

To our ECC Family -

At this year's ECC, we were blessed to be joined by Rev. Dr. Darrell Hall, who shared his wisdom and research on intergenerational communication. The weekend served as a celebration of the ways that different generations show up for justice in our world and allowed us to approach with empathy the diverse values and communication styles across the generations.

In the midst of these meaningful conversations, we held our standard business meeting on Saturday afternoon which inspired a visioning conversation about the future of ECC. There were 15 members in attendance, including two charter members. During this conversation, we reflected on the success of ECC over the years, the joys of this year's event, and dreamt of how we would like to see ECC grow and evolve into the future.

Amongst the people in attendance, there was a strong feeling that while ECC has been a beautiful commitment to justice and representation in its 52-year history, it is time to consider a reconsideration of the vision for the ongoing sustainability of this ministry.

When ECC was founded as an outworking of the General Assembly's Overture 141, the event was supported in partnership with the Sierra Mission Partnership composed of four presbyteries (Sacramento, Stockton, San Joaquin, Nevada). These multiethnic gatherings brought together folks from a variety of backgrounds, including sixteen racial ethnic churches. These events were, by nature, multi-generational: parents and children joined together for a celebration of heritage and identity.

While the work of the ECC continues by bringing together diverse individuals to ZephyrPoint each fall to celebrate the fullness of God's kin-dom, those in attendance at the business meeting shared the sentiment that it is time to re-determine the goals and vision of the ECC with cooperation from younger generations. This gathering was founded by members of the Silent Generation and Baby Boomers who are now ready to hand off the torch to a younger generation of leaders interested in the work of racial justice, representation, and inclusion in the PC(USA) and beyond.

After this election cycle, 'This is the Moment' is our rallying cry to encourage future generations to take on the challenge of justice for racial/ethnic communities and those on the margins of our society. The younger generations showed up for justice during this election cycle. ECC and the church needs to include them in our planning.

With the limited funds remaining the ECC account due to steadily decreasing financial support in recent years, those in attendance at the business meeting voted to reallocate those funds for a 2025 gathering composed of a planning team of 12 young adults (ages 18-40) to help forge a new vision for ECC. This team will be led through the history of ECC and determine a new mission while maintaining the historic legacy of ECC for a new generation. The hope is that this planning team will reimagine the

event for 2026 that centers the intersectional identities of BIPOC of all generations and invites a younger generation to join us in this work for another 50 years to come.

We - the Sara(h)'s (Sarah Reyes-Gibbs and Sara Tillema)- will be putting together an application process in the New Year to help identify 12 young adult representatives (aged 18-40) from across the Synod of the Pacific and Synod of Southern California and Hawaii to come together to create a task force to reimagine ECC. This planning retreat will take place in Fall 2025 at Zephyr Point, with the goal to regather with all attendees of ECC in 2026. In the meantime, Zephyr Point remains committed to the continuation of the legacy of ECC and will be in conversation with the planning team to support the 2026 event.

As we begin these efforts, more information will be distributed in the next few months. In the meantime, we invite you to prayerfully consider being involved in a leadership capacity as we consider the future of ECC, including identifying a young adult planning team and securing sustainable funding for future years. If this is something you would be interested in, please reach out to Sarah Reyes-Gibbs (reyesgibbs@gmail.com) by January 15, 2025. Please share this with your churches.

We ask for your prayers and continued support for ECC and its future.

With gratitude for your service.

Sarah & Sara