



Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

Through all the formative and transformative years of my life, I've experienced God's creating, re-creating, and redeeming grace. I humbly confess that God is the sustaining and sanctifying power in my life beyond my willpower and capacity. The road to Christian wholeness is long and challenging. And, I know that God is calling us all towards perfect love. God is continually inspiring me with radical hope because God's grace is all around. We, who are in process together, walk with others in our faith community believing in "the communion of saints" and trusting that God can and will do way more than we dare to ask, or even imagine. As I journey with my siblings in Christ—the One who is God among us—our goal is to strive together and help each other towards wholeness in God.

Ministry Experience

Hope United Methodist Church, San Diego, CA: Associate Pastor (2017 - currently)

- Serve as Co-Pastor of Hope Korean Community, a new ministry plant. This ministry started with 6 seed members from Korean United Methodist Church of San Diego in 2016. As of today, Hope Korean Community has 60+ adults, several children and 10+ youths in regular attendance and 100+ in membership.
- Designed and led worship, discipleship and out-reach program, small groups—both traditional Wesleyan class meetings and new fresh expression.
- Initiated a collaboration between the English-speaking and the Korean-speaking congregations, led and preached in multiple joint worships, provided both one-on-one and group pastoral care and counseling sessions, and organized and participated in service projects.
- Provided ministry of presence for community events.
- Wrote grant applications for 5 years to the New Ministries EMT of California-Pacific Annual Conference to fund Hope Korean ministry.
- Focused primarily on: Worship, Discipleship, Administration, Pastoral Care and Counseling and Ministry for Future Generations.

Community and Conference Leadership

- Board Member, Wesley Foundation San Diego Chapter, 2019 – currently.
- Assistant Treasurer, National Association of Korean United Methodist Church, 2018 – currently.
- Contracted translator, The United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, General Board of Higher Education & Ministry, United Methodist Communications, 2016 – currently.
- Adjunct Faculty for Doctor of Ministry Program, Memphis Theological Seminary, 2015 – currently.
- Consultant for The United Methodist Council on Korean Ministries, 2013 – currently.
- Recording Secretary and Executive Secretary, National Association of Korean American United Methodist

Clergywomen, 2015 – 2019.

- Simultaneous translator, The 2016 General Conference (Portland, OR), The 2016 Global United Methodist Clergywomen Gathering (Houston, TX), The 13th World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women Assembly (Houston, TX), The 21st World Methodist Conference (Houston, TX), The 19th World Methodist Conference in 2006 (Seoul, Korea)
- California-Pacific Annual Conference *Mission* *u* Leader on Climate Justice (La Mirada, CA), 2016.

Church Leadership Experience Prior to Ordination

Korean United Methodist Church of San Diego, San Diego, CA (2013 – 2016)

- Part-time pastor of discipleship (2013-2016)
 - Led weekly women's Bible study group (2015-2016)
 - Designed and executed discipleship program (2014-2016): Equipped and empowered lay leaders for teaching ministry, taught *Disciples* Bible Study, Spiritual Autobiography, Christianity & Culture, and Introduction to The United Methodist Church
- Interim children's pastor:
 - Oversaw and directed Children's Ministry for 120 children and 20+ volunteer teachers (2014-2015)
- Pastor for outreach program, called "Me & Mom" (2013-2016)
 - Led an outreach program to draw young families and children (birth to 4-year-old)
 - Guided 24 volunteer teachers for the program
 - Started circular leadership model by shifting and exchanging leadership positions

First United Methodist Church, Ontario, California (2003-2006)

- Served on Worship Committee and Christian Education as a lay person

Brea Korean United Methodist Mission, Brea, California (2004-2007)

- Youth Pastor

North Boston Korean United Methodist Church, Andover, Massachusetts.

- Administrative Assistant to the Lead Pastor(1998-2002)
- Children's Pastor (1998-2000)
- Director of Discipleship Program (2000-2002)

Yeo Myung Korean Methodist Church, Incheon, Korea (1993-1997)

- Choir, praise band, children's ministry, small group ministry.

Ordination

- To Be Ordained Elder in Full Connection, June 2020
- Commissioned as Provisional Elder, June 2017

Education

- Clinical Pastoral Education at Sharp Metropolitan Hospital, San Diego, CA, 2013
- Claremont Graduate University School of Religion, 2011, Doctor of Philosophy in Theology, Ethics, Culture. Dissertation title: "Respectful Grace and Graceful Respect: A Korean Feminist Ethic."
- Boston University School of Theology, 2001, Master of Divinity (specialized track in Religion and Society)
- Methodist Theological University, 1997, Bachelor of Theological Studies

Publication History

- “Commentary: The Body of Christ can disagree.” Published on February 6, 2019. Available online at <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/commentary-the-body-of-christ-can-disagree>
- “One-Pot Menu: Korean American Women’s Wisdom Leadership” in *Leading Wisdom: Asian and Asian North American Women Leaders*, eds. Su Yon Pak and Jung Ha Kim. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, KY, 2017.
- “The Environment” in *Asian American Christian Ethics: Voices, Methods, Issues*, eds. Grace Y. Kao and Il-sup Ahn. Baylor University Press: Waco, TX, 2015.
- “A New Paradigm of Leadership” in *Leadership Is Discipleship*. The Leadership Ministries of General Board of Discipleship: Nashville, TN, 2015. (Published in Korean)

Leadership Style

All of us are created in the image of God and I believe that God has given each of us a unique gift. Together, when we share our gifts as the Church, we become the healing Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12). The work of ordained clergy is to identify the unique gifts in Christ’s body and bring them together so that we become a harmonious orchestra for ministry. In doing so, the Church becomes a channel of the prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace that transforms us, our communities, and our world. Rev. Trudy was looking for a hard-working team player in the search for an associate pastor. This is who I am. I’m excited to join the First Church team! Having learned about the long history and vital ministries of First Church San Diego, I’m excited to be a part of this amazing team of pastors, staff, and lay members in God’s amazing work for the world.

Life, Hobbies, and Interests

Over the past few years, my husband, J. Min, and I worked together on planting a new Korean ministry at Hope United Methodist Church. With different gifts and graces, we’ve made a great team together for launching this new ministry. With my new appointment here at First Church, J. Min will continue the work we began together at Hope UMC and Hope Korean with the wonderful group of lay leaders that God has brought together. Our daughter Jeewon is a part of the team with her old prophetic soul trapped in 7th grade body. She is creative, caring, free-spirited, and responsible.

I spend time with my family playing games, going on walks, hiking, biking, swimming, roller-blading, and ice-skating. Most important of all is cooking authentic Korean food. In my free time, I often find myself making kim-chee and mandoo (Korean dumplings) for my family and friends. I love reading books, listening to music, watching movies and TV, and traveling. During my provisional ministry years, I developed the love of talking with clergy friends and mentors about theology, humanity, culture, and life in general. Through my personal hobbies and interests, I love connecting my body, mind, and spirit to experience God’s grace in everyday life.