

Asian American **UM**

National Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM)

Newsletter

February 2010



NFAAUM CONVOCATION IN JULY

The National Federation of Asian American United Methodists, the recognized caucus for Asian Americans in The United Methodist Church, will hold a convocation on July 29-31, 2010, at Wesley UMC – 566 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112. Currently, ten ethnic groups are represented in the Federation: Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Formosan, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, South Asian, and Vietnamese. The convocation theme is *One: Step Forward*.

The delegates will be greeted by Asian American bishops and other general agency church leaders. In addition to the regular Federation meeting, there will be workshops, worship, Bible study, cultural presentations, and resource and network opportunities. Convocation will be supported by the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General
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President's Column

LET'S GROW TOGETHER

Don Hayashi

The Asian American community is growing rapidly and becoming more diverse and complex. While some of our ancestors came to the U.S. over 100 years ago to start a new life, others came to America more recently. Many have been blessed with high educational achievement, but others have low school attainment and illiteracy. We come from many different countries and we have a diversity of cultural practices and traditions. We can celebrate our oneness through Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

This summer NFAAUM will bring together Asian Americans for a national convocation. We will gather in San Jose, California, on July 29-31. It will be a time to become better acquainted with each other, to be inspired through worship and Bible study, to study and learn together with a myriad of workshops and discussion groups. One of our focuses will be on immigration which affects Asian Americans in particular ways. We will reserve time for sub-ethnic caucuses to meet, and we will share our cultural traditions.

I urge all Asian American United Methodists to join us in San Jose. We will make scholarships available to enable many to participate. One particular request of the Federation board is to include young people in our gathering. We will make special provisions to assist young people in coming to the convocation.

The Convocation Planning Team headed by the Rev. Sehee Han is developing programs that will provide encouragement and training to strengthen our Asian American churches. We will provide workshops and speakers that can show us how we can grow in our faith and outreach to our communities. Rev. Keith Inouye and Wesley UMC congregation will welcome
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Commentary

IMMIGRATION AND CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Jacob Dharmaraj

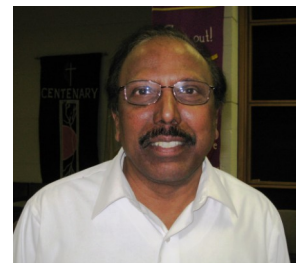
Last summer, I attended the Bishop's Task Force for Immigration held at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Des Moines, Iowa. One evening, we listened to a story narrated by a couple of pastors about an undocumented young woman whose dead body was found in a desert while she was trying to rejoin her family in Des Moines. As I was listening, I found myself thinking not of just one individual case...but an over all effect, a sense of horror, mixed with anger and disbelief. After all, we all shed the same tears.

The note of sorrow dominated the discussion. As I left the church, I asked myself repeatedly, "Who is indeed responsible? How can we find an answer to this ongoing political debate? How is it all going to end?"

We Are All Responsible

We need to take responsibility for the society and community of which we are a part. Our parents and their generation did whatever they could in order for us to inherit whatever we have in our possession. We may not be responsible for the current state of economy, ecology or ecclesiology but we are responsible for what we do with what we have inherited as traditions of the church and traditionalism of our society.

Immigration issue is a moral problem; it is a justice issue and a missional concern. In a speech at the White House in 1999, Elie Wiesel said, "It is so much easier to look away from victims. It is so much easier to avoid such rude interruptions to our work, our dreams, our hopes." But indifference to
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NFAAUM Convocation (from Page 1)

Board of Global Ministries/Asian American Language Ministry, and the General Board of Church and Society.

Registration fees are \$125 per person for up to 3 nights of hotel (double occupancy in the Holiday Inn Express in San Jose) and 5 meals. Commuters may register for \$75 per person without hotel accommodation.

Committees and other associations related to NFAAUM are expected to caucus around the convocation dates. The Western Jurisdiction AA and the Asian American Language Ministry Committee will meet immediately prior to the convocation. More information on Pages 4 and 5.

Wesley UMC—San Jose, California

Commentary: Immigration (from Page 1)

sufferings of others “is what makes the human being inhuman.” He added, “The political prisoner in his cell, the hungry children, the homeless refugees – not to respond to their plight, not to relieve their solitude by offering them a spark of hope is to exile them from human memory. And in denying their own humanity, we betray our own.”

Reality Check

By the middle of the century, the population of the United States will be larger and more racially and ethnically diverse than earlier projections suggested, with much of the increase due to immigration.

By 2042, minorities, collectively, are projected to make up more than 50 percent of the U.S. population. By 2050, minorities -- those who identify themselves as Hispanic, Black, Asian, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander or mixed race -- will account for 54 percent of the U.S. population, which is projected to total 439 million that year.

Among the nation’s children, the trend is even more pronounced: by 2023, more than half will belong to a minority racial or ethnic group. By 2050, this will jump to 62 percent (compared to 44 percent today).

Non-Hispanic whites are currently 66 percent of the U.S. population and are projected to be 46 percent in 2050. Today non-Hispanic whites are in the minority in four states -- Hawaii, New Mexico, California and Texas -- and the District of Columbia.

Hispanics are the fastest-growing minority group and is projected to nearly triple, from almost 47 million to 133 million, during the 2008-2050 period, and will jump from 15 percent to 30 percent of the population.

Nearly 20 percent of Americans will be foreign born in 2050, compared with 12 percent in 2005, the center projects.

Asians are the third largest minority group -- and the second fastest-growing group -- in the United States. Asians will increase from 5 percent of the U.S. population in 2008 to 9 percent by 2050.

The Asian population grew at a rate of 18.7 per cent over the past five years. The white population is growing at less than one-fifth the rate of the minority population. .

“No other country has experienced such rapid racial and ethnic change,” said Mark Mather, a demographer with the Population Reference Bureau, a research organization in Washington. Now, they are projecting that the population will top 400 million

in 2039 and reach 439 million in 2050.

Our Dilemma

Immigrants are often thought of as resources to be used and discarded. This must be stopped. We cannot be an echo of the past, but a voice for this generation. We cannot react with our emotions but struggle with our intellect. We should always be open-minded and have the ability to listen and examine the view points of others in the community who hold precious. When the king complained to Joan of Arc that he never heard the voice of God, she simply replied, “You must listen, and then you will hear.”

Our listening then has to lead us to act. Sometimes separation by distance shields us from full responsibilities and actions. Or we simply say to ourselves, “The problem is too complex, I cannot do much about it.”

But we cannot escape responsibilities. Some day, we will be held responsible for not being responsible. We need to cultivate and develop and cultivate a holy discontent with the status quo that fosters apathy and indifference to human suffering.

Ben Fountain writes in his book *Brief Encounters With Che Quevara* (Harper Collins, 2008) about an American diplomat’s wife and a foreign visitor who were waiting for the traffic to move in an intersection in Accra, Ghana. A one legged boy on crutches hobbled up to their car and extended his palm. The visitor pulled a clump of bank notes from her purse to give to the boy. The diplomat’s wife called sharply, “Don’t give him money! That makes you part of the problem.” The visitor went ahead and gave the money anyway and replied, “As long as there’s no solution, I might as well be part of the problem.”

This story illustrates the fundamental dilemma the inability of well meaning adults to personally redress global, national and communal wrongs that lie at the heart of our ministry.

Let us strive to see the image of God in the one who is not in our image! JD

Asian American ZIM Newsletter

Via electronic mail

The publishers request persons to send e-mail addresses to the NFAAUM Office (nfaaum@pacbell.net) for inclusion on the Federation’s e-list. NFAAUM plans to send periodic email to constituents by e-mail. Currently there are over 900 on the list. The Laity is particularly encouraged to send in their addresses.

U.S. CENSUS 2010 IS US

Every ten years, the United States counts the total number of people in the United States, regardless of citizenship. Census Day will be April 1, 2010. Forms will be mailed out in mid-March to be completed and returned. Census takers will follow-up with those they haven't heard from.

Completing the census forms will help your community receive benefits, funding and services that will empower your community. It is the most accurate way to measure the size of the Asian American community. It is required by law that everyone living in the United States fill out the census (regardless of citizenship).

The Census determines the number of Congress-



sional representatives from each state. Each year over \$400 billion of federal funding, as well as state and local funding, is determined by the Census. Government uses census data to plan how to allocate their resources and what services to provide the community (such as hospitals, child care centers, and roads). Businesses use census information determine where to open new stores or offices. Community-based organizations can use census data to identify trends and problems occurring in communities to set policies that can fix problems or offer services to alleviate a condition. The data is used to prevent discrimination against minorities, the disabled, and the elderly in the workforce.

By law, all individual answers given in the Census are confidential. They cannot be shared with any person or government agency such as the Dept. of Homeland Security or the Internal Revenue Service.

Please be sure you tell others that participating in the Census will benefit their community and themselves. Let's all be counted.

In Brief

ASIAN AMERICAN NEWS



The **General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR)** has granted from its Minority Group Self-Determination Fund (MGSDf) \$40,000 to the Federation for 2010.

+ Ms. **Kathleen Thomas-Sano** has resigned as associate general secretary of GCORR.

+ Rev. **Keith Hwang**, pastor of Fullerton First UMC (Cal-Pac) has been named to the board of The United Methodist Church Foundation under the General Council on Finance and Administration.

+ The **Council of Bishops** has launched a churchwide appeal to rebuild lives and churches in the Philippines asking annual conferences and local churches to designate a Sunday to participate.

+ Bishop **Roy Sano** and Dr. **Jeffery Kuan**, professor at Pacific School of Religion, prepared a statement for NFAAUM from an Asian perspective for presentation to the Study Committee on the Worldwide Nature of the UMC. Bishop Sano is the NFAAUM representative to the Connectional Table.

+ Bishop **Roy Sano** proposed Micro-Financing as an avenue to achieve economic justice at a conversation on the ministry to the poor sponsored by GBGM.

+ **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** continues to administer Advance offerings for area disasters: **Philippine Typhoon, UMCOR Advance No. 240235; South Pacific Earthquake UMCOR Advance No. 982450; West Sumatra (Indonesia) Earthquake UMCOR Advance No. 217400; Haiti Earthquake UMCOR Advance No. 418325**

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President's Corner (from Page 1)

and host us during the convocation. Rev. Danny Huang and the California-Nevada Asian Caucus will also be on hand to care for our needs.

Let us grow together as we witness to our faith and reach out in ministry to our diverse and growing Asian American community. DH

National Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM) Officers

Mr. Donald Hayashi (Ohio)
President

Rev. Sung Ja Lee Moon (Illinois)
Vice President for Membership

Rev. Jacob D. Dharmaraj (New York)
Vice President for Advocacy

Rev. Bau Dang (California)
Treasurer

Mr. Pong Javier (Illinois)
Secretary

Ms. Laddie Perez-Galang
Administrative Assistant

Ms. **Ruby Ramos-Bago** of Cal-Nevada is the new Chair (2009-2011) of the National Association of Filipino-American United Methodists (NAFAUM), the first woman to hold the position.

+ Rev. **Cuong M. Nguyen** is the new Chair of the Vietnamese National Caucus.

+ The Rev. **George Nishikawa** was elected Chair of National Japanese UM Caucus (NJAUMC) for 2010.

National Federation of Asian American United Methodists

JULY 29 – 31, 2010

4 P.M. – REGISTRATION

6 P.M. – DINNER

7 P.M. – OPENING WORSHIP

The Convocation will bring together Asian American lay and clergy leaders from across the United States representing Asian American congregations and ministries of the ten sub-ethnic caucus groups. The convocation purposes are for inspiration, engagement, learning, and celebration. We expect several Asian American Bishops and other church leaders will attend, along with Asian American general agency staff.

Wesley United Methodist Church
566 North Fifth Street
San Jose, CA 95112

REGISTRATION:

- \$125/PERSON FOR UP TO 3 NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY) AND 5 MEALS (2 LUNCHESES AND 3 DINNERS), OR
- \$75/PERSON FOR COMMUTERS—NO HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 30, 2010. PLEASE COMPLETE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM AND MAIL TO:

LADDIE PEREZ-GALANG
1755 SUNNYVALE AVENUE
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597

INFO: (925) 727-1295 OR NFAAUM@FACBELL.NET

SPONSORS: NATIONAL FEDERATION OF ASIAN AMERICAN UNITED METHODISTS, GENERAL COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE, GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES, GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY, WESTERN JURISDICTION ASIAN AMERICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE, WESTERN JURISDICTION ASIAN AMERICAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER CLERGYWOMEN, ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRY CAUCUS OF CA-NV CONFERENCE

COMMITTEES/GROUPS MEETINGS PRIOR TO CONVOCATION:

- ASIAN AMERICAN LANGUAGE MINISTRY
- ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER CLERGY WOMEN
- WESTERN JURISDICTION ASIAN AMERICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

One: Step Forward

PROPOSED CONVOCATION SCHEDULE

Tuesday – 7/27 (Pre-event Meetings)	Wednesday – 7/28 (Pre-event Meetings)	Thursday – 7/29	Friday – 7/30 (Church Development – Who we are)	Saturday – 7/31 (Outreach)	Sunday – 8/1 (Worship)
	8-12 – Meeting WJAACC	8-12 – Meetings AALM AAPICW	9-9:30 – Worship 9:30-10:30 – Celebra- tion Plenary – Young Peo- ple	9-9:30 – Worship 9:30-12:00 – Ple- nary Immigration	For those able to stay, par- ticipants are encouraged to attend Worship Services at neighboring area churches – transportation will be pro- vided.
12 – Lunch WJAACC	12 – Joint Lunch AALM AAPICW WJAACC	11:30-1 – AAPICW Working Lunch 12 – Lunch AALM	12 – Lunch (caucuses/ groups)	12 – Lunch	
1 p.m. – Meeting WJAACC	1 p.m. – Meet- ings AALM AAPICW	1:15-3 – Meeting AAPICW 4 – NFAAUM Convo Registration	2-3:30 – Workshop 1 4-5:30 – Workshop 2	2-3:30 – Workshop 3 4-5:30 p.m. – NFAAUM Board Meeting	
6 p.m. – Dinner WJAACC 7 p.m. – Meeting WJAACC	6 p.m. – Joint Dinner AALM AAPICW 7 p.m. – Meet- ings AALM AAPICW	6 p.m. – Dinner 7 p.m. – Opening Worship	6 p.m. – Dinner Cultural Night	6 p.m. – Dinner (banquet)	

ANNOUNCEMENT



Asian American and Pacific Islander United Methodist Clergywomen Association (AAPIC)

<http://www.aapicumc.org>

January 28, 2010

Greetings in Christ's name! The Board of Directors of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Clergywomen is excited to share with you the good news that our first Biennial Meeting will be held on **July 28-29, 2010** at Wesley UMC, 566 North 5th St. San Jose, CA. The theme of our gathering is '**Sisterhood: Mary and Elizabeth**' which is based on Luke 1:26-56, celebrating our strengths in diversity and networking with AAPIC sisters around the country.

Our meeting will be held one day prior to the National Federation of Asian American United Methodist convocation on **July 29-31, 2010**. **We hope that you can attend both gatherings.** The hotel arrangement is at the Holiday Inn Express-San Jose International Airport (1350 North Fourth Street, San Jose, CA 95112)

Please note the following deadlines (postmarked):

April 23rd: Deadline to apply for scholarship

May 21st: Deadline to register to attend the entire conference with **guaranteed** housing.

Last day to cancel with refund (minus \$20 processing fee.) No fees refunded after this date.

July 9th: Deadline to register to attend the conference as a commuter only if we have space.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Nizzi Digan or Rev. Motoe Yamada or check our website at <http://www.aapicumc.org>.

7/28 Wednesday

1 pm to 3 pm – Check in, Registration

3 pm to 6 pm – Introductory Plenary

6 pm to 7 pm – Dinner

7 pm to 8 pm – Opening Worship

8 pm to 8:15 pm – Break

8:15 pm to 9 pm – Ethnic Groups Meeting

9 pm – Departure to Hotel

7/29 Thursday

8 am to 8:30 am – Bible Study

8:30 am to 9 am – Mary & Elizabeth Time

9 am to 10 am – Workshop I

10 am to 10:15 am – Break

10:15 am to 11:15 am – Workshop II

11:15 am to 11:30 am – Break

11:30 am to 1 pm – Lunch

- Panel Discussion

1 pm to 1:15 pm – Break

1:15 pm to 2:15 pm – Election

2:15 pm to 3 pm – Closing Worship

Sincerely yours,
Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan

Chairperson

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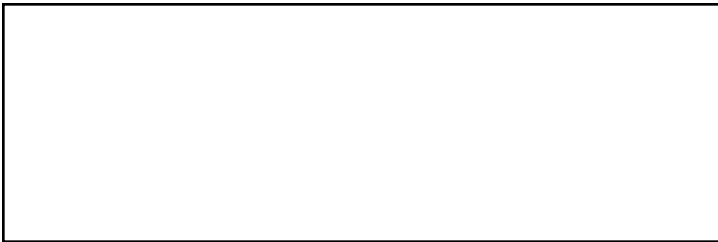
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