

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR PACIFIC AND ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES

The *Book of Church Order*, Chapter 3, Part I, Article 3, Section 2b, states that “the General Synod Council shall have racial-ethnic councils which express the collective vision and voice of racial and ethnic congregants and congregations as they develop ministries and advocate for policies of racial and ethnic inclusion, economic, social, and racial justice, both within the Reformed Church in America and ecumenically.”

Annual Consultation

In 2019, the Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries (CPAAM) held its 40th annual consultation meeting from September 9 to 11 at Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church (GSPC), in Suwanee, Georgia. We were invited by Pastor Kyunghoon Suh and his Korean congregation members. The GSPC recently purchased a new building property in Suwanee, and they had a special dedication service on Sunday, September 8, the day before CPAAM's consultation meeting began. RCA staff member Rev. En Young Kim attended the dedication service and gave a speech of encouragement.

This year, “Emotionally Healthy Spirituality” was the theme of the annual consultation. The book, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, by Peter Scazzero, was provided to each participant in English, Chinese, and Korean versions. Participants were required to read at least some chapters before they arrived. The executive committee members of CPAAM had a retreat for three days and two nights in May 2019 to effectively prepare for this book discussion.

Rev. Sung Kim, the RCA coordinator for Leadership Development, was our keynote speaker. Rev. JP Sundararajan, the director of RCA Global Mission, and Rev. Dr. Felix Theonugraha, the new president of Western Theological Seminary, were also guest speakers. Providentially, all the speakers this year were Pacific or Asian ministers and so, they joined in our annual consultation program and willingly shared their own stories of how being an immigrant affected their spirituality and ministry in terms of emotions.

The way each speaker addressed “Emotionally Healthy Spirituality” with candor, integrity, and transparency motivated CPAAM members to openly share their own personal experiences and observations. Each language group gathered to share in their own language how this topic impacted and resonated in their own lives.

Mission 2020

Rev. Shi Yang Lin, an executive committee member of CPAAM, contributed half of the registration cost of Mission 2020 for all the CPAAM executive committee members. Thanks to his generous support, CPAAM executive committee members learned about RCA Global Mission in many different countries, attended meaningful workshops, and interacted with missionaries, RCA staff, and people from other RCA churches that are also interested and involved in global and local mission projects.

Youth Ministry Concern

There are numerous youth pastor vacancies within Asian churches. Since ethnic churches are unable to provide applicable salaries compared to their multicultural counterparts, many ethnic churches are without a leader to care for the emerging generation. Youth pastor salaries and the cost of living are limiting viable candidates. Asian churches have to find a way to resolve this

issue or face the loss of the next generation. A temporary suggestion that can be considered is for churches to partner together to hire a youth pastor. In this way, the youth are able to be cared for at least in some capacity.

Disability Advocate

The executive committee has approved Gerri Yoshida as the CPAAM disability advocate for the next two years. She will seek to educate and inform CPAAM members about the resources available from the RCA office of Disability Concerns under the leadership of Rev. Terry DeYoung. People with physical and mental disabilities in the Asian and Pacific churches and communities often face stigma, shame, and silence, especially because language and cultural barriers prevent them from seeking and obtaining the help they need and deserve. The goal is to have every CPAAM church appoint a disability advocate and to send that person to the annual RCA/CRC Disability Leadership Training. Currently, "Breaking Barriers," the quarterly publication about disability concerns, is translated and available in Korean and Spanish.

Relationship with Commission on Race and Ethnicity (CORE)

To make a stronger relationship with CORE and to have more effective communication with CORE, the CPAAM executive committee appointed Rev. Stephen Kim, our executive committee member, to be the CPAAM representative on CORE. We support CORE's efforts to make the RCA more multi-racially diverse and freed from racism. We want CORE to advocate for the needs of the racial-ethnic councils at General Synod and to the General Synod Council.

Celebration

Rev. Mark (Yao-Sheng) Chen was newly installed at Taiwanese Community Church in greater Chicago. Hankyul Korean Reformed Church in New Jersey was newly organized, and Rev. Sung Hyun Hwang was installed as senior pastor; Rev. Su Gon Kim was ordained and installed as an education pastor at Hankyul Reformed Church. Rev. Ock Kee Byun and Thomas Song were installed as co-pastors at Steinway Reformed Church in Astoria, New York. Rev. Sung Howy Kim and Rev. Byung Il Go transferred to the Classis of Greater Palisades from the Classis of Zeeland.

Passing of Ella Campbell

We mourn the loss of elder Ella Campbell, our first coordinator, who served CPAAM for around 40 years. She passed away on January 6, 2020. She worked tirelessly to serve the CPAAM community and she is fondly remembered by many. We are honored to continue her legacy and uphold her memory as we continue to empower CPAAM churches.

Conclusion

For 40 years, CPAAM has been the voice to include Pacific and Asian American ministers and congregations within the life of the RCA. CPAAM churches and leaders will continue to serve the Lord in our neighborhoods, do mission work in our home countries of Asia, and reach out to the younger generations with the life-giving message of the gospel.

To God alone be all praise and glory for sustaining CPAAM for 40 years. Thanks be to the Lord!

Respectfully submitted by

Members of the CPAAM executive committee:

Kyunghoon Suh (chairperson), Gerri Yoshida (vice-chairperson), Lynn Min, Kelvin Kong, Shi Yang Lin, Stephen Kim, Grace Rohrer, Francisca Rumokoy