

May 15, 2024 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

## **The Rev. Jihyun Oh nominated for Stated Clerk of the General Assembly**

*Commissioners to the 226th General Assembly will vote on Oh's nomination this summer.*

By Mike Ferguson,  
*Presbyterian News Service*

[PNS] The Rev. Jihyun (JEE-hun) Oh, director of Mid Council Ministries and an Associate Stated Clerk in the Office of the General Assembly, is the selection of the Stated Clerk Nomination Committee to be the next Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If elected, the Korean American, who was born in South Korea and raised in Kansas, would be the first Korean American to serve in the PC(USA)'s highest ecclesial office, only the second woman, and the first woman of color.

“I’m really honored and humbled to be nominated,” Oh said. “I certainly felt like I have some gifts I brought to this time and place, and I imagine others did too. I have enjoyed every conversation with them,” she said of the committee. “They are a diverse group of engaged people who are exercising faithful leadership. We got into deep theological discussions about the future of the church and society. They deepened my understanding of the church.”



Rev. Jihyun Oh .

“Two things stood out the most for me with Jihyun: the primacy of prayer and spiritual discernment in her decision-making and the fact that she already has her hands in the soil of the unification process,” said the Rev. Gregory Bentley, a member of the nomination committee. “She has demonstrated, to my satisfaction, that she has the steady hand, depth and breadth of knowledge of the church and the moral fortitude to lead the PC(USA) during these convulsive and cataclysmic times in which we find ourselves.”

“Jihyun is exactly the right person to lead us through this time of transition in the PC(USA). She has deep respect and trust across the denomination,” said the Rev. Sallie Watson, the committee’s moderator. “Her pastoral sense, honed as a chaplain in a Level 1 trauma center hospital intensive care unit, serves her well and will serve us well. She can relate to all kinds of people ... We’re so fortunate to have her among us.”

Oh, who’s 49, earned undergraduate degrees in Biology and German Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1996 and a Master of Science in Finance from Florida International University five years later. In 2006, Columbia Theological Seminary conferred a Master of Divinity degree. In 2007, she was ordained as a teaching elder by the Presbytery of Tropical Florida on behalf of the Presbytery of Chicago. Continued

## The Rev. Jihyun Oh nominated, cont.

Before being selected to lead Mid Council Ministries in the OGA in 2019, she managed the PC(USA)'s Call Process Support from 2017-19; served as interim pastor at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church in Atlanta from 2016-17; as interim pastor and head of staff at Hamilton Mill Presbyterian Church in Hoschton, Georgia, from 2015-16; as staff chaplain and clinical pastoral education resident at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta from 2009-10 and again from 2011-15; and as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Arlington Heights, Illinois, from 2007-09.

She is a trustee of the New Covenant Trust Company and has served as a member of the PC(USA) Foundation Board, as an ordination exam reader in both English and Korean, as moderator and vice-moderator of committees of the 221st and 222nd General Assemblies, and as moderator-elect and later moderator of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

"I think there's something important about who we are as Presbyterians in the world right now and who we are called to become," she said. "That feels like an important question people are asking: What does it mean as a smaller denomination and in smaller congregations with various forms of leadership [including teaching elders and certified ruling elders]. What does it mean to be who we are in a particular tradition? Being in communion together in a particular way, what does it mean to the witness of Jesus Christ, in our place, our identity, in terms of what we can offer? That seems important."

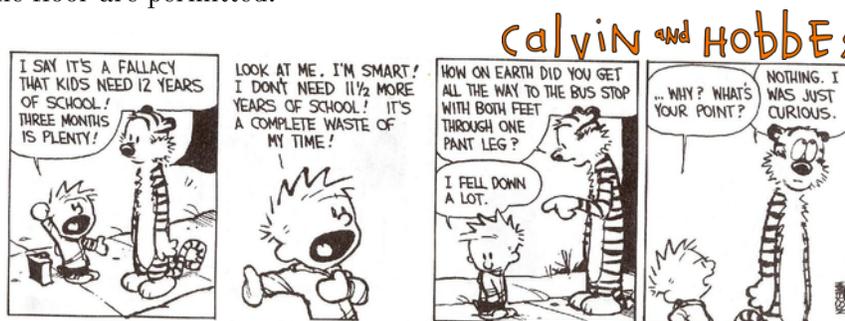
Oh identified "walking alongside and being available to" the Unification Commission among the next Stated Clerk's most important work. She also lifted up the work of "engaging our partners in the world, our ecumenical and interfaith partners and our community partners. I know there are some conversations occurring among staff of the different agencies trying to engage different partners."

She said she's learned "what happens in the role itself" by watching and learning from the Acting Stated Clerk, the Rev. Bronwen Boswell, and the two men who preceded Boswell, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, and the Rev. Gradye Parsons, who was Stated Clerk during GA221 and GA222, when Oh served in committee leadership.

"As Presbyterians, we believe that the Holy Spirit is a part of our process," Boswell said. "The thoughtfulness and prayer shown by the Stated Clerk Nomination Committee made space for the Holy Spirit to work to bring the best candidate forward for this time and place."

"I feel really hopeful for the church," Oh said. "I feel every time I am out working with mid councils and doing different things how resource rich we are, even though we don't think we are — especially human resources. We have such good people with amazing gifts."

Commissioners to the 226th General Assembly will vote on Oh's nomination in Salt Lake City, Utah, early in the meeting, which is scheduled for June 30-July 4, It is possible other candidates will also seek the office, as nominartions from the floor are permitted.



## MUSIC NOTES FOR PENTECOST

We celebrate Pentecost this Sunday with music inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Introit will be Daniel Iverson's (1890-1977) *Spirit of the Living God*, followed by the opening hymn, *On Pentecost They Gathered*. The closing hymn will be *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*.

For the anthem, the choir will sing one of the most famous praise songs of the 1960s, *We Are One in the Spirit*, by Paul Scholtes (1938-2009). While serving as parish priest at (the now demolished) St. Brendan's Catholic Church in Chicago, Scholtes led a youth choir in the church's basement. The choir was to sing a hymn in a series of ecumenical, interracial events. When Scholtes couldn't find what he was looking for, he wrote the iconic lyrics and music in a single day in 1966.

Sunday's prelude and postlude are renditions of an ancient anonymous tune for which Martin Luther composed the hymn, *Komm, heiliger Geist* (Come, Holy Ghost). The prelude was composed by Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707), the influential composer, organist and kapellmeister (music director) who worked in Lübeck, Germany. The postlude was composed by a man who spent much time soaking in all Buxtehude could offer, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). His chorale fantasia on *Komm, heiliger Geist* is a musical depiction of the swirling Holy Spirit under which the chorale melody thunders in the pedals.

## OUR WORSHIP CHANNELS

CLICK ON THE LOGOS



### WORSHIP THIS WEEK.

Ezekiel 37: 1014

Romans 8: 22-27

Sermon: *Hope*.

### Better Together Bible Study

Monday, May 20

1:00 p.m.

Hermitage

Presbyterian Church

# WEAR RED FOR PENTECOST



**Do you enjoy reading?**

**Do you find discussions on books interesting?**

**Do you find kinship with others that love to read?**

**Do you remember *Faith and Fiction*?**

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions,  
we're planning a new book club!

A formational meeting will be held  
May 20 at 2:00 p.m.  
in the church parlor.

Topics to be considered:

*How often and when to hold meetings?*

*Will they be hosted in someone's home or at the church?*

*How will the meetings be run?*

*Will there be one leader or will the responsibility be rotated?*

*What genres or books list to read?*

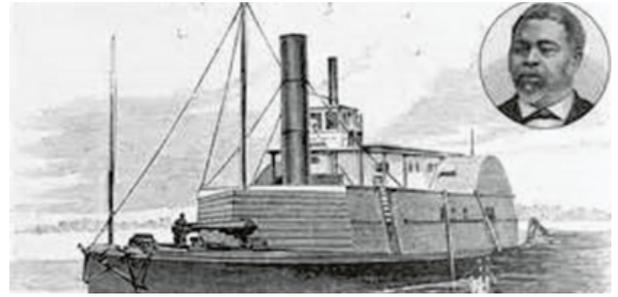
**Questions? Call Cynthia Hoover, (540) 255-9616.**

# This Week in History.



**Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos** (National University of San Marcos) is chartered in Lima, Peru. The first university founded in the New World, it is known as the *Dean University of the Americas*.

**May 12, 1551**



Helmsman **Robert Smalls**, an enslaved man, takes command of the *CSS Planter*, sneaks through Confederate lines and surrender the boat to the Union. Smalls would eventually become the captain of the *USS Planter*, becoming the first black man to command a United States ship. Later he would serve as a U.S. Congressman from South Carolina.

**May 13, 1862**



**Skylab**, the United States' first space station, is launched. It would be occupied for about 24 weeks between May 1973 and February 1974. Its orbit would eventually decay until disintegration in the atmosphere on July 11, 1979, scattering debris across the Indian Ocean and Western Australia.

**May 14, 1973**



**Wladziu Valentino Liberace** is born in West Milwaukee, WI. A pianist, he enjoyed a career spanning four decades. At the height of his fame from the 1950s to 1970s, he was the highest-paid entertainer in the world.

**May 16, 1919**



Students from the Virginia Military Institute fight alongside the Confederate army at the **Battle of New Market**, VA, seeking to force Union General Franz Sigel out of the Shenandoah Valley. While a Confederate victory, it would fail to halt the Union advance.

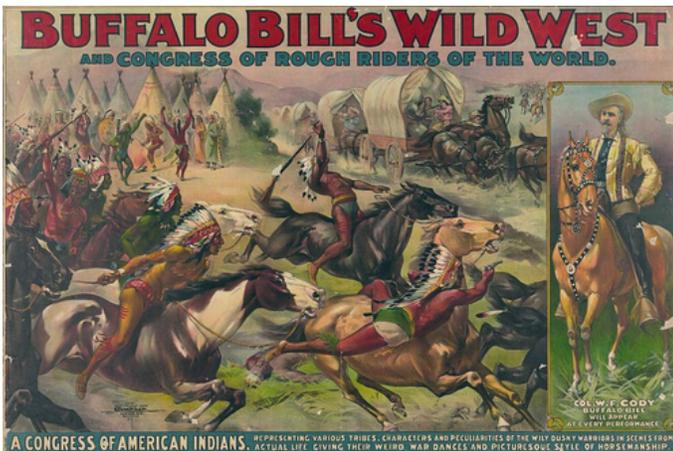
**May 15,**



# CHUCK E CHEESE®

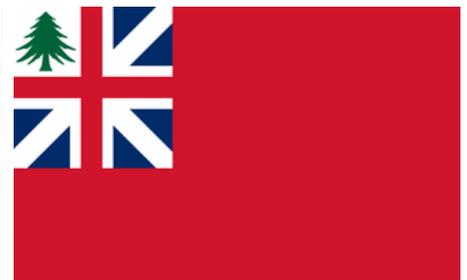
Nolan Bushnell opens the first **Chuck E. Cheese's Pizza Time Theatre** in San Jose, California.

**May 17, 1977**



**Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show** first opens in Omaha, NE.

**May 19, 1883**



Slavery is abolished in the colony of *Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*, although the law is not rigorously enforced.

**May 18, 1652**