

## August 2016 Notes from the Presbytery of Nevada

### Presbytery Pastor Hilda Pecoraro

The theme for the July 4, 2016 edition of Presbyterian Outlook was, “Rural Ministry in 2016: Small Churches, Large Reach.” The following is from an article by Richard J. (Skip) Shaffer, Jr., “*While there are notable exceptions, the PC(USA) is becoming a denomination of smaller churches. In 2014, the last year for which there are complete statistics, 56.2% of PC(USA) congregations had fewer than 100 members, the level at which supporting a full-time pastor becomes difficult. Of those 5,502 congregations, almost half (2,581) were listed as without pastoral leadership. Another 1,531 of these congregations were served by leadership other than an installed pastor.*”

If we take a look at the 20 chartered churches in Nevada Presbytery, we see the following membership figures (based on 12/2015 membership report).

Membership of:	50 or under	8 congregations
	51-100	3 congregations
	100-200	5 congregations
	200-500	3 congregations
	501 and above	1 congregation

Most of our smaller congregations are vibrant, active and mission-oriented. They are congregations that are positively impacting their communities and shining the light of God’s love – whether they have an installed pastor or not! Smaller churches are not “less-than,” or failed churches simply because of their size; however, smaller churches do face challenges when it comes to pastoral leadership, staying financially solvent and supporting programs. On the other hand, smaller churches provide a warm welcome, practice genuine concern and care for each member and have many opportunities for service.

I encourage all our congregations, regardless of their size, to focus on what are their unique strengths, to take an honest look at their available resources and to prayerfully seek out ways they can serve their communities in the name of Jesus. May God bless all our congregations (including our NCD’s) as we seek to be faithful in our ministry – be it rural, small town or city!

In Christ, Hilda

### Memorial Service for the Reverend Joseph Song

A beautiful and uplifting Service to honor the life and ministry of our brother in Christ, the Rev. Joseph Song, was held on Sunday, July 10, 2016 at the First



Korean Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas. Rev. Song's long and faithful service to our Lord Jesus Christ was a blessing to many. We thank God for the gift of his life and pray God's continued comfort upon his family and loved ones. Pastor Lim, Mrs. Song and several elders were among those who honored Rev. Song. (Photo: Rev. In Cheol Lim)

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**Special thanks and farewell** to the **Reverend Rick Mills**, who has moved from Lake Tahoe to Minnesota in order to be closer to family. We are so grateful to Rick for his friendship, leadership and wisdom during his brief time as a member of the Presbytery of Nevada. Rick was most involved by providing pulpit supply at Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church and Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church. In addition, Rick often filled the pulpit at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Reno. We thank God for Rick's sojourn in our midst and pray God's abundant blessing on him as he goes on to a new chapter in life!

**Save the date! The First Filipino-American Presbyterian NCD**, under the very capable leadership of the **Rev. Mariano "Nonong" Ordonez**, is moving closer to chartering! The congregation is faithfully fulfilling the requirements to move from a New Church Development to a chartered church in the Presbytery of Nevada!

The date for the Chartering Service has been set for **Sunday, October 23, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at Green Valley Presbyterian Church**. Save the date and plan to be there to help celebrate this joyous occasion. Let us continue to keep the wonderful congregation of FFAPC in our prayers.

**Linda Rauenbuehler, Director of Senior Adult Ministries** at Green Valley Presbyterian Church asked if I could publicize the 2016 Joint Conference of Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network (POAMN) and the Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or Survivors (ARMSS). The theme of the Conference is "Christian Discipleship: People of the Spirit, People of Hope." It will be held October 11-14, 2016 at the Four Points Sheraton in Richmond, Virginia. For more information, a brochure and how to register for the event, please go to [www.poamn.org](http://www.poamn.org). If you have older adults in your congregation – and I know you do! – consider sending someone to this excellent conference to learn more about resources, special ministries, opportunities for growth and so much more for our older adults!

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Presbytery of Nevada,

As the hot summer days continue into August, my prayer is that you will find time this month for rest and renewal. Drink deep at the well of the Water of Life, so that you may be refreshed and ready to face each new day with strength, wisdom and hope.

I look forward to hearing from you with any joys, concerns, questions, updates, etc. Let me know how I can pray for you, for your family and for your congregation. It is a great privilege for me to serve you as Presbytery Pastor. I thank you for your trust and wait on your openness to be in touch with me! In Christ, Hilda