

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION (AC)
FOR KOREAN GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (KGSPC)
THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN GABRIEL
FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION (AC):

TE Lauren Evans, Moderator of AC
TE David Won (Pacific Presbytery), Moderator of Session
TE Mickie Choi (Riverside), Treasurer
TE Mark Carlson
RE Won Joon Shim (KGSPC)
RE Eui Young Yu (KGSPC)

PREVIOUS MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION (AC):

RE Derik Jeon
RE Paul Kim (Los Ranchos Presbytery)
RE James McCune
TE Adam Donner
TE Dongwoo Lee
TE Heidi Park
TE Foster Shannon
RE Wendy Menefee-Libey
TE Steve Yamaguchi
TE David Chai

On behalf of the current AC for KGSPC, we would like to thank the former members of the Administrative Commission for their dedication and service in helping to shepherd KGSPC on this long and difficult road.

The AC was formed on March 31st, 2015, began meeting on April 4th, 2015, and assumed original jurisdiction and met for the first time as the KGSPC Session on May 18th, 2015.

BACKGROUND: *(Taken in part from KGSPC's stated history)*

Forty years ago, in 1975, the beginnings of Korean Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (KGSPC) started off in Monterey Park. A retired pastor from Korea, Rev. Byung Kwan Yu, was the founding pastor. The church grew and became a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which was then the United States Presbyterian Church (USA), in 1982. The congregation's leaders shared a vision of church that was not only for Korean immigrants who spoke Korean, but also for English-speaking Koreans in the community.

In the early 1990s, the KGSPC congregation decided to make a move under the leadership of Rev. Hyung Sug Rim to the present site in Rowland Heights, where a large Korean community was emerging. The church members, then numbering about 150, offered \$650,000 for a building fund. The PC(USA) and San Gabriel Presbytery provided additional grant and loan money in 1995. The General Assembly awarded a check of \$50,000 in 2001 for support of securing a new pastoral staff for the progress made by the church. The church grew rapidly and its congregation increased to approximately 1,300 by the time Rev. Dr. Tae-Hyung Ko was installed as senior pastor in 2004.

THE CONFLICT:

Starting in February 2012, Rev. Ko began to promote the idea of using the Gracious Dismissal Policy of San Gabriel Presbytery to request the dismissal of KGSPC from the PC(USA). Several church leaders wanted to remain in the PC(USA), and expressed their concerns with the Presbytery. The Presbytery discussed the possibility of dismissal with the church over the course of several years. New decisions by the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission impacted the Presbytery's Gracious Dismissal Policy, which required further work with the church, especially in working with those wanting to stay in the PC(USA).

On March 29th, 2015, Rev. Dr. Tae-Hyung Ko submitted a letter of renunciation of the jurisdiction of the PC(USA) to the Stated Clerk of San Gabriel Presbytery, and the Session at the time attempted to declare that the church was no longer a member of the PC(USA). At a called meeting, the Presbytery authorized the Administrative Commission for KGSPC on March 31st, 2015, and first met on April 4th, 2015. On April 13th, 2015, the AC met with Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church Session and Rev. Ko. The AC met with the Stay Group on April 30th, 2015.

After seeking an alternate resolution, the AC accepted Rev. Ko's renunciation of the jurisdiction of the PC(USA) effective May 11th, 2015, and the Presbytery appointed Rev. Dongwoo Lee as Moderator of Session. The AC reluctantly assumed "original jurisdiction" of KGSPC on May 18th, 2015, after the then KGSPC Session refused to accept Rev. Dongwoo Lee as Moderator of Session. ECO voted to receive "Good Shepherd Church" on May 21st, 2015, leaving about 75 members staying actively with the PC(USA).

THE WORK OF RECOVERY/RENEWAL:

Beginning in June of 2015, the AC began to offer worship services, led by Rev. Dongwoo Lee, for the remaining members of the Stay Group on Wednesday nights, because they needed to continue worshiping on Sundays at KGSPC, even though the ECO group continued to lead worship, having refused to vacate the premises. Thanks to Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, who hosted the Wednesday night services, as these services were the only times the Stay Group could feel free to worship, since they were sometimes condemned by name by the pastor during Sunday morning worship. Thanks, also, to Northminster Presbyterian Church, who hosted polity training courses led by Rev. Mickie Choi, to prepare the Stay Group for future leadership of the remaining church.

After several months of this dual occupation, the Presbytery filed charges in civil court on July 9th, 2015, seeking to restore control of funds, property, and records. The ECO group made an offer to settle the lawsuit on September 2nd, 2015, which acknowledged the Presbytery's rights to the property and assets, but required continued negotiation.

The ECO group vacated the building on October 3rd with less than a week's notice. The ECO group took a great deal of KGSPC's personal property with them, including most of the vehicles, a grand piano, most of the working sound and production equipment, the choir robes and music, library books, meeting room and classroom furniture, equipment and supplies, hard drives from all the computers, and all of the books and records of the church. The locks were changed shortly thereafter by the remaining church.

A preliminary injunction was filed on October 29th to recover diverted or missing assets and property, estimated at least \$750,000 diverted from the KGSPC Hanmi Bank accounts, among other assets. The preliminary injunction was denied by the judge after KGSPC regained access to the building, but it was made clear to all parties that the AC has the sole decision-making power over the assets of KGSPC, including property and bank accounts in the church's name.

The congregation formed a Steering Committee of 13 congregational leaders. This group attended polity classes conducted by Rev. Mickie Choi and organized and carried out the day-to-day tasks of the church, working in close association and coordination with the AC. Rev. Dongwoo Lee served as Session Moderator and as primary pulpit supply preacher for KGSPC. The AC moved forward on a search for a Temporary Supply Pastor.

Rev. David Hoonjin Chai was called as interim pastor in December of 2015 and began serving KGSPC on January 3rd, 2016, in a 3/4th time capacity. A team headed by Treasurer Mickie Choi began work on developing a budget for KGSPC, and Bruce Gray, CPA, was hired as the accountant for the congregation. With the calling of Rev. Chai, KGSPC began to settle more fully into their worshipping and community life together, and a midweek evening worship service began after Ash Wednesday. A revival weekend was held to introduce and celebrate the arrival of Rev. Chai on January 29-31, 2016, and included as part of the weekend an official commitment of membership from the members of KGSPC and new church attendees.

66 returning members and two baptized members were affirmed for the church rolls, and nine new members were received into membership during the revival weekend. As it proved necessary to begin filling out vacancies in the staff of the congregation, part-time salaries were approved for the pianist and for a parish associate. Rev. Seung Nam Kim was invited as parish associate. Special service programs were developed for the Lenten season, which included a special culture-specific musical worship and prayer service, as well as Holy Week services.

During the period of January-March of 2016, property and documents were returned by the ECO church to KGSPC, with finances being returned shortly thereafter. JC Lee was hired as Director of Christian Education. A new set of church bylaws were approved. A vision and mission study began on April 1st and was concluded at the end of July.

The court case ended with a settlement agreement in April of 2016, which was of great relief to all, and put a settling point on much of the grief and sense of displacement that remained after the church split, allowing KGSPC to continue to move forward in faith and community as God was leading them.

The Church Officer's Nominating Committee was elected at a congregational meeting on May 1st, and a selection of candidates for session, the board of deacons, and kwonsa (highly respected women leaders) was presented to the AC shortly thereafter. The candidates were presented to the congregation and elected at the congregational meeting on June 12th, 2016, and they were installed on July 24th. As became clear over time, the particular wounding around leadership that KGSPC received during the split made for a rougher and longer transition time than expected, and a solution was devised to meet the needs of all parties involved. This led to having the meetings of the AC and

new session to occur together, along with the chair of the Deacons and two kwonsa, who made decisions together as a hybrid leadership team. This also helped the session train themselves and the other leaders of the church to work in a cohesive manner with one another and alongside the AC.

Rev. John Moon was called as KGSPC's pastor and began to serve during the second week of July 2017. San Gabriel Presbytery installed Rev. Moon as Pastor of KGSPC on August 6th, 2017, with a joyous celebration attended by over 300 participants, including many pastors and church leaders from all around Southern California (see below).



THE CHURCH AS IT STANDS TODAY:

The AC for KGSPC met for the last time on July 15th, 2017. In contrast with the reluctance with which they assumed jurisdiction of KGSPC in 2015, the AC joyfully voted to transfer original jurisdiction to the Session of Korean Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

Korean Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church has been through a rough and winding journey, but has been open and willing to follow God's lead throughout the whole of it. They are a dedicated and faithful congregation whose core remains firmly settled in their trust in Jesus Christ, and it is the belief of the AC that God continues to guide them through this transition to a settled life with an installed pastor. The AC wishes to thank the congregation of KGSPC, the members who stepped up in hard times to lead, the clergy who served, the previous members of the Administrative Commission and the Presbytery for all their myriad forms of support of this congregation. There is joy in being able to set aside and close a hard chapter in the life of this congregation and step forward in trust for what God has in store ahead. The AC looks with excitement and anticipation towards this future and all it may hold.

Therefore, it is with joy that the Administrative Commission of Korean Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church recommends that the Presbytery of San Gabriel dissolve the AC at the September 16th, 2017, Presbytery meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Lauren Evans
Moderator of the Administrative Commission for Korean Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church