



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

# Evergreen Notes

## United in a Divided World

By Rev. Doug Avilesbernal

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

**1 Corinthians 12:14-16**



There are very few certainties in our world anymore. We're living in the tail end of what has been called post-modernism. Though it is widely misunderstood, overall the term refers to the idea that we can no longer assume that the "truths" we have been taught are universal. My personal take on these "truths" is that what we have been taught is a mixture of a specific group's understanding and desire to control or feel a part of a group. There is truth in our world. The problem is that too many of us live with the certainty that the opinion or perspectives we like best are the truth. This problem of perception vs. actual truth has us in conflict with each other. We are being flooded with the idea that the only way to be respected is to control society and to crush the other side. It should baffle the mind that millions in our country define themselves by a political party name! Worse still, that anyone who calls themselves a follower of the opposing party is a suspect on sight. Is there a better season, coming to our elections, to shout out to the world that our God given diversity is not a problem. That those who see the world differently than we do aren't to be suppressed or crushed. That not getting all I want does not mean I am being oppressed. That our body "is not made up of one part but of many." Is there a better time to shout out to the world that there is no freedom without making room for significant differences, even those that make our blood boil?

We at EBA are living in a community the world outside thinks impossible. I once had a conversation with a church that had been intentionally ignored by their associational body because of their theological perspectives. When I told them how EBA embraces theological diversity, and we live together in and through

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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

# Evergreen 2022 Annual Meeting

## October 13th-15th, 2022

### Navigating Changing Times: Responding Together

Malachi 3:6 “For I, THE LORD, do not change...”

Join us for our Annual Meeting hosted by the First Baptist Church of Denver, Colorado.

It will be a time of fellowship, learning, and worship.

If you cannot join us in person, you can join us online as we will be using Zoom or Livestreaming the Business Meetings, Worship Services and some Workshops.

### Workshops

#### Friday, October 14th

**Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton**—Evergreen Assoc. of ABC History and the Consensus Model

**Rev. Carolyn Matthews & Rev. Wim Mauldin**—Reparations

#### Saturday, October 15th

**Rev. Anne Scalfaro & Rev. Dr. Eugene Downing**—Responding Together Across Races — *A workshop in two parts*

**Rev. Travis Norvell**—Church on the Move: Community Ministry

Most workshops will be given twice so you can attend both workshops!

We'll be staying at the **Warwick Hotel**, a four star hotel just blocks away from FBC Denver where our meeting is occurring. **The rate is only \$154/night, please register for rooms through the Registration page, below, or call the number below and give the Block ID to ensure you get this rate!**

**Address:** 1776 Grant Street, 80203 Denver, CO

**Phone:** (303) 861-2000      **Block ID:** EVER22

We're coordinating transport for those who need it from the hotel to FBC Denver so *everyone* can participate fully!

### Registration & Info

<https://www.ea-abc.org/annual-meeting-2022>

### Schedule

#### Thursday, October 13th

Arrivals

6:30pm—Minister's Council Meeting

#### Friday, October 14th

11am—Registration

11:45am-12:45pm—Light Lunch

1pm—Welcome Plenary

1:45pm—5pm Workshops

5pm—Dinner

7pm—Worship—Keynote Speaker:

**Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri,**

Director of Intercultural Ministries, ABHMS



#### Saturday, October 15th

8:30am—Continental Breakfast

9:15am—Business Session Review

9:45am—Caucus Meetings

11am—Plenary/Business Meeting

12:15pm—Lunch

1:30pm-5pm—Workshops

5pm—Dinner

7pm—Worship—Keynote Speaker:

**Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall,**

President, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities



## Three Sister Churches Worship and Fellowship Together



*by Rev. Dr. Paul Aita*

Three of the churches affiliated with Evergreen make use of the same facilities in Kent, Washington: the Panther Lake Community Church, the Karen Community Church of Greater Seattle, and the Washington Kachin Baptist Church. The three congregations have interacted many times over the years, but an extra effort at seeing each other as partners in ministry has taken place since the Karen church moved to Panther Lake late in 2021. The most recent event shared by all three took place on Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning with an outdoor worship service at the front of the church property and continuing with a picnic at the rear. The service and the picnic were planned by a committee made up of representatives of all three congregations as a way for their members to get to know each another.

Pastors Hkun Naung of Washington Kachin and John Armagost of Panther Lake led the service. (Pastor Maggie Po of Karen Community was in Thailand at that time, where she was able to watch the service online.) The service featured the reading of three Scripture passages (Ephesians 4:1-6, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, and Colossians 3:14-16) on the subject of unity, each read in Karen, English, and Kachin. There was no sermon but there was a children's message based on the Corinthians passage. Music was provided by each congregation: the prelude by young Kachin violinists, praise songs led by the Karen music team, a guitar solo from Panther Lake, and group songs from each of the three churches.

Worship leaders and musicians made their presenta-

tions from the deck in front of the sanctuary entrance, and worshipers sat on chairs and mats on the lawn, under trees and canopies, and at the edge of the front parking lot. Over 100 people were present, with good representation from each church. After worship, as picnic foods were being set out, papers were distributed for a game that participants were invited to play, which called for them to speak with many others.

The event seemed to meet many significant needs. Held entirely outside on a beautiful summer day, it was tailored to meet the protocols of the continuing pandemic while providing everyone with an opportunity to feel connected with others. As it turned out, it took place on a Sunday when the sanctuary was not available. Installation of a new floor had started during the previous week and was only half-done by the weekend. So many things came together to make Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, a memorable one for the three churches and their members.

## PLCC-WCBC Joint Youth Retreat

*by Rev. John Armagost*



From August 19-21 the youth from Panther Lake Community Church and the youth from the Washington Chin Baptist Church went on retreat at Cascade Meadows Camp. The retreat was led

by Ehler Win, the Youth Director of PLCC. The theme was "Living Water" and Bible Studies were led by Pastor John Armagost of PLCC. The youth studied how the Lord is with us through the storms of life, gives us living water for daily life and invites us to let that healing waters of the Lord flow from us. Because it was at Cascade Meadows the youth did their own cooking. A trip was made to Lake Wenatchee for swimming, as well as hikes in the woods, and time for games.

# Listening to the Spirit



By Rev. Sam Kim

Greetings in Christ!  
Our region has been known by many to encourage thoughtful “out of the box” approaches to ministry and we love to see our colleagues bravely

follow where the Spirit leads. We are excited at the possibilities for new AND renewed ministries within our Evergreen family. Whenever we talk about starting something we are often eager to get a program formed right away, but before we do any action plans or strategies, we need to pause and do the most important thing: ask the right questions. As individual Christians, pastors and as communities of faith, we need to take a moment to LISTEN to what the Spirit is doing. What has called me and us to do in a time such as this? Where is God at work? How can we join in what God is already doing? Those are the most important and exciting questions to ask.

We are going to be starting a season of listening sessions at the regional level where we will seek to ask those important questions. It will consist of interviews, group listening sessions, surveys and more. Through these things, we hope to discern the next steps that God has for us. Let’s think about how God might be leading us forward.

Rev. Paul Schneider will be soon sending out a very short survey to start off this season of listening. I realize surveys are not always the most exciting things, but this is an important start for our region in this pursuit of making our region a place that can be empowering and inspiring for you and your churches. I’m looking forward to going over the feedback from the staff and sharing more about our findings at our

upcoming Annual Meeting. Please help us all and fill out the survey as soon as you can!

Talk to you soon!

Rev. Sam Kim

P.S. You can reach me anytime at [sam@ea-abc.org](mailto:sam@ea-abc.org)!

## Evergreen Ministry Listening Survey

Follow the link below to the brief survey that Rev. Sam Kim mentions in his letter above. 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!*

*...continued from page 1*

those differences one of the pastors told me he wasn’t sure they’d join us then because he was tired of a life walking on eggshells. When I responded that we don’t he just could not believe something like that could exist in the church world. They said they’d get back to me...two years ago. I have not heard from that church again.

We have allowed the thinking that life in diversity of thought is impossible to become the truth we expect in the world.

EBA stands on that gap. We need to be louder when we say, your difference is not the problem in our body. How we treat and love each other as different people that is the problem. Come help us fix it.

As Hellen Barrett Montgomery said when we Baptist wanted to split, “Agreed to differ, but resolved to love.”

# Media Corner—Social Media Series, Part 5: Twitter

By *Shavon Walker*



This month, in our Social Media Series, we're going to talk about Twitter. Twitter was created in 2006, by a handful of coworkers at a podcasting company. Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams created a platform where people could share short messages with groups. In the beginning, Twitter was used for extremely short status updates, which had to be 140 characters or less.

Twitter users still post short status updates, but the character count has been increased to 280 characters. They can also publish, upload and view streaming and recorded videos as well as images on their accounts, which they can set to private or public. Others can comment, retweet (republish on their own accounts) or share the content on a different platform. Users can "like" or "dislike" content and report inappropriate content. Hashtags, which are words or phrases prefaced by the "#" sign, are used to group posts together.

Users can click on a hashtag and see all posts related to that topic. Twitter also has Lists, which allows users to see tweets from only the accounts on that list. Lastly, users can subscribe, or "follow", others' tweets, which allows them to see their tweets on their page. In addition, there are many, many tools that work with Twitter, including bit.ly and t.co (which shorten URLs), TweetDeck (which creates a dashboard interface), and TwitPic (which creates a photo gallery from images).

Twitter has had its share of security issues. In 2007, a vulnerability that allowed hackers to post to someone else's account using their phone number was discovered. In 2019, hackers discovered a flaw that allowed them to take over an account and see private info of Android users. In 2022, email addresses and phone numbers could be linked to a user's account through a bug, and that flaw was exploited by malicious users. All of the security issues were fixed as soon as they were discovered.

Twitter also has had issues with "bots", which are Twitter accounts that are controlled by a certain kind of software. Twitter bots are designed to tweet and retweet content on a large scale. These bots can be used to create fake accounts. In 2017, Twitter shut down over 7,000 fake accounts run by malicious influencers and occasionally bots. They did the same in 2018 to avoid malicious election influence, and removed almost 6,000 accounts for violating manipulation policies in 2019. As of 2022, Twitter is focusing its anti misinformation campaign on the top three countries involved.

Twitter has made strides toward avoiding hate speech and other offensive content on its platform. It implemented reporting and blocking policies, banned multiple accounts that had ties to QAnon in July of 2020, and began blocking URLs in tweets that link to external malicious content. So when you're using Twitter, be careful about the type of information you post, be sure to only follow people that you trust, remember that you can't delete a tweet once you post, watch out for spoof and bot accounts, 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 Discord. 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 Twitter at [www.twitter.com/evergreenabcusa](https://www.twitter.com/evergreenabcusa)!

## Cross-Caucus

# Pulpit Exchange Event October 16th, 2022

The Sunday after our annual meeting, October 16th, 2022, the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches Executive Minister, Rev. Doug Avilesbernal is encouraging a Cross-Caucus Pulpit Exchange.

We're encouraging Pastors, those currently serving AND those who are retired or working outside the church to sign up at the website below, and the Evergreen office will be coordinating this event. We'll make sure you're not driving too far to get to the church you'll be preaching at, and that all the pastors of churches who are participating are covered.

The form is nice and short, only three questions, so please take the time to get it filled out. It would be great to have all our pulpits filled with Pastors from different caucuses on October 16th.

This will be an excellent chance to hear someone from one of the other caucuses preach, and learn a bit more about our siblings in Christ who are part of our Evergreen family. Let us bring a good word to one another, and reach outside our comfort zones a bit as we remember that we are all members of the same body of Christ together.

Please note that while we are encouraging participation, it is not mandatory. Also, we will work to allow for alternate forms of presence, such as Zoom or a recorded sermon if it becomes necessary. The challenge of having this so close to the annual meeting, which is happening in another state is not lost on us! If you do not wish to fill out the form on the website, you can contact Rev. Paul Schneider at the Evergreen office to be put on the list. You can do so by phone at 253-859-2226 or by email [paul@ea-abc.org](mailto:paul@ea-abc.org).

<https://ea-abc.org/x-caucus-pulpit-2022>

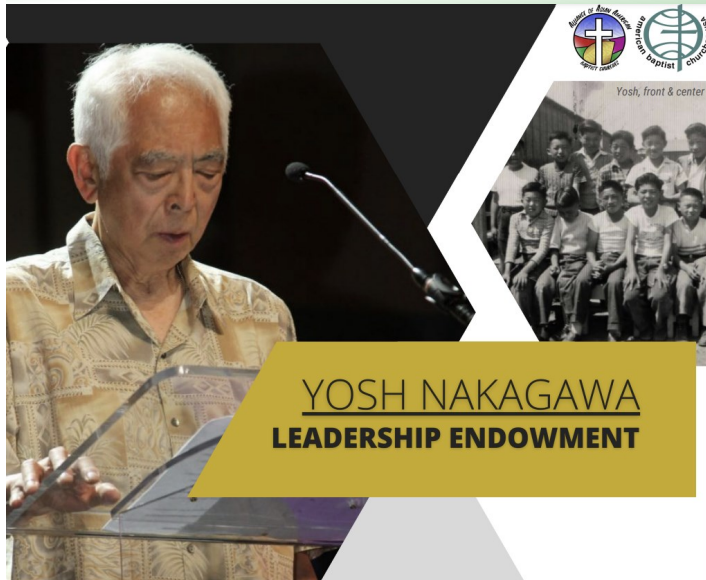


Registration is live!

**American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)** invites you to Space for Grace 2022, September 19 - 23, 2022 at the Westin Kansas City, Missouri, at Crown Center. Our theme for this year's biannual event—**Testify!**—speaks to the need in these times for diverse voices sharing genuine, honest dialogue about issues of Christian leadership, discipleship and justice. Its biblical foundation comes from 2 Corinthians 4: 6 – 9.

This year Space for Grace will include the Spiritual Caregiver's Conference from Sept. 19th-20th, Converge at Space for Grace on Sept. 20th, and the primary Space for Grace event Sept. 21st-23rd. Space for Grace, the flagship event of ABHMS' Space for Grace 2022, will offer a place and space for telling God's good news ... and hearing it too. When we testify to each other in God's love, our testimonies become gifts of grace that strengthen and affirm the faith we carry into facing the challenges of daily life. Just like previous Space for Grace gatherings, this year's event will provide opportunities to connect with passionate speakers and network with workshop leaders and fellow participants. In addition to an impressive slate of keynote speakers, you will enjoy learning experiences on leadership empowerment, discipleship and healing and transforming communities presented by renowned pastors, organizational directors, and authors.

You can find out more at: <https://web.cvent.com/event/67edaf79-f640-491d-a6c1-f970b4f309ed/summary>



## 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](#).

## Installation of Pastor Angeline Lau at Japanese Baptist Church



Please join Japanese Baptist Church as we celebrate the Installation of Pastor Angeline Lau as our Senior Minister on October 2, 2022 at 2p.m. at 160 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122. Parking is limited so carpool if you

can. ( We are one block from the Streetcar stop, for those considering public transportation!). Come bless Pastor Angeline with your presence. Stoles are optional but we'd love to see them!

There will be a Zoom option for those who cannot attend in person. The Zoom link is below as is the Meeting ID and passcode.

**Zoom Meeting ID:** 973 8846 5827

**Passcode:** 738767

**Link:** <https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/97388465827?pwd=YmYzM2JQYlB6NXcyY2lrT1BQOVFSdz09>

## September Calendar

**September 5th**—Labor Day!

**September 11th**—Grandparent's Day

**September 11th**—9/11 Remembrance Day

**September 19th**—Talk Like A Pirate Day

**September 21st—23rd**—Space for Grace Conference in Kansas City, MO

**September 22nd**—Fall begins

**September 29th**—National Coffee Day—buy your pastor a cuppa!

**September 30th**—Last Day to register for Evergreen's Annual Meeting



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.

Seen the updated website yet?

<https://ea-abc.org/>

## Anti-Racism Team Book Discussion

Join the Evergreen Euro Caucus' Anti-Racism team (ART) for our second book discussion of *Trouble the Water: A Christian Resource for Racial Justice*. We hosted the first discussion of the first half of the book at the end of July, and we will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> discussion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the book (pages 121-end) on **Saturday, October 1st at 10 a.m. PT, 11 a.m. MT**. Participation in the first discussion is not required to participate in the second - all are welcome!

Zoom Meeting link here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81311493170?pwd=SmRWMEdic3J2YzhKMVpMSU1yakYwUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 813 1149 3170

**Passcode:** 437172

## 10 years of Ministry at WCBC

Rev. Kawl Tha and Washington Chin Baptist Church celebrated their 10th anniversary on August 6th. Rev. Dr. Paul Aita, Minister to Peoples from Burma, Pastor Angeline Lau of JBC, and Rev. Paul Schneider from EA-ABC brought greetings, and Rev. Robert Biak Cung from GS-Matu Christian Churches, USA preached. The pictures below include the Washington Kachin Baptist musical performance, the WCBC women’s action song, Rev. Cung, and Rev. Kawl Tha of WCBC.

