



# Evergreen Notes

Volume 20, Issue 11

SEATTLE BAPTIST UNION (SBU)  
ANNUAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021  
10 AM ONLINE ONLY  
NO COST TO ATTEND

## Please register now!

Seattle Baptist Union **member churches** are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting of the Seattle Baptist Union to be held on *Saturday, November 13, 2021, 10:00 AM – 12 Noon*. The meeting will be virtual on Zoom.

**Member churches** are described in Article III, Section 1 of the current SBU By-Laws as *“the American Baptist Churches located within these geographic boundaries: 128<sup>th</sup> SW in Snohomish County in the north; east to the Redmond/Carnation ridge, including Maple Valley and Issaquah; south to the King County line; west to Puget Sound, to include Vashon Island...”*

If your church is within the afore described boundaries, you are entitled to be represented at the SBU Annual Meeting by two (2) church members and your pastor or moderator. In addition, each member church may have one (1) additional representative for each 50 active resident members beyond an initial 100 members.

Please **email** (clem@ea-abc.org) the **names and email addresses** of attendees by Wednesday, November 10, 2021. Or, use this link to register each attendee: <https://forms.gle/HCSghCQJVCmpKj5f8> Login details will be sent to attendees before the meeting.

Please be sure your congregation is represented. The meeting will feature reports from the latest grant recipients about how funds have been used. We will elect a Slate of Officers and At-Large Members. Additionally, we will look at Proposed New/Altered Principles and Purposes seeking your feedback/ ideas as the Board plans to spend effort on this project in 2022.

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### Pray for Churches Seeking Pastoral Leadership

- ◆ Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Church
- ◆ Filipino-American Christian Fellowship (FACF)
- ◆ Fairview Community Church, and
- ◆ Mount Zion Baptist Church

## Grace Baptist Church -San Jose

## Pastor George Oliver

On Juneteenth 2020, in the redemptive fire of righteous indignation, I organized a press conference at the Walker County Courthouse in Huntsville, Texas. It was my hometown, and if we were gonna be more faithful to the next generation, we needed to correct the historical record right there, or we were also culpable of perpetuating the “Original Big Lie”: The South was right! At the Courthouse, two years after the Brown v. Board of Education Decision, a stone had been laid to honor Confederate Patriots, as an affront to racial progress. National attention was drawn to not only racial issues writ large because of George Floyd, but the national press paid attention to injustices everywhere, and swooped into our little town to record the beginning of the single longest and continuously sustained public protest in our County’s history (nine months of speaking at every single meeting of the Commissioner’s Court).



After leading those efforts in Texas for almost a year, Grace called me into the pastorate, and we began engaging in the work of Anti-Racism. Our church began to add new members (80%+ ethnic minorities), held trainings on recognizing implicit bias, partnered with Racial Justice Activists and Local Law Enforcement to use Grace as a neutral ground to find community solutions in mediated conversations, and has been the site for several gatherings decrying White Supremacist attacks and celebrating rare moments of justice (like the Chauvin verdict).



But most special to me, was that Grace supported my idea to have a street festival for Juneteenth this year. We planned it in coordination with Black Outreach, San Jose’s Black Lives Matter (BLM) unit. We had vendors, bouncy houses, a mechanical bull, a COVID-19 Vaccine Drive, live jazz and organ music, and more than 300 people in attendance.

Between the two Juneteenths is a common thread: community yearns for diverse people to stand in unity. Whether fighting the vestiges of historical systems of racism, or building awareness and embodied experiences to our neighbors, both are ways our Baptist churches can re-open the doors to communities seeking meaning after 18 months of pandemic and loss.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Grace Baptist San Jose

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Grace was proud to join with Evergreen Association to deepen our Anti-Racism work. Doug, Wim and especially Marcia Patton presented opportunities and instruments available to help our congregation and others do more assessment and improvement on issues of bias and systemic flaws.

One other thing came to light meeting with the Team from Evergreen: Multicultural challenges in dynamically pluralized environments is an area that more of our churches will have to face. But the reward will be a church that starts to look a little more like heaven: deep and wide with diversity.



**Pastor George Oliver** is a native of Texas, holds degrees in Theatre and Theology from Sam Houston State University and Andover Newton Seminary (YDS)\*, and is ordained to ministry in the American Baptist Churches-USA and Alliance of Baptists denominations.

***Grace Baptist Church is centered in the heart of San Jose, California, and our hearts beat with the inclusive rhythm of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are a diverse family ranging from college students to seniors, who throughout our century here fought for justice, put stone equity into expanding the Kin(g)dom of God, and pried open doors of welcome wherever we could. Walking in Jesus' way, we gather together to reflect the incomparable love of Jesus Christ, and on how we can transform the lives of the human family, both near and far. Whoever and wherever you are, you're at home with Grace.***

## Invitation to Participate in the Evergreen online Christmas Eve Service!

Hello Friends!

Would you like to participate in an Evergreen Christmas Eve service? We had so much fun with last year's video that we thought we'd make it a tradition!

If your church would like to participate, please let me know ( [media@ea-abc.org](mailto:media@ea-abc.org) ).

What you need to do: Look over the instructions and the order of the service here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/10onX8x0rkvYFa13m7kumhPqcgFUThStnu-csIQNXffY/edit?usp=sharing>

You can then sign up for one or two parts of the service. We would like to have a

church from each Caucus participate in the candle-lighting.

Where it reads "Christmas Carol" interpret that broadly. Any music associated with Christmas can be used: a carol, choral piece, solo, etc. It can be in any language. If you are able to provide the translation that is wonderful, but it is not required.

You will record your piece and upload it by December 10th (the link will be provided in the document once it is set up). We have a volunteer who will compile and edit the video to be ready a few days before Christmas Eve. I will have it posted to the Evergreen Facebook page by 8 a.m. Pacific time on Christmas Eve. You may choose to participate even if your church has its

own Christmas Eve service. You may also choose to share the video on Christmas Day, or on the Sunday after Christmas.



*Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchel*

Let me know if you have any questions. If you'd like to view last year's service, you may do so here: <https://www.ea-abc.org/christmas-eve-2020.html>

Blessings,

Mindi

### Seattle Baptist Union Member Churches

**Register Now for the November 13, 2021—10 o'clock AM**

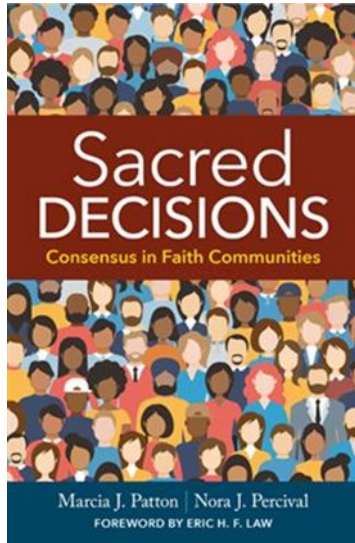
**SBU Annual Meeting, Online ONLY!!**

**Register at <https://forms.gle/HCSqhCQJVCmpKj5f8>**

Please register by Wednesday, November 10, 2021.



## Our Executive Minister Emerita, Dr. Marcia Patton, Publishes Again



*Sacred Decisions: Consensus in Faith Communities* was released November 1, 2021 by Judson Press.

Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton and her co-author, Nora Percival held a virtual launch party on November 2nd.

The dedication reads: *“To the people of Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, for their courage to listen to each other and God, and to embrace a new way to do God’s work in the world.”*

Publisher’s Weekly said in their review: *“This is a valuable guide for ministers looking to create more open, inclusive faith communities.”*

Reserve your copy of *Sacred Decisions: Consensus in Faith Communities* here: <https://www.judsonpress.com/Products/J297/sacred-decisions.aspx>; or Rev. Marcia J. Patton, Ph.D., 206-458-2089 or at Amazon.

Please go online to [www.ea-abc.org](http://www.ea-abc.org) and click on “Give” to donate.  
Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

## Happenings Around the Region

\*\*\*\*Save the Date!

**Saturday, January 8, 2022! Celebrate the Work and Ministry of Clem Winbush!**

Clem is Retiring! The Evergreen Family will gather at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship on Saturday, January 8, 2022 from 2:00-4:00 pm PST to honor Clem Winbush and her ministry with the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches.

Rev. Dr. Leslie D. Braxton, Pastor of NBCF, asks that if you plan to come in-person, please be prepared to show proof that you are fully vaccinated to participate. There will be a plated lunch at a cost TBD. Watch in this newsletter—the Evergreen Notes, and Evergreen’s website for further information about that cost, virtual links and other ways you can participate in the celebration for Clem.



E. Clem Winbush

\*\*\*\*\***American Baptist Women’s Ministries of the Pacific Northwest** rescheduled Annual Conference to late April or early May, 2022. The update will be available here when details have been set.

\*\*\*\*\* The **150th Anniversary Celebration for First Baptist Church of Olympia** has been postponed until 2022 out of an abundance of caution for our congregation, friends and/or family who had planned to join in the celebration... We hope to see you next year for our sesquicentennial celebration!

**Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Church is seeking a Pastor for the Interim.**

Retired  
Ministers &  
Missionaries  
Offering  
2021

*Transformed  
by Generosity*

During these unprecedented times, we have learned new ways to transform, exist and embody the kingdom with the same goal in mind—to reflect the gospel. Through the deep commitment and faith of the church, great efforts have

been made to remain connected and build relationships within their congregations and community. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) acknowledges and appreciates the extraordinary commitment of such church leaders, congregants, and missionaries.

To honor this annual tradition, we chose, “Transformed by Generosity” as our theme with supporting scripture from 2 Corinthians 3:18: *“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit”.*

This timely theme lifts up the true strength and perseverance of ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 or more years of service to the American Baptist family.

To support your congregation’s efforts to organize RMMO, we provided a combination of printed and online marketing materials. Through RMMO, we hope you are inspired to give to those who continue to transform and embody the spirit of Christ. We thank you.

## A Generosity Project Reflection: Ways to Say “Thanks”



*The Generosity Project is a collaborative effort between ABCUSA, regions, and local congregations. The Generosity Project aims to help pastors re-frame the conversation around stewardship and generosity in their congregations. Bi-monthly blogs help support new growth and understanding as we deepen our ministry and discipleship.*

*The reflection below was provided by Rev. Stacy Emerson.*

Gratitude is an essential part of stewardship. It begins with gratitude to God for every blessing—for life itself, for time, for health, for relationships, for grace and forgiveness. And it is important to extend that gratitude to each other, to the partners God has given us for the journey. Here are a few ways to keep gratitude at the center of stewardship:

### **Say Thank you**

How many times a day do you say, “Thank you”? Is it enough? Saying thank you is a spiritual practice that does more for the speaker than the receiver. A hundred times a day it is a great reminder of every single blessing that brings a bit of light into the world, and it deepens our awareness of God’s holy touch in every ordinary and extraordinary thing.

### **Send a Note**

Written notes to givers and volunteers make a big difference. For one thing, we rarely receive a handwritten note anymore and the personal touch adds meaning to the gesture. Be sure to be specific about why you are grateful and how the person’s donation or job well done is making an impact.

### **Weave giving thanks into worship**

Throughout the pandemic and on-line worship, I made it a point to keep the “offering time” in worship, except that without a plate to pass and gifts to physically gather, it became a reflection time on gratitude and generosity instead. It has

been a transformative experience in worship to focus less on ritual of receiving of gifts and more on the ways gratitude and generosity are intertwined and at the heart of discipleship.

### **Be kind and generous**

How do we go beyond mere words and give thanks, especially to God? We live the ways God has called us. We act kindly. We do justly. We are generous with our resources of time, talent, and treasure. We forgive. We give someone a chance. In these ways and more, we give thanks to God who calls us to love just the way God has already loved us. There is no better way to give God thanks.

*Rev. Stacy Emerson is the senior pastor of the First Baptist Church in West Hartford, CT and the Stewardship Consultant for ABCUSA. She is also the Coordinator for **The Generosity Project** which is about helping congregations deepen their understanding of stewardship as a call to generosity as disciples of Jesus; re-framing the stewardship conversation; and cultivating generosity in pastors, lay people, and congregations.*

## 2021 Evergreen Association Annual Meeting Attendees:

### **Thank You!**

We were once again reminded what a wonderful family we are. We enjoy our time with each other and our ministries together.

2021 was an awesome Annual Meeting, and you made it so by your presence and participation!  
Again, THANK YOU!



Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches  
409 Third Avenue S, Suite A  
Kent WA 98032-5843

Phone: 253-859-2226

Email: eba@ea-abc.org

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Instagram, and Twitter @evergreenabcusa  
#ebaabc

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.



Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal  
Executive Minister

**Building Bridges, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity**

## Calendar of Upcoming Event

*Executive Committee continues to meet monthly on the second Thursday at 6:30 PM via Zoom during the Corona Virus pandemic.*

### SAVE THE DATES:

January 8, 2022—Celebrate the Work and Ministry of Clem Winbush, 2—4 PM at New Beginnings

February 11, 2022—Leaders Retreat at Camp Burton (Event may move to online)

### 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.