

Volume 24 • Issue 2 • Fall 2014



The Racial Ethnic TORCH



GROW | TRANSFORM | EMPOWER | LEAD | DEVELOP



The Racial Ethnic TORCH

In this issue

- 1 Save the Date
- 2 Intercultural Ministries
- 4 Serving & Loving God Where You Are
- 6 Participants in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Speak Out
- 8 Pan Asian Conference Addresses Changing Landscape, Leadership
- 10 Listening Events to Address Issues Facing Women in the Church
- 11 This is My Hope
- 12 Supporting Young Adults Called to Ministry



A message from the director, **Rhashell D. Hunter**

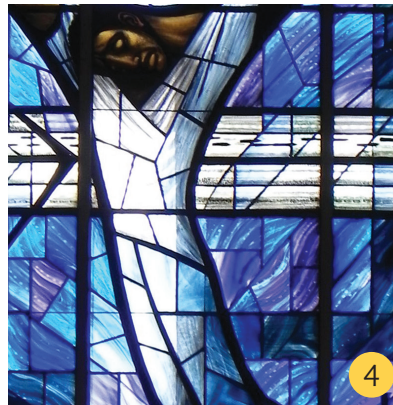
This edition of the *Racial Ethnic Torch* is focused on young adult leadership development and features racial ethnic and new immigrant young adult leaders. One of the goals of the Presbyterian Mission Agency is to engage and join with young adults to transform the church for Christ's mission. A Scripture passage that informs this work is Genesis 17:7, which reads:

"I will set up my covenant with you and your descendants after you in every generation as an enduring covenant. I will be your God and your descendants' God after you."

God covenants with young adults, youth, middle-aged adults, and older adults, and together we join in the work of transformative mission in the church and the world. All of us have different perspectives and gifts that we bring to our corporate mission in the church. Young adult leaders are engaging in transformative work in many different ways, serving in new immigrant worshiping communities and in congregations as ministers, elders, musicians, youth and young adult leaders, seminarians, preachers, teachers, and writers, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to all generations. While there are differences in generations' methodologies in the work of transformative mission, we are reminded that God is God to all generations.

In the pages that follow, you will meet young adult Presbyterian leaders, who are among the finest people I have known. You will meet Asian young adult leaders, who wrestled with the theme of "New Leadership in a Changing Environment" at the Pan Asian English Ministries Pastors' Conference. We will introduce you to young women who attended the Commission on the Status of Women in New York and some who shared their hopes for the church with us at a Seasoning of Listening with Young Adult Women event held this summer. And the Racial Ethnic & New Immigrant Seminarians Conference this fall will gather young adults who are proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to different generations.

Join with us and pray with us as we seek to serve God in the world, remembering the words of Genesis 17:7, "I will be your God and your descendants' God after you." Thanks be to God!



On the cover: Three young women gather during a recent racial ethnic leadership training event.

Save the Date

November 17–20, 2014

Coordinating Committee for Korean American
Presbyteries, Executive Committee meeting, San
Francisco, CA

For information, please contact Sun Bai Kim at sunbai.kim@pcusa.org.

March 8, 2015

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

Celebrating the Bond Between Young and Senior Women

Ruth said to Naomi, “Do not press me to leave you . . . where you go, I will go . . . your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” In the 2015 resource, we celebrate the bond between young and senior women; see the November/December issue of Horizons magazine, visit www.pcusa.org/women to download the resource, or order from Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS) at 800-524-2612 or pcusa.org/store, item number 27501-15-001.

March 9–20, 2015

59th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, NY

The theme for the 59th CSW is Beijing+20. CSW will review the progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. Limited scholarships are available for young adult women.

June 18–21, 2015

Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering, Minneapolis

One Body, One Spirit (1 Cor. 12:12–27)

The Gathering, held once every three years, is an opportunity for Presbyterian women from across the country (and around the world!) to gather for worship, education, community-building, fun, and renewal. Visit www.presbyterianwomen.org for more information.

July 30–August 1, 2015

Big Tent of the PC(USA), Knoxville, TN

University of Tennessee Conference Center, Knoxville

The 4th Big Tent is a “conference of conferences,” where numerous national Presbyterian conferences gather under one roof. The 2015 Big Tent will offer a variety of campus and hotel choices, meal plans, and meeting spaces. More information will be available soon.

Fast Facts

Did You Know?

Of the 10,038 PC(USA) congregations, more than 13 percent are racial ethnic and new immigrant congregations, and when new church developments and Bible study fellowship are included, more than 15 percent of Presbyterian new and existing worshiping communities are racial ethnic and new immigrant.

Approximately 25 percent of the new worshiping communities in the PC(USA) are comprised of young adults ages 18–30. Most of

the new worshiping communities skew significantly younger than the PC(USA) as a whole.

Approximately 50 percent of the new worshiping communities are racial ethnic, new immigrant, or cross-cultural/intercultural. And many of the new worshiping communities are led by racial ethnic and immigrant or women leaders.

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 worshiping communities

1. **Transformation** of existing congregations
2. **Social Justice and Empowerment**
3. **Leadership Development**, with a focus on developing racial ethnic, women, and young adult transformational leaders, and
4. **Cross Cultural Ministries**

Thus, our mantra is *Grow, Transform, Lead, and Develop*. The Racial Ethnic and Cross Cultural Ministries offices *inspire, equip, and connect* racial ethnic and new immigrant worshiping 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, we engage the church 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.

Intercultural Ministries: The Next Stepping Stone to Diversity in the Church

by Sterling Morse



Young adults from across the country gathered in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas for the Young Adult New Immigrant Leadership Institute.

Those who attended the Multicultural Dinner and Celebration at Fort Street Presbyterian Church during the 221st General Assembly (2014) experienced a prophetic moment. The guest speaker, Dr. Rodger Nishioka, associate professor of Christian education at Columbia Theological Seminary, told those in multicultural and cross-cultural ministries that it is time to move on to the next stage toward becoming a more diverse and inclusive church: that of intercultural ministries. In calling the church to intercultural ministries, he did not condemn the stages that preceded it—mainly multicultural and cross-cultural ministries. Instead, Nishioka celebrated each for playing timely roles as stepping stones to advancing the church across the deep, and sometimes troubling, waters of social change and progress in its quest to becoming racially and culturally diverse and generationally inclusive.

Several years ago, the PC(USA) made the leap from social

integration to embrace the multicultural church movement.

Demographic shifts and a new openness to creating what Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called the “beloved community” encouraged our congregations to open their doors and welcome people of other races, ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds into their life and mission in Christ. Thanking God for the magnificent journey thus far, the time now begs for the PC(USA) to make a progressive step.

Presbyterian Mission Agency Executive Director Linda Valentine shared with those gathered at the dinner that she had attended a family wedding at which the bride, groom, and wedding party were of many races and cultures. She said that the world has changed, and her children engage interculturally.

Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries, greeted the group, saying, “Friends, today is an opportunity to explore what we believe is our cross-cultural/intercultural mission

and vision for the changing landscape in the church.”

Nishioka discussed definitions of multicultural, cross-cultural, and intercultural communities and described the progression within the church and society that has prompted the need to engage in intercultural ministries:

In Multicultural communities, we live alongside one another. We value tolerance, and celebrate one another’s culturally distinctive cuisine, dress, music, dance, and related outward expressions of culture. It usually requires only superficial and polite social interaction.

Imagine season ticket holders at sporting events. They share the same box, sit next to each other at every home game, root for the same team year after year, but at the same time live in isolation from one another, unaware of and not involved in the reality of each other.

.....

"In Intercultural communities there are comprehensive mutuality, reciprocity, and equality. Our social structures and everyday interactions are defined by justice, mutuality, respect, equality, understanding, acceptance, freedom, diversity, peacemaking, and celebration. Intercultural community hopes to take us deeper than multicultural or cross-cultural models of community."

.....

In many of our congregations in general, and particularly in multicultural congregations, people are quietly struggling with hard questions to which there are no easy answers. While glorious and joyous encounters often occur in multicultural settings, these events tend to fall short of deeper engagement and learning.

In **Cross-Cultural communities**, *there is some reaching across boundaries. We try to build bridges of relationship between our cultural communities by sharing, listening, learning, and being open to changing. It usually requires intentionality, and programs of education and community building.*

Even as we forge ahead to build a diverse community, power and justice dynamics, which continue to loom large, are seldom discussed. The results can lead to retardation in mutual involvement, learning, and growth.

.....

"In Cross-Cultural communities, there is some reaching across boundaries. We try to build bridges of relationship between our cultural communities by sharing, listening, learning and being open to changing. It usually requires intentionality, and programs of education and community building."

.....

In **Intercultural communities** *there are comprehensive mutuality, reciprocity, and equality. Our social structures and everyday interactions are defined by justice, mutuality, respect, equality, understanding, acceptance, freedom, diversity, peacemaking, and celebration. Intercultural community hopes to take us deeper than multicultural or cross-cultural models of community.*

Nishioka contends that intercultural ministry is the gateway to effective engagement with youth and young adults. Outside of the church, many are experiencing intercultural life as a norm, attending schools that are global in makeup and where in some cases 30 or 40 languages are spoken. Socially, youth and young adults have crossed racial and cultural boundaries and are relating to one another in ways that 50 years ago Dr. King referred to as “a dream.” Lacking this creative movement in their home churches, many young people have opted to participate in church communities that reflect the world as they know it.

Living intercultural is moving from merely creating space for diverse people to gather and culturally share, to what our friends in the United Church of Canada refer to as “becoming radically welcoming the call to live together in intentional ways where there is mutual recognition and understanding of cultural differences.” At the core of intercultural ministries is empathy—the ability and desire to move pass the surface of relationship, and stand in the shoes of others, to see what they see, to feel what they feel, and then, as one in Christ—walk through these experiences together.

The office of Cross Cultural and Intercultural Ministries will partner with mid councils, congregations, and groups in making the PC(USA) a radically welcoming community for all. Please contact Sterling Morse, coordinator of Cross Cultural and Intercultural Ministries, at sterling.morse@pcusa.org for more information.

Serving and Loving God Wherever You Are

Reflections from two Korean American Young Adult Leaders
by Jessica Denson

Sarang Kang and Jae Cho are Korean American young adult leaders living out their call to minister with young adults in the PC(USA).

Kang came to the US to attend seminary and now serves as the director of Christian education for college students and young adults (ages 18 to 30 years old) at the New Hope Church of Michigan in Southfield.

Cho grew up in Los Angeles and like Kang, he says denomination wasn't the most important thing to him. In his first year of college, he attended a Baptist church. He later went to seminary, and it was there that he felt God was leading him to ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He now works with the Church of All Nations in Minneapolis.

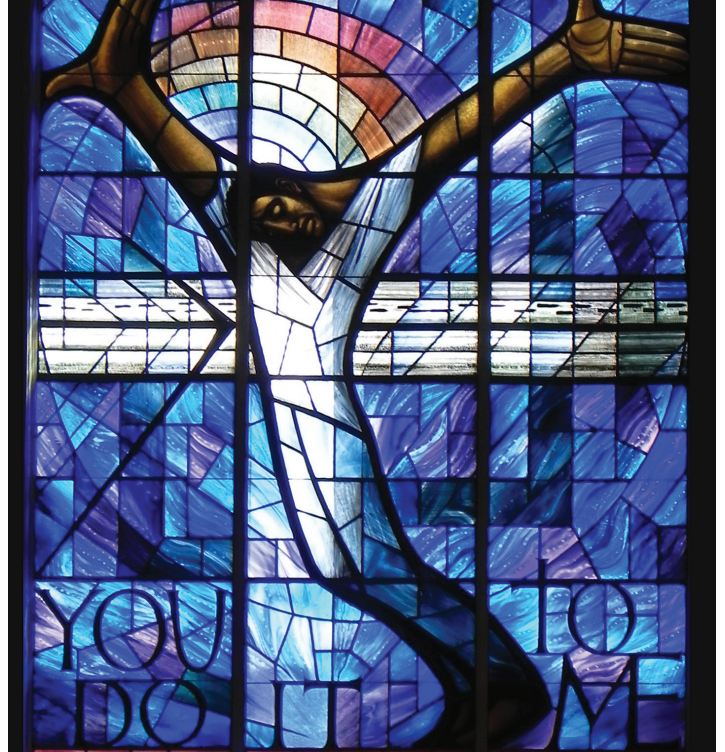
Support from Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries, through events like the Pan Asian English Ministers Pastors' Conference (held June 11–12, 2014, in Detroit), has provided a network for first- and second-generation Korean Americans who feel called to ministry.

"There are challenges for youth and young adults within both the first and second generations," Kang begins. "Many are torn between two worlds. One [is] a Korean way of teaching where the Bible is forced into your head, but now many are looking for fellowship and want to grow organically."

"It's true that generally denomination doesn't matter," Cho adds. "It's more about the church and the viewpoint of the church. Many young adults who grew up in really conservative families and even liberal families feel as if they've been manipulated by groups who have used the Bible to suit their purposes. So there is a negative perception of the church and what it represents. It's what we're trying to overcome right now by sharing and asking, 'What did Jesus really want?' That means for young adults, it's not just about attending worship. It has to be how the church serves other people and how you love other people. If we miss that piece, then we miss them. So you try to help reestablish what the real church meant, and why Jesus loved the church enough to sacrifice himself on the cross."

"I think the bigger issue is that people are comfortable and they want to grow, but they don't want to grow uncomfortably," Kang says. "It must start at the grassroots level to help the church begin getting into the motion of changing and being uncomfortable. We're made to be relational, so having a person who ignites that excitement or becomes that driving force within the congregation is often best."

Cho notes, "There is a cross-cultural gap. It's a double divide that happens as second-generation Koreans try to understand their parents' perceptions of faith and even why they immigrated. So we must ask how to do ministry in a multigenerational way. At Church of All Nations,



The Wales Window, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL. Created by John Petts, 1965. Courtesy of Presbyterian Women.

I learned the importance of how my personal, family, and Christian history make a difference in who we are today as a church in the society.

Kang and Cho both believe in accepting one's gifts and using them to serve others through God.

"Each person, whether Korean or not, needs to recognize that you're loved as who you are by God," Kang continues. "Find a faithful community who is willing to get to know you so you can truly grow to love God and neighbor by serving others. Korean Americans have gifts to share with the church and the world, which gives us hope to serve and love God wherever we are."

"What are my last words of wisdom?" Kang asks, pausing to think. "I'm an advocate for serving God where you are and how God has made you to serve, not the way that you're told. There are many ways to serve—from simple words of encouragement for others, to working through your regular job, to the physical challenge of reaching out to others—not just through the church. We all have gifts that are different and should be affirmed. Don't wait to serve God, serve where you are and in any way you can."

FAITH GUIDES

*O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me. — Psalm 43:3*



The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church and supports racial ethnic leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Follow in the tradition of the wise men, and give this Advent season.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE TO THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

 Through your congregation

 Text **JOY** to **20222** to give \$10

 presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy

Participants in the 2014 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women speak out

“Our stories matter. Stories will change the world.” So Anna Owens wrote in her blog after participating in the 58th Commission on the Status of Women at UN Headquarters in New York City earlier this year.

As part of Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries leadership development, Owens and eight other young women were sponsored as delegates to speak up for policies related to women and girls. Little did they know that the inspiring stories they would hear would change their outlooks.

Owens, who spent the last year serving as a Young Adult Volunteer in Northern Ireland, is convinced that “nonviolence as a way of life begins with storytelling. Listening and being heard.” She believes that learning someone’s story reduces the possibilities of violence, adding: “It’s about re-humanizing those who have been dehumanized. . . . This is the way we begin to move forward.” She encourages the church to have an open conversation that puts aside fear. “We cannot be afraid, in our own churches and communities, to make clear that gender-based violence in any form is completely and totally unacceptable. . . . Speak out.”

“There were a multitude of impactful, empowering, and life-changing conversations and workshops throughout the commission,” says Molly Hough. “I find myself still processing my experience and realizing how different my life is now because of what I learned at this event and the relationships that I formed. It has been so encouraging to know that I am not alone in advancing the rights of women nationally and globally. . . . I am so thankful to have found such an incredible faith community that is active in the issues of today.”

But Hough didn’t keep these stories to herself; she instead turned these stories into advocacy opportunities for youth through her work as program coordinator at Generation Alive, a nonprofit that engages students in compassion ministries. “Misery can be turned into ministry,” Hough says. “I have learned to let my pain help others who are suffering.”

The vivid stories and shocking statistics shared at the event have made an impression on the minds of some participants. “[A number] of the people in the congregations we serve have been somehow involved in child-abuse cases, and yet we don’t talk about that in our churches,” says Sabrina Slater, a Princeton Theological Seminary student who interned this year with the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness.

When Slater returned home to Spokane, Washington, she felt the



Participants at the Commission on the Status of Women gather in small groups during one of the week’s sessions.

urge to get her home congregation of Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church involved. To encourage members’ involvement, she shared her experience and even gave a short presentation about what the PC(USA) does to support women’s causes. “Stories can have a ripple effect in our church. This is why it is so important to expose our young adults to the realities that surround their own churches,” says Jewel McRae, associate for Women’s Ministries and Young Women’s Leadership Development. “When we sponsor young women to attend events like this one, they can witness firsthand social issues that will inspire them to become transformational leaders. After these nine young women attended the 58th Commission on the Status of Women, those nine churches in those nine states are connecting with their communities.”

This story originally appeared in the September issue of Presbyterians Today

LEARN MORE

For more about Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries:
pcusa.org/racialethnic

To get involved with the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations: pcusa.org/un

We need **your** help
to carry out **God's plan**



for **Presbyterian leaders.**

Imagine wanting to deepen your faith and develop your leadership skills and finding the door locked. Now, imagine you're the key that people need.

Would you open the door for others?

Help others work to deepen their faith and develop the leadership skills they'll need to respond to God's call to lead and serve in the church.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has committed itself to inspire, equip, and connect racial ethnic leaders within the church. Funds collected for this effort will be used to identify, develop, nurture, and sustain diverse leaders for Christ's mission.

Your support helps us build programs and provide leadership training for racial ethnic women and men



To make a donation, visit
presbyterianmission.org/donate/E051484

To learn more about racial ethnic leadership development, visit pcusa.org/racialethnic or contact Jewel McRae, jewel.mcrae@pcusa.org, 502-569-5848



Pan Asian Conference Addresses Changing Landscape, Leadership



Participants of the Pan Asian English Ministry Pastors Conference gathered in Detroit, Michigan before the 221st General Assembly

Dramatic shifts in demographics and generational trends are changing the landscape in the church, capturing the attention of Asian English ministry pastors at the first-ever Pan Asian English Ministry Pastors Conference. Sponsored by Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries, the conference was held in Detroit just before the 221st General Assembly.

Rev. Dr. Frank Yamada—the first Asian American to serve as a president of a PC(USA) seminary— delivered the keynote address, titled *2040 Now: What 21st Century Realities Mean in 2014*. His address examined some of the broad trends in diversity and their potential impact on the church and society.

“We are currently undergoing the most significant generational shift in our nation's history. Baby boomers were once the largest demographic group in the country, but we're rapidly shifting from boomers to the millennial generation. . . . Millennials are now the largest generation in our country's history, [and] if that doesn't change the face of society and the face of the church, I don't know what will,” Yamada noted.

Yamada addressed a group of thirty 1.5 and second-generation Asian pastors engaged in English ministry from across the PC(USA), who gathered for leadership development, spiritual enrichment,

networking, and visioning. The two-day gathering focused on the changing landscape of diversity in the United States, the impact this shift may have on the church, and the need for racial ethnic leadership development and racial ethnic and immigrant new worshiping communities.

Other speakers at the conference included Rev. Dr. Kevin Park, associate dean of advanced studies and assistant professor of theology at Columbia Theological Seminary; Rev. MiHee Kim-Kort, staff for U-Kirk @ IU, the Presbyterian ministry to students in Bloomington, Indiana; Rev. Dr. Christine Hong, associate for theology: interfaith relations in the Presbyterian Mission Agency; Rev. David Shinn, pastor of New Hope Presbyterian Church in Detroit; and Rev. Jin S. Kim, founding pastor of Church of All Nations in Minneapolis and field staff for Korean English ministries in Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries. Linda Valentine, executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and Rev. Dr. Rhshell Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries, brought greetings to participants on the first day of the event.

Rev. Samson Tso, a participant in the conference, observed, “I'm glad that we had this gathering. Being an English ministry pastor is a very unique ministry, and it can be a very lonely position to be



Rev. Dr. Frank Yamada, president of McCormick Theological Seminary, addresses participants at the Pan Asian English Ministries Conference, held in Detroit this summer

in. It was great to see old and new faces who are engaged in English ministry in the Asian American context. The conference helped me realize that English ministry is not dying, and that it really does empower the next generation to be leaders and disciples of Christ.”

Participants heard a presentation by MiHee Kim-Kort followed by a panel discussion with Christine Hong, David Shinn, and Jin Kim. Referencing the Book of Esther, Kim-Kort discussed the struggle Asian Americans face living in a dominant culture and concluded by inspiring the pastors in attendance to be conveners of openness, change, and possibility. The panel discussion, moderated by Rev. Ben Park, focused on how people of faith can live in a diverse community. Other topics discussed by the panel were:

- issues of race and culture in the church today and in the future;
- the importance of leadership training and support for Asian pastors and leaders in the church and the importance of supporting racial ethnic new worshipping communities;
- interfaith and intergenerational relations; and
- the church as a diaspora.

“Looking at the future—at the year 2040—we will be a much more diverse people, but unfortunately, that doesn’t necessarily mean that we will change the way we interact with one another. In

fact, we still have a lot of work to do, even in the religious context,” said Yamada. “The world has changed so quickly it’s no wonder we feel overwhelmed. You can’t not read the news right now and see evidence of the world’s demographics and political powers shifting,” he added.

“When we are able to be rooted in our rootlessness, we are able to interact with and engage people at many different levels,” said Rev. MiHee Kim-Kort during her presentation, which examined the church as a diaspora.

“We are becoming more faithful when we engage with other churches and other faiths. It’s awkward and it’s messy, but it’s an opportunity for us to grow spiritually,” she added.

The Pan Asian English Ministry Pastors Conference was sponsored by Korean Emerging Ministries, Asian Congregational Support, and the Racial Ethnic Leadership Development offices of Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries. The gathering was the first of two leadership institutes sponsored by Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries that were held before the start of the General Assembly. Many of the individuals who participated in the Pan Asian English Ministry Pastors Conference remained in Detroit for the Second Asian Moderators’ Convocation.

Listening Visits Aim to Address Issues Facing Women in the Church



Two women gather during a Women's Listening Event earlier this year, hosted by Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries.

Fourteen young adult women gathered during the 221st General Assembly (2014) in Detroit to share their experiences and ideas about how the national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can better connect and equip women for leadership.

An earlier listening visit was held by Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries in February with young women seminarians at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. There, seminarians shared their experiences serving in various leadership roles within the church – including as theological seminary advisory delegates at General Assembly meetings, as Young Adult Volunteers in locations around the globe, and in congregations and presbyteries in various roles. Students engaged in conversation with Linda Valentine, executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency; Rhshell Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries; Jewel McRae, associate for Women's Leadership Development and Young Women's Ministries; Jackie Spycher, field staff for Young Women's Ministries and Presbyterian College Women; and Alex Zareth Canales Gonzales, field staff for Racial Ethnic Young Women Together.

At each visit, several common themes emerged, including:

- the importance of networking with other women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the impact of sharing information and resources;
- the impact that conferences and events have on young women and the importance of continuing these events in an effort to create a more connectional and better resourced church;
- the need to continue work to develop mentoring relationships for seminarians and first call clergy; and
- the importance of attracting young people to the church.

Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries will continue young women's listening visits and also visits with women leaders and clergywomen in presbyteries, seminaries, and congregations as continuing a "Season of Listening" as we work toward responding to the needs of, and better equipping and connecting, women in the church.

To learn more about Women's Leadership Development and Young Women's Ministries, visit pcusa.org/ywld. To learn more about Racial, Ethnic & Women's Ministries, visit www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racial-ethnic-womens-ministries.

Rev. Amir Tawadrous: “This Is My Hope”

Middle Eastern Ministries

by Jessica Denson, Communications Specialist

Rev. Amir Tawadrous is just 27 years old. He arrived in the US from Upper Egypt less than a year ago, and now is studying at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. But that’s not stopping him from creating what he could not find when he arrived—a place of worship. Through Middle Eastern Ministries and the National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus, Tawadrous found a way to connect with other Presbyterians and receive the support needed to create what he felt was missing here in the United States.

“I came here and was looking for a Presbyterian church, and I did not find that,” he recalls. “I wanted to reach out to other Arabs and be with them where they live. So I simply asked, ‘What about coming together to pray?’ Now, we meet every Friday, and more people come every time.”

Within six months, the fellowship—as yet unnamed—had grown from just a couple of people to 25 regular attendees. Tawadrous says it’s a sign of what the larger church can do.

“There is a big need for focusing on serving immigrants and refugees without fear or heavy feeling—encouraging them. This is what God calls us to do as peacemakers.”

He says many small groups simply need a place to meet without monetary demands. Their current fellowship meets in the home of one of their friends. Tawadrous says they need a place of worship with room to grow and to invite others searching for a faith home. He says Arabs need a place where they will be safe and receive guidance through the challenges of a new country.

.....

“There is a big need for focusing on serving immigrants and refugees without fear or heavy feeling—encouraging them. This is what God calls us to do as peacemakers.”

.....

“Some come as immigrants and some as refugees, which means some are dealing with feelings of being forced from their homes,” Tawadrous says. “Also, some speak the language, and some don’t. There is a cultural divide as well. Americans just say what they want, but Arabs are different. We do not simply ask. We only hint at it. It’s a culture of understanding things differently.”

He says women’s rights are another example of this. For both women and men, learning to engage in American society can be an adjustment. Even the image of God is much different to Arabs from



that in Western culture.

“Where I’m from, most people would say God is a warrior or nomadic, tribal person,” he says. “But we must work to help people understand the image of God not as the person who has a gun in hand, but as the one who is full of love and support.”

To connect with immigrants and refugees, Tawadrous believes we must first become a friend to them before becoming their pastor. He says we must aid those in need as they arrive and help them understand how things work. The approach is working for his fledgling fellowship. It continues to grow every week, and they’re starting to organize a council within the group. He says they plan to train leaders, to graduate from prayer groups to full worship, and to have a space for counseling together, looking at how “we accept others and help others.”

LEARN MORE

For more information about the Middle Eastern Ministries office, visit presbyterianmission.org/ministries/middleeastern.

To learn more about Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries, visit pcusa.org/racialethnic.

Supporting Young Adults Called to Ministry

Hispanic Ministries: Rev. Manuel D. Silva

by Jessica Denson, Communications Specialist

Rev. Manuel D. Silva has always felt called to youth ministry, but in his home of Puerto Rico, youth work is not always seen as important.

“I’ve been working with youth since I was 15 years old, but youth ministry is not always valued, as though you are not mature enough to be a pastor,” he says. “For someone who was called to youth ministry, it’s difficult to receive support.”

This is one of the reasons Silva feels strongly about taking part in the development of a Hispanic youth network, which was mandated by the 220th General Assembly (2012).

“I’m visualizing ways to let the Hispanic community know that there are youth ministers in the church who need to be given tools to work with the youth, because right now it’s very difficult for youth workers to develop in their ministry.”

“In Puerto Rico, we have 29 churches; most of them don’t have any youth in them,” he adds. “If the people of the church die, we will see our presbytery dwindle to just 15 churches. This is extremely important in Puerto Rico and for all of the PC(USA). If we don’t do something now and train our pastors and our youth—if we don’t look for people who are called to youth ministry and nurture them, our church will slowly get smaller and smaller.”

The day before she gave birth to him, Silva’s mother was baptized in the First Presbyterian Church in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. His parents and other elders planted a second church—his home church of Alturas Presbyterian—when Silva was eight years old. He later went to seminary in San Juan, graduating in 2008. He was ordained a year later and served as pastor of a church in Guánica, Puerto Rico, for nearly three years.

In 2012, he began serving as a part-time pastor at Marina Presbyterian Church in Mayagüez, and it was there that he began to experience the unique challenges that go beyond youth ministry to intergenerational ministry.

Silva says, “I spent my first year preaching about love and teamwork and working together and what the work of the church should be, forgetting the divisions of the past.” He estimates 75 percent of the church is 65 years of age or older and 25 percent is under 50. Silva says he focuses on a message of empathy for the community and a vision of teamwork in which all ages and ministries work together.

He says it’s important to encourage those in youth ministry so they can help close the gap between generations and create understanding. That means being supportive and allowing them to attend workshops so they can recharge, share the challenges they’re



Participants engage in conversations about their experiences in ministry during a recent gathering in Louisville.



Young adults gather together in prayer during an event in Louisville earlier this year.

facing to find solutions, and learn new ways to ignite excitement among Presbyterian youth and young adults.

“It’s why developing this Hispanic youth network is so important,” Silva says. “It’s being there to support and orient the Hispanics within the church.”

New Staff



Sera Chung has joined the staff of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries as the associate for gender and racial justice.

She will focus on research and writing, including working on posting and publishing articles on race and gender, sharing the results of the recently released panels on race and gender, and beginning the Study on the Status of

Women. Sera will also hold forums and gather focus groups at the national level, in mid councils and congregations, to address issues of gender equality and racial justice. She will also offer "Building the Beloved Community" (antiracism) trainings for church leaders.

Finding Their Dreams in God

Pan American School Is Developing Young Christian Leaders

Before attending the Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas, Hyunsuk Choi felt there was little room for dreaming.

"The Korean education system made me study, but without any focus on future dreams or goals," Choi told us. "Once I learned about the Presbyterian Pan American School, I found out that the teachers and staff would not only let me dream but would help me accomplish my goals."

And Choi was ready to dream big. He decided he wanted to become an aerospace engineer working for NASA or work for the United Nations.

"Pan Am taught that I have lots of potential and I am blessed," said the 19-year-old Korean Presbyterian.

For more than 100 years, Presbyterian Pan American School has focused on getting students ready for college and preparing young people for lives of Christian leadership in a multicultural world. The school's enrollment ranges between 160 and 175 students from Mexico, China, South Korea, Rwanda, Costa Rica, and the United States. By May of each year, 100 percent of the school's graduates have been accepted into colleges and universities in their home countries or the US.

Presbyterian Pan American School is supported by the Christmas Joy Offering, which helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. To learn more or to make a gift, visit specialofferings.pcusa.org/christmasjoy.

Who We Are

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

Racial Ethnic & New Immigrant Congregational Support Offices

Racial Ethnic & New Immigrant Ministries Offices

African American Congregational Support

African Emerging Ministries

Asian Congregational Support

Hispanic/Latino-a Congregational Support, including Portuguese-Language Congregational Support

Intercultural Ministries

Korean Emerging Ministries, Including

Korean English Ministry (EM)

Middle Eastern Ministries

Native American Congregational Support

Racial Ethnic Leadership Development

Racial Ethnic Leadership Development

Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges

Women's Leadership Development & Justice Ministries

Gender & Racial Justice

Women's Leadership Development & Young Women's Ministries

And, in covenant relationship with:

[Presbyterian Women, Inc.](#)

The Racial Ethnic Torch

Rhashell D. Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women, publisher

Kristena Morse, communications strategist, associate editor

Published by the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Linda B. Valentine, executive director

Roger A. Dermody Jr., deputy executive director for mission

The Racial Ethnic Torch is published three times a year.

Copyright © 2014,

Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Editorial offices are located at

100 Witherspoon Street

Louisville, KY 40202

Address changes may be made by email: lindy.ebbs@pcusa.org or by calling 800-728-7228 x5465.





Subscribe to The Racial Ethnic TORCH



The Racial Ethnic Torch is published by the Racial Ethnic & Women's ministry area. Since 1989, it has offered news, events, and issues of concern to racial ethnic Presbyterians. It connects you to new resources and upcoming events; it equips you with information to bolster your faith life and ministry; and it inspires you as we share stories about racial ethnic Presbyterians in the church. It is printed three times a year and is also available online.

To subscribe or find past and current editions, visit presbyterianmission.org/torch