

Introducing the Nominee for Pastor – Rev. Irene Pak Lee



The Pastor Nominating Committee is overjoyed to introduce our nominee for Pastor: Rev. Irene Pak Lee. The oldest of three and the daughter of Korean immigrants, Pastor Irene was called to ministry while in middle school. She spent her freshman year at the University of Washington Puget Sound. The draw of family and community pulled her back to Ogden and Weber State, where she earned a performing arts full scholarship playing the cello.

Pastor Irene graduated from Weber State in 2003 with a degree in Communications/Public Relations and a minor in Music. With a strong sense of call to ministry since the age of 14, she was accepted into the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago graduating with a Master of Divinity in 2007.

After graduating Pastor Irene spent a year at PCUSA headquarters in Louisville developing, training and implementing programs on social justice and advocacy. She received her first call in 2008 as an Associate Pastor at Daesung Korean Presbyterian Church Sunnyvale CA. She was ordained in 2008 at her home congregation (First Presbyterian Church Ogden) on behalf of the San Jose California Presbytery. She served the Sunnyvale community for four years. Her ministry there focused on the youth and English-speaking congregation members .

Pastor Irene received her next call in 2012 as Associate Pastor at Stone Church Willow Glen San Jose CA. She served this congregation for 11 years She brought them her multitude gifts of creativity, teaching (adult education), youth spiritual formation, preaching and continuously proclaiming God's love to all.

One of her professional references shared that, "Irene is a unicorn". She has the rare combination of skills to shine in every aspect of ministry, sitting with a grieving member, sparking connection with a youth, inspiring a new way to understand God's love through preaching, and initiating and organizing a new program at the church. Irene shepherds individuals and congregations to become the hands and feet of Jesus' love on earth.

In 2023, Pastor Irene was selected to be a member of faculty for the CREDO program serving Presbyterian ministers. The program offers a fully underwritten, week-long retreat for ministers within their first five years of service. Irene is a lead facilitator for sessions on vocation. As a member of faculty, she helps facilitate two retreats each year.

While serving Stone Church, she met and went on to marry her husband, Marion, in 2016. They are raising two beautiful children, Ezra who is 6 and Eden who turns 4 in June. Irene's life is an expression of joy. When she isn't preaching or programming, you will find her soaking up time with her family, reading books, binge-watching shows and taking hip-hop dance lessons.

If you want to know more about Pastor Irene, she will be joining Wasatch Presbyterian Church for an open house reception on Saturday, June 15, between 1:00 and 3:30. Or, you can read her chapter in the book, "Here I Am: Faith Stories of Korean American Clergywomen".



We are excited to nominate Rev. Irene Pak Lee to be our next Head of Staff and Senior Pastor. We know that Pastor Irene will exceed even our wildest dreams for where God is leading us in this next era of Wasatch Presbyterian Church.