



Evergreen Notes

Volume 20, Issue 9

2021 EVERGREEN ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION is PAUSED!

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley
Executive Minister of Metro New York



Theme Verse: Colossians 2:6-7 (The Message)

"My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now *live* him. **You're deeply rooted in him.** You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start *living* it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving."

Regrettably, due to rising Covid cases, consensus was reached to move the Annual Meeting to **ONLINE ONLY** and registration has been **PAUSED** until further notice.

Persons who registered prior to August 26th will receive a refund for meals purchased.

Registration Fee: \$50.

Since we will be attending online, we are in the process of determining how much of the plenary sessions, Caucus meetings and workshops we will be able to offer on Zoom.

Worship will be streamed on Facebook Live. We are working to determine which workshop(s) will be offered for each time slot available online.

SBU Active Clergy Cruise A GRAND TIME!

Argosy Cruises is thanked for another stellar event! Seattle Baptist Union guests were thrilled with the service, the catering, and the kindness and professionalism of the crew. Who could have known that a day that started out so dreary would end up being the perfect evening for a sunset cruise?

I actually talked to the captain ...yesterday and he was raving about the cruise...saying that was the nicest group of people he has ever worked with. I'm happy to hear it was all around a great cruise with nice weather :-)

Pictures later.

The information for how to access the annual meeting online will be emailed to you closer to the date.

Scholarships available: please email doug@ea-abc.org for more information.

Registration form will be made available online at [Annual Meeting 2021 \(ea-abc.org\)](https://ea-abc.org/AnnualMeeting2021) when details for online only hosting have been determined.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Continue to check the website for updates.

See more Annual Meeting info on pages 3 and 4.

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Pray for Churches Seeking Pastoral Leadership

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

Crosswalk Community Church: Challenges Faced When Changing Systems



Rev. Dr. Pete Shaw

CrossWalk Community Church in Napa, CA has been on a long ongoing journey where a prevailing goal has been

inclusion. When we think of the word inclusion, we appropriately think of those neighbors of ours who have been historically not included. Race becomes a focal point, and so does gender and sexual orientation and immigration and poverty level and... My part of the journey with the church began when they called me to be the pastor of the then-called First Baptist Church. I was called in large part to help them "include" more people lest the church die. They knew changes needed to be made if they were going to reach new people. The diminishing congregation's average age was about 70, which explains why they were especially interested in including younger people and families.

To truly become inclusive of the next generation, they had to come to grips with the ways they had excluded them, nearly always unwittingly (at first). The church was founded in 1860 with the goal of providing a church for the Baptists who had made their way to Napa. In other words, the Baptists there mainly wanted a church for themselves, a space that used their language and be-

liefs to foster their faith. There's nothing wrong with that. What went wrong, however, was that the church, over time, began to love the way they were doing things more than the neighbors they were commissioned to reach and serve. Systems were created that were entirely oriented toward keeping the insiders comfortable and the outsiders outside. Language. Style. Décor. Budgeting. Ethos. Everything kept the church on a self-absorbed trajectory toward maintaining the status quo. They didn't know how deep the system operated until enough changes took place that made them very uncomfortable, even feeling like the church wasn't theirs anymore. It wasn't. It never was. Sometimes we find ourselves stuck, and getting unstuck in excruciatingly painful, even though our very lives may depend on what is required.

CrossWalk's becoming increasingly inclusive has been a good, but painful journey. Regardless of the name we put on the ones we seek to include, we will always discover things in ourselves we wish were not there that need to be addressed. Sometimes pride keeps us from being honest and we kick the can down the road, hoping the next season will deal with it. I see this dynamic in myself, extended family, our church, community, nation, and world. Inclusion requires hard work on the part of those who have the power

to make the changes to be more inclusive.

The good news is that, even though we have lost many congregants along the way, a much wider group of people have found true welcome and genuine inclusion at CrossWalk. We've read books, watched films, taken stands in the community, changed policies in the church, voted diversity into leadership and staff whenever possible, and more. We have been informed and encouraged this year by Evergreen's Anti-Racism Team. We still have work to do. Most recently, our membership affirmed the following statement of inclusion:

"We, CrossWalk's Board of Stewards and Leadership, believe in inclusive faith community— a faith community which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge discrimination against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality.

Be sure, to get to a place where such a statement can be adopted requires a long, sometimes painful journey. Yet it is an act of following Jesus, who, for the JOY set before him (comprehensive inclusion), endured [even] the cross, disregarding its shame (Heb. 12:1-2). May it be so for all of us as well.

2021 Annual Meeting Schedule of Events

Subject to Change Due to Shifting to an ONLINE ONLY Platform

Thursday, October 7th:
Ministers Council Gathering TBA

All events taking place online—Zoom and/or Facebook Live

Friday, October 8th:

- 1pm – Welcome Plenary
- 1:45pm – Workshops 1 (see description below)
- 3:45pm – Workshops 2 (see description below)
- 5pm – Dinner
- 7pm – Worship

Saturday, October 9

- 9:15am – Business Session Review
- 9:45am – Caucus Meetings
- 11am – Plenary/Business meeting
- 12:15pm – Lunch
- 1:30pm – Workshops 3 (see description below)
- 3:30pm – Workshops 4 (see description below)
- 5pm – Dinner
- 7pm – Worship

Sunday, October 10
10:30am -- Worship

Social Media Corner—Platforms Besides Facebook Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell
OOPS!



Mindi Welton Mitchell

The editor sincerely apologizes to Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell and you for having mistakenly republished a four-year old article with the title above. If you enjoyed the re-read, awesome. If you found it dated, you are correct in your assessment. Let's keep learning!

NEW EMAIL: media@ea-abc.org

Sharing the Evergreen Way!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/evergreenabcusa

Twitter: @EvergreenABCUSA

Instagram: @EvergreenABCUSA

Hashtags: #ebaabc #IamEBAABC

Please go online to www.ea-abc.org and click on “Give” to donate.

We are grateful for your continued support!

Possible Workshop Descriptions

Note: Since all workshops will be online, we may not be able to offer all workshops listed. More information will be shared later.

Friday: Workshop Session 1, 1:45 p.m.

A) Homelessness – Multi-tiered Response – Olympia, WA

Theo Yu and Mark Rambo, Facilitators

Come listen and dialogue how Homelessness is being addressed in our host city as well as Olympia First Baptist's evolving story of responding to the challenges of our home-less neighbors.

B) Anti-Racism Team

Facilitator – Wim Mauldin

Friday: Workshop Session 2, 3:45 p.m.

A) Local Churches Serving Multi-Ethnic Communities

Leadership – Rev. Dr. Liliana Da Valle

This workshop will address dynamics of exclusion and inclusion that take place in multi-ethnic contexts. Together, we will explore our different roles in building space for all, the path to restoration, and a new criterion for oneness. Participants will be able to share their experiences and learn from one another.

B) Transitioning Ministry into a Post-Pandemic World

Facilitator – Rev. Samuel Kim

Saturday: Workshop Session 3, 1:30 p.m.

A) Hospitality and Community in a Fragmented World

Facilitators – Rev. Samuel Kim & Pastor Angeline Lau

B) Sharing the Good News in the 21st Century

Speakers: Rev. Guadalupe Vásquez, Rev. Mario Morales, and Rev. Dr. Horacio Da Valle

The church faces unprecedented challenges in the new millennium as congregations dwindle, they must think, prepare and adapt to resurrect as faithful communities that actively proclaim the Good News centered in Divine Love to transform the challenges of our times: Poverty, Racism, Economism, Militarism, Sexism, Anti-immigrant Sentiment and the destruction of our planet, which is leading to the extinction of life as we know it.

C) Burma/Myanmar – Ministry, Mission, Advocacy, Partnership

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Paul Aita & Guests

Saturday: Workshop Session 4, 3:30 p.m.

A) An Artful Approach to Reckoning Racialized Trauma On the Way Towards Collective Liberation

– Rev. Mylinda Baits

B) Consensus – Unconventional Wisdom & Counter-intuitive structures

Facilitator – Rev. Doug Avilesbernal

C) Workshop to be Determined

Alex Zarecki

Cambridge Drive Community Church has called Rev. Nicole Iaquinto as Pastor. She begins January 1, 2022. Congratulations Pastor Nicole and Cambridge Drive!

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

William “Bill” Malcomson February 24, 1932–August 10, 2021



Born in Cuba, NY to Rev. Clair E. Malcomson and Irene T. Lacy, Bill lived in many areas of the country, graduating from Denison University with a BA, from Colgate Rochester Divinity School with his Masters of Divinity, and From Princeton with a Ph.D. in the History of World Religions.

On Tuesday, August 10, 2021, Rev. Dr. Bill Malcomson, passed away. Bill served as the first Director of the Institute for Ecumenical Theological Studies (IETS) in the early years of the School of Theology and Ministry and helped lead the School into its many partnerships with Protestant denominations and associations all over Western Washington.

He was married to Laurie Loomis in 1955 at Seattle First Baptist Church and celebrated 56 years of marriage prior to her passing in 2011. He partnered with Barbara Bell for 10 years prior to her death.

Bill pastored churches in Mansfield, Connecticut; Oakland, CA; Seattle, WA; and Greenwich Village, NYC.

He was involved in the continuing education of ministers for many years, teaching mainly preaching and church administration at Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, KS, and at the American Baptist Seminary of the West, now Berkeley School of Theology (BST)), where he rose to the role of Dean.

Bill was a towering man with a large voice and gigantic heart and he was beloved by all who knew him.

Thank you all for your love and prayers especially over the last 18 months. You have raised us up and let Dad know how loved he was and is. ~ Christi, Scott, and John Malcomson

See the Seattle First Baptist Church's website for the date of the Celebration of Life, which will occur no earlier than mid-September (<https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org>).

In the meantime, if you wish to contact the family, please email: jmalcomson@seattleu.edu.

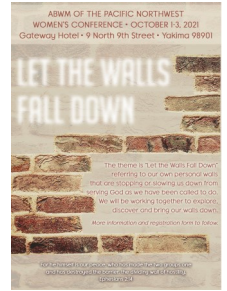
Happenings Around the Region

*******American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Pacific Northwest** — Due to uncertainties related to the Schneider Springs Fire (near Yakima), COVID-19, and potential health issues that could be caused by those events, the Women's Conference is once again being postponed.

Gail Aita, Lorna Flannery, Tina Po, and Nadine Glass - members of the *Conference Committee* - drove to Yakima to meet with the Hotel staff. Following that visit, the Committee met in a ZOOM meeting and reluctantly decided to postpone, and reschedule to late April or early May, 2022.

To help ease the disappointment of not having an "in-person" conference, a **Virtual Event** is scheduled for **October 2, 2021** (We expect it to last about three hours: Meet the new National President- **Rev. Dr. Christine Smith**, Worship Service with **Rev. Dr. Barbara Reid**, Music by the **"The Cuzins"**, and **Gail Aita**, PNW-ABW Ministries President, for a necessary short business meeting.) *Please look for information in the next weeks.* See you in October!

Nadine Glass PNW-ABW Ministries Secretary



Thousands of our neighbors are hungry and people are responding. **Companis** currently partners with nine nonprofits offering food and nutrition delivered with compassion. At the Spotlight event we featured four of them: Feed the Need (New Walk Christian Church ministry), Emergency Feeding Program, Community Loaves, Hip Hop Is Green, and our host for the day, Mount Zion Baptist Church in Seattle (God's Grocery).



The Rev. Dr. Terry L. Burch passed away peacefully at his home on August 5, 2021. He was born in Alton Illinois on September 18, 1930. Educated at Washington University in St. Louis, University of Pennsylvania and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, he served two pastorates in New Jersey.

In 1964 he joined the staff of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, the pension board for American Baptist Churches. As an area representative, Regional Director and Associate Executive Director, he advised pastors about their medical and retirement benefits. He became a Certified Financial Planner. The American Baptist Seminary of the West awarded him an honorary doctorate of laws and letters in 1987.

Retiring in 1994, he and his wife moved to Rossmoor in Walnut Creek. They enjoyed many trips together and were active members of the Shell Ridge Community Church.

He is survived by the love of his life of 66 years, Elizabeth, his three daughters Mollie Peters, Sarah Sullivan and Mary Gousev along with his grandson Alexander Gousev and granddaughter Shannon Sullivan. He will be laid to rest in the Garden of Peace at Oakmont Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Contra Costa Food Bank, Winter Break for Kids c/o Shell Ridge Community Church, or a charity of your choice.

Nzunga & Kihomi in Congo



out to Washington, DC then Brussels. We got to Kinshasa where all passengers took another Covid-19 test before getting our bags. We were at the Guest House around 11 PM.



Greetings from Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo. We left Phoenix on Thursday August 5, 2021. We were to leave at 7 AM via Chicago, Brussel and Kinshasa. We missed the flight because of our internet ignorance. We were supposed to fill Brussels and Congolese forms online, but we missed that part.

Trying to fill it by ourselves while the plane was about to leave was impossible. We called our son in law who came to rescue us. The Airline booked us on the next flight

While we were flying from Brussel to Kinshasa, my mother was dying. Her sister prayed over her, and she came back to life. Thank God both mothers are fine now and recognized us. They are happy for our visit.



Despite fatigue on Sunday, we went to our church, the Ngaba-Limbe No 1 Baptist Church in Ngaba County. Music was loud, enjoyable and inspiring. We initiated the collection of books for next Sunday, for the library of the school we founded prior to going to Haiti.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and your prayers.

Visiting in Congo -
Yours,
Nzunga & Kihomi

The Shift Conference September 25–26, 2021 THEME: Reconnect Reimagine Rebuild



Join us as we welcome some of the leading voices of our generation including Rev. Dr. Shareka Newton, Rev. Reginald Sharpe Jr, and Rev. Dr. Dominique Robinson.

For our night of entertainment help us welcome the one and only Michael Jr for a comedy show you will not want to miss!

For more information and registration, go to the conference and comedy show website: <https://www.theshiftconference.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.



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.

Ministers’ Council Pre-Annual Meeting Gathering,
Thursday, October 7, 2021.

Annual Meeting; ONLINE ONLY—October 8-9, 2021. **Theme:** Rooted & Repurposed; **Scripture:** Colossians 2:6-7; **Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley, Executive Minister Metro New York

SAVE THE DATES: Leaders Retreat, the weekend of February 11, 2022, at Camp Burton (Details to come)

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.