

The Chaplaincy Report

Los Angeles General Medical Center
Rev. Stephanie Kang MDiv BCC CT
March 31, 2026

Greetings and blessed Holy Week to you all,
I hope you are all well and safe. Here is my chaplaincy report for the past month, beginning at the end of February.

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Black History Month – February 25, 2026

LA General Medical Center's African Americans Advocating for Healthcare (AAAH) regularly hosts African American Heritage celebrations. The observance of February as Black History Month was initiated by Dr. Carter G. Woodson as "Negro History Week" in February 1926. I was honored to offer the invocation at the opening of the celebration. The event highlighted "*A Century of Black History Commemorations*," focusing on resilience, health equity, and honoring African American contributions to the region. It was also a joy to meet interdisciplinary members who organized the event and to enjoy live music performed by a specially selected band.

Urgent Debriefing Support for Nursing Students – February 26 – 27, 2026

I was called to facilitate an urgent debriefing session for nursing students at a nearby nursing school after a student was struck by a moving vehicle and severely injured while crossing the street after school. Many students and faculty were in shock and in need of emotional and spiritual support. I responded immediately and facilitated a debriefing session. The following morning, the school hosted an official support session led by the staff support team at LA GMC, called H3 (Helping Healers Heal), with me serving as a collaborating chaplain. Many students were able to release their buried and unprocessed emotions and expressed deep appreciation for the timely support.

Meeting with the Mission Committee at San Marion Community Church – March 4, 2026

The Mission Committee of San Marino Community Church (San Gabriel Presbytery) has been one of the strongest supporters of this Presbyterian chaplaincy for years. I was invited to introduce myself as the new Presbyterian Chaplain at LA GMC. Rev. Lisa Henson, the new Executive Presbyter of SGP, and Areta Crowell, the Consortium Chair, accompanied me, offering their support. It was a meaningful and joyful opportunity to meet each committee member in person and to share about the current state of the chaplain team, as well as my role and vision.

Participating in the Ethics Committee Monthly Meeting – March 11, 2026

Working with the Ethics Committee has been one of my joys in chaplaincy over the past ten years. As you can imagine, the chaplaincy ministry has been significantly weakened due to recent challenges following Fr. Chris's passing, and no one on the team had been informed

of the regular committee meetings. Dr. Ramos, the Committee Chair, encountered me and an intern chaplain and invited us to attend the March meeting as guests. It was a meaningful opportunity to reconnect with interdisciplinary team members who offer leadership grounded in compassion and collective wisdom. I look forward to more active collaboration in the future.

Supporting the CPE Program – the week of March 22, 2026

I recently supported three CPE students during their mid-unit evaluation processes by shadowing their patient visits. Coming from diverse faith traditions, cultures, and worldviews, these intern chaplains are actively exploring their gifts, talents, and areas for growth while serving at the bedside. They are also reflecting on their assumptions, biases, and unexplored emotions in both their personal lives and ministerial roles. I always value opportunities to engage with those who are eager to learn and grow.

Supervisory Check-In with the New Executive Presbyter (EP) of San Gabriel Presbytery (SGP) – March 27, 2026

Rev. Lisa Henson, the new EP of SGP, visited LA GMC to meet with me in person. It was a meaningful time together, and we agreed to establish a monthly one-on-one supervisory check-in. She also invited me to introduce myself and the chaplain ministry to Presbytery members at the June meeting. While the chaplain team currently lacks an official leader with deep experience in hospital chaplaincy, having Lisa-who previously served in such a role at a large institution like LA GMC-as a supervisor within the Presbytery is a true blessing. I am confident that her experience and gifts will be valuable resources in the days ahead.

Angel Interfaith Network (AIN) Updates

Securing a safe and clean storage space for donated blankets and baby items remains one of AIN's most critical needs. Since last October, the ministry has faced significant storage challenges, as LA County has required both the Gatehouse and the former chaplain office in the old building to be vacated for a new development project. The leadership board continues to prayerfully seek solutions.

A Story of a Traveler in a Foreign Land

Serving at LA GMC, a Safety-net hospital, provides opportunities to care for people in extremely challenging circumstances. A peer chaplain recently referred a Korean-speaking patient to me. She had been living in South Korea and was visiting California alone as a tourist when she suffered severe injury from a fall near her lodging on the day of her arrival. With no acquaintances in this foreign land and no one able to travel from South Korea to support her, she underwent multiple surgeries and faced disability alone for over a month before returning home. During her stay, I visited her several times and provided items she needed whenever possible. She shared that my presence was a reminder of how God was at work in the most difficult time of her life-holding her and giving her hope. Hearing such

testimony humbles me and renews my sense of calling to serve the lost and broken in this ministry setting.

I find myself resting in deep divine grace. I pray that your Holy Week is filled with the peace of Christ and that your Easter will be truly life-giving and affirming in our living Lord, Jesus Christ.

Peace,
Stephanie