



Fall 2022 Board of Steward Meeting, Puerto Rico

Board of Stewards- New Term, Class of 2025

- Rebecca Smith
- Rev. Bill Lee
- Ben Chou
- Claretta Witherspoon

*** Clergy*

<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
		Jake Caldwell **			
		Milca Rivera**			
		John Kuebler			
		Patice Holland			
	Andy Mangum**				
	Kristine Culp				
	Cindy Kim				
	Judi Frost				
Rebecca Smith			Rebecca Smith		
Bill Lee**			Bill Lee**		
Jess Kim			<i>Ben Chou</i>		
Claretta Witherspoon			Claretta Witherspoon		

Officers / Executive Committee:

- Cindy Kim, Chair
- Rev. Milca Rivera, Vice Chair
- John Kuebler, Secretary

Ben Chou



I currently serve as an elder at First Christian Church of Burbank in Burbank, California, where my husband, Andy, and I have been members for nearly four years. In addition to serving on the Board of Elders, I am also a member of the Nominations Committee and have previously served as a deacon and member of the General Board.

I was born in Paris, France, and later lived for several years in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where my father served as a pastor at a Mennonite church. At the age of five, my family moved to Greenville, South Carolina, when my father became a pastor at a Chinese mission supported by the Southern Baptist Convention. I completed my primary and secondary education in South Carolina and received a bachelor's degree in geography and environmental studies from the University of South Carolina. I also have a master's degree in climate change studies from Columbia University and a master's degree in geographic information systems (GIS) from Penn State.

As a research assistant at Columbia, I worked on risk management projects focused on drought and flooding in Southeast Asia and as part of this work, I traveled to Vietnam and the Philippines to meet with local partners. After graduating from Columbia, I worked for several years on drinking water regulatory issues in Phoenix for the State of Arizona. Subsequently, I worked on water resources policy for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), an international environmental non-profit, in Washington, DC, and Santa Monica, California. At NRDC, I worked on domestic urban and agricultural water supply and quality issues, with an emphasis on climate change resiliency planning. After nearly seven years at NRDC, I left to pursue a master's degree in GIS and later worked as a corporate security specialist at The Walt Disney Company, where I was responsible for monitoring global events and assessing potential enterprise impacts on a daily basis.

My desire to work more directly on GIS projects led me to my current position at the Center for Geospatial Science and Technology (CGST) at California State University, Northridge. As a project manager, I work directly with undergraduate and graduate students – many of which come from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds – to help them build professional skills, acquire practical work experience, and prepare them for careers in the GIS field.