



SPARKS from the FLINT

Special Edition

Celebrating the Call

Ordination and Installation of Jong Ha

August 6th at First (Columbus)

Jong Wook Ha's ordination and installation was a a day full of **gratitude** and **joy** as we gathered to thank God for calling Jong to serve as a **Campus Minister at the Abbey!** A graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, Jong serves as a tenured professor of business while also serving students from all over the nation -- *and all over the world!*



Our presbytery is delighted to welcome Jong as he serves and is committed to join him in reaching out to international students with love and care!



Did you know????

Our tiny presbytery gives more to campus ministry than any other presbytery in our synod -- except one!

....And now our Columbus Campus Ministry is growing thanks to God's faithfulness and Jong's response.....

Sermon Excerpt

offered by George Haugen, pastor at Edgewood (Columbus

--based on the story of Pentecost in Acts 2--

When the Church of Jesus Christ was born in Acts 2, it was in the context of welcoming and sharing the love and Good News of Jesus Christ with people who had come **from all over the world** to Jerusalem.

Jong Ha, you follow in the footsteps of Peter in Acts 2, who stepped up to preach the gospel to people who had come from all over the world to his city.

A crucial part of Peter's ministry was not only welcoming international travelers and sharing the gospel with them, but then also *seeing those new believers leave that place as ambassadors for Jesus Christ.*

The Holy Spirit is at work among us, pulling past and present together in powerful ways.....

In 2016...

1.2 million international students studied in various universities in the USA.

Did you know?...

**The USA educates more foreign students than any country in the world.
These students represent a vast mission field.**

In Acts, the travelers visiting in Jerusalem, were "utterly amazed" that the followers of Jesus could speak their heart languages and share about God. We may not be able to speak the languages of all the different international students in our midst, *but we can speak the language of love and care that will touch hearts for Jesus.*

**Jong, we are excited about your call to share that love.
Please help us know how we can be a part of sharing that love too!**



***Stephanie Boaz (left) offered the charge below
George Haugen (right) offered the sermon above.***

**Excerpt from the Charge to the Columbus Community and the Presbytery
offered by Stephanie Boaz,
pastor at Morningside (Columbus)
and former Campus Minister to the Abbey**

So often, we think of the Church as a particular location, a particular building, a particular group of people with a particular way of doing things in that building. *But the church is so much more than an address with a membership role and a bulletin on Sunday.*

Campus Ministry has a way of reminding us that this is true; that our calling is bigger than an allegiance to a place. Our calling is an allegiance to Christ-- to be His Body. To take all that he has given to us and live a faithful life "as a community...IN the world."

-Be the Body as you pray for the students who need to know Jesus and pray they find their way to The Abbey.

Pray that nothing will stand in the way of a relationship with Christ -- not language, not schedule, not differences in culture, not any of the barriers that often present.

-Be the Body as you pray for the students who are already growing through this ministry.

Pray that these students will also be the Body of Christ in their classes, their study groups, the library, their dorms and apartments.

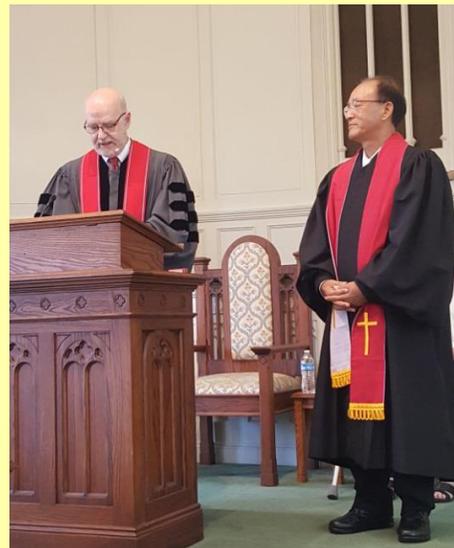
-Be the Body as you pray for Pastor Ha.

Pray for him as he is at the Abbey, engaged with students around town or on campus. Pray for him even when he is teaching as he now carries this ordination with him into the classroom and faculty meetings. **Pray that God will use his ordination wherever he is.**

Excerpt from the Charge to the Ordinand Jong Wook Ha
offered by Joel Alvis,
interim senior pastor at First (Columbus)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminded his students in the 1930s about something that was true for that time and is also true for us today. He wrote:

"Let [the one] who cannot be alone beware of community... Let [the one] who is not in community beware of being alone... Each by itself has profound perils and pitfalls. One who wants fellowship without solitude plunges into the void of words and feelings, and the one who seeks solitude without



fellowship perishes in the abyss of vanity, self-infatuation and despair."

From: [Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community](#)

Of course scripture provides the foundation for our faith.

I Peter 5: 1-8 shares counsel for all who are in leadership in the Church:

I have a special concern for you church leaders. I know what it's like to be a leader, in on Christ's sufferings as well as the coming glory. Here's my concern: that you care for God's flock with all the diligence of a shepherd. Not because you have to, but because you want to please God. Not calculating what you can get out of it, but acting spontaneously. Not bossily telling others what to do, but tenderly showing them the way.

4-5 When God, who is the best shepherd of all, comes out in the open with his rule, he'll see that you've done it right and commend you lavishly. And you who are younger must follow your leaders. But all of you, leaders and followers alike, are to be down to earth with each other, for-God has had it with the proud, But takes delight in just plain people.

6-7 So be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you.

8 Keep a cool head. Stay alert.

[The Message translation]

Postscript from our Presbyter....

Beauty. Bright Spots. Blessings....

It's been a heart-breaking few days with hatred rearing its ugly head. This past weekend, I wanted to create something beautiful as I prayed for our country and our world, so here's a snapshot of my tiny, new garden which is full of vivid purples and golds, pinks and greens. It's not much, of course, but **it's a reminder that we can all start where we are and we can always choose to speak love and create beauty -- no matter the discomfort and no matter the cost.**

Little actions add up, changing the world for good. Jesus transformed the world with fish and bread, water and wine. I believe we can transform the world too -- with tacos and milk, laundry detergent and tissues, pencils and hammers. I

believe that anything is possible as we lean into the messy and miraculous means of grace, offered to us in Jesus Christ....

May we find comfort and courage in our life together.

And may we become beautiful beacons of hope in a world thirsty for hope.

Grateful for our campus ministries which offer bright blessings!



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