

Jin Kim's 'Pricking' Presentation

By Rev. Tim Phillips, The Multicultural Café



Rev. Jin Kim addresses commissioners

The day's keynote speaker, the Rev. Jin Kim, came to the United States when he was 7 years old. He spent his pre-high school years in Columbia, South Carolina, where there were only two identifiable groups, White and Black, and a third nebulous group to which he belonged called "Other."

During his ministry as the pastor to English-speaking Koreans in a large Korean church in Minnesota, he realized that White churches and Korean churches are similar in that they both welcome people of any ethnic group as long as those "others" adopt either white northern European culture or Korean culture.

But with this as the operating assumption, Jin questioned how he could be a pastor to all of God's people, if he required all who came to his church to check their

own culture at the door and become Korean. For Jin, this was a crisis of integrity, out of which has come his thinking about and practice of multicultural church.

His growing openness to other cultures led to the launching of The Church of All Nations (Columbia Heights, MN) in January of 2004. Jin believes that multicultural church is built on confession - as individuals, as ethnic groups, as nations. Because we all suffer from total depravity, we must be intentional in being real with one another about our failures and desire to control others; only then can we receive forgiveness and be healed. This is essential if we are to build true community vs. pharisaical community.

The Church of All Nations defines itself in an Identity Statement. It is—

1. a high risk, low anxiety church
2. an honest, transparent, and vulnerable church
3. a church committed to sound Biblical teaching, personal transformation, and sweeping social justice
4. an ecumenical, rational, pentecostal church, embracing a global and multi-epistemological future.
5. a humble, penitent Presbyterian church

Until a White American Presbyterian church is willing to truly be church for all ethnic groups, it should be honest and call itself a Scottish Presbyterian church.

Are you pricked?

The powerful sermon that Rev. Jin Kim preached at this year's General Assembly, entitled "Walking Humbly," is posted on the presbytery website, www.pbyofnewcovenant.org, on the Presbytery Meetings page.

Time of prayer leads into day's business



In groups of three, commissioners prayed for our churches and for the day's meeting.

Commissioners began the day participating in a time of scripture reading, prayer, and song, led by Nancy Diaz (San Pablo+Trinity), Pamela Ise (First African NCD), and the Rev. Jae Kim (Korean Central). Their messages and songs of praise, confession, and intercession gave voice to the day's theme: "Becoming More Multicultural and Welcoming Communities of Faith."

The Rev. Tim Phillips spoke about The Multicultural Café, a ministry aimed at helping God's people take steps towards multicultural church. "We are not talking about diversity of skin color in a congregation," said Tim. "Multicultural church actively celebrates its diversity of cultures in worship, in ministry, in leadership, in fellowship, and in mission." Increasingly, we must understand church to be a community of faith, not what happens inside a building. Being multicultural means providing the context for doing ministry, reconciling one another as members of one body.

The morning offering was given to The Multicultural Cafe for its ministry to help God's people take steps towards multicultural church through creative dialogue, Bible study, workshops, and consultation.

Presbytery meets in church facilities dedicated just one year ago!



Rev. Harry Slye

"We are so happy that you have come here for this presbytery meeting," said the Rev. Harry Slye, pastor of Grand Lakes



PC. "We want you to see what you have started with your prayers, your vision, and your financial help!"

Harry welcomed commissioners to Grand Lakes on behalf of its members, session, and staff. This new church in the Katy area was constituted by the presbytery 3½ years ago.

Progress Report from Heritage Administrative Commission



A Joyful Noise rings out at Sunday worship services at Heritage Presbyterian. Sunday school for all ages, office operations, community outreach programs, a new Vision for the church, and a slate of elders, deacons, and a pastor search committee have all been established.

Jim Bushong, member of the Heritage Administrative Commission (AC), began his report with the words: "He is risen!" and the assembly responded "He is risen indeed!" What a reminder, said Jim, at any time of the year of God's work in the world and in our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. With God's help and our support, Heritage Presbyterian is alive and healing.

After reporting on the progress of the church and thanking the many individuals and churches who have shared their pastors, musicians, and helping hands, Jim called for continued generosity of time, prayer, and financial commitments to this faith community in our presbytery.

The AC will establish a Heritage Funding Task Force that will work toward closing the relatively small 2008 financial

shortfall (\$52,000), determine what financial support will be needed in the next 2 years, and identify funding sources.

Heritage is the only PC(USA) church in its growing area of the city.

Highlights of Committee on Ministry report

The Committee on Ministry (COM) report included information about pastors' study leave, noting that attendance at New Covenant's Clergy Retreat is required for newly ordained clergy for the first 3 years of ministry. Those who attend the retreat are given an additional 3 days of study leave and an additional allowance of \$240.

Sessions will establish review

(continued in next column)

Scholarships available

Limited funds are available to provide scholarships (up to \$100) to pastors and members of congregations in the presbytery to attend leadership events. For more information or to apply for a scholarship, contact Pam Engler, Chair of Ministries Division Steering Committee at pengler@fpcbryan.org.

Additional scholarships are available through a Vision Initiative Grant. These scholarships will be awarded to volunteers in educational ministry who would like to attend the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators conference in San Antonio (January 28-31, 2009). For information, contact Blake Brinegar, Chair of the Congregational Resourcing Team at blake.brinegar@sbcglobal.net.

Examination sustained

Candidate **Whitney Wilkinson** completed her ordination exam in



Whitney Wilkinson

preparation for the ministry of Word and Sacrament by preaching a sermon before the presbytery. After questions from the floor, a motion to sustain the examination in full was approved.

Whitney will be ordained as a Mission Worker at First Presbyterian, Bryan. She is called to serve as a Mission Worker/Youth Minister with a temporary pastoral relationship with First PC, Bryan, and a formal ministry relationship with the Fitzroy PC of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

This Aggie received her MDiv from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA, in May 2008.

committees to meet with minister(s) every 12 months to discuss the congregation's expectations of the minister and the minister's expectations of the congregation. The review committee is encouraged to utilize the resource, Guidelines for Church Professional Evaluations, which may be found under Forms on the presbytery website, www.phyofnewcovenant.org.

New Minister-Members introduced to New Covenant Presbytery

Extending the right hand of fellowship to new colleagues, commissioners welcomed three pastors to New Covenant and two whose ordination examinations were sustained at the last presbytery meeting.



The Rev. Steven L. Frazier was received by the presbytery, transferring from Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery. He is serving as pastor of First PC, Lufkin. Steven received his MDiv from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond and DMin from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. This Virginian earned a BA from George Mason University, MA from College of William & Mary, and MA in Christian Education from PSCE in Richmond.



The Rev. Nora Fitch was received by the presbytery at its May 2008 meeting and was formally welcomed by the presbytery at the August meeting. Nora extolled the lovely rain and trees in Houston, having served at First Presbyterian in Odessa. She is now pastoring at First PC, Angleton. Nora received her MDiv from Austin Seminary. Her formal education also includes M.Ed from the UofH, BS in Nursing, and BA from U of Texas.



The Rev. Carol Burgeson was received as a Member-at-Large, transferring from Western Colorado Presbytery. Carol told how she was a nontraditional student when she began seminary - at age 70. "I found strength from God and from my husband!" she said. Carol attended Westminster College in PA and received her MDiv from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado.



The Rev. Noelie Day was recently installed as pastor of Oaks PC, the very place where she was baptized in 1956! Noelie is a graduate of Louisiana State University and Austin Seminary. She began her seminary work with Houston Extension - APTS.



The Rev. Caressa Murray, whose ordination examination was sustained at the last meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant, is serving Webster Presbyterian as Associate Pastor for Youth and Family. Caressa received a BS from Centenary College of Louisiana and her MDiv from Austin Seminary in May 2008.

2008 Session Record Reviews

Sat., Nov. 8, at New Hope PC, Katy (9:00 a.m.- Noon)

Sat., Nov. 15, at First PC, Pasadena (following the Stated Presbytery Meeting)

Clerks: Register with Janice Schessler
713-526-2585, ext. 209; jschessler@pbyofnewcovenant.org

New Candidate enrolled in ordination process



Elder Julie McLemore on behalf of the Committee on Preparation (CPM) presented **Joann Lee** to be enrolled as a candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Joann has been part of the Pathways NCD, although a member of Pines PC and under care of their session. Pathways and Pines have partnered in her nurture and support. Joann spoke joyfully about her life in faith, how her immigrant parents encouraged her, and the importance of the church throughout her personal faith journey.

Joann, who has already served our church on the national level, will be an intern in the Pastoral Residency Program at Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago. In her charge to Joann, Julie McLemore recognized Joann's proven patience, perseverance, and creativity. She charged Joann to be bold with her dreams, to take time, and to remember always that she is a child of God. Presbytery voted to approve enrolling Joann Lee as candidate.

Affirming his skill and dedication



C. Dale Hendrix, Business Administrator at Grace PC, Houston, was recognized as a Certified Fellow in Presbyterian Church Business Administration. He achieved this

proficiency by completing a course of study that included a thesis on design and implementation of a new financial program.



Does your church have a disaster preparedness plan?

Dave Johnson, member of Clear Lake PC and chair of presbytery's personnel committee, asked churches to help with a Disaster Plan that is being developed for New Covenant. The Center Operations committee has developed a new communications system that will help churches know how to reach presbytery personnel and how presbytery personnel can reach congregations in the case of a disaster.

Churches are asked to complete a form giving two names/numbers to contact, if a catastrophic event occurs in the presbytery, that can provide information about the status of a church and its members. The form is posted on the presbytery's website, (www.pbyofnewcovenant.org) on the Forms page.

Dave also reported that the Presbytery Center now has a complete offsite backup of its computer system and has completed a written and video record of the Center's inventory. The committee is reviewing disaster plans of churches and is working with our synod and other denominations to learn what they are doing in preparation for a disaster.

Honorably Retired!



Rev. Bryan Kile and his wife Linda

The Rev. Bryan Kile has retired after serving Gulf Prairie Presbyterian in Jones Creek for 11 years, effective June 30, 2008. Thirty-six years ago, he was called to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament from a career in the military and aerospace programs. In 1975 Bryan was ordained into Christian ministry with a call to a church in Ohio. After 8 years there, he served churches in Arizona and Australia.

Slides for the looping PowerPoint presentations at presbytery meetings should be sent to Susan Wittjen or Janice Schessler at swittjen@alumni.rice.edu or jschessler@pbyofnewcovenant.org.

CODA

Elders and minister commissioners to the presbytery meeting received the following announcements by presbytery agents on behalf of presbytery and conducted the following additional business at the August 23, 2008 meeting:

- Biyaya Community Church was chartered May 18, 2008 during a Service of Worship.
- Thien An Presbyterian Church was chartered May 25, 2008, during a Service of Worship.
- General Council has approved separating the Vision Initiative Funds so there are 2 custodians: Texas Presbyterian Foundation and the Presbyterian Foundation.
- The dates for 2009 Presbytery meetings are: Feb. 7, May 9, Aug. 22, and Nov. 14.
- Details of the current financial report are available on the presbytery's website - Presbytery Meeting Materials.
- Approved the minutes of Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on May 10, 2008, and the Special Called Meeting of the Presbytery on June 29, 2008.
- Approved enrolling Amy Klinkovsky (First, Bryan), Wendy Bleike (First, Houston), Charles Kelly (Central, Houston), and David Augustus (First, Houston) as inquirers.
- Approved the names of 13 individuals who have agreed to serve on presbytery committees.
- Elected Elders David Bauer, Pat Hosford, and the Rev. Fred Thrower to the Nominating Committee.
- Approved the 2009 Minimum Terms of Call for full-time positions which show an increase of 3% in compensation over 2008, as presented by the Committee on Ministry.
- The Rev. Twyla Susan Werstein was granted Honorably Retired status, effective January 1, 2008.
- The Rev. Emilee Dawn Whitehurst was received into the presbytery as Member-at-Large, transferring from Mission Presbytery.
- The Rev. Michael Umbenhaur was received into the presbytery, transferring from Sacramento Presbytery. He has been called to serve as pastor of First PC, Orange.

The Postlude is published after each stated meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant by the presbytery's Communications Committee.

Editor: Helen Wolf

Reporter: Rev. Tim Phillips (The Multicultural Café)

Photos by Jay Swoboda, Grand Lakes PC, Katy

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