

Volume 21 • Issue 1 • Summer 2011



The Racial Ethnic TORCH



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



The Racial Ethnic TORCH



A message from the director, Rhashell D. Hunter

Recently I have preached at three vibrant, multicultural congregations in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), all of which are faithful embodiments of what the church of Jesus Christ is and should be.

Two of the congregations have amazingly cross cultural demographics. At both the Church of All Nations in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where the Rev. Jin Kim is the pastor, and Old Bergen Church in Jersey City, New Jersey, where the Rev. Jon Brown is the pastor, there is no cultural majority group. Many of the members of these churches live, work, and pray with Koreans, African Americans, Latinos and Latinas, Middle Easterners, Asians, European Americans, Africans, Brazilians, Native Americans, and new immigrants from different continents, sometimes all in one beautifully diverse community!

The third community of faith where I recently preached is the All Nations worship at Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas, a community shepherded by the Rev. Dr. Cyprian Kimathi Guchienda. At All Nations worship, there are persons from many different nations from the continent of Africa. As you may know, some Presbyterian multicultural communities of faith include persons of the same race—in this case Africans from many different nations, including Kenya, Ghana, and Nigeria. So there is “diversity within diversity” within our beloved church.

Perhaps you already live and worship in just such a multicultural community. Or perhaps you have never seen one and can merely dream of these beautifully diverse houses of worship. As I have been immersed in this wonderful cross cultural world, it has, indeed, blessed me.

In the spirit of community, I’d like to extend to you—and to all Presbyterians—a challenge to risk getting to know persons different from yourself. In the pages of this issue, you will read about exciting new initiatives, people, and opportunities, which will allow such encounters to happen.

Thank you for your ministry on behalf of all of God’s people. I consider it a privilege to serve alongside you good sisters and brothers in the faith.

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The Newslink

Connect. Equip. Inspire.

Save the Date

Asian Congregational Support announces meetings of the following Asian Presbyterian Church organizations: June 28–29, National Taiwanese Presbyterian Council; June 29–30, National Asian Presbyterian Council; July 2–4, National Thai Presbyterian Council. Contact Mei-hui Lai at (800) 728-7228, x5682, or email mei-hui.lai@pcusa.org for more information.

A continuing education seminar for Hispanic/Latino-a Presbyterian ministers will be offered in Guatemala City, Guatemala, July 13–18. Contact Hector Rodriguez at (800) 728-7228, x5700, or email hector.rodriguez@pcusa.org for more information.

The 2010–12 Theological Education Program for New Immigrant Lay Leaders in the USA, sponsored by the New Immigrants Congregational Support office in partnership with the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, continues classes at Stony Point Center, New York, July 29–31, October 14–16, and December 9–11. The program provides theological preparation for new immigrant leaders in the PC(USA) who are serving as commissioned lay pastors (CLPs) as well as those who are enrolled in CLP training programs or functioning as lay leaders in their communities of faith. Email dririzarry@se-pr.edu or angel.suarez@pcusa.org for more information.

The 2011 National New Church Development Conference is scheduled for August 8–11 at Tradewinds Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida. The theme will be

On the cover: The Rev. Shirley Lin served as youth ministry speaker at the annual Taiwanese Presbyterian Church retreat of the Synod of the Sun held in Houston, Tex., in January 2011.

“Uncontained: God’s Movements Above, Below and Beyond the Surface.” The conference will offer a variety of learning tracks and electives for NCD pastors, their leadership teams, and presbyteries interested in new church development, with language-specific tracks for Hispanic and Korean leadership offered by Rosa Blanca Gonzalez, Daniel Beteta, Armando Narvaez, and Sun Bai Kim, respectively. Contact Sherry Britton, sherry.britton@pcusa.org, for more information.

The 2012 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held July 18–22, 2012, at the Gaylord Palms in Orlando, Florida. Contact Ann Ferguson at (800) 728-7228, x5365, or email ann.ferguson@pcusa.org for more information. Check for updates about the Churchwide Gathering at www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.

Curtis Kearns retires after 41 years of service to church

The Rev. Curtis A. Kearns Jr. retired September 1 as executive administrator of the General Assembly Mission Council at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky. Kearns enjoyed a forty-one-year career in ministry, during which he spent twenty-five years in the Washington, D.C., area, where he served on the pastoral staff of four churches. He spent sixteen years on the national staff of the PC(USA).

Kearns’s first assignment in Louisville was as director of the National Ministries

Division, a post he held for twelve years before a 2006 reorganization of the General Assembly Mission Council. He was selected for his most recent position as a result of the reorganization.

During his time in the national offices, Kearns spearheaded a number of initiatives, including development of the church’s national mission volunteers program and approval and implementation of a racial ethnic/new immigrant group growth strategy that included establishment of offices for multicultural and new immigrant group ministries. He also was responsible for the design and institution of a new call system through the Diversity in Leadership Network to help match people of color with vacant positions within the church. He also oversaw the creation of a Church Executive Preparatory Seminar to encourage the development of racial ethnic administrative leadership.



The Rev. Curtis A. Kearns enjoyed a forty-one-year career in ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Women of Color Consultation will benefit entire PC(USA)

Planning continues for the second Women of Color Consultation (WoCC), to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, October 20–23. This will be an opportunity for the voices of women of color of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be heard. Middle governing body executives, General Assembly and General Assembly Mission Council staff, and leaders in seminaries and colleges are invited to attend as listening partners. Women of color from throughout the church are invited to attend as participants.

Highlights of the consultation will include plenary sessions with Eric Law, worship leaders Gwen Magby, Martha Sadongei, and Laura Mariko Cheifetz, and music/song leader Jacqueline Robinson.

For information about how to register as a participant or listening partner, contact Nancy Young at (800) 728-7228, x5490, or nancy.young@pcusa.org or Leigh Meers at (800) 728-7228, x5385, or leigh.meers@pcusa.org.

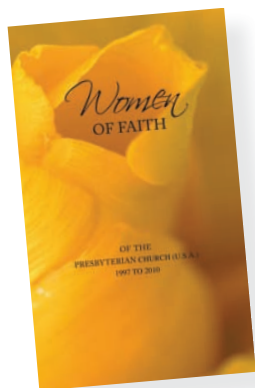
Meet the PC(USA)'s most recently honored Women of Faith in an inspiring new book

Can you name the Women of Faith recognized by the PC(USA) in the last 13 years? A new book will give you all the answers!

Unveiled last summer at the 219th General Assembly (2010), the recently published volume *Women of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 1997–2010* will allow you to meet them all.

In 1986 the first Women of Faith honorees were presented with awards for promoting equality, development, and peace. The awards have been presented to deserving women in the church ever since, in recognition of their passion, dedication, and faithfulness. In 1996, the stories of the first Women of Faith were collected and published in the first volume, *Women of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 1986–1996*.

The second volume contains the “stories of women who courageously work and witness in their communities, in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and in the larger ecumenical community” (*Women of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*)



1997–2010, p. 2), and includes the stories of the 2010 honorees, Margaret E. Howland, Elizabeth B. Knott, Elona Street-Stewart, and Joyce Uyeda.

The book is available for \$10 from Presbyterian Distribution Service, www.pcusa.org/store or (800) 524-2612.

Synod of the Covenant welcomes Raafat Zaki as transitional executive

The Rev. Raafat L. Zaki was installed as transitional executive of the Synod of the Covenant on November 5. He began serving in his new office in Maumee, Ohio, in January.

Zaki, an American of African and Middle Eastern descent born in Sudan, is a graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary and has completed Ph.D. coursework at Chicago Theological Seminary. He has also studied in Egypt and Korea. He speaks fluent Arabic and some Korean and brings a multicultural approach to his life and work.

Zaki most recently served as associate executive and stated clerk of Synod of the Sun. Prior to that he served three congregations and two General Assembly Mission Council offices, and he worked with Habitat for Humanity International.

As part of his new office, Zaki has expressed interest in visiting and filling pulpits in churches throughout the synod.

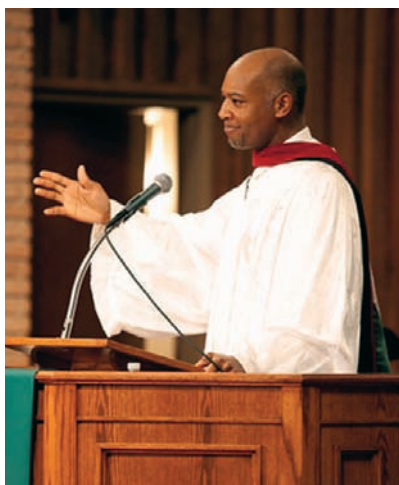


The Rev. Raafat L. Zaki is the new synod executive of Synod of the Covenant.

Paul Roberts takes the helm at Johnson C. Smith Seminary

In a March 3 ceremony in College Park, Georgia, the Rev. Paul T. Roberts Sr. was inaugurated as the tenth president of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary. The seminary, which is part of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, celebrated its 144th Founders Day in conjunction with Roberts's inauguration, officially launching a new theme for the school, "A New Seminary for a New Day."

Roberts intends to focus on improving communications and networking among alumni and on increasing enrollment, which has shrunk to fewer than twenty students. He hopes to boost enrollment to more than fifty students over the next two years. The seminary is the only predominantly African American seminary in the PC(USA).



The Rev. Paul T. Roberts Sr. was inaugurated as the tenth president of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary.

Roberts is a 1996 graduate of Johnson C. Smith and served as president of the alumni association before becoming interim dean for seven months and then dean and president.

A native of Bradenton, Florida, he holds a bachelor of arts degree in architecture and African American studies from Princeton University and a master of divinity degree from Johnson C. Smith. He is also an Academic Fellow of the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey in Switzerland. Roberts previously served for thirteen years as the pastor of Church of the Master Presbyterian Church in the Atlanta area.

Newbern-Williams answers call to serve St. Louis congregation

Effective January 1, the Rev. Mary Newbern-Williams left her post as the general presbyter for the Presbytery of John Calvin to answer the call to be the new pastor of Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

Newbern-Williams has also served as the associate general presbyter for the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia; as associate executive presbyter for outreach in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley in Birmingham, Alabama; as an associate in higher education at the Presbyterian Center, working with racial ethnic schools and colleges; as pastor of Shawnee Presbyterian Church in Louisville while serving the General Assembly; and as a pastor in Southern California. In addition to being a minister of the Word and Sacrament, she has a background in teaching and the mental health profession.

“I have always loved pastoral ministry—it has been my passion,” says Newbern-Williams. “My desire has always been to return to pastoral ministry; one confirmation of the call to being a pastor is that I would always make myself available to preach for

congregations in whatever presbytery I was serving or wherever I was located.”

Newbern-Williams was attracted to the call to Cote Brilliante by the church’s long-standing commitment to community ministry, its reputation for service, and its strong leadership.



The Rev. Mary Newbern-Williams, on her installation day as the new pastor of Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Missouri, is pictured with Joy and Robert, two of her three children.



The Rev. Dr. Arlene Gordon, HR (honorably retired) congratulates the Rev. Mary Newbern-Williams at a reception for her installation as pastor. Gordon is a retired executive president from Tropical Florida Presbytery and a dear friend and colleague of Rev. Newbern-Williams.

An Unexpected Blessing

When Korean parishioners sought to grow their church, God answered their prayers—with people from a very different country and culture.

By Kimberly Burge

Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt. (Exodus 23:9)

With fewer and fewer Korean American children to attend classes, the small Korean Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati (KPCC) found its Sunday school numbers dwindling. The church is in a neighborhood without many Korean immigrants, so there seemed little hope for growth in numbers. Church members began to pray for guidance on how to expand their ministry and bring the gospel to more people.

Then Sunday school teachers decided to broaden their vision of what a Korean Sunday school class could look like. They began a door-to-door outreach to the non-Korean homes near the church. Church teams visited homes on Sunday mornings before worship, with a letter of introduction to the church and information about Sunday school for children. In this economically struggling neighborhood, they also brought along donations of canned goods for the families they visited.

Some uninterested neighbors rebuffed their efforts to reach out. Some older people welcomed the visits, grateful for the canned goods, but had no Sunday school-aged children. No significant progress was made in increasing attendance.

Church members expected to meet primarily white, African-American, and Hispanic neighbors, in keeping with the demographics of Cincinnati and the United States in general. But on one

Sunday's outreach canvass, they met two Nepali teenagers walking around the neighborhood. When they told the teens about the church, they expressed interest in seeing what it was like. So the Sunday school teachers accompanied them to their home to meet their parents. The two Nepali youth agreed to attend church the following Sunday.

That was the beginning of KPCC's Nepali ministry—and a moment when church members learned you don't have to

both serving his spirit and enhancing his education.

"I've come to know Jesus. I'm enjoying learning about the Bible. And I'm practicing my English. I translate what the [Korean] teachers say into Nepali for the younger children and for the parents when they come," he said.

At the end of 2010, there were about 350 Nepalese people newly settled in Cincinnati, with many arriving within the previous three years. Many came directly

from refugee camps in Nepal, having been expelled from the neighboring country of Bhutan, where they had lived for years.

The two countries, located in the Himalayan Mountains, share a difficult history. For many years, Bhutan welcomed immigrants of Nepali descent, many of whom came from nearby India. Eager to develop the country and in need of workers, Bhutan offered them citizenship. But in the 1980s, a

backlash arose against these immigrants as Bhutan tried to preserve its cultural heritage with a "One Nation, One People" policy. Many Nepalese were persecuted in Bhutan and then were driven back to Nepal, which refused to grant them citizenship. The United States and other countries subsequently offered asylum to some of the refugees.

When Koh met the parents of his Sunday school attendees, he and the other church leaders realized that many of them had practical needs as well as spiritual ones.

"As new immigrants, the Nepalese people have come to a place without jobs, with little money. They tend to live in poor conditions," he said.

'Many Koreans at the church at first were very hesitant about this outreach.

There were big language and cultural barriers to overcome,' Koh said.

But when they turned to the One who welcomes all, they grew inspired once again.

travel very far to be mission workers.

"Our church's goal is very mission-based," said the Rev. Ion Jong Koh, who has been KPCC's pastor for three years. "We want to bring Jesus to others through mission outreach.

"But it's a daily practice. You can be a missionary for Jesus in your own neighborhood."

The Nepali teenagers brought their friends and siblings, and the numbers grew. Soon, thirty children were attending Sunday school each week. Sometimes a couple of Nepali parents even came along.

Tenth grader Rupa Dhaurali found the church through an outreach visit to his home. Now the church community is



Members of the Korean Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati represent a diverse mix of Korean and Nepalese cultures worshipping together.

Church members gathered items to donate: secondhand clothing, furniture, dishes, small appliances, even computers. Koh himself delivered twenty-pound bags of rice to families. The church also held a yard sale to raise money for the families' material needs. These efforts drew in more adults from the Nepalese community.

Of course, everything did not run smoothly all of the time.

"Many Koreans at the church at first were very hesitant about this outreach. There were big language and cultural barriers to overcome," Koh said.

But when they turned to the One who welcomes all, they grew inspired once again.

"We found these words of Jesus in the Gospel of John, chapter 12, verse 26: 'Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.'"

So instead of grousing over differences, the congregation embraced new learning experiences. To help overcome the language barrier, a church elder located a seminarian who spoke both English and Nepali. He presented the gospel to parents and children alike during KPCC's first Nepali Family Day, in March 2010. While most of the Nepali families are of Hindu background, several of the children have become Christians while attending the church.

Like Rupa, some of the Sunday school children began to help with language

lessons as Korean adults took up Nepali. Women of the church organized a monthly potluck lunch, inviting the parents of all Nepali children. Cuisines were mingled, and friendships formed.

It helped that the Korean congregants could understand the plight of the Nepali families on a personal level. In many ways, it was their own story.

"Our congregation understood how difficult it was to enter into a new culture and try to live. They were immigrants themselves," Koh said.

"God wants us to take care of other people too, not just the people closest to us, or who look like us, or speak the same language."

Now KPCC is praying for guidance in how to draw in more people to help with the Nepali ministry. Parishioners are hoping to meet some Nepali Christians who might assist their efforts. Church members also want to provide an ESL (English as a second language) program for the Nepali community, with the hope of integrating the study of English with the study of the gospel.

Each Sunday, Koh tells his church, is about worshipping God. But once worship concludes, church members need to look around them.

"After the service, everyone goes out into the world. The role then is to serve others in the community," he said. "That's what Jesus wants."

He offers some advice for other pastors



The Nepali youth members of the church were the first ones to start coming on a regular basis. Soon their friends and family joined them.

and congregations seeking to build a cross cultural ministry.

"First, focus on prayer and what God is calling your church to do. Practice what the Scriptures say about sacrifice and serving others. Always remember Jesus' words in John 12:26."

Who knows where these sorts of efforts can lead? Korean American congregations themselves are now the second-largest racial ethnic constituency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). From having 20 Korean Presbyterian congregations in early 1970, the church had grown to 400 congregations with 50,000 members by 2005. As of 2010, there were 403 Korean congregations, including English ministry fellowship groups with a total membership of 56,000.

Young Rupa Dhaurali is glad to have been part of the church's growth. His experience with KPCC is already leading him to dream about his career goals.

"When I go to college, I want to study translation so I can do interfaith translation ministry," he said.

In the meantime, members of the Korean Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati reap the rewards of their efforts.

"We fellowship together. We pray for each other," Koh said.

And they celebrate together. At a joint Christmas Eve service, twenty Nepali Sunday school students sang a Nepali Christian song—joined by their Korean teachers.

Spotlight on Ministry

New Racial Ethnic Leaders in the General Assembly Mission Council

The Rev. SanDawna Theresa Gaulman Ashley joined the GAMC on April 25 as associate for gender and racial justice. Ashley most recently served as pastor of Morgan Park Presbyterian Church, a multicultural congregation in Chicago, Illinois. She previously served as pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, New Castle, Delaware, and the historic Capital Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She also served as chairperson of the New Castle Presbytery Church Development Unit and chairperson of the New Church Development and Church Transformation Committee of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Ashley has a doctor of ministry degree in parish focus ministry from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and a master of divinity degree from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Ashley says, "I look forward with grace to sharing with the denomination the message that we are all God's people, gifted in various ways and intentionally unique for the glory of God." Ashley's work will include facilitating ministry and programs at all levels of the PC(USA) that assist the church in becoming inclusive, diverse, and racially just. She will develop workshops and resources for congregations and other groups, addressing issues of gender equality, fairness, and racial justice, with the goal of providing practical and specific ministry to women and racial ethnic persons, helping to change conditions to create equal opportunities for all. She will also



The Rev. SanDawna Theresa Gaulman Ashley is the new associate for gender and racial justice.

work with middle governing bodies, the GAMC, and other PC(USA) groups to assist the PC(USA) in its efforts to improve opportunities and parity for women and racial ethnic persons in the church and in society.

The Rev. Martha Sadongei has joined the GAMC as church specialist for Native American congregational support. A member of the Kiowa tribe on her father's side, Martha's mother was Tohono O'odham. The church specialist is a deployed position, in which Sadongei works from her office in Phoenix, Arizona, as well as from the GAMC offices. She also continues to serve as part-time stated supply pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Phoenix, the first organized urban Native American congregation in the PC(USA), established in 1915. As church specialist, Sadongei focuses on Native American leadership development, congregational transformation, evangelism, and church growth. She will continue her work with the Presbytery of Grand Canyon and will collaborate with other presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly offices to initiate conversations and to facilitate ministries that transform Native American congregations into vital, healthy churches. A 1996 graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Sadongei was an elementary school teacher for thirteen years in the public school system prior to her ordination to the ministry in 1997. She was a member of the Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church and has preached at General Assembly and the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, as well as being a keynoter for the National Evangelism Conference. Sadongei also served as program coordinator for Cook Native American Ministries in Tempe,



The Rev. Martha Sadongei is the church specialist for Native American Congregational Support.

Arizona, and as the Native American stewardship consultant with the Synod of the Southwest. She says, "My sense of call has been one of 'bridge builder,' which has given me many opportunities to share the story of Native Americans within the PC(USA)."

Igniting the PC(USA) through Cross Cultural Ministries

By Sterling Morse

Coordinator, Cross Cultural Ministries and Congregational Support

When I first arrived at the Presbyterian Center to assume the role of coordinator for Cross Cultural Ministries and Congregational Support, much to my dismay I found no immediate openings in the “corral,” the area of the parking garage that is reserved for Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) employees. What I found instead was a wall of dedicated spaces on the margin for newcomers to use while they await an opening in the corral. While I was thankful for the parking space there, after an extended period of seeing most of my colleagues entering the Center from one area and I—and a few others—from another, I acquired a sense of separation anxiety. Because I was one of them, I wanted to be united with them in the corral.

This is a metaphor for my vision of Cross Cultural Ministries in the PC(USA), a new initiative in the General Assembly Mission Council’s Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Rhaskell Hunter.

For many years, our mission workers were equipped and empowered to lead others from different cultures to Christ Jesus. With thanksgiving, the evangelized have now reversed this trend and are leading us to experience Christ through their cultures, bearing many gifts and the desire to share them as they join the PC(USA). The problem is that the glorious mission and church growth with which they are energizing our denomination are being done, in large part, outside of the corral—in the margins, a ministry apart from those who once gave so generously to them.

Acts 2 tells us that the Holy Spirit came when the devout of every nation were gathered in one place and of one accord (v. 1). The languages, albeit diverse, were no problem for God (v. 6), and “Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved” (vv. 46-47).

As coordinator of Cross Cultural Ministries, I hope to promote this vision by partnering with local churches, groups, and middle governing bodies to equip and empower them to cross historical lines of separation to get into place for a Pentecostal experience that will ignite the PC(USA), both spiritually and missionally.



Seven Korean leaders gathered with Jin S. Kim in Louisville in January for a two-day consultation on the future prospects of Korean American ministry.

Church Leaders Weigh Opportunities, Challenges of Korean English Ministry

Seven leaders from across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) gathered in Louisville in January for an intense two-day consultation on the present state and future prospects of Korean American ministry in the English-speaking context. Convened by Jin S. Kim, the newly appointed field staff specialist on Korean English Ministry (EM), the Korean English Ministry Consultation Committee discussed in depth key concerns raised at the Korean Ministries Consultation on March 23, 2010.

The meeting began with Rhaskell Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/PW, and Sun Bai Kim, associate for Korean congregational support, providing background on why this consultation was convened, what was at stake, and why leaders at every level of the denomination considered this initiative a top priority. The group tackled some key issues:

What is English Ministry (EM), and who are EM pastors?

How many EMs are out there, and what do EM pastors need for fruitful ministry?

How can the PC(USA) acknowledge, confess, and repent of the widening gap in EM/KM (Korean Ministry) relations?

How can seminaries equip future EM pastors to do the kind of contextual theology that is essential for constructive pastoral ministry? There was wide consensus that the universalizing impulse undergirding Western systematic theology as taught in our seminaries was insufficient for effective preparation in this context.

How can the committee focus on developing character and resilience in our EM pastors? Committee members agreed that ministry competence and professionalism exceeded the quality of character among many EM pastors. Attrition and turnover are extraordinarily high in this group.

How can Korean congregations and the denomination create

more opportunities for women pastors, and how can the church be more intentional about equipping women leaders in particular?

How can various agencies of the General Assembly Mission Council, Office of the General Assembly, and middle governing bodies collaborate with the Korean Congregational Support office to provide mentoring, referrals, resourcing, and other support for this uniquely gifted but stressed group of leaders in the PC(USA)?

The committee participants came from a variety of ministry contexts, including the Korean immigrant church, new church development, hospital chaplaincy, and the “academy.”

Kee Won Huh, one of five founding pastors of New Mercy Community Church in Teaneck, New Jersey, spoke about their team-based approach to “maximize each leader’s strengths while compensating for their weaknesses.”

“Not only will this structure provide accountability, but it will also serve as an internal support group for those pastors and leaders, which is absent in many models of church leadership today,” he said. Launched in 2010, New Mercy Community Church, a Korean EM congregation, has grown rapidly to almost two hundred weekly worshippers, who find this new model of collaborative leadership both refreshing in its democratic spirit and familiar in its communal nature.

The January consultation had a direct impact in shaping the themes of the annual EM Pastors Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary in April, as well as the gathering of the National Council of Korean Presbyterian Churches, scheduled for June 21–24 in Anaheim, CA. In addition, Kim plans to convene a mini-gathering at the Big Tent in Indianapolis this summer, and a smaller, strategic consultation in the fall to advance these critical themes.—*Reported by Jin S. Kim, Field Staff for Korean English Ministries (EM) in the Office of Korean Congregational Support*

Native American Consultation: A Gathering of Nations

By Martha Sadongei

*Church Specialist for Native American
Congregational Support*

Native Americans have always gathered as community, whether for times of celebration or times of sorrow, coming together to hear concerns or to share information. In such gatherings we always begin with prayer and leave with prayer. We may not plan for humor, but there is always much laughter when Indians gather. Our gatherings take on more importance these days as we no longer live in tight communities but rather are spread out across the country. And to see familiar faces and to make new friends in the midst of laughter make it a special time in the life of our Native churches.

It is for precisely this reason that a churchwide consultation is being planned for the Native American constituency within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This gathering has evolved from the Supplemental Report to the 2002 General Assembly Special Task Force on Native American Ministries. A recommendation in that Supplemental Report requested that a report on implementation of the recommended strategies of 2002 be presented to the 219th General Assembly (2010). The Implementation Report made reference to a past gathering known as the Eight Synod Consultation, which was held every three years—most recently in 2005. Since this triennial gathering was discontinued due to budget constraints, it is important that connectional relationships continue to be nurtured between Native leadership and middle governing bodies.

Following Assembly approval of the Implementation Report in 2010, a consultation is now being planned, with the recommendation that it take place in 2011 or 2012. It will be a time to renew old friendships and to share ministry stories—the challenges and the successes—plus a time to discern the future of Native

Fast Facts

Did you know?

Three of the nine Big Tent Partner Conferences are sponsored by the Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area. They are the Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation, the National Multicultural Church Conference, and the Clergywomen’s Leadership Institute/Young Women’s Leadership Development.

Fifty percent of the Christmas Joy Offering is distributed to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. The other 50 percent is distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families.

Korean American Presbyterians are the fastest-growing membership group in the PC(USA). Africans (from many African nations) make up the next fastest-growing new immigrant group.

Data provided by Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women, GAMC

ministries and our congregations in light of the changing world around us. We hope to expand the participation to include middle governing bodies that are engaged in Native ministry. We would like more than just a few representatives because we know that working together as partners in ministry will be critical for Native churches.

We look forward to this time of gathering, where we can sing and laugh, share our concerns and look to the future, that hopeful day when we can gather to worship our Creator who calls us to gather as nations to be the church of God.

Supporting Asian Congregations

Reaching out to new immigrants is just part of a multifaceted approach.

By Mei-hui Chen Lai

Associate, Asian Congregational Support

Since my arrival in January, I have been visiting many of our Asian congregations and providing them with resources.

At the end of January, I was in the Los Angeles area for a two-week visit with congregations there, such as the Alhambra True Light Chinese Presbyterian Church. The church's pastor, the Rev. Mary Ren, told me that the church used to be English- and Cantonese-speaking but has recently started a Mandarin-speaking group to serve new immigrants from China.

I then traveled to Redlands to participate in a group meeting of the Inland Empire Presbyterian Fellowship at the home of the church's pastor, the Rev. Caleb Wu. At the gathering, he and several Christians from Taiwan shared the gospel with Asian friends from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, China, and the Philippines. Church members use their unique cultural heritage to create service and community activities as an evangelistic outreach to non-Christian friends. They begin with small group meetings and later invite their new friends to the congregational fellowship. I learned that although some of the members drive more than an hour to attend Sunday worship or meetings, it is well worth it to them as they have a great time together by encouraging and sharing the love and care in Christian faith.

On the first Sunday of my visit, I attended a Filipino church. On the second Sunday, I attended the services of Thai, Taiwanese, and Indonesian churches, respectively. Two of these have their own facilities, while two share with other churches. The congregations not only share the facility but also share their ministry. They have youth, children, and adult get-together activities several times a year.

It is my experience that many of our Asian churches that are reaching out to new immigrants are experiencing rapid and strong



Service at the Calvin Church in Louisville represents a diverse multicultural congregation with people from many backgrounds and cultures.



Children enjoy Easter Sunday in a new multicultural congregation, Inland Empire Presbyterian Fellowship.

growth, while other churches that have few or no new immigrants seem to be lacking “new blood” and energy. It is my hope that we will encourage established churches to expand their mission and vision.

I plan to provide first-generation immigrants curricula and other PC(USA) resources in their own languages so that they can fully understand and participate in the life of the denomination. Through education, church members' faith will be built upon a strong Presbyterian foundation, thereby creating strong Presbyterian identities.

Our Asian churches are challenged to retain younger members. The reasons that young people say they leave the church are many, including the heavy responsibility of supporting the church and insufficient patience in dealing with the theology, ideas, and opinions of the older generation. We can help by encouraging these younger members to establish new multicultural congregations. They are our best resources for reaching out to and cultivating the younger generation.

Plans for this office include producing a regional Bible study program to assist in providing leadership development opportunities for members of all ages. It is my belief that education is the key to cultivating a deep faith in the life of our members.



Some of the members and staff supporting the Task Force to Study Racial Ethnic and New Immigrant Church Growth gathered at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky. The Task Force was charged with exploring why the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) fell short of its racial ethnic membership goals.

GA Task Force Studies Racial Ethnic and New Immigrant Church Growth

By Sterling Morse

Coordinator, Cross Cultural Ministries and Congregational Support

Authorized by the 219th General Assembly (2010), the Task Force to Study Racial Ethnic and New Immigrant Church Growth was charged with exploring why the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) fell short of its goal to increase the denomination's racial ethnic membership and discipleship by 20 percent by 2010 as well as to bring recommendations to the 220th General Assembly (2012). Through prayerful discernment, GA Moderator Cynthia Bolbach appointed the following persons to the task force:

- Mario Bolanos, Riverside Presbytery
- Sung Yeon Choi-Morrow, Chicago Presbytery
- Elder Sandra Freier, Central Florida Presbytery
- Elder Ann Kelson, Great Rivers Presbytery
- Rev. Eddie Knox, Chicago Presbytery
- Rev. Mary Newbern-Williams, Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery
- Elder Julia Schaeffer, National Capital Presbytery
- Rev. Reginald Tuggle, Long Island Presbytery
- Rev. Perry Wootten, New York City Presbytery

The task force had its initial meeting from January 31 to February 2 at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky. After an introduction and orientation by Rhashell Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women (RE&WM/PW), the group engaged in community building, sharing stories about each one's ministry context.

The task force is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Review the strategy from 1998, in consultation with the Racial Ethnic and New Immigrant Church Growth offices.
- Analyze and determine reasons for not reaching the 1998 goal.
- Identify middle governing bodies that are responding to demographic change in effective and faithful ways, and collect models of new church development and transformation that work in other contexts.
- Discern what resources—personnel, funding, technology, or other resources—are needed at the General Assembly level to assist and support efforts at the middle governing level.
- In light of Jesus' continuing call to us to repent of our racism and to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19), revisit the goal set in 1998 and determine what the call of the church is now, so that we as a church might become a reflection of Jesus in the world.
- Bring a report to the 220th General Assembly (2012) with recommendations for actions.

With the belief that it takes the whole Presbyterian village to achieve church growth, the order of the day was to interview a cross section of General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) and Office of the General Assembly staff. The task force heard from Linda Valentine (GAMC executive director); Eric Hoey (director of Evangelism and Church Growth); Roger Dermody (deputy executive director for Mission); Dave Crittenden (director of stewardship); Julia Thorne (manager, immigration issues); Hector Rodriguez, Angel Suarez-Valera, Lonnie Oliver (RE&WM/PW associates for Hispanic/Latino-a, New Immigrant, and African American Congregational Support, respectively); and Teresa Chavez Saucedo (contract staff to the Creating a Climate for Change Task Force).

The powerful cross cultural witness provided the springboard that will launch the task force to visit with middle governing bodies, congregations, and others to discern the path that leads to growing our racial ethnic and new immigrant membership deep and wide.

Making a Difference for Women Worldwide

Presbyterian participants help shape recommendations at meeting of UN Commission on the Status of Women.

By Meagan Manas

Justice and peace program specialist, Presbyterian Women

and the Rev. W. Mark Koenig

Director, Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations

I have a lot of women that I love. I need to go home to Staunton and make a difference for them.” Pam Snyder’s observation captured the experience of the thirty Presbyterian participants in the 55th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) that met February 22 through March 4.

Responding to Christ’s call to love one another, the Presbyterians came to the United Nations in New York to work for women’s rights around the world—particularly in terms of access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science, and technology. They joined more than 150 ecumenical participants from many denominations and countries for daily worship and theological reflection. Grounded in faith, participants heard presentations by representatives of nongovernmental organizations, missions to the UN, and UN programs; advocated concerning the agreed conclusions of the CSW, violence in Libya and Côte d’Ivoire, and the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and made new friendships.

“Throughout the week I was surrounded by women who were from all different communities, countries, cultures, and spoke different languages,” reflected Cindy Eschliman from Hastings, Nebraska. Honna Eichler of Chicago observed that the CSW was intergenerational with “a good balance of women of all ages. The affirmation of the empowerment of a young adult delegation was obvious and enthusiastic.” Margryette Boyd from Houston tweeted that the group included “a lot of strong women and men who understand the importance of gender equality.”

Those strong women and men, working with a coalition of organizations and denominations called Ecumenical Women at the UN, lifted up the disproportionate effects of violence against women and its negative impact on education and employment. Their advocacy efforts, including meetings with UN member states, resulted in the addition of the word “bullying” to the CSW’s agreed conclusions. Language was also included regarding school environment, infrastructure, and transportation. As the

nations implement the CSW recommendations, they will be implementing ideas put forth by Presbyterians and their partners.

Presbyterian Women arranged for Milcah Lalam, a peace-building development specialist with RECONCILE (Resource Centre for Civil Leadership) in Southern Sudan, to attend the CSW. Lalam joined the advocacy efforts and helped lead worship. She also spoke on a panel at a workshop on trauma healing. Her stories of working for peace in what will soon be the world’s 193rd nation touched and inspired all who heard her.

The participants in the CSW have returned home to tell their stories and to make a difference for women they love, women they have met through their new friends, and women they do not know. They have returned to act locally as global disciples seeking to help the world’s peoples and nations live into the abundant life Jesus came to bring.

Presbyterian participation in the CSW took place through a partnership between Presbyterian Women, Racial Ethnic Young Women Together, the National Network of Presbyterian College Women, Young Women’s Leadership Development, the Advocacy Committee on Women’s Concerns, and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations.

The 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from February 27 to March 9, 2012. For information contact Mark Koenig at mark.koenig@pcusa.org, Meagan Manas at meagan.manas@pcusa.org, or visit www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/56sess.htm.



Presbyterians strategize for advocacy efforts during a meeting of Ecumenical Women at the UN, a coalition of organizations and denominations.

See you at the Big Tent!



Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the 2011 Big Tent—a consortium of national conferences to be held June 30–July 2 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Big Tent offers inspiring worship, insightful teaching, and the opportunity to connect with thousands of Presbyterian leaders from different races and cultures. Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women is offering three conferences at the event:

National Multicultural Church Conference

Cosponsored by the Multicultural Congregational Support office, the Presbyterian Multicultural Network, and national and regional multicultural congregations, the twelfth national Multicultural Church Conference promises to be an exciting, innovative, and energizing event. The conference will provide cutting-edge training opportunities led by motivated and experienced church professionals and practitioners in the field of multicultural church growth. It will offer innovative resources in the areas of communication and cultural proficiency as well as models of vital and growing multicultural congregations. Our subtheme for this year is *Stretching Out, Going Deep: Embodiment, Practice and Testimony for Vital Ministries*. Participants will be exposed to a holistic approach to church growth in an increasingly diverse setting. This holistic approach will address and embrace spiritual transformation and sweeping social responsibilities as the two equally important wings for any vital ministry. This conference will provide workshops, group discussions, and models utilizing the amazing gift of “Story Telling” by Valerie Tutson and the “embodying” techniques of “Let the Bones Dance” by the Rev. Dr. Marcia Mount Shoop. Workshop topics for the conference include “The Elephant in the Room: Race and Its Continuing Power in Multicultural Ministry,” “Changing World, Challenged Church: Exploring the Multicultural Landscape,” and “Dealing

Effectively with Power Issues and Dynamics: An Essential Skill in Multicultural Pastoral Care.” Participants will also learn about models of vital multicultural outreach and presbyteries’ strategies in diverse settings.

For more information, visit www.pcusa.org/multicultural, or contact Raafat Girgis, (800) 728-7228, x5233.

Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation

“To equip the saints for the work of ministry, . . . until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God” (Ephesians 4:12–13)

The Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation is an event celebrating the ethnic diversity of the body of Christ and equipping the PC(USA) to become, in fact as well as in faith, a church that welcomes and practices hospitality with all ethnic groups and immigrants. The event is open to all and will provide opportunities to deepen spiritual commitments, receive leadership training, and learn new strategies for how the whole church can engage in ministries cross-culturally with racial ethnic and immigrant congregations and other groups. Workshop presenters include Ernest McNealey, James Foster Reese, and other gifted leaders.

For more information, visit www.pcusa.org/raciaethnic, or contact Sterling Morse, (800) 728-7228, x5114.

Clergywomen’s Leadership Institute/Young Women’s Leadership Development

One of the exciting partner conferences is the Clergywomen’s Leadership Institute and Young Women’s Leadership Development Event. Clergywomen, commissioned lay pastors, and young women in the church are invited to attend. While there will be two tracks of workshops, for clergywomen and for young women, there will be opportunities for the two groups to interact and



to join together for a panel discussion. The event will open with a plenary lunch with the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell, president of McCormick Theological Seminary, as the keynote speaker. Workshop topics for the conference include: “Junia’s Journey and Women Gender Issues,” led by leaders of the African American Clergy Women’s Caucus; “Executive Leadership in the Church,” with the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell; “Small Congregation, Big Ministry!” led by the Rev. Dr. Sarah Reyes; “Creating Women Space on Campuses and in Congregations,” with the leaders of the National Network of Presbyterian College Women; “Becoming REYWT-ed: Racial Ethnic Young Women Together Investigate Racial Tolerance and Culture Diversity,” led by REYWT; and “United Nations Commission on the Status of Women: Learning Opportunity for Young Women Leaders,” led by GAMC staff from the Young Women’s Leadership Development office.

For more information, visit www.pcusa.org/bigtent or contact Nancy Young at (800) 728-7228, x5490.

Ordained in January 2011 as pastor to the Middle Eastern Presbyterians in the PC(USA), Adel Malek (pictured) is reaching out to Arabic-speaking immigrants and providing mentoring and educational tools to pastors and leaders of Middle Eastern fellowships and churches across the U.S. The largest Protestant population in the Middle East comes from the Presbyterian Church, which is affiliated with the PC(USA), but most Middle Eastern Presbyterians in the U.S. do not attend Presbyterian churches. Malek’s position provides a

much-needed ministry to help Middle Eastern Presbyterians be a part of Christ’s body in the PC(USA). According to those with whom he has worked, Malek has the understanding, training, sensitivity, and wisdom to carry out his ministry effectively and with prophetic vision. He reports directly to the Committee on Ministry of Los Ranchos Presbytery, but Malek coordinates his activities with the RE&WM/PW ministry area of the GAMC, relating to Sterling Morse, coordinator for Cross Cultural Ministries and Congregational Support.



Adel Malek was ordained in January 2011 as pastor to the Middle Eastern Presbyterians in the PC(USA).

Who We Are

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

Racial Ethnic and Cross Cultural Ministries

- Asian Congregational Support
- African American Congregational Support
- Cross Cultural Ministries
- Hispanic/Latino-a Congregational Support
- Korean Congregational Support
- Middle Eastern Congregational Support
- Multicultural Congregational Support
- Native American Congregational Support
- New Immigrant Congregational Support

Women’s Leadership Development and Justice Ministries

- Gender and Racial Justice
- National Network of Presbyterian College Women
- Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges
- Racial Ethnic Young Women Together
- Women’s Leadership Development
- Young Women’s Leadership Development



Presbyterian Women

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The Racial Ethnic Torch is a periodical published by the Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area since 1990, offering news, events and issues of concern to racial ethnic Presbyterians. The Torch serves as a tool to connect you to new resources and upcoming events, to equip you with information that will bolster your faith life and ministry and to inspire you as we share stories of racial ethnic Presbyterians in the church. Twice a year print editions are offered online as PDFs or mailed upon request.

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