

# THE RACIAL EQUITY TORCH

Volume 28, Issue 2, Winter 2019



GROW | TRANSFORM | EMPOWER | LEAD | DEVELOP




**A message from the director,**

**Rhashell D. Hunter**

**Celebrating Women of Color Who Are Boundary Breakers in the PC(USA)**

Many of us have been blessed to know courageous and faithful women in the church. Among them was Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, the first African- American woman ordained in the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Cannon has joined the great cloud of witnesses, though her witness and legacy live on. Rev. Dr. Brian Blount, president of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, said that Katie was a “boundary breaker.”

This edition of *The Racial Equity Torch* celebrates women of color who are boundary breakers in the PC(USA). Women of color are such an important part of the landscape and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Sadly, their voices and experiences have been undervalued in the very church in which they faithfully serve. One of Dr. Cannon’s objectives, as she put it, was “to make visible our curious invisibility.”

In Racial Equity & Women’s Intercultural Ministries, we support and partner with women of color through leadership development opportunities, recruitment and networking, cultural humility training in the Church, and women’s listening visits. Institutional racism, sexism and gender identity discrimination are obstacles for women of color ministers, elders and leaders in the PC(USA). Our goal is to create an environment and opportunities where women of color thrive and can serve fully in ministry.

To provide scholarships for women of color to attend leadership development events, and to honor a boundary breaker, please donate in honor of Katie Geneva Cannon, so that her name and legacy will continue. Those wishing to donate towards the fund should donate online by entering the link below in your browser:

[pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/E049991](http://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/E049991)

Or make your check payable to the “Presbyterian Mission Agency” and write on the memo line: Women’s Ministries, ECO #E049991 and mail to:

Presbyterian Church USA, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

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## Save the Date

### March 3

#### **Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

Though Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday is March 3, your congregation or women's groups may use the resource on any day you choose. The 2019 resource written by Dr. Jana Childers of San Francisco Theological Seminary celebrates women who exhibit the grace of God that knows no boundaries. Order the resource through the Presbyterian Store, item 27501-19-001, or download from [www.pcusa.org/women](http://www.pcusa.org/women). Also, available in the November/December issue of Horizons magazine.

### March 11-22

#### **63rd Session, UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, New York**

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Celebrate with Presbyterian Women, Inc. as it recently became a non-governmental organization.

### March 20 – 23

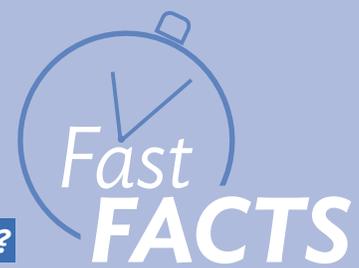
#### **White Privilege Conference, Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

The White Privilege Conference provides a challenging, collaborative and comprehensive experience. The conference strives to empower and equip individuals to work for equity and justice through self and social transformations.

### April 5 – 9

#### **Ecumenical Advocacy Days, Washington, D.C.**

In 2019, conference goers will gather at a time in which people of faith and conscience are again called to stand in the prophetic stream of those who have come before us, those who were not afraid to stir up #GoodTrouble for the sake of God's kingdom.



#### **Did You Know?**

- ❖ Racial Equity & Women's Ministries (RE&WM) of the Presbyterian Mission Agency has a new name. The ministry area is now Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries (RE&WIM).
- ❖ The change in language was approved by the 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which agreed to no longer use the term "Racial Equity people." Rather, the Assembly adopted the terms "people of color," "communities of color," "congregations of color" "leaders of color" as more appropriate.
- ❖ Presbyterians view immigrants more favorably than they did in 2011 and are more involved in immigrant ministries than they were in the past. These are the key findings of the May 2017 Presbyterian Panel survey on immigration, refugees, and immigrant ministries, whose results have recently been released.
- ❖ There are more clergywomen in the church than ever before. One-third of active (non-retired) Presbyterian teaching elders (39%) are women. Only 1% of all pastors were women in 1973.

**On the front cover of each *Racial Equity Torch*, you will see our mantra: *Grow, Transform, Empower, Lead, and Develop*.**

The core ministry and the purpose of our work in the Intercultural Ministries and Support for Congregations of Color office is:

- **Racial Justice and Empowerment**
- **Leadership Development**, with a focus on developing leaders of color, women and young adults
- **Church Growth**, with a focus on new worshiping communities
- **Transformation** of existing congregations

Thus, our mantra is: *Grow, Transform, Empower, Lead and Develop*. Intercultural Ministries and Support for Congregations of Color offices *equip, connect, and inspire* Communities of color and new immigrant worshiping communities and develop and empower leaders of color and new immigrant leaders. The ministry area does this through training, coaching, resource development, leadership development institutes, networking, and providing grants to congregations, schools and colleges for schools of color, and Racial Equity and immigrant members and leaders. In Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural 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.

# PC(USA) RACIAL EQUITY & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES HAS A NEW NAME

Ministry name changed  
through action of General Assembly 223

by Rhashell Hunter and Gail Strange

Racial Equity & Women's Ministries (RE&WM) of the Presbyterian Mission Agency has a new name. The ministry area is now Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries (RE&WIM).

The change in language was approved by the 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which agreed to no longer use the term "Racial Equity people." Rather, the Assembly adopted the terms "people of color," "communities of color," "congregations of color" and "leaders of color" as more appropriate.

The Assembly also approved the name change of one of the advocacy committees. The Advocacy Committee for Racial Equity Concerns (ACREC) will now be referred to as the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC).

The rationale presented in support of the General Assembly action noted, "Being able to self-name and self-identify is important and empowering for people of color. And, it is always appropriate to ask individuals how they prefer to identify. Also, as language is not static but is ever evolving, terminology must be revisited regularly, and appropriate naming determined by people of color themselves."

The Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC) stated, "Unlike racial equality, racial equity results when you cannot predict advantage

or disadvantage by race. Rather, the route to achieving equity will not be accomplished through treating everyone equally. It will be achieved by treating everyone equitably, or justly according to their circumstances, which we believe is the work of the committee advocating for people of color."

The following guide reflects name changes in ministry areas, along with acronyms commonly used by Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

- ACWC — Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns
- ACSWP — Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy
- CCC — Conference for Coaches of Color (formerly the RE&NI Coaches' Conference)
- CSC — Conference for Seminarians of Color (formerly the Racial Equity & New Immigrant Seminarians' Conference)
- HPIECC — Historically Presbyterian Institutions Equipping Communities of Color (formerly Historically Presbyterian Racial Equity Institutions)
- IM&SCC — Intercultural Ministries & Support for Congregations of Color (formerly Racial Equity & New Immigrant Intercultural Ministries)
- LDRLC — Leadership Development & Recruitment for Leaders of Color (formerly Racial Equity Leadership Development & Recruitment)
- NACC — Native American Consulting Committee
- NAPC — National Asian Presbyterian Council
- NBPC — National Black Presbyterian Caucus
- NCKPC — National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Churches
- NH/LPC — National Hispanic/Latinx Presbyterian Caucus
- NMEPC — National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus
- NWC — New Worshiping Communities
- NWCC — New Worshiping Communities of Color
- PIN — Presbyterian Intercultural Network
- PIYAN — Presbyterian Intercultural Young Adult Network
- PW — Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc.
- REAC — Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (formerly the Advocacy Committee for Racial Equity Concerns)
- RET — *Racial Equity Torch* (formerly the *Racial Ethnic Torch*)
- SCECC — Schools and Colleges Equipping Communities of Color (formerly Racial Equity Schools & Colleges)
- YWoC — Young Women of Color
- WoCC — Women of Color Consultation
- WoF — Women of Faith
- WLD&YWM — Women's Leadership Development & Young Women's Ministries

# CO-MODERATORS SEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EVOLVING AND MOVING FORWARD

Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and Cindy Kohlmann  
reflect on first six months

by Rick Jones | Office of the General Assembly

Ask the Co-Moderators of the 223rd General Assembly what they think of their first six months in office and they will tell you a lot has changed since they were elected in St. Louis last summer. Their election came seven months after they decided, in a telephone call, to stand together as Co-Moderators.

“When I decided to run, I wanted to stand with someone who is Hispanic and there was a deep conviction inside of me to stand with someone from Puerto Rico,” said the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann. “I felt that if God called me to this service, God would provide the person to serve with me.”

“As we began talking, and I heard Cindy’s vision, love for the church and the passion in her voice, I decided to stand with her,” said Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri. “We both felt called to do this together and left it to the church to decide.”

Fast forward to the fall of 2018 and the start of the Moderators’ Conference in Louisville and the two were taking their few free moments to compare calendars and fill the many requests for their presence.

“I can’t imagine what it was like for a Moderator/vice moderator pair,” said Cintrón-Olivieri. “All of the visits we are making and the work we are involved in is hard work. Having Co-Moderators is a model of self-care and a model of service to

the church that is doable.”

“As we try to conduct the work of the church, we are trying to use the Co-Moderator model to reflect shared service,” said Kohlmann. “I think the Spirit is moving and what we do now will look different down the road and that’s good.”

Asked about the issues that are tugging at their hearts now, both agreed immigration is at the top of their list.

“I had the blessing of going to Mission Presbytery and seeing the work local congregations and Mission are doing at the border, receiving those walking for weeks that are tired, starving and looking for something they need,” said Cintrón-Olivieri. “What churches are doing at the border is beautiful, wonderful, daunting and needed.”

Kohlmann says her call to stand for Co-Moderator grew out of the immigration crisis.

“How we treat the widow, orphan, stranger in our midst, is very central to my understanding of what it means to be a Christian,” she said. “The increased expression of intolerance and hate with each other has been in communities and ourselves a long time now and is being expressed in fatal and destructive ways. We are called to follow a God that is loving, and if we as a church are not able to express, show, speak and act in tangible ways to the love we have received so

abundantly, then we are failing the God that loves us.”

As Christian denominations, including the PC(USA), see congregations getting smaller, the Co-Moderators are still hopeful about what the future holds.

“The Bible talks about pruning and that seeds must fall to the ground and die,” said Kohlmann. “The decline in number is painful, but part of God’s pruning is because we have been complacent.”

Kohlmann says decline is part of the story of rediscovering the joy and the need.

“I see people and churches committing themselves to faithful discipleship. It may be five people feeding kids in school who can’t afford a lunch program,” she said. “It could be 1,000 people doing mission work locally, nationally and internationally. The stories, hope and possibilities are as endless as our God.”

Cintrón-Olivieri says the church is transforming and will look different, and she urges Presbyterians to trust that the Holy Spirit is in control.

“Membership decline has slowed. I think we are going in the right direction,” she said. “Our presbytery lost 11 churches in the last seven years. We went through a grieving and revisioning process. We came with a new vision, reflecting who we are now and not who we were 10 years ago.”

A close-up portrait of Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, an elderly African American woman with short, curly grey hair, wearing glasses and a bright yellow jacket over a red top with a floral pattern. She is looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression.

## *Remembering a pioneer and legend*

Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, 1950 – 2018

**T**he Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, a renowned womanist theologian and social ethicist who became the first African-American woman to be ordained in the former United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), died Aug. 8. Cannon was ordained in 1974. In 1983, she became the first African-American to earn a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

At the time of her death, Cannon, 68, was the Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. She taught, wrote and lectured on Christian ethics and womanist theology and was known for always giving freely of her intellect to educate and inspire others.

Cannon was recognized for her outstanding lifetime contributions to both the church and society at the 223rd General Assembly (2018) in St. Louis, where she received the Award for Excellence in Theological Education. The award, which is conferred biennially by the Committee on Theological Education and the Theological Education Fund of the Presbyterian Foundation, is the highest honor in the PC(USA) for those who teach, lead and support theological education.

We remember one of God's trailblazers for justice and shared the impact her life had on those who seek to live by the words of the prophet Micah as she did: to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

The powerful witness to her work for the Lord is that she told her story without compromise as to how the Lord God, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, gave her enlightenment and life. She was a powerful expression of a rural upbringing that was not compromised by

scholarly acclaim or ivory tower lectures. Her truth was made plain by her commitment to following Jesus' words, "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). — *Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

Katie Cannon had a heart of gold and mentored many women of color, myself included. She taught us to be radically inclusive and touched many lives. It is her shoulders that we stand on today; she is now among those great cloud of witnesses. — *Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency*

It was easy to talk to Katie and to become her friend. Yet she also had a way of challenging you to rise to the next level. I will never forget one of her objectives about our quest on behalf of those who are African-American, female and clergy — "to make visible our curious invisibility." — *Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter, director of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries*

I admired her from afar, so it startled me when

FROM THE CO-MODERATORS OF THE 223RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann**

Though we had not met her personally, we have known her through the people she taught and mentored, and through her impact to the body of Christ. A trailblazer, educator and faithful leader, her example and life journey compel us to serve and to act. Rev. Dr. Cannon was presented the Award for Excellence in Theological Education at the 223rd General Assembly (2018). In a video presented during the award breakfast, she shared some words about her call: "Teaching is my ministry. I love to teach. To empower. To equip. To set people free ... to live into the graces and gifts they've been given." May we honor her words and life as we mentor and disciple new generations in building the kin-dom of God. *Que descanse en paz, Dra. Cannon.*

she called me by name. "Sister CeCe," she said, "You are one dynamic teacher." The Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, the quintessential educator, called me a teacher. I have been humbled ever since that encounter in 2010. Our many encounters since have been because she summoned me to do the work my soul must have. No matter the task given, my soul always said, "Yes." — *Rev. Cecelia "C.C." Armstrong, Associate Pastor, St. James Presbyterian Church Charleston, S.C.*

While many within the PC(USA), the wider ecumenical community, and the academy of scholars have all been impacted by the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, African American Presbyterian clergywomen owe a particular debt to Rev. Dr. Sister Katie. As the first among us to be ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, she opened the door that we have walked through. As one of the mothers of womanist theology, she taught us the relevance of a liberating God for black women and how our experiences with God can liberate the Church and communities in which we live and serve. Katie was our beloved elder sister, role model, compass, north star, teacher, pastor, sisterfriend, trailblazer, boundary breaker, demon slayer. She challenged us to "do the work our souls must have" and in the words of Howard Thurman to "live a life that God would not regret having created us." I would not be who I am as a minister within the PC(USA) and ecumenical community had it not been for Katie Geneva Cannon. — *Rev. Robina Marie Winbush, Associate Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Director of Ecumenical Relations*

The Rev. Dr. Katie G. Cannon made a stop in East Harlem in the 1960s. She was beloved and respected by my family and others who were members of the United Presbyterian Church of the Ascension. I watched from afar as Katie ascended to the heights as a theologian and in particular a womanist theologian. As busy as she was she came back to East Harlem to officiate my father's funeral in 1983. Rest well, Katie, and we will keep calling your name and you will live on in our hearts and minds. — *Betty Winston Baye*

### **HONORING CANNON'S LEGACY**

A scholarship fund honoring the Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon has been established for women of color to attend leadership development events. Those wishing to donate to the scholarship fund can contribute online at: [presbyterianmission.org/donate/e049991-womens-ministries](https://presbyterianmission.org/donate/e049991-womens-ministries)

A portrait of Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, an African American woman with short, curly grey hair, wearing glasses and a patterned shawl. She is looking slightly to the left with a thoughtful expression.

*Teaching is my ministry. I love to teach. To empower. To equip. To set people free . . . to live into the graces and gifts they've been given."*

*Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon*

## *Remembering a pioneer and legend*

Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, 1950-2018

The Presbyterian Mission Agency has created a scholarship fund to honor the name and legacy of the late Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, a pioneer and legend in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Women's Ministry Fund (E049991) supports Presbyterian women of color, clergywomen, college women and other women with opportunities for leadership and spiritual development as well as mission opportunities in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Gifts in memory of Dr. Cannon can be made online or by mail. Those wishing to donate toward the scholarship can contribute online at : [presbyterianmission.org/donate/e049991-womens-ministries](https://presbyterianmission.org/donate/e049991-womens-ministries). To send a check please make it payable to "The Presbyterian Mission Agency" and write "in memory of Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon – E049991" on the memo line.

**Please mail your gift to:**  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MODERATOR STATES PLAN FOR MOVING FORWARD

## Dynamic moderator team to lead PW for next three years

by Gail Strange | Presbyterian News Service

“Don’t believe me just watch,” a line from Mark Ronson’s upbeat dance tune, “Uptown Funk,” filled the banquet hall at the 2018 Gathering of Presbyterian Women as the group of nearly 2,000 celebrated the many significant accomplishments of Presbyterian Women Inc. (PW) over the past 30 years. And if you couldn’t believe all the accomplishments of PW, all you had to do was watch the video. Attendees were entertained and educated by the video that chronicled a timeline of historic events of the past three decades of PW.

And, to kick off the start of its fourth decade this summer, PW made history again by installing its first Korean moderator, Jenny Jyungin Lee, along with Jo Ann Burrell as vice moderator for mission relationships and Joy Durrant as vice moderator for justice and peace issues. The three women will serve in their positions for the next three years.

Lee is the founder and executive director of Women Inc., a spiritual center for women’s education and empowerment in New Brunswick, N.J. She is a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Trenton, where she serves as a ruling elder and certified minister who is ready to be called.

“I’ve been involved with PW about 10 years; however, as incoming moderator, there is a lot to learn,” Lee said. “Jo Ann, Joy and I want to move the organization forward.”

Lee said she likes to work in teams. “As a leader my job is to support others,” she said. “My job is



Presbyterian Women, Inc. installed their first Korean moderator, Jenny Jyungin Lee (center), along with Jo Ann Burrell (left) as vice moderator for mission relationships and Joy Durrant (right) as vice moderator for justice and peace issues. The three women will serve in their positions for the next three years.

to support the co-moderators and to help them do their jobs well, to help them shine.” She said she, along with the vice moderators and the other leadership of PW, will work together to map a plan to move the organization forward.

Lee noted that PW has been described as the most adaptable organization in the denomination. She credits the group with being revolutionary in bringing to the forefront such issues as racism, sex trafficking and other critical matters facing communities around the world. In 2005 PW became a member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and in July 2018 was granted accreditation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Asked what’s the one thing she would like to see accomplished during her term as moderator, Lee said, “The word ‘unity’ keeps coming up and to my mind. The country is so divided, only unity and reconciliation with our past and with our neighbors will help. We must realize that we are one in Christ and we need to be united in Christ, united in the word, to move the word forward to make this world better and to move the gospel forward.”

Lee believes PW can also change the look of the denomination. “PW has the potential and the ability to be more inclusive and to help the church be more inclusive,” she said. “The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is made up of more than 60 percent women and that’s us. We are Presbyterian Women.”

What does the Lord require of you? Presbyterians are answering that prophetic question, working for justice and seeking to help their neighbors in a variety of ways.

# TALKING JUSTICE WITH **DIANE MOFFETT**

Diane Moffett is a busy woman. Six months into her role as the Presbyterian Mission Agency's president and executive director, she had already been to countless meetings and other events, sharing her vision for what she calls a Matthew 25 church — one that gives food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, care to the sick, companionship to the lonely, and welcome to the stranger.

Moffett, though, doesn't just share a vision for a Spirit-filled denomination that serves society's

least. Moffett embodies that Spirit with passion and warmth.

The mother, wife, pastor, activist, community builder — the list goes on, including author and former mayoral candidate — talks more freely about the Holy Spirit than is typical for most Presbyterians. (“Do you feel that? I call it Holy Spirit goose bumps,” she said recently at a Presbyterian Hunger Program meeting.)

She is also a woman who would make the apostle Paul smile, as she prays and prays often. Meetings

don't start without words of praise, and meetings don't end without words of thanks.

Moffett has always been busy. But as the saying goes, if you want to get something done, ask someone who is busy.

*Presbyterians Today* editor Donna Frischknecht Jackson caught up with Moffett to talk justice and how we can do our part in making the world a better place — and get those Holy Spirit goose bumps, too.

**You have served as a pastor in East Orange, New Jersey; Oakland, California; and, most recently, Greensboro, North Carolina. In all these communities, you have made a difference helping others. I'm curious, what's your earliest memory of helping someone?**

My mom would tell you I was the one always leading the way and helping others who were having a hard time, even as a kindergartner. Though I was in kindergarten myself, if my classmates were crying because it was their first day, I would be there to help.

**I am sure that was comforting to the other children and a help to the teacher. Did it inspire the other kids to help as well?**

I had a friend, Gary, and we decided early on that helping would be “our thing.” We would take care of all those at our table.

**What was your first official leadership role?**

Class president in fifth grade.

**Growing up, who was your role model when it came to justice work?**

I would say what influenced me was not so much a person, but rather the stories I heard growing up that were seeded in me.

**Can you give me an example?**

My mom bought an LP record, a 33, I remember, of Dr. King's sermons and speeches. That record would be playing in the background as we got ready for school. That's what I mean by the stories that seeded me.

Another story was the one my grandmother told about how my grandfather would insist on voting, even though being a man of color, going out to vote was a dangerous thing to do. Still, he did it. He took the risk.

*(Editor's note: The 15th Amendment to the Constitution granted African-American men the right to vote. Although it was ratified in 1870, it wasn't until the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that African-American voter turnout increased significantly.)*

**Why did he take such a risk?**

He would answer, “What kind of life would my children have if I didn't vote?”

**Since we're on the topic of voting, what made you become a mayoral candidate in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 2017?**

It wasn't on my bucket list, but I was active in the community and so I was asked to consider running. At first I thought, “Really, me?” Then I thought, “Why not?”



MARK THOMSON

**Did you have any political role models that influenced you or guided you?**

I remember in the 1970s, Rev. Frank Pinkard, a Presbyterian pastor at the time, who later became a Baptist — why I call him a “Bapterian” — running for mayor in Oakland, California. He struggled with his decision and shared his struggles with his congregation, but he wanted to be part of working on the issues then that still plague us today. I still remember the bright orange campaign button he wore that said, “The Rev.”

**Did you struggle with the idea of running for public office?**

I didn’t struggle with the idea of a pastor running for political office. However, I did struggle with the idea of running for office itself — putting myself out there.

**What changed your mind?**

I thought, “You have to put feet to faith and legs to love. You have to become that love with skin on it.”

**Obviously, you didn’t win the mayoral race — lucky for the PC(USA). I heard, though, that you had a strong showing for a newcomer.**

I did. I got asked a lot how I got all those votes for a newcomer.

**How did you?**

By just being the voice of the one not heard, not represented. There’s a place for everyone at the table.

**What advice would you give Presbyterians who cringe when they hear the word “justice,” thinking they are in for a political sermon?**

Go back to the words of Jesus. He preached a lot about the kingdom. And then wake up to the opportunities around you, no matter where you are. We are called to empty ourselves; carry the cross.

**How can we get better at “carrying the cross”?**

Presbyterians are good doing “soft” ministries — serving food, providing clothes. But what about looking at the systemic causes? Asking the hard questions? Why are people in poverty? Why is there still racism? Ask. Pray. Then allow God to lead you to tangible actions.

**It’s that emptying ourselves thing, isn’t it? Can you share what it is that you pray for?**

I want to know Jesus. Both the fellowship of his suffering and the power of his resurrection. I want to see what God sees. That is the greatest prayer to pray.

**Thank you for your time, Diane.**

Wait, before you go, let’s pray.

# Pillars of the Church



*"...and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matt. 22:35-40 NRSV).*

Jesus taught us to love God and to love our neighbor. These are the pillars of our faith. Living by the great commandment compels us to make a difference in people's lives.

One way you may choose is to become a Pillar of the Church with your monthly sustaining gift to Presbyterian Mission.

To join Pillars of the Church to engage in God's mission for the transformation of the world, go to **[presbyterianmission.org/pillars](http://presbyterianmission.org/pillars)**. You may choose any ministry area.

We are grateful for your support and will recognize you with a Pillar of the Church certificate.

**Join us with your commitment today.**

Contact: **Joan Gray, Mission Specialist**  
**Mission Engagement & Support**  
**800-728-7228, ext. 5041**  
**[joan.gray@pcusa.org](mailto:joan.gray@pcusa.org)**



Presbyterian Mission  
**Mission Engagement & Support**

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

# DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES? BECOME A PILLAR OF THE CHURCH

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This list is current as of September 2018

# NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN BREAKING BARRIERS WITHIN THE PC(USA)

by Gail Strange | Presbyterian News Service

With Native American women installed in leadership positions in such places as the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is becoming a more diverse denomination — but there's still work to be done, said the Rev. Danelle Crawford McKinney, a Presbyterian Women board member.

McKinney, whose great-grandfather was one of the first Native American Presbyterian pastors in Dakota Presbytery, is a student rights specialist at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, and an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Ovate tribe.

“We don't need to take the young people from the reservation, but take people to the reservation,” she said.

She encourages church leaders to visit Native congregations and reservations “so that the youth can see people in these leadership capacities.” The church should be more intentional, she said, about reaching out to younger women “to inspire and help them to know they can do anything they want to do.”

McKinney noted there are fewer than 10 Native American women serving as clergy. About half of those are leading Native congregations; none is leading a non-Native congregation.

“It's not just about targeting one woman for leadership,” she said. “We have to embrace the entire family. That is a key component to strengthening communities and congregations. When families are strong, we all are better.”

McKinney said she believes that



Native American women participate in a sharing circle at the pre-gathering event of the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, sponsored by Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries (photo by Jieun Han)

Native American culture impacts the advancement of women in the church.

Empowering younger Native Americans will enable them to take the lead in raising awareness and helping people better understand the social issues directly impacting this group, she said.

“These young women are getting out there and calling attention to the number of Native American women who are missing or murdered, or they are victims of domestic violence or substance abuse,” she said. “These are statistics you don't hear about. The young women taking on these issues are becoming and have become leaders without realizing it.”

Her own son and daughter are teaching her on matters of racism and colonization, she said.

“My son and daughter don't allow me to use the word ‘Indian’ at home,

she said. “My children prefer to be referred to as ‘indigenous’ or ‘Native American.’”

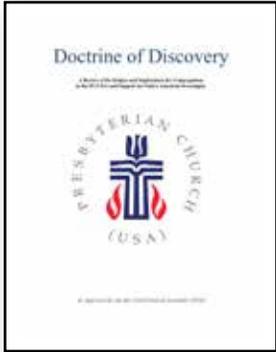
Madison McKinney, Danelle's daughter, is a student at Haskell Indian Nations University. She said she is offended when the term “Indian” is used to describe her people.

“‘Indian’ comes with stigmas and that's not who we are,” she said. “‘Native American’ or ‘indigenous’ sheds more light on our culture. As a young spiritual person, I think it is necessary for people to recognize this for the church to move forward and connect with Native people.”

Christians will do well to get out of their comfort zones to catch the Spirit at work in places they might not expect, Danelle said.

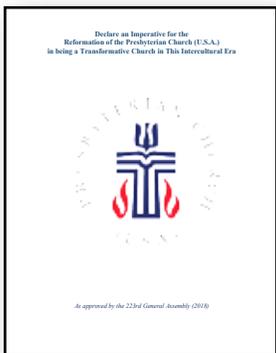
“Presbyterians need to see that Christ is everywhere and not just in traditional spaces,” she said.

## FEATURED RESOURCES



### **Doctrine of Discovery**

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) called the church to confess its complicity and repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. The action also called for a review of the history of the doctrine and the writing of a report on the doctrine. Doctrine of Discovery report was approved by the 223rd GA (2018).



### **Intercultural Initiative**

Here you can find the Intercultural Initiative approved by the 223rd General Assembly (2018): "Declare an Imperative for the Reformation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in being a Transformative Church in This Intercultural Era."

## Who We are

### **Intercultural Ministries and Support for Congregations of Color**

- African Intercultural Ministries
- African American Intercultural Congregational Support
- Asian Intercultural Congregational Support
- Hispanic/Latino-a Intercultural Congregational Support
- Korean Intercultural Congregational Support
- Middle Eastern Intercultural Ministries
- Native American Intercultural Congregational Support

### **Leadership Development & Recruitment for Leaders of Color**

- Mission Program Grants
- Racial Equity Leadership Development & Recruitment
- Schools and Colleges Equipping communities of Color

### **Women's Leadership Development and Justice Ministries**

- Gender and Racial Justice
- Racial and Intercultural Justice (joint office with CPJ)
- Women's Leadership Development & Young Women's Ministries

### **In covenant relationship with Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc.**

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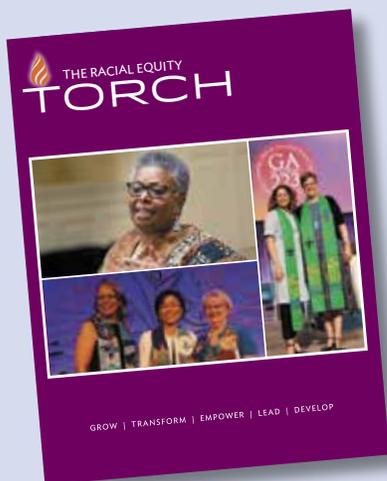
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