

# *Pacific Asian American/Canadian Christian Education*

**Chair:** Richard Chung-Sik Choe

**Staff:** Patrice L. Rosner

## **Program Mission/Purpose:**

For the benefit of our denominations, the Pacific Asian American/Canadian Christian Education team is committed to contextual education and serves as a resource to equip persons to become meaningfully integrated in their faith and cultures.

## **1. What specific actions has the program ministry committee taken or plans to take to follow through with the work on cultural proficiency begun in the January 2005 ELMC meeting?**

At the February meeting Richard described the January meeting and the group engaged in a conversation and critical reflection about cultural proficiency. It was pointed out that the major presenter in January did not value people's experiences. She seemed to be aware of black/white issues, but not Asian issues. PAACCE members are often called upon by their communions to provide leadership in antiracism training and in multicultural ministry. An important issue is how to make non-Asians aware of the stories of Asians.

## **2. What actions has the program ministry committee taken to strengthen its relations to:**

**a. Other ELMC program ministry committees:** PAACCE still continues its relationship with the Committee on Black Congregational Ministries even though the schedule for the fall meetings for both groups did not coincide.

**b. NCCC member communions not represented at the table:** PAACCE members agreed to contact by email people from communions who do not participate in the PAACCE meetings.

**c. Other communions and/or agencies?** PAACCE members presented workshops at the annual Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) meeting. David Chai, PCUSA, was responsible for a learning tract on Asian American ministries, and he invited his PAACCE colleagues as leaders. Because APCE was such a positive experience, PAACCE agreed to hold its February 2006 meeting in conjunction with APCE.

PAACCE is a partner with McCormick Seminary in a Lily funded project called AADVENT, Asian American Discipleship for Vocational Empowerment – a project to encourage, support and challenge new generations of Asian American young adults to consider and pursue calls to Christian pastoral ministry.



**3. How is the work of this program ministry committee carried forward between meetings of the committee?**

PAACCE communicates through its list serve and by conference call. In response to a concern expressed in the February meeting about losing grassroots participation, especially young people, the group challenged itself to develop a new core of leadership. At the November meeting, each PAACCE member is to bring a young adult from his/her communion. This effort, of course, necessitated interim work.

**4. How does the work of your program ministry strengthen ELMC as a whole? How does your work make ELMC a stronger witness to the unity of the church?**

Without PAACCE, the voice, stories, and experiences of Pacific Asians would be absent in ELMC.

**5. What resources/products/services does the program ministry offer to denominations/congregations/the public?**

PAACCE is continuing to develop a worship resource and a resource for youth titled New Moon to New Moon. The group is also working on revising and updating its brochure title Cultural Literacy 101.

As mentioned above, PAACCE also provided leadership in the APCE event in 2005.

**6. What recommendations do you want to make to the Education and Leadership Ministries Commission? To the NCCC?**

There is a kindred spirit among educators; there is more grace present with one another so that no one has to be outright defensive. At the January ELMC meeting we were able to have genuine dialog because of the relationships established. Once people have a relationship, there's a better chance of dialog because we can disagree and still be respectful. ELMC is an important witness to the unity of the church and offers a model for the NCCC.

**Membership:**

Don Ng	American Baptist Churches in the USA
Jae Chung	American Baptist Churches in the USA
Lucille S. Caldwell	The Episcopal Church USA
Fran Toy	The Episcopal Church USA
Pongsak Limthongviratn	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
David Chai	Presbyterian Church USA
Ella Campbell	Reformed Church in America
Po-Min Wang	Reformed Church in America
Richard Chung-Sik Choe	The United Church of Canada
Kim Uyede-Kai	The United Church of Canada
Rose Lee	United Church of Christ
Betsey Heavner	United Methodist Church General Board of Discipleship
Jong Sung Kim	United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries