

“Spring: a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be.”

—Unknown

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— Norma Jean-Jacques, Editor

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Spotlight on Rev. Samuel Kim

Pastor,
Japanese Baptist Church, Seattle



God has brought Reverend Samuel Kim to many places of ideological, cultural or generational divides throughout his life. After he graduated from college, the Lord called the Korean Canadian to work as a teacher in Japan, a country that annexed Korea between 1910-1945, in order to learn about being an agent of healing and restoration between these two cultures.

While studying in Washington, D.C., he discovered that the term “evangelical” had controversial political connotations in the United States. In Canada and other countries, it refers purely to a religious way of life. Reverend Kim explains, “Pastoring in D.C., about 75 percent of my congregation worked in the government. Since we were right in the middle of red Virginia and blue Maryland, I had to learn how to speak very carefully about the scripture without offending anybody. I’m a Canadian citizen, born in Edmonton, so the fact that I’m just a U.S. resident, who can’t vote, gave me this neutrality and ability to learn how to pastor people regardless of their opinions and backgrounds.”

After his experience in the nation’s capitol, Rev. Kim—who studied music at a performing arts school and theology in two seminaries—found himself in the middle of a generational divide while serving at a United Methodist Church in California. The younger half of the congregation enjoyed his Christian music ministry and the more seasoned half thought it was not Christian enough.

Conducting a Spiritual Symphony

Rev. Kim spent ten years pastoring full-time in a Korean American United Methodist church, a Chinese American Assemblies of God church and a non-denominational church. All of these communities have multi-generational and multi-lingual congregations. These diverse experiences introduced him to a whole new world of cultural ministry. All of his intercultural and interfaith skills have never been more needed than now when he has been pastor at the Japanese Baptist Church (JBC) in Seattle for the past three eventful years. During a perfect storm of a global pandemic, a rise in racial violence against Asians worldwide, and racial and political unrest across America, his travels and experience have helped him navigate the turbulent waters of these unprecedented times.



“Being a minister is not just a skill set, but an identity. Retirement is simply a season in the calling: The retired minister releases certain responsibilities but finds time for other roles.”

– Rev. Samuel Kim



Being a gifted musician has been particularly useful to Rev. Kim. He declares, “I wanted to find a way to meld art and theology to bring people together. Art can really communicate to people across divides and can build bridges. Music became a vehicle to create and make a common space.” He has turned all the lessons he’s learned through his education,



Rev. Kim is pictured at Japanese Baptist Church, where he is pastor, with his daughter, Eden.

pastoring, and life experiences into a spiritual symphony of grace.

Throughout a 20-year freelance music career, Rev. Kim has written, recorded and produced original music of his own. He has also composed soundtracks for short films, commercials and documentaries. While pastoring at JBC, he formed a gathering called *Selah*, which invites people inside and outside of the church to gather around the arts. The event creates a place to pause, appreciate, share and learn from artists and the arts. The Hebrew word *Selah* is believed to be a musical term that appears more than 70 times in the Book of Psalms. *Selah* attracts participants ranging from musicians to painters of different backgrounds and generations across Seattle. Rev. Kim remarks, “Our Creator God has made us all in God’s image to be creative. It is through the transcendent moments of creativity that we see beautiful glimpses of the Author of our lives. We also want to encourage fellow Christians who are artists to develop their craft out of their identity gifted to them by their Creator God.”

Age is Just a Number

Bridging divides also involves recognizing the role of retired ministers in the church. Rev. Kim shares, “Being a minister is not just a skill set, but an identity. Retirement is simply a season in the calling: The

retired minister releases certain responsibilities but finds time for other roles.”

According to Reverend Kim, the greatest gift retired pastors can give to the church is their pastoral presence. He has found that older adults in his congregation feel those over 60 take a greater interest in them as people when providing a service to them. So people over 60 are particularly well-suited to help minister to their peers as this population grows.

Finding the Right Fit

Rev. Kim served in many theological traditions before he became an American Baptist. In one church where he ministered, a few of the congregants confided in him that they were gay, but they feared their church would denounce and expel them from the denomination if they came out. As a result, Rev. Kim no longer felt he could be a part of that denomination.

“I value things in all the traditions I’ve explored, but it’s also given me an honest look at the weaknesses in each tradition. I’m so happy to be in the American Baptist Church now because I think it fits so well with all my experiences,” Rev. Kim notes. “The Baptist tradition provides freedoms, such as recognizing we all have a role in discerning what God’s word is, what God desires for us and how we do that together in community while maintaining diversity.”

He continues, “The Japanese Baptist Church is also part of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, which is very progressive in the way it brings people together because we use a caucus model where each ethnicity is represented. We all have an equal voice in our region. This model is very important to me as a minority, dealing with intercultural and intergenerational issues. In the Evergreen Association, we are all equals in Christ. I’m really glad to be a part of this family.”

Anniversaries



Reverend Carol M. Simpson and her husband Dr. Michael Simpson celebrated a COVID-subdued 50th wedding anniversary on June 27, 2020. They were married

in the Greenville Community Church north of New York City, with Carol's pastor and a Roman Catholic Monsignor officiating. Carol's pastor would later be the first to suggest that Carol was called to ministry.

Rev. Simpson graduated from Tufts University and initially pursued a career in teaching before turning down tenure to earn her Master of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester/Crozier Seminary. Prior to entering seminary, she served as Director of Christian Education at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Utica, NY.

In addition to a subsequent interim associate assignment in Utica, Rev. Simpson has pastored churches in Syracuse, New Hartford, and White Plains, NY, the American Church in Paris and the International Church of Strasbourg, France. During the latter assignment, she was also President of



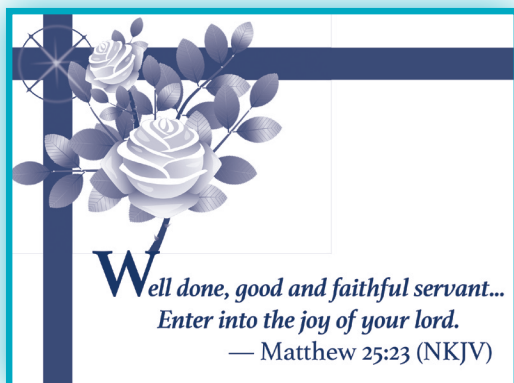
the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East.

Dr. Michael Simpson has been President of three universities and continues to teach as a Professor of Space Law and Policy. COVID confinement has afforded him the chance to learn at least six online platforms for teaching, mentoring and coaching. He serves on the Board of several not-for-profit organizations and served on the MMBB Board of Managers for two terms.

The Simpsons have two grown children and three rapidly growing grandchildren.

The couple currently lives in Boulder, CO, and are members of ABC's Pine Street Church, where Rev. Simpson heads the nurture team and is a committee member overseeing the church preschool. Dr. Simpson currently leads the church's Finance and Stewardship Committee.

In Memoriam



Rev. Myron R. Chartier, Ph.D., 83, passed away on January 23, 2021. He was born January 13, 1938, in Fort Morgan, CO. In 1963, he earned his Bachelor of Divinity degree from the California Baptist Theological Seminary.

Rev. Chartier received a Master of Arts degree in history from Fort Hays Kansas State College in 1969 and earned his Doctorate in Human Communications from the University of Denver in 1971.

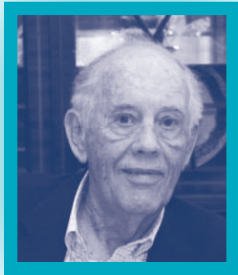
As a boy of 12, Myron responded to a call to Christian ministry. In his senior year of college, he married Janet A. Duncan from Littleton, CO. Rev. Chartier and his wife became a life-long ministry team, working together in campus ministry in Hays, KS. The couple also



taught at the American Baptist Seminary of the West and Palmer Theological Seminary and served as regional staff of the American Baptist Churches of Michigan. After their retirement, they continued in ministry on a part-time basis at Calvary Baptist Church in Denver, CO. In 2004, the

Chartiers moved to North Carolina to be close to family and settled at the Pines at Davidson, where they were involved in various leadership roles. Rev. Chartier was a caring, enthusiastic lover of life, family, people, God and the church of Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his spouse, Janet; his children, Melody S. Chartier of Shutesbury, MA, and Timothy P. Chartier of Davidson, NC; two grandchildren, Noah and Mikayla; and siblings, Vernon Chartier of Beaverton, OR, Pat Tucker of Rockaway Beach, OR, and Peg Flaherty of Pullman, WA.



The Reverend William C. Cline, 86, went to his eternal home on February 1, 2021. He was the loving husband of Elizabeth P. Cline, his wife of 42 years. Born October 24, 1934, in Salt Lake City, UT, he was the son of the late Earl Marshall Cline and Vera Johnson Cline. His four sib-

lings also predeceased him: Nita (Cline) Jones, Patricia (Cline) Warrell, Jim Cline and Janice (Cline) Bristow.

Rev. Cline attained a full scholarship to Pepperdine University in journalism, and then later, a Wolcott Scholarship to George Washington University where he earned a master's degree in International Affairs. During that time, he also started his military career, accepting a Navy Officer Candidate School appointment in 1957. He developed a love of writing and worked his way through school in the copy room and as a copyeditor at the *Los Angeles Examiner*. His true life's work, however, was the ministry. In 1966, he received his Master of Divinity from California Theological Seminary, and much later an honorary Doctorate in Divinity from Eastern College. He was "Pastor Bill" to a wonderful church community at Conejo Valley Baptist Church, CA, from 1967 until he began serving with American Baptist Churches (ABC) in Valley Forge, PA in 1974. At ABC's National Ministries, he held positions in evangelism, among others, before his retirement in August of 1999. He also followed a spiritual path in his military career, serving as a Navy Chaplain until his retirement in 1994 and achieving the rank of Captain.

Rev. Cline had a God-given gift for music, loved to sing, and could "play anything that could hold still," though his favorites were the guitar and the trombone. He shared his musical talents throughout his life and in his ministry.

In retirement he served as an editor of several newsletters and filled in for various ministers as needed. He also enjoyed fishing and being the "pool boy" at his community pool in Martha's Vineyard, where he felt blessed to spend half the year for the past 20 years.

In addition to his wife Elizabeth, he is survived by his children, Timothy N. Cline and Laurel Cline Bobst, his three granddaughters, four great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

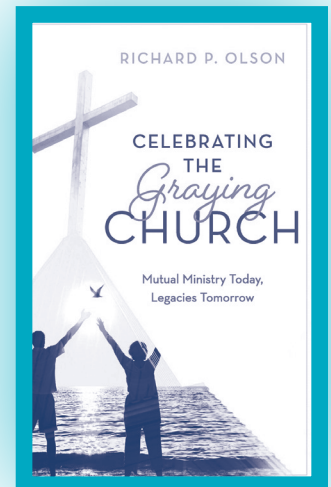
Book Review

In *Celebrating the Graying Church*, Rev. Richard P. Olson suggests a new kind of ministry to, with and from older adults. His book offers ideas and guidance for tapping into this practice of ministry and how aging adults in ministry can support each other and their faith communities.

Rev. Olson, a minister for 40 years, tried to provide good pastoral care to older adults and to support groups and organizations they had created. But many of the churches he served concentrated on outreach to young families, children and youth. However, there wasn't a recognition that presently a growing portion of those who remain within churches and other ministries, as church attendance decreases, are older adults. Rev. Olson declares, "I call us to celebrate the graying church. Be enriched in discovering the history, interests and gifts of elders."

The author has interviewed more than a dozen religious leaders who minister to older adults and staff in the retirement community where he lives. He shares his discoveries throughout the book, including profiles of inspiring elders. At the end of each chapter is a list of topics and questions that are used for reflection or to prompt open conversations between religious leaders and the elder community.

The book recommends some sensitive topics for older adults to consider reflecting upon as well as those who minister to them. Suggestions on how to navigate



end-of-life conversations and say good-bye to loved ones are covered in chapter 11, and aging adult health concerns are covered in chapter six.

In Chapter 13, Rev. Olson highlights how a community can develop a deeper wide-ranging ministry with older adults. Four churches that create and offer opportunities for older adults are featured. “My hope is that at the very least this book will stir mutually enriching conversations between elders and their religious leaders and caregivers,” Rev. Olson observes.

Rev. Richard P. Olson retired as a distinguished professor of pastoral theology at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in 2018. He is the author of many books, including *Ministry with Families in Flux*.

Any views or opinions presented in this book are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of MMBB. We welcome all submissions of books for review in News & Notes. Because of the large number of submissions received, we are not able to publish a review of all of the books sent to us. We are grateful for the suggestions you share with us and look forward to publishing some of them during the year.

Lifestyle

Dreaming about a Better Night’s Sleep?



Some people believe that aging adults, many of whom rise very early or wake up in the middle of the night, need less sleep than the rest of the population. Anyone over 65 who has experienced insomnia and the bleary-eyed after-effects the next morning knows that is a myth. Medical experts agree that the average adult needs eight hours of sleep a night for optimal health and productivity.¹

So why do many elders sleep less than other members of the population? As they age, people produce less melatonin, a hormone in the body that controls sleep-wake cycles. If an aging adult has chronic health issues, they may also disrupt sleep. Here is some guidance for improving sleep.

1. Avoid caffeine and alcohol before bed. Caffeine is a stimulant, and alcohol may decrease inhibitions, but it doesn’t promote deep and sustained sleep.

2. Avoid watching television right before bed or if you wake up in the middle of the night. The sound and visuals are stimulating, which will make it harder to fall asleep.
3. Reduce noise and light right before bed.
4. Engage in quiet, calm activities before sleeping or if you wake up in the middle of the evening. Such activities include taking a bath or reading a hardcopy book. The normal lighting on a digital device stimulates the eyes and can keep you awake.
5. Meditate or listen to soothing music before bed or if you wake at night.
6. Go to sleep at the same time every evening.
7. Avoid taking long naps during the day.
8. Speak to your healthcare professional for their guidance about improving your sleep.

1. “How Aging Affects Circadian Rhythms,” February 5, 2021, The National Sleep Foundation.

