

“MONTE VISTA GROVE HOMES
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

“LIVING INTO HOPE”

VIRTUAL CONVOCATIONS
January, February and March, 2021

(Visit mvgh.org/convocations to tune in to these programs.)

“LIVING INTO HOPE”

We begin 2021 with a new season of Convocations at Monte Vista Grove, continuing with our theme from 2020, “LIVING INTO HOPE,” exploring the challenge that arises out of the crises of COVID-19, economic dislocation, and racial inequities. We will continue in this series to explore the meaning of hope at this moment in our history, including the unique opportunity we have in this time of upheaval to make changes that will move us toward compassion and justice.

Thursday, January 7

FRANKLIN WOO

4 pm

“THE RISE OF CHINA: A GROWING THREAT; A POTENTIAL PARTNER”



In 1960 (“World Refugee Year”) Jean and Frank were fraternal workers in Hong Kong. Frank headed a job-corp program which provided scholarships to 400 refugee college students, who in turn worked in projects (mostly roof-top schools) run by churches which served thousands of refugee children. In 1965 Frank was asked to be chaplain and lecturer in philosophy and religion at one of the three foundational colleges which formed the then newly created Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1963. He was also associate minister to an urban and two rural churches. Jean engaged in social work at our Presbyterian-related agency and also assisted in student work at the college. From 1976-1993 Frank was the director of the China Program of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, where he and Jean were bridge-builders in US-China relations by taking groups of US Christians to China and its leaders to America. For a decade they also prepared hundreds of US teachers of English to China. (The Woos became part of our MVGH community in 1996.)

Thursday, January 14

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. OBSERVANCE
PRESENTED BY THE MVGH DIVERSITY COMMITTEE
“SYSTEMIC RACISM, WHO, US?”**

4 pm

On this MLKJr. weekend, our MGVH Diversity Task Force will update us on their efforts to date in making real the vision of becoming a more diverse and inclusive community. Now that we better understand our nation's, our church's, even our MVGH's historic participation in systemic racism, how will we respond? What is God asking us to be and do, as a community committed to doing justice and loving kindness? Diversity Task Force members (Jane Atkins Vásquez, Lynn Cheyney, Deborah Herbert, Sandra Mader, Barbara Mathieu, Don Smith, Jim Symons, Norm Thomas, Dean Thompson, and Dave Winters) will facilitate a Zoom conversation about the future of race at MVGH.



Thursday, January 21

**DR. MICHAEL HARRINGTON,
DIRECTOR OF NEUROSCIENCE, HUNTINGTON RESEARCH INSTITUTE
"ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: CAN IT BE DELAYED OR PREVENTED?"**

4pm

Michael (Mike) Harrington MB, ChB, FRCP received his medical degree in 1976 from Glasgow University, Scotland, and was awarded membership into the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1979. Dr. Harrington began his neuroscience career at the Institute of Neurological Sciences in Glasgow. He continued research at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, MD, followed by ten years at Caltech, before joining HMRI in 1998, where he is Scientific Director of Neurosciences. His primary appointment is at HMRI but he is Professor of Research Neurology at USC, Professor of Psychology at Fuller, and Professor of Chemistry at Florida State University. His objective is to find the cause of common brain disorders, none of which are currently known! He focuses on migraine and Alzheimer's disease, which share the same organ but are not otherwise related.



Thursday, January 28

**LUCIA CHAPPELLE,
MINISTRY OF FOUNDERS METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF LAS FELIZ**

4pm



Lucia Chappelle was Dean of the MCC Samaritan Theological institute, and served on the staffs of West Bay MCC in Santa Monica, All Saints MCC in West Hollywood, and DeColores MCC, an intentional all-women's congregation. She helped organize Los Angeles participation in the first LGBT March on Washington and co-anchored coverage of the march on Pacifica Radio and NPR. As Program Director at KPFK she launched "This Way Out", a weekly LGBT radio program now carried on about 100 community stations around the world and online.

Lucia is a caring person who lives her Christian faith through social justice activism, personal compassion, and liturgical creativity. Her sermons, prayers and Bible studies are deeply meaningful to the congregations she serves. She will be speaking to us about her personal story and the role of the MCC denomination in the early days (1980-90's) and today.

Thursday, February 4

**BRIAN BLOUNT
PRESIDENT OF UNION SEMINARY, RICHMOND
"LIVING INTO HOPE THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR TODAY"**

4pm



Dr. Brian Blount is President and Professor of New Testament of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. He came to this position in 2007. Before that he was Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Princeton Seminary for 15 years. He is author of six books. Dr. Blount's most recent book, "Invasion of the Dead: Preaching Resurrection" is based on his 2011 Yale Beecher Lectures. He will help us address today's cross cultural challenges faced in the church today. He is a very warm and open person who is married and has two children. Dean and Rebecca Thompson are close friends. Bryce Little still remembers his one on one conversation with Dr. Blount at one of our earlier Presbyterian General Assemblies.

Thursday, February 11

4pm

DR. REGGIE WILLIAMS, McCORMICK SEMINARY ETHICIST
“BONHOEFFER’S BLACK JESUS: HARLEM RENAISSANCE THEOLOGY
AND AN ETHIC OF RESISTANCE”



Dr. Reggie Williams teaches ethics at McCormick Theological Seminary. He is a native Californian and received a PhD from Fuller Theological Seminary. His Convocation will focus on his groundbreaking book *Bonhoeffer’s Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and the Ethic of Resistance*. It was selected as a Choice Outstanding Title in 2015. The acclaimed book is an analysis of exposure to Harlem Renaissance intellectuals, and worship at Harlem’s Abyssinian Baptist Church on the German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, during his year of post-doctoral study at Union Theological Seminary in New York, 1930-31.

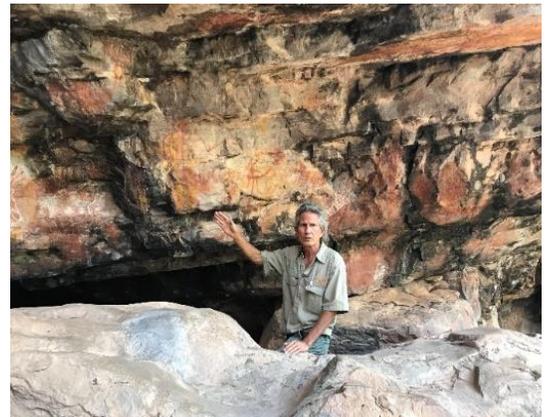
Thursday, February 18

TREVOR WIE, AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL SCHOLAR
“YOU ARE FREE TO BE YOU”

4 pm

The Ancient Value and Knowledge Systems Regarding Awareness, Mindfulness and
Conscious-living of the Original Peoples

Trevor Wie speaks to us from his home in northern Australia. He is of Eurasian heritage and is an adoptee-linial to two Original Peoples families growing up with significant influence from both traditionally living and non-traditionally living Original Peoples. “When you are asking questions you are not listening.” So he listened. With a few multi-dimensional experiences before the age of 15, Trevor formed a contemporary English language synthesis of the Original Peoples astoundingly successful social psychology system based on Natural Law. This system is recognized as the longest continually surviving human society of knowledge holders on the planet. Since the turn of the century Trevor has been engaged in assisting the resetting of the Memory Field through knowledge transfer where “You are free to be you.”



Thursday, February 25

MICHAEL ABELS, FILM MUSICIAN
“MICHAEL ABELS: COMPOSER”

4 pm

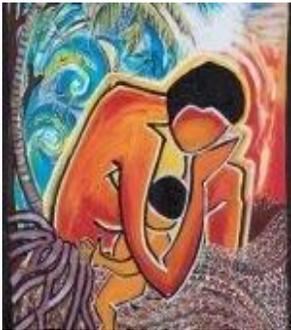


Michael Abels, the nephew of Joanne Hinch, is a musician who was asked by Director Jordan Peele to score two recent highly acclaimed films, *Get Out* and *Us*. He will talk about his music, the films he has scored, the creative impulse, and the message. If you’ve ever wondered how a film and composer meet, this is your chance to learn the story. We are honored to have Michael Abels as our guest.

Thursday, March 4

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

4 pm



World Day of Prayer 2021 comes to us from Vanuatu, an archipelago of 80 islands in the South Pacific. Formerly known as the New Hebrides, this nation became independent in 1980. Most people are of Micronesian heritage, with 83% who identify as Christian. The theme “Build on a Strong Foundation” is based on Matthew 7:24–27 where Jesus gives instructions for entering the kingdom of heaven.

A mother shelters her child from the wind and waves of a cyclone.
A palm tree with strong roots bends protectively over her.

Thursday, March 11

ELONA STREET-STEWART

4pm

CO-MODERATOR OF THE PCUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

“LIVING INTO HOPE IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA TODAY!”



Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart (a descendent of the Delaware Nanticoke Tribe) is currently serving as Co-Moderator of our Presbyterian Church (USA). She is also Synod Executive of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. As Co-Moderator she brings a fresh understanding of what it means to be part of the Presbyterian family. She is Co-Moderator with Rev. Gregory Bentley who is a pastor of a congregation in Huntsville, Alabama. Bryce Little worked with Elder Street-Stewart in the Synod of the Pacific when Elona and her husband David were serving a Presbyterian Church in Umatilla, Oregon. Bryce and Elona were both active in forming a Synod-wide Native American Caucus. Elona will help us to see how the Presbyterian Church (USA) is “Living Into Hope” today!

Thursday, March 18

THE REV. DR. ROSS PURDY

4pm

“THE EMERGENCE OF EVANGELICALISM IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH”



The Rev. Dr. Ross Purdy was awarded the Ph D. from the University of Stirling, Scotland, where he studied with Dr. David W. Bebbington, originator of the “Bebbington Quadrilateral” definition of Evangelicalism. Historically, evangelicals have had a vital part in the history of our nation and denomination. Ross will provide a sweeping view of the 300-year history of evangelicalism within the American Presbyterian Church and in the worldwide mission movement of the 19th and early 20th centuries. He is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Burbank, a congregation that recently spent two years in the denomination’s discernment process, culminating in the decision to remain in the PC(USA). He will share what they learned and what he observed to be the most valuable aspect of the process for the congregation as it strives to bear witness to the redeeming power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thursday, March 25

JERRY ANDREWS

4 pm

“EVANGELICALISM IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TODAY”



The Reverend Dr. Jerry Andrews, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Diego, has been a leading voice of Evangelicals in the PC(USA) for a generation. He has served as founder/moderator of evangelical coalitions and fellowships nationally, and is recognized for his efforts in keeping Evangelicals in the denomination. He has also been deeply involved in service to each Presbytery where he has served as a pastor. His PhD is from the University of Chicago.

After some brief comments on the history of evangelicalism within the American Presbyterian Church as a prelude, Jerry will offer an analysis of the dynamics of evangelical presence within and without today's PC(USA). Topics will include: What is evangelicalism, and how does it manifest itself within the mainline church? Why are all the “split P's” (Presbyterian denominations that divided away from the mainline Presbyterian Church) conservative and/or evangelical in nature? And, what is the future of evangelicalism in the PC(USA)?