



EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION  
—OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA—  
TRANSLATING OUR UNITY TO THE WORLD

# Evergreen Notes

## Resilience & Engagement



By Rev. Doug Avilesbernal

**He said therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.” - Luke 13:18-19 NRSV**

What does it mean to be a Native?

I am sure you can search that on your own and I encourage you to do so.

This question has been occupying my mind coming up to our Native Heritage month. Obviously, I am not qualified to answer that

question but here is someone who is, "Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect." - *Chief Seattle, Duwamish*

There is a clear thread of connection everywhere I read about being Native. Makes sense, the word is about being rooted in a specific place. But this month we are encouraged to think about this sense of belonging in the context of those on whose stolen land we live. This is where Chief Seattle’s description above gains its power, it is a profound awareness of our belonging TO something greater than ourselves, not just being proud of one’s place of birth. That difference can change worlds if we live into it.

That brings me to the passage in the beginning. This story gets its power through a native lens. Too often we get the diluted, foreigner version, if your faith were as small as a tiny grain of mustard you could...

But it takes a native to be hit fully with the power of Jesus’ words. What was mustard then? Why would anyone intentionally plant a weed most people want to be rid of? Worse, let it grow enough so even birds could live in it! Who would give up their land to weeds?

Maybe something can be a weed and life giving at the same time. Maybe engaging with a weed can help us live together for mutual benefit. Maybe it is about resilience. Few things are as difficult to eradicate as this weed. Can what Jesus is bringing about be as resilient as that?

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### Pray for Churches seeking Pastoral Leadership

**Fairview Community Church,** Costa Mesa, CA

**Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Church,** Wenatchee, WA

**Filipino-American Christian Fellowship,** Lynnwood, WA

**Good Shepherd Baptist Church,** Lynnwood, WA

**Community Church of Issaquah,** Issaquah, WA

**MLK Jr. Memorial Baptist,** Renton, WA

**The United Church of Moscow,** Moscow, ID

## Responding to the Times



By Rev. Sam Kim

Greetings in Christ!

I was so thankful for everyone who participated in our Annual Meeting in Denver. I was reminded again of how wonderfully diverse our community is and how

we are blessed with many gifts in our Evergreen family. As we get ready for the mad scramble to Thanksgiving and find ourselves running in to Advent, I hope I can get your attention for a moment to invite you and your church leaders to consider joining us for our Leadership Retreat in February.

This year's Leadership Retreat is continuing the thoughtful work of our Keynote speakers at our Annual Meeting. This year's Retreat theme is "Responding to the Times." By listening to what God is doing in our churches, we will use ideas from human-centered design and agile leadership to think about how we can best respond to God in our current times. I believe all of our churches need to have these self-examinations because we are truly in a pivotal time of change in our country and our churches. Our understanding of how the church works in our world needs to respond to what God is calling us to today. We will seek ways to identify what changes need to be made and what things need to be held on to. We will also hope to find creative responses to what we discover.

The retreat will be at Camp Burton located in beautiful Vashon Island. Clergy will be invited to come from Feb. 9-11 and lay leaders will be invited to come from the afternoon of Friday Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> to mid-day of Saturday, Feb. 11. Coming to join us in person will be the best way to participate in our workshops, but for those who can't come to Camp Burton we will have a special online version of this weekend on

Saturday, Feb. 4 from 9am -2pm via Zoom conference. We will be sending out registrations soon through the office. Please consider bringing your pastor and a team of lay leaders that you would consider important in shaping the vision and direction of your church/ministry.

Let's begin to pray even now that this time together would be fruitful and meaningful.

Blessings,

Sam.

P.S. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [sam@ea-abc.org](mailto:sam@ea-abc.org).

## Evergreen Ministry Listening Survey

We are still conducting the Evergreen Ministry Listening Survey which Pastor Sam mentioned in his September letter. We still need your help! Follow the link below to that brief survey. This will greatly help us as we strive to empower your churches to pursue the ministries they are called to by God, and provide you with the support you need to do so.

Rev. Sam Kim has also recorded a brief video of introduction to the survey that you can find on

YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/Jv3-UONVKKs>

**Survey Link:** <https://forms.office.com/r/YuHUp55ver>

*Thanks for helping us as we seek to serve you better!*

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May we explore our world by exploring the unmeasurably rich heritage we ignore yet is available to us through Native culture. May their profound and complex sense of belonging as a responsibility to something greater than the self help us deal with our ego. May we explore the heritage of children of God we did our best to be rid of yet couldn't. May we explore why it is that instead of wanting revenge their resilience and sense of belonging has led them to be a space where "birds of the air" can make their nests.

# Media Corner—Social Media Series, Part 7: TikTok

By Min. Shavon Walker

This month, in our Social Media Series, we're going to talk about TikTok, also known as Douyin. It was created in China in 2016, but there isn't a lot of information on who its



creators are. In the beginning, TikTok was a short form video hosting service, with videos up to 15 seconds long. Now, videos can be as long as 10 minutes. It was originally designed to be a phone application; as a result, when it was released in markets outside of China in 2017, it was made available for Android and iOS users. Later, it was made available for computer browsers such as Chrome and Firefox. When TikTok merged with another Chinese social media service called musical.ly, it was released worldwide.

As mentioned before, TikTok's main function is short form video. It allows for direct messaging among users, but it doesn't have any of the posting functions that Facebook, Discord and others do. That said, users can not only post videos with background music, some images and text, but they can also "Go Live", which allows them to stream live video. This is similar to many of the other social media sites we've talked about previously.

TikTok also has a "duet" feature, which lets users interact side by side with a different video. The "react" feature does something similar; the person reacting to video content is in a small window, while the video they're reacting to is full screen. TikTok's "For You" page shows users content based on what they have interacted with or searched for on the app. All created content can be set to "Private", "Public", or "Friends Only", just as with other apps.

TikTok has run into a number of issues with privacy. In July 2022, the head of the FCC called on the CEOs of Apple and Google to remove the app from their stores, stating that "TikTok poses an unacceptable national security risk due to its extensive data harvesting being combined with Beijing's apparently unchecked access to that sensitive data." Part of the problem is that TikTok isn't clear about how it uses the data it collects, unlike other apps. TikTok's head of Public Policy in the Americas responded by calling the allegations "false", and noting that the app does not collect browser history. Other countries, however, are being more proactive. India banned the app over privacy concerns. It has also been banned for "immoral and indecent" content in Pakistan. In spite of this, TikTok remains a popular application. If you choose to use it, try to use it in a computer and in a browser instead of on your phone. If you'd like to protect yourself further, you can use an incognito browser to log into the app, or use a browser that doesn't track data, such as DuckDuckGo. And, of course, the usual safety rules apply: be careful about the type of information you put on TikTok, be sure to only friend people that you trust, watch out for "spoof" accounts, which are accounts that look like people you know but are scammers in disguise, and remember that you have the option to switch your account to Public or Private at any time. That's it for this month. Next month, we'll talk about Twitch. If you have any questions or would like me to tackle a certain topic, please email me at [media@ea-abc.org](mailto:media@ea-abc.org). And, check out Evergreen's Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter at the bottom of our LinkTree (<https://linktr.ee/ea.abc>) for all of our Social Media!

## November Calendar

**November 6th—Time Change—Remember to set your clocks back an hour!**

**November 11th—Veteran's Day**

**November 24th—Thanksgiving Day**

**November 27th—First Sunday of Advent!**

**November 29th—Giving Tuesday—Don't forget Evergreen as you give back! <https://ea-abc.org/give>**

# Editor's Notes:

## Learning Together

By Rev. Paul Schneider

Whew! That was some annual meeting, huh? A great gathering of the Evergreen Family, at a great host church, with great speakers and workshops.



Plus we had a significant online contingent register and attend via Zoom, participating in the plenaries, workshops, and the Annual Business Meeting in significant ways. I want to extend my thanks to everyone who participated, especially the staff and volunteers from both First Baptist Church of Denver, and Calvary Baptist Church of Denver. Thanks to Calvary Baptist Church, we had a van which provided a shuttle between the hotel and the church which were a few blocks apart. First Baptist Denver were AMAZING hosts, providing a welcoming atmosphere, top notch meals, and with Calvary Baptist great technology which allowed us to stream the Worship Services and use Zoom to help our online folks be able to attend all parts of the meeting except the meals.

Thank you to those from First Baptist Denver: Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson, Pastor Scott Pegues, Min. Kurt Kaufman, Brendan Bassett, Kenny Orr, Ken Johnson, Arnulfo Dominguez, Silvia Hernandez, Jacki Loftis, Kristine Rodine, Kenton Kuhn, Adam McGowen, Becky Davis, Marlene Price, Ron Sandford, Lianne Lockey, Michael Holmes, and Bill Loftis.

And from Calvary Baptist Denver thanks to: Rev. Anne Scalfaro, Rev. Alice Horner-Nelson, Rev. Mor-

gan Caruthers-Fletcher, Bill Warren, Chad Lawrence, Denise Wylde, Virg Musil, Gordon Keift, and Tom Madden.

Special Thanks are also due to Min. Daryl Walker and Min. Alex Zarecki who both provided amazing special music during our Worship Services. Also, we had two wonderful interpreters who enabled us to use the interpreter function on Zoom: Pastor Mario Morales with Seattle First who provided translation into Spanish, and Pastor Lwan May Oo with San Francisco Chin Christian who provided translation into Burmese.

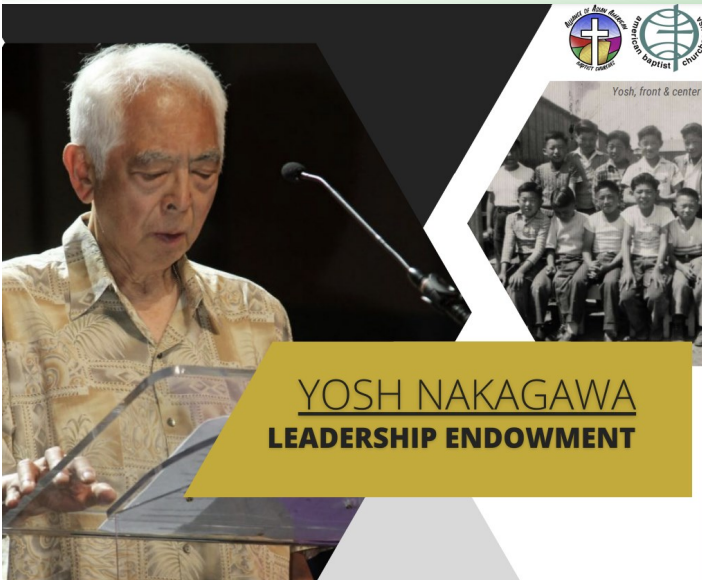
Thank you to our dedicated Registration team of Jackie Williams and Ernestine Robinson. You made that process go smoothly despite my blunders. Finally I want to thank my fellow Evergreen Staffers for helping to make the meeting go! There were times when their insights, ideas, and direction made the impossible possible.

In addition to the necessary, and the reliable parts of the Annual Meeting, we also tried some new things this year, and with a largely new staff. Not everything went perfectly and we want to learn and improve for next year's meeting at Seattle First. So if you can, please fill out the 2022 Annual Meeting Evaluation Survey below. That will help us improve in the areas we're weakest so that next year's Annual Meeting at Seattle First Baptist can be that much better.

## Annual Meeting Survey

If you attended the Evergreen Annual Meeting, either in person or online, please fill out the Annual Meeting Survey. You can request a copy of the survey from Rev. Paul Schneider by emailing him at [paul@ea-abc.org](mailto:paul@ea-abc.org), complete it and either scan and email it back or mail it to the office. Alternately, you can complete the online version by using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/JkUunv4rc6>



**YOSH NAKAGAWA  
LEADERSHIP ENDOWMENT**

## Yosh Nakagawa Leadership Endowment

### Continuing a Legacy of Empowerment

In collaboration with the Nakagawa family, the Asian Alliance has created a Yosh Nakagawa Leadership Endowment fund in Honor of Yosh Nakagawa, a key founder of the Alliance and of the ABC-USA Inter-Caucus, and of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches. We encourage all whose lives have been touched, directly or indirectly, by Yosh’s life and legacies to contribute. This fund will be used to cultivate, train and grow Asian leaders that they may continue to carry out Yosh’s message of justice and faith.

#### You can contribute by check:

Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches  
c/o Japanese Baptist Church  
160 Broadway  
Seattle, WA 98122

**Memo:** “Yosh Nakagawa Legacy Fund”

Or you can contribute online [here](#).

## The Plural of Installation

By Rev. Paul Schneider

**“The plural of ... installation is revolution.”**

- Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal

October certainly was a busy month for Evergreen, not just with the annual meeting, but with the installation of two new pastors at two of our Seattle Evergreen Churches.

On October 2nd, 2022, Pastor Angeline Lau was installed at Japanese Baptist Church, in a lovely ceremony with Rev. Anita Peebles of Seattle First Baptist preaching. As is their tradition, Japanese Baptist gave Pastor Angeline a beautiful stole created from the sash of an obi by Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton.

Then on October 29th, 2022, Rev. Dr. Victoria Carr-Ware was installed as Pastor of Queen Anne Baptist Church. It was a wonderful service, with brilliant speakers, including Rev. Dr. Leslie Braxton of New Beginnings Christian Fellowship in Kent leading the service, and Rev. Anthony Trufant, of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn (Pastor Victoria’s church of origin) preaching.

May the installations of these amazing women of God be the beginning of revolutions for Christ and the Kin-dom of God, both in their churches, in their city of Seattle, and in Evergreen as a whole!





EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES  
P.O. BOX 1044  
Kent, WA 98035-1044  
Phone: 253-859-2226  
Email: [office@ea-abc.org](mailto:office@ea-abc.org)

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Return Service Requested

Evergreen Notes, the newsletter for member churches, ecumenical partners, national affiliates, and friends of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches is published monthly. Please submit articles by the 20th of the month prior to expected publication. You are encouraged to copy and/or reprint information and articles for your congregation and community.

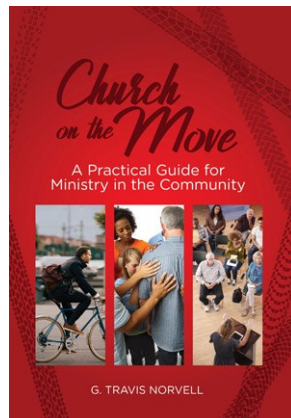
Building Bridges, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

## Mission Statement

Being a culturally diverse people who are one in Christ and who value the liberties of our American Baptist Heritage, the Evergreen Baptist Association will **Build bridges** between communities; **Provide resources** to equip member churches to share Christ and teach God’s word; and **Translate our unity** to the world.

**We are thankful for you not just this month, but every month!**

## Church on the Move Webinar Sat., Nov. 19th, 2022, 10am PT



This year at the Annual Meeting one of our workshops was lead by Rev. Travis Norvell, pastor of Judson Memorial Baptist in Minneapolis, MN, and author of the book *Church on the Move: A Practical Guide for Community Ministry*. It was a great workshop! Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond anyone’s control, Rev. Norvell was only able to offer it once at the Annual Meeting. In order to take advantage of this excellent workshop though, we arranged for a webinar to take place on Saturday, November 19th, 2022 at 10am Pacific Daylight Time. We encourage you to join us as we take advantage of Rev.

Norvell’s excellent workshop which has many insights.

To register, please either use the link below, or contact Rev. Paul Schneider at the Evergreen Office by email ([paul@ea-abc.org](mailto:paul@ea-abc.org)) or phone 253-859-2226.

<https://forms.office.com/r/8QxtVXuSBA>

## Opt-In to Electronic Donation Statements

Each year we send out a statement to each person who donates to Evergreen. These statements typically go out as physical documents, sent through the postal service, but in the interests of getting them completed faster, and being environmentally aware, we are offering to send an electronic version of the document. You can Opt-In to an electronic statement using the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/XP5AwdH8HZ>