Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries

United Church of Christ

August 18, 2026

Moderator
Eppie F. Encabo
Northern CA/NV

Michiko Reyes
Vice Moderator
Southern CA/NV

Josann Jenks
Secretary
Hawaii

Jacob Thomas
Treasurer
East

Rev Mitchell Young
Immediate Past
Moderator

Dear Conference's Leaders and Congregations,

Greetings from the Midwest Region of **Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries (PAAM) of the United Church of Christ**.

We are pleased to welcome **PAAM National Moderator Eppie Encabo** to the Chicago area for an official Midwest Regional visit on **September 19–20, 2026**. During her visit, we will gather with churches, clergy, lay leaders, and friends from across the region to strengthen relationships, share ministries, and imagine together how PAAM can continue to serve and connect our increasingly diverse UCC communities.

Hybrid Regional Gathering at Eden UCC, Chicago (IL)

Saturday, September 19, 2026 | 2:00–4:00 p.m.
In person and via Google Meet
Light refreshments will be provided.

This gathering is open to **all UCC congregations in the Midwest Region (see note below).** We especially hope to connect not only with congregations historically or conventionally associated with PAAM, but also with churches that support PAAM, have Pacific Islander or Asian American members and ministries, or simply want to deepen relationships across our wider church.

Our time together will include welcome and introductions, updates from the 2026 PAAM Convocation and new national initiatives, reflections from Moderator Eppie Encabo, conversation about forming a stronger Midwest Regional Team, and opportunities for congregations to share their ministries, hopes, and concerns.

RSVP: https://forms.gle/v9Eis4DNjDWsauqM8
Google Meet: https://meet.google.com/mpk-kozg-rbs
In-person: 5051 West Gunnison Street, Chicago, IL 60630

Worship at Christ Church UCC, Des Plaines (IL)

Sunday, September 20, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.

The Moderator will also participate in worship and share a message **at Christ Church UCC in Des Plaines (IL).** All are welcome to join the service either in person or online.

In person:
Christ Church UCC
1492 Henry Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60016

Online:
https://www.youtube.com/@christchurchuccdesplaines

PAAM has long worked to nurture the ministries, leadership, histories, cultures, and theological voices of Pacific Islander and Asian American communities within the United Church of Christ. At the same time, we believe this ministry becomes stronger when relationships extend across congregational, cultural, and regional boundaries.

We therefore warmly invite congregations throughout your Conference to join us, learn more about PAAM, share what is happening in your own ministry, and help us build deeper connections for the future.

Please feel free to share this invitation widely with clergy, lay leaders, ministry teams, and members of your congregation.

We look forward to welcoming you in September.

In partnership and ministry,

Rev. Charing Wei-Jen Chen
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Midwest Region Representative
Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries
United Church of Christ

Note: PAAM Midwest Region includes geographically the following Conferences - Illinois Conference, Illinois South Conference, Indiana-Kentucky Conference, Michigan Conference, Missouri Mid-South Conference, New Hampshire Conference, South Central Conference, Wisconsin Conference, Southeast Conference, and Heartland Conference.