

Days of Grace

RETIRED CLERGY ASSOCIATION | NOVEMBER - DECEMBER | 2021



NEW EMPLOYEE!

HANIEL GARABAY, MISSION RESEARCH

I was born into a United Methodist clergy household, in Davao City, the Philippines. After several stints working with faith-based organizations and non-government organizations in the Philippines I moved to the United States in 2004, first in Virginia. I lost no time in getting active in the United Methodist Church in the US, getting involved in ethnic ministries, and joining the Deaconess and Home Missioner movement, getting

commissioned in 2008. I also became a member of the Virginia Conference Board of Church and Society and the General Board of Church and Society up to 2016. I'm currently the Vice-President of the National Association of Filipino-American United Methodists, which is the organizational expression of the Filipino American ethnic caucus in the UMC.

BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES

SEND A CARD MAKE A CALL

Reach out and wish your friends and colleagues a happy birthday or anniversary! See pages 5 & 6

INTRODUCING NEW RETIREES

HUBERT IVERY HEE SOO KWON

Two more from the Class of 2021! Welcome to the "leisure life" of retirement!

FORMS

ACS 2021 PER DIEM FORM

Please be sure to return your form and receipts by December 1! Download from the RCA website (www.ca-nv-rca.org) or use the form included



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PAM ABBEY, RCA PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Most mornings I listen to "Pray as You Go", a podcast produced by British Jesuits. It's in the style of lectio divina - music, a Bible passage, questions for reflection, the Bible passage read again, a few more questions, and then a benediction.

This morning's scripture was Psalm 1, which is pretty high on anyone's list of favorite psalms, I would think. The standout verse for me is "They are like trees planted by streams of water which yield their fruit in its season and their leaves do not wither."

We are living in tumultuous times. Covid rises and falls, climate change is making itself known with a vengeance, polarization in our country is not improving. It's hard to know where we can plant our feet when we get out of bed each morning. But this verse is a reminder that no matter what is going on around us, we can stay planted in Christ and draw on his living water.

These tumultuous times have certainly been challenging for the Retired Clergy Association. It has been impossible to offer some of our most successful ministries such as the Spring Fling and mission trips. At the same time, new technologies such as Zoom may offer us additional ways to support our retired clergy and their families. But how to figure it all out, that's the big question.

So....we decided to hire someone help us with that. Haniel Garibay is our new part-time employee who will be assisting with research and development. You may have already read his introduction on the front page. We have been impressed by his background, his experience and his engaging personality. He will want to be talking with as many retired clergy as possible, so please respond when he contacts you. Even better, take the initiative and reach out to him first!

The times are difficult for many of us. But we do have the ability to sink our roots into that Living Water and draw from its grace, nourishment and love.

Your sister in Christ,

Pam

MISSION PROJECT IN NORTHERN CA?

RCA would like to resume its annual spring work project working with Endowment Board staff to help in building a home for someone

displaced by a Northern CA. fire. current sites for Hope City work is Happy Camp, far northern California, and Paradise - we look for readiness for what we can do in later stages of finishing a home, and a place for volunteers to stay. Our time is

a rich moment of fellowship and meaningful labor! Does this interest you? Want to find out more? Please contact bettypagett@gmail.com



Two more entries in the Introduction to the Class of 2021, Hubert Ivery and Hee Soo Kwon

HUBERT IVERY

Hubert was born in Alabama, his family moved to Miami, Florida when he was a few years old. Prior to high school, Hubert lived with his Grandparents in Alabama, where he developed an appreciation for different denominations.

Hubert enjoyed sports and taking things apart and putting them back together so he understood how they worked. College took him to Texas Southern University where he majored in Electronic Engineering Technology, but realized he had a call to ministry, so his next stop was Atlanta, Georgia to attend the Interdenominational Theological Center.

Post seminary, Hubert accepted a position in a small

Baptist church in Houston, doing Christian Education and Evangelism. Next stop was Boston University School of Theology. There Hubert learned of Howard Thurman, and one of the first people he met was Donna Fado, who later became his wife! They were married in California and Hubert continued graduate work, and became a United Methodist.

Besides all the churches Hubert has served in the Central Valley and the Bay Area, he has worked as a substitute teacher; with Juvenile Hall programs; Alcohol and Drug Prevention; and as Chaplain at the Fred Finch Youth Center. Hubert has been active in leadership in the Annual Conference, currently serving as Chair of the Advocacy and Justice Committee.

As Hubert goes into retirement he is working on projects at his home so both he and Donna have working

office space. He is developing a non-profit named The Center for Intentional Inclusive Community, he is writing a book that focuses on Inclusive Community, and he plans to do some Community Organizing.

Known as “the gentle giant” due to his height, Hubert is a very warm, caring, and loving person who puts a high priority on family and friendships. The Ivery clan reunions are several hundred people! Hubert still enjoys working with computers and likely will be doing speaking, webinars and perhaps even creating some websites. He is a certified Spiritual Coach for all traditions.

Retirement means having Sundays to himself and hopefully a chance to go away and do some fun things on weekends. Perhaps even do more with his genealogy interests.

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER (from the viewpoint of Indigenous People)

God said, "What have you done?
Listen; your brother's blood is
crying out to me from the ground!"
—Genesis 4.10

Great Spirit,
for the blood of our siblings of the
earth
which cries out to us from the
ground
on which we build our houses and
highways,
we ask your mercy.

For the songs of those the White
people tried to wipe out,
songs that still resonate in this land,
we give you thanks,
and ask your mercy.

For the hopes of the people whose
lives are belittled,
and who even now disappear
without our caring,
we pray for your healing,
and ask your mercy.

O Mysterious One, may the
peoples of this land be restored;
may the hosts and invaders be
reconciled in true peace;
may the songs increase, and the
dance grow thunderous.
Aho. Amen.

~Steve Garnaas-Holmes

HEE SOO KWON

It was a delight for me,
Marty Murdock, to do a
welcoming interview with
Hee Soon Kwon. I came
away blessed and cheered
again by her positive,
gracious spirit. We had
known each other
previously from working
together offering spiritual
direction at the Gathering
of the Orders across several
years. She was always more
than willing to serve.

It was reassuring to hear her
say that this very
challenging year before
retirement had gone pretty
well, in spite of the
pandemic. As she said, yes,
it was challenging, but with
the help of wonderful IT
people in First UMC of
Fremont, they just kept
moving forward. They had
re-opened the sanctuary for
in-person worship before
she retired, with bigger
numbers than they had
when they had ceased over
a year before! Of course
that also included a dozen
new members, who did
their membership classes
and their reception into
membership on Zoom!

In July she and her husband
and their older daughter
moved to Atlanta. Their
younger daughter is a
professor there at Chandler
School of Theology and

they had bought a house
nearby. However, Hee
Soon will continue to be
available to do distance
spiritual direction through
our Conference, and is
joining our RCA teams for
PRT and Parish Visitors. Her
husband had already
retired some years before
from his position as a
professor at the Methodist
Theological University in
Seoul, Korea.

Besides her work as pastor
and spiritual director, Hee
Soon is also a certified
presenter for Centering
Prayer and Welcoming
Prayer. She will seek new
opportunities in Georgia to
teach and lead both, and
she will be writing a book
about that work, in
Korean. Such a resource
does not exist
currently. She's obviously
putting her training and her
PhD to good use. One
more area of her retirement
involvement will be in
continuing her work with
NAMI, the National
Association for Mental
Illness.

It was a pleasure to have a
window on her active work
that is now completed, as
well as hearing about her
lively and focused plan for
this next chapter!

BIRTHDAYS



Photo by [Brooke Lark](#) on [Unsplash](#)

November

THOM ABRAHAMSON
DEBBIE ARJONA
BILLYE AUSTIN
DON BALDWIN
BILL BALLAGH
MARY BECK
GAYE BENSON
RACHEL BERRY
GENE BOUTILIER
LISA CARTER-NORDLANDER
KEN CELLI
DICK CORSON
PAM COY-ARMANTROUT
JIM CURRENT
KATHRYN DUNNING
ALEXIS EASTON
JANICE EMERSON
DOUG FITCH
LEO FONG
ART GAFKE

JUDSON GEARS
LARRY GEORGE
LIN GOODYEAR
SHIM HABTE
HEATHER HAMMER
NEAL HARRELL
JANICE HOUGLAND
EILEEN JOHNSON
STEVE JOHNSON
DOUGLAS JOHNSON
KATHLEEN KAPLAN
HEE-SOO KIM
SU-KYONG KIM
VERONICA KIMBLE
MO-CHI LAM
EILEEN LINDSAY
ODETTE LOCKWOOD-STEWART
LINDA LOESSBERG-ZAHL
JIM LUTHER
DIANNE LYNN

ED MARTIN
KAREN McCLINTOCK
MARTHA McCORKELL
FAYE McCOY
NORM MOWERY
MARGARET OROPEZA
BETTY PAGETT RUTH PARKER
MARK PARSONS
JIM PATTERSON
GARY PUTNAM
BETSY SCHWARZENTRAUB
DANTE SIMON
JERRY STRAKS
VERNA TAM
ROSEMARIE TIAPULA
KAY WATTERS-JULSING
STEPHEN YAL
FRANK YANG

December

LILLIAN BAKER-HOLLEMAN
TINA BALLAGH
MARILYN BASTEAR
JOYCE BRACKNEY
JOSEPH BROWNRIGG
PATRICIA BRUCE
MARGARET BRUCE
DANA CASTILLO
CHUCK CORDES
STELLA CORDES
ERIC DALE
GUARI DELGADO
SHARON DELGADO
ANNE DILENSCHNEIDER
PAUL DIRDAK
CAROLYN DOWDY
CLIFFORD DROKE
SANDRA EXELBY
DON FADO

ANGELI FITCH
BETTY GEARS
ALICE ANN GLENN
NOBUAKI HANAOKA
PAUL HARKNESS
DOREEN HART-HINSHAW
LEE HAYWARD
DONNA HOUGLAND
DANNY HUANG
NOBU IMAIZUMI
LINDA KELLY
TAECK-KYU KIM
CHRISTOPHER KLEIN
NANCY LANDAUER
PAT LEAMY
KIM LESLIE
LILIA LOPEZ-RAHMAN
WINNIE McILVENNA
LEE MORRISON

ALICE OBERG
BOB OLAH
ANTHONY OROPEZA
RONALD PARKER
GINNIE PEARSON
GAYLE PICKRELL
DIANE PINNEY
MARY PRANCE
LINDA PRENDERGAST
DON ROULSTEN
BETH STIDHAM
WANG THAO
CAROL UBALDE
TED VIRTS
LOC VO
CLARENCE WAGER
CAROL WALKER
SHARON WATSON
ERNLE YOUNG

ANNIVERSARIES

November

Thom & Debbie Abrahamson
George & Louise Carter
Oscar & Inita Escamilla
Becky Goodwin and Paul Cobert
Paul & Lana Harkness
Lizbeth & Christopher Klein
Jim Luther & Dawn Horder
Steve & Kelley Pudinski
Floyd Quenzer & Donna Hougland
Richard & Diane Taylor
Michael & Suzanne Yoshii
Ernle & Margaret Young



December

Angel & Norma Betancourt
Dave & Janet Bunje
Jim & Celinda Current
Sharon & Guari Delgado
Ray & Carolyn Dowdy
Gregory & Caryl Floyd
John & Megumi Fujimori
Lin & Nanci Goodyear
Nobu & Carol Imaizumi
Bob & Elizabeth Ann Kuyper

Frances & Frank Leibert
Linda & Bob Loessberg-Zahl
Lilia Lopez-Rahman & Mati Rahman
David & Cedar Moss
Aura-Lila & Oscar Ochoa
Jim & Nancy Patterson
Ted & Harriet Pecot
Nancy Pharis-Curie & Dennis Curie
Mack & Nancy Phillips
Monique-Cheri Pierre & Eric Dale

October 2021

**For CA-NV CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS
(Retired Clergy, Spouses, Surviving Spouses)**



ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE

RECEIVED BY:
December 1, 2021

Provided to you by:
A Grant from the Conference Claimants Endowment Board
and the Retired Clergy Association

Date: _____

Name _____

Name of Spouse (if attending) _____ Spouse is Clergy: yes _____ no _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I hereby request reimbursement in the amount of \$ _____ for expenses incurred at the 2021 Annual Conference Session for food, lodging, parking and mileage**.

****Please attach your receipts. Receipts are REQUIRED for reimbursement**

Maximum Reimbursement:

ONE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouse	(max. \$300)
ONE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy and 2 nd Clergy/Spouse	(max. \$350)
TWO DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouse	(max. \$500)
TWO DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy and 2 nd Clergy/Spouse	(max. \$600)
THREE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouse	(max. \$700)
THREE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy and 2 nd Clergy/Spouse	(max. \$850)

Hotel Expense: _____ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Parking Expense: _____ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Food/Meals Expense: _____ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Mileage: _____ (20 cents per mile)

Signed _____

After you fill out this form (**attach all receipts**) return it to

CHECKS WILL BE MAILED **AFTER** CONFERENCE.

Mail to: *Retired Clergy Association
9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141
Elk Grove, CA 95624*

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the
United Methodist Church
Retired Clergy Association
P.O. Box 980250
West Sacramento, CA 95758-0250

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Scholarship Program: Alice Ann Glenn

Mission and Justice: Betty Pagett and Marty Murdock

Class of 2022: Norma Betancourt, Eileen Lindsey, Ben Silva-Netto

Class of 2023: Alexis Easton, Becky Goodwin, Kristie Olah

Class of 2024: Barbara Hirokoshi-Firebaugh, Hubert Ivery, Peter Lau

RCA CONTACT INFO

Nancy Daley - Executive Officer

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916-539-4249 nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org <http://ca-nv-rca.org>

Haniel Garaby - Mission Research

757-354-9903 hanielrg2011@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Fling

April 19-21, 2022

>Christ The King
Citrus Heights

Annual Conference Session

June 10-13, 2022

> Sacramento

Annual Luncheon

To Be Determined

>To Be Announced