



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE CASCADES
The Synod of the Pacific, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
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August 26, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Presbytery of the Cascades,

We have been notified that Rev. Sang Jeung Kim, HR who started and supported much ministry to the Korean community in the Presbytery of the Cascades, died on June 12, 2010.

Rev. Kim was born in Korea on May 15, 1915. He received his education in Seoul, graduating from Kyung Hee University and Korean Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He was ordained to the ministry in 1956 and served Woo Chun Presbyterian Church and Pyung Buk Presbyterian Church. He was also Stated Clerk of the Pyung Buk Presbytery.

He came to the United States to study English at George Fox College in 1961, and went on to earn a degree at Conwell School of Theology at Temple University in Philadelphia. He also studied at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland and Western Evangelical Seminary in Milwaukie, Oregon. He was granted U. S. citizenship in 1978.

During his early years in this country immigration laws were relaxing to permit more Asians to enter the United States, and more Koreans were coming to Portland. Rev. Kim ministered to these new immigrants by establishing the Korean United Presbyterian Church of Portland in 1967 at the Mount Tabor Church. He began this ministry by bringing Korean, Filipino, Japanese and other Asian seamen to midweek services and dinners at Mount Tabor. As the number of immigrants multiplied, the Presbytery of the Cascades recognized the Korean-language church in 1973 and named Rev. Kim the founding pastor in 1976. That congregation bought the church building on NE 76th Ave. in 1979, and later purchased an educational building across the street. In the 60s and 70s that church provided not only spiritual support but also English language courses, job hunting support and other information for people trying to overcome cultural barriers in a new land.

Rev. Kim served as pastor of the Korean United Presbyterian Church of Portland for 23 years, until his retirement April 29, 1990. During his ministry in the Presbytery of the Cascades, he served as a commissioner to General Assembly in Kansas City, in 1979. He was the first president of the Korean Minister's Association of Oregon. He was Moderator of the National Korean Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), and Moderator of the National Korean Mission Centennial Service of Oregon. He was made Pastor Emeritus of the Portland United Korean Church in 1989. He then served as Interim Minister of Calvary Korean Presbyterian Church in Portland, in 1994-95

We give thanks for the faithful, fruitful ministry of Rev. Kim and mourn his loss with his family and community.

Catherine Quackenbush, Stated Clerk
The Presbytery of the Cascades