant ministries are the fastest growing worshiping communities in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Of the 10,657 PC(USA) congregations, more than 12% are racial ethnic congregations. And if we include other communities of faith, almost 15% of Presbyterian communities of faith are racial ethnic.

Many of the new worshiping communities in the PC(USA) that gather regularly for prayer and worship are not counted in the Stated Clerk's annual statistics or by Research Services of the PC(USA) because they have not developed into chartered congregations. These pages include congregations, Bible study groups, fellowships, and new church developments.

In Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/PW, we collaborate with congregations, churches, and mid councils, assisting in the effort to become diverse and cross cultural, and by doing so, "some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Heb. 13:2).

New Hope Presbyterian Church

www.myNewHopePres.org

191 N. Orange St., Orange, CA 92866

(714) 288-9986

Rev. Chineta Goodjoin • pastor@MyNewHopePres.org

Los Ranchos Presbytery

Blessed with a core of talented musicians, New Hope Presbyterian Church is quickly becoming known as a worship center that attracts world-class performers. Professionally trained musicians use their gifts and talents to glorify God every week.

Many of the musicians also present an annual benefit concert to raise funds for music programming in local public schools where arts education has been eliminated. The concert, Hope Alive!, has featured Hollywood actor Keith David, percussionist Pancho Sanchez, and Grammy Award-winning gospel artist Oleta Adams. The concert has proven to be an effective outreach ministry for New Hope, connecting the church to school and government officials in the neighborhood.

In addition, during the past summer the church sponsored its second Youth Leadership Academy, where youth from the church and the community were led in lessons of spiritual disciplines, etiquette, career exploration, and music.

New Hope member Alisia Kirkwood writes that the church



is “a joyous, musically dynamic, spirit-led community of Christ-centered people—a place where my family is nurtured.”

Back in 2007, a group came together to form an African American community of faith. Four years later, New Hope Presbyterian Church is a dynamic body of believers from diverse backgrounds and cities all across Southern California.

New Hope is a mosaic of faith. It is a Christ-centered community where all people matter. From supporting music programs in local schools, to providing opportunities for youth to share their faith, to hosting lifelong learning classes, New Faith wants people to know that they matter.

The presbytery made a commitment to this diverse community, and it has multiplied. While church leaders had high hopes for what would happen, they had no idea it would turn out like this. “It’s gotta be the hand of God.”

El Buen Pastor Presbyterian Church

4637 Tim Road Winston-Salem, NC 27106

(336) 817-5713

Rev. Rosa Blanca González • rosablanca.mda@gmail.com

Salem Presbytery

In 1999, Salem Presbytery formed a steering committee to establish a mission to serve the rapidly growing population of Latino immigrants in its area. In 2001, Alfredo Miranda and his wife, Rosa González, accepted the presbytery’s invitation to relocate from Mexico to begin a ministry of outreach to Spanish-speaking families in the Winston-Salem area. Sharing space with the English-speaking congregation then housed at Old Town Presbyterian Church in northwest Winston-Salem, they began by offering recreational activities for children in the neighborhood.

When the European-American congregation was dissolved in 2004, this Hispanic/Latino-a ministry was given full use of the facilities. With the help of volunteers from Presbyterian congregations in the county, an after-school tutoring program was begun for elementary students, and English-language classes were offered to adults.

Sunday morning worship services were begun at the church in 2004, and in 2006, El Buen Pastor became a New Church Development with Rev. González as its organizing pastor. The church has become a rapidly growing Hispanic/Latino-a NCD. The tutoring programs have become the foundation of the nonprofit El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services.

The partnership with Presbyterian congregations in the area remains strong, as dozens of volunteers from these churches serve in El Buen Pastor’s various programs and share resources.



Many Families—One Community



Thien An Presbyterian Church

7621 Boone Road Houston, TX 77072

(281) 561-0711

Pastor Viet Ho • hoviet@aol.com

Presbytery of New Covenant

The community of faith at El Buen Pastor continues to grow, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through service, patterned on his ministry: feeding the hungry, welcoming strangers, and ministering to human needs as part of the kingdom of God. El Buen Pastor remains committed to the principle that service and evangelism are essential parts of sharing the good news and making disciples.

In the past decade, the Latino population in North Carolina has grown very fast. In Winston-Salem, a wonderful partnership of nine PC(USA) churches listened to the needs and challenges of the Latino community and responded to God's call by donating a facility to start this ministry.

El Buen Pastor has become the vision of the presbytery and Latino ministry. It has become a great example of the ways that churches can partner with the presbytery and with each other.

El Buen Pastor is one of the fastest growing worshiping communities in the PC(USA). Since the beginning, its mission was to serve the person as a whole. That's why the church started tutoring programs, recreation, and classes in English as a Second Language.

Volunteers from the community who are native English-speakers help bridge the gap facing children who learn Spanish at home as their first language and take classes in English in elementary school.

What benefits the children the most is that the entire family is involved at El Buen Pastor, not just the children. The church works with family units, believing that is how success is reached.

People come from different backgrounds to serve with love and passion. It is an incredible glimpse of the kingdom of God.

Thien An Presbyterian Church started with a vision to become a new congregation serving the 150,000 people of the Vietnamese community in Southwest Houston. Organizing pastor Viet Ho has a strong passion for evangelism and began the church by walking the neighborhoods and getting to know Vietnamese people in the community.

The church offered computer classes, immigration, and citizenship classes, English as a Second Language classes, and Bible study.

When the church was chartered in May 2008, the congregation had 88 members and seven ordained elders. All but 12 had been converted to Christianity from Buddhism through the evangelistic efforts of Viet Ho and the church's other leaders.

Since that time, they have taught elders and other leaders to share the gospel, to evangelize, and to help meet the needs of the neighboring community. Membership is nearing 150, and the congregation is outgrowing its storefront location. The church is now making plans to start a second campus or outreach in a neighboring area.

Thien An Church began as a vision of the Presbytery of New Covenant, which realized that there were more than 50,000 Vietnamese immigrants living isolated in the United States. The presbytery invited pastor Viet Ho to start Thien An as a new church outreach, with support from the Synod of the Sun and the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Many of the people who come to Thien An are from broken homes. What they are seeking is a sense of belonging, love, and connectedness.

Church leaders go door-to-door to invite people to join them at the church for Bible study and worship. Additionally, Thien An offers guidance on citizenship and classes in English as a Second Language.

"This is one of the few ministries in Houston, Texas, that encourage people who just immigrated to the United States from Vietnam to learn English and how to help themselves to better themselves," a church member said.

Thien An Church offers a number of activities for children to help them in their faith journeys with God.

Church members seek to accept people the way they are, and to show them the love of Jesus Christ.

With the love of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God, they are seeing people come to the church and grow in faith.



Celebration of New and Emerging Ministries

These are just a few 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, contact:

African American Congregational Support

Rev. Lonnie Oliver
lonnie.oliver@pcusa.org • (502) 569-5697

African Emerging Ministries

Note: A search for an associate for African Emerging Ministries is currently underway.

Asian Congregational Support

Rev. Mei-Hui Lai
mei-hui.lai@pcusa.org • (502) 569-5682

New Immigrants and Emerging Communities

Rev. Angel Suárez-Valera
angel.suarez@pcusa.org • (502) 569-5135

Cross Cultural Ministries

Rev. Sterling Morse
sterling.morse@pcusa.org • (502) 569-5114

Hispanic/Latino-a Congregational Support

Rev. Héctor Rodríguez
hector.rodriguez@pcusa.org • (502) 569-5700

Korean Emerging Ministries

Rev. Sun Bai Kim
sunbai.kim@pcusa.org • (502) 569-5683

Korean English Ministry

Rev. Jin S. Kim
pastajin@gmail.com • (763) 670-7886

Middle Eastern Emerging Ministries

Rev. Angel Suárez-Valera
angel.suarez@pcusa.org • (502) 569-5135

Multicultural Congregational Support

Rev. Raafat Girgis
raafat.girgis@pcusa.org • (502) 569-5233

Native American Congregational Support

Rev. Martha Sadongei
martha.sadongei@pcusa.org • (502) 569-5476

Portuguese-Speaking Ministries

Rev. Héctor Rodríguez
hector.rodriguez@pcusa.org • (502) 569-5700

Spotlight on Ministry: Victor Aloyo

Living Pentecost Today

By Jessica Reid, *Communications Associate*

God is God. When we speak of God, we don't say 'black God' or 'Anglo American God' or 'Hispanic God.' We just say 'God,'" Rev. Victor Aloyo, the moderator of the Presbyterian Multicultural Network, said. "When we get tied up in the debate of naming things, we then limit ourselves and we limit our church."

Rev. Aloyo is one of a diverse group of people in the Presbyterian Multicultural Network. The network is made up of people from various racial and ethnic backgrounds who come from different parts of the country. They speak via phone every two months to share resources, challenges, and opportunities among Presbyterian communities of faith and congregations. They also plan the Multicultural Conference and other events meant to bring members of the church together and raise awareness.

"We focus on multicultural development, intercultural dialogue, cultural sensitivity, and diversity among our faith communities," Rev. Aloyo said.

He believes the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is already multicultural but that due to a lack of knowledge and understanding, many Presbyterians are simply unaware of it or the church is unresponsive to those seeking God in their communities.

"There are systems in play at this moment that are oppressive," he said. "We have an opportunity as a church to be culturally aware and sensitive to nuances among the languages, family customs, and faith experiences of others. If we are to be open and inclusive, we need to first know and understand the social

demographics of our community. We need to understand in order to embrace others."

Rev. Aloyo says that the key is not to simply tolerate another culture or people because we need them to survive as a church, but to actually embrace others. To him, embracing means we are enriching the church as well as enriching our own spirituality, worship, evangelism, and stewardship.

"I pastored a church in Brooklyn, N.Y., that had a quadrilingual approach where our resources were translated into Korean, Spanish, English, and Hindi. We had 39 countries represented. There were several fellowships, and they each had a say in the overall church. That worked for us with that community.

"But just a short way away, in Plainfield, N.J., I now head another [faith community] where the demographics are much different, so we adjust and approach worship differently."

Rev. Aloyo is director of the Office of Multicultural Relations at Princeton Theological Seminary and pastor of two churches that share a facility and come together without giving up their own cultural customs. One is an English-speaking church, the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield, which has members from 13 countries, including Trinidad, England, and Congo; and a Spanish-speaking church, Iglesia Nuevas Fronteras, has members from 14 Latin American and South and Central American countries.

"It is my personal feeling that the merger model is lose/lose," Rev. Aloyo said. "That model was a way to assimilate others into the church. In the process, the smaller group would lose its identity and sense of self. At the same time, the church itself was losing its identity because everyone—with their customs, history, and demographics—is a part of the church and part of its identity."

Rev. Aloyo says the world is becoming smaller and as a result we have a unique opportunity to experience the full breadth of the Pentecost experience now, if we are simply open to it.

"Our fullness as a church depends on our connection and knowing others," he said. "Our challenge is to embrace the lesson in Acts, so that we don't only teach it, but we live it."



Dance, prayer, and fellowship are part of the celebration at Rev. Aloyo's church.



Victor Aloyo, center, chats with attendees during the Multicultural Network dinner during the 2012 General Assembly.



Why Me?: Women of Faith Breakfast Honors Three Awardees

By Sue Washburn

Why me?” asked Rev. Ann Rhee Menzie, as she stood before a group of women whose leadership and service sustain their congregations. Menzie, a teaching elder-at-large in Redwoods Presbytery, Calif., humbly wondered if she deserved the award more than anyone else in the room.

Why me? was also the question that began her journey as a creator of services for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Why me? was a question of despair that she asked when she herself was in an abusive situation.

“I was like a ghost,” she said. “People did not know how to deal with me. One in four women experience domestic abuse. Do we as a church recognize their suffering? Do we know how to respond when a family member comes forward?”

The Women of Faith Awards Breakfast at the 220th General Assembly (2012) celebrated the gifts of three women whose faith has informed their ministry in the church and communities: Rev. Ann Rhee Menzie, church member Judith Henry, and Commissioned Ruling Elder Rosemary Rice McMahan. The awardees were leaders connected to congregations and communities, and the theme for this year’s awards was “Women Transforming Communities of Faith, Hope, Love, and Witness.”

Judith Henry, a member of the Presbyterian Church of St. Albans in Queens, N.Y., received the Woman of Faith award for her passionate, Christ-centered work with the community. When she sees a problem, she sets out to solve it. Her efforts have included raising money for organizations that work with children with HIV/AIDS; coordinating food, clothing, and financial drives for earthquake relief in Haiti; and starting a farmer’s market at her church to serve a community where fresh fruits and vegetables were hard to come by.

The 2012 Women of Faith Award winners (left to right): church member Judith Henry, commissioned ruling elder Rosemary Rice McMahan, and Rev. Ann Rhee Menzie

“My pastor and my church have given me a platform to deliver the message of God,” Henry said. “I am blessed to be able to use the skills that I learned as a nurse to help people.”

The genius and genesis of award-winner Rosemary Rice McMahan’s success as a commissioned ruling elder at Big Cove Presbyterian Church in Owens Crossroads, Ala., are a deep spirituality. Raised in Catholic and Episcopal churches, she nurtures and cares for her spiritual gift with retreats and days of silence. Out of her deep spiritual well she has led the transformation of the Big Cove Church, which has grown from 18 to 95 members and has added a second, alternative worship service.

“I have always preached that God is a God of resurrection,” she said, confident that the Spirit is leading the resurrection at Big Cove Church.

The contributions of all women were recognized by Rev. Rhashell Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

“There is no shortage of faith-filled women serving tirelessly in our church,” she said. “There is no shortage of women who pray. There is no shortage of women who lead. Our churches are filled with women of faith,” said Hunter.

Welcoming a New Moderator

On the evening of his first day as General Assembly Moderator, Rev. Neil Presa knew exactly where he wanted and needed to be next: the welcome reception thrown by Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries.

“This is the community from which I come,” Rev. Presa told the packed room just after 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 30. “I’m so grateful for the leadership found here.”

Presbyterians represented multiple racial ethnic groups, including African Americans, Koreans, Native Americans, Middle Easterners, Asians, Hispanic/Latino-as, new immigrants, and others.



The moderator was greeted with smiles and hugs as he entered the Moderator’s Reception hosted by RE&WM.

Joining with Young Adults in Reforming the Church

Empowered to Lead

Twenty-two-year-old Stephanie Quintana and two of her peers had a good reason to be at this year's General Assembly.

"We are making sure that young women have a voice here," said Quintana, a young Puerto Rican Presbyterian and recent graduate of the University of Puerto Rico. "The fact is there are a lot of big changes made [at GA] that impact us. We must take that seriously."

Quintana is one of three representatives who attended the 220th General Assembly this year from the Young Women's Leadership Development (YWLD) ministries of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries. YWLD seeks to identify the gifts of young women and provide resources and connections to help them develop their leadership skills within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

"It would be easy and simple to just stand back from difficult issues because they can be hard and painful to address," said 23-year-old Courtney Payne, a young Presbyterian woman from Cleveland, Ohio, and a student at Southern Illinois University. "But we need to lead by example and do it with respect and love for each other: to set aside our differences and not let things tear us apart."

"We are all important. We are all part of the body of Christ," continued 20-year-old Ana Lara, a native Guatemalan Presbyterian attending school in Asheville, N.C. "The church should be a safe place where we do not judge, but instead see each person as an important part of the whole body."

A Safe Place

YWLD supports the young women's networks—the National Network of Presbyterian College Women (NNPCW) and Racial Ethnic Young Women Together (REYWT). NNPCW serves college-age women (ages 18–25), and REYWT serves racial ethnic women between the ages of 18 and 35.

Jackie Spycher, field staff for NNPCW, and Alex Zareth Canales Gonzalez, field staff for REYWT, help guide those in the young women's networks, and they seek to reach out to "all young women" in the church, not just those who have signed up on the networks' membership lists.

Spycher and Zareth help young women identify their strengths and goals. By the end of a typical three-year period, participants



Cindy Eschliman (back), Shardé Chapman (red shirt), Stephanie Quintana (glasses), Meredith Mimplitz (headband), and Brandi Lucero (front) attended leadership events through YWLD programs.

find their experiences have provided them with highly developed leadership skills.

"We were being treated as having the capacity to actually do something—which was not my experience being in the church," Laura Mariko Cheifetz, a 1999–2000 member of NNPCW, told us.

Engaging Young Women in the Church

Cheifetz only learned about NNPCW after getting a postcard intended for someone else. She says she liked what she read and quickly became a part of the coordinating committee.

"At that time in my life I was not very engaged in church. I'd stopped doing church because most of the church groups were not really addressing my reality. I didn't feel I had a good place to be, but this felt relevant to my life as a woman."

"It helped me stay in the Presbyterian Church," Abbi Heimach told us. "I can't imagine my faith without the presence it had in my life. It gave me community and affirmed me as a woman. I began to see a possibility of staying connected and more involved in the church."

"What we are doing [at the Presbyterian Mission Agency] is really amazing," said Lydia Kim, associate for Young Adult Volunteers administration, formerly the ministry specialist for Young Women's Leadership Development. "You can watch it all come full circle here. A young woman we influence and connect with through YWLD programs can later be found working with the Young Adult Volunteer program and then transition into Vocations or another church-based call. We work together here to walk with others in all stages of their faith life."

Lara and her peers who attended GA told us they felt empowered to network with other young women, to organize and plan events and workshops in support of leadership development, and to share their concerns openly with church leaders.

"The three of us are all young women of color, and the church is making space for us," Payne said. They are saying to us, "Yes, you can be leaders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)"

Making Compassionate and Prophetic Disciples

National Asian Presbyterian Council Banquet Offered Time to Share Stories

By Kim Coulter

Those who gathered for the National Asian Presbyterian Council banquet on July 3 welcomed the moderator of the 220th General Assembly (2012), Rev. Neal D. Presa, and his family.

“I’m very encouraged to see another person of Asian descent be elected as the GA moderator,” said Rev. Samson Tso, referring to Rev. Bruce Reyes Chow, also of Philippine descent, who was elected moderator in 2008.

Final remarks were made by Rev. Mei-hui Chen Lai, associate for Asian Congregational Support in Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries. Lai opened by saying the Asian communities with whom she is working are very concerned about their home church situations. “We must invite a second-generation pastor to lead these churches,” said Lai. Most of the older generations are concerned that their churches and traditions may die. However, Lai said that they think that if they can bring in the younger generations and give them financial support, “they can lead the church into the future.”

The Power of Story: Native Americans Speak in Changing Times

By Aaron Willet

Representatives of several tribes and churches gathered at the Native American Consulting Committee (NACC) dinner on July 3 at the 220th General Assembly to share stories about ministry and mission in the midst of challenging economic times.

“I am the link between the past and the future,” declared Susanne Ware-Diaz, executive director of Cook Native American Ministries (CNAM). For Native American ministries that already operate on slim budgets, the economic downturn has been especially difficult. In response, CNAM has pursued a new direction, closing its school and instead offering grants to promote Native American leaders.

Irv Porter, NACC chair and pastor at the Church of the Indian Fellowship in Tacoma, Wash., gave a brief summary of the

shifting mid council landscape, calling it “a moving train,” and asking, “How are we going to be cohesive?”

With tears in her eyes, Lucy Apatiki, an overture advocate from Yukon Presbytery in Alaska, spoke of a reconciliation event in her community. After two years of planning, the two-day event concluded with the return of drums in their worship. “The drum is a mighty spiritual weapon,” said Apatiki.

Rejuvenation in the National Black Presbyterian Caucus

By Bethany Furkin

The National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) sold more tickets to its July 3 dinner at the 220th General Assembly than expected—a reflection of the “rejuvenation” occurring across the caucus, said Rev. Arlene Gordon, president of the group. “NBPC is in a new day,” Gordon said. “We are very much alive.”

The caucus heard from Wendell Freeland, who served in World War II in the Tuskegee Airmen, the nation’s first black military airmen. The NBPC also honored Rev. Arthur Canada, former caucus treasurer, who now serves as vice moderator of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board.

We Can Disagree Without Hate or Fear: National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus

By Jim Nedelka

Rev. Kenneth Bailey, noted scholar and research professor emeritus of New Testament at the Ecumenical Institute (Tantur) in Jerusalem, decried what he sees as “the forgotten faithful” at the GA National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus Dinner on July 3.

He reminded the 100 or so in attendance that the 15 million Arab Christians can no longer “be invisible.”

Arab Christians can be a bridge toward damping-down anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. “We can disagree,” the 81-year-old Bailey stressed, “without hate or fear.”

The caucus honored Rev. Raafat Zaki with the Rev. Fahed Abu-Akel Award, named in honor of the Palestinian-American moderator of the 214th General Assembly (2002).

A Conversation with Catreliia Hunter

By Jessica Reid, *Communications Associate*

Catreliia, do you mind if I give you a hug?" a passerby asks as we sit with Dr. Catreliia Hunter during a break at the 2012 Churchwide Gathering for Presbyterian Women (PW) in Orlando, Fla. The woman who stopped is greeted warmly and the hug returned.

Spending five minutes with Dr. Hunter is like meeting someone you've known your whole life. She has the ability to make others feel instantly comfortable in her presence.

"It's just impossible for me not to say 'hi' to everyone," Dr. Hunter says with a smile. "I just love being here. It reinvigorates the soul."

Dr. Hunter was the PW moderator from 2006 until 2009, but her involvement in Presbyterian Women began more than 30 years ago.

"I attended my first Gathering in the 70s, and I couldn't believe what I was seeing," she said. "There were nearly 5,000 women from all over the world. It was my mountaintop and I wanted to do more."

Dr. Hunter says the Gathering offers

spiritual enrichment and leadership development, and that it empowers women by providing information on the needs of people in the world and how each attendee can help.

"Women leave here wanting to do things they never imagined, and then they go out and do it," Dr. Hunter said.

She does everything she can to encourage young women to get involved with PW because she knows all women have so much to gain from participating. In fact, Dr. Hunter brought her two sisters, three nieces, and several other women from her home church to the 2012 Gathering.

"I tell young women that it will be one of the best ways to prepare themselves spiritually and educationally as well as through leadership development. There is simply no other organization that they would benefit from in such a variety of ways. I truly believe it is a decision no young woman would regret."

Dr. Hunter worked in higher education for 40 years, including at Barber-Scotia



Dr. Catreliia Hunter during a break at the 2012 Churchwide Gathering for Presbyterian Women in Orlando, Fla.

College and Livingstone Methodist College, both in North Carolina. She currently serves on the board of trustees for Barber-Scotia College.

"PW's purpose statement is a purpose you can live by," she said. "We believe in justice and peace. In order to do the will of God, we must be concerned for our neighbor. We, as faith-filled women, will not just sit by and be comfortable and satisfied if others are suffering. Presbyterian Women have that passion to make the world a better place for all God's people."



Presbyterian Women's Delegation meets at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York City.

Snapshot of Dr. Catreliia Hunter:

- Moderator of Presbyterian Women from 2006 until 2009
- Elder at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Woodleaf, N.C.
- Graduate of Barber-Scotia College and University of Illinois
- Former acting president of Livingstone College
- Married to retired Presbyterian Minister George Hunter

Racial Ethnic and New Immigrant Church Growth Strategies

The 220th General Assembly (2012) approved a churchwide commitment to ignite a movement that will result in the creation of 1,001 new worshipping communities in the next ten years. A report on the movement's progress will be reported to the 221st General Assembly (2014).

The General Assembly also directed the Presbyterian Mission Agency, specifically Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries and the Evangelism and Church Growth ministry areas, to

- train and deploy five regional coaches to collaborate with mid councils and congregations to implement the African American Church Growth Strategy, and
- hold a national consultation to develop strategies and policies to support racial, ethnic, multicultural, and new immigrant church growth in the PC(USA).

Introducing New Foci in Our Ministries

AFRICAN EMERGING MINISTRIES

African Presbyterians are one of the largest growing new immigrant groups in the PC(USA). This new office will lead the church in growing African immigrant new worshipping communities in partnership with mid councils.

PORTUGUESE-LANGUAGE CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

Working with the office of Hispanic/Latino-a Congregational Support, a new focus is on developing Portuguese-language new worshipping communities in the PC(USA) in partnership with mid councils. Field staff for Portuguese-Language Congregational Support will work with the associate for Hispanic/Latino-a Congregational Support.

MIDDLE EASTERN EMERGING MINISTRIES

Working with the office of New Immigrants and Emerging Communities, a field staff for Middle Eastern Emerging Ministries will assist in developing and transforming Middle Eastern worshipping communities in the PC(USA), in partnership with mid councils, the associate for New Immigrants and Emerging Communities, and the National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus.

Who We Are

The Ministries of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/PW:

Historically Racial Ethnic Congregational Support Offices

- African American Congregational Support
- Asian Congregational Support
- Hispanic/Latino-a Congregational Support, including Portuguese-Language Congregational Support
- Native American Congregational Support

New Immigrants and Emerging Communities Offices

- African Emerging Ministries
- Korean Emerging Ministries, including Korean English Ministries (EM)
- New Immigrants and Emerging Ministries, including Middle Eastern Ministries

Cross Cultural and Multicultural Ministries Offices

- Cross Cultural Ministries
- Multicultural Congregational Support

Racial Ethnic Leadership Development

- Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges

Women's Leadership Development and Justice Ministries

- Gender and Racial Justice
- Women's Leadership Development
- Young Women's Leadership Development

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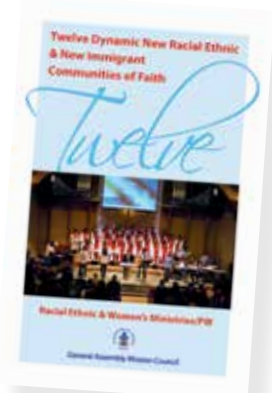
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Twelve Dynamic New Racial Ethnic Faith Communities

Racial ethnic and new immigrant ministries are the fastest growing communities of faith in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We invite you to explore and share the stories of 12 dynamic new racial ethnic and new immigrant communities of faith. This resource is available at www.pcusa.org/12churches, or call (800) 728-7228, x5062 to get your FREE copy today!





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