



## Irving Lambert Outstanding Urban Ministries Award

THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH PRESENTS

THE 2020 IRVING C. LAMBERT AWARD

TO GREG YEE



In grateful recognition of faithful commitment and passionate dedication to the cause of Christ through wholistic urban and ethnic ministries.

In a surprise virtual presentation on August 25, 2020, Love Mercy and Do Justice and the Mosaic Commission announced that Greg Yee, superintendent of the Pacific Northwest Conference, would be the 2020 recipient of the Irving C. Lambert Award. Greg, a fifth-generation Chinese American, became the first Asian-North American to receive the award in its 39-year history.

Greg's career trajectory took him from corporate development to social work and eventually into pastoral ministry for nearly 20 years. He served as the associate superintendent in the Pacific Southwest Conference for 10 years, focusing on leadership and congregational development in multiethnic ministries and pastoral care. He began serving in his current role as superintendent in 2013.

Under Greg's leadership and encouragement, multiethnic congregations and ministries within the Covenant have grown and flourished. Brian Hui, treasurer of the Covenant Asian Pastors Association and pastor of Living Stones Christian Church East Bay, said, "Greg has been a

pioneer in the Covenant in so many ways: from serving as one of the early Asian American church planters, to starting Journey to Mosaic, to helping found the Covenant Asian Pastors Association, to becoming the first Asian American superintendent.”

Evelyn Johnson, former superintendent of the Pacific Southwest Conference, said, “Greg Yee was a key contributor to the Pacific Southwest Conference story of advancing the multiethnic mosaic. He embodies the reality of working interdependently to transform lives and communities. Greg’s passion to pursue the beloved community, his heart for the whole gospel, and his gifts of wisdom and discernment contributed to his effective leadership in these endeavors. Whether in the conference or denominational setting, Greg’s influence is visible. He models the way and invites others into the journey.”

“We are pleased to endorse Greg Yee as this year’s Irving C. Lambert Award recipient,” said Paul Robinson, executive minister of Love Mercy and Do Justice. “His leadership reflects well the spirit of the award, and his commitment to biblical justice, love for all God’s people, and building the ‘beloved community’ is what this recognition is all about.”

It is with great honor and to the glory of God last year’s award is presented at this 135th Annual Meeting, 25th day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-one.

THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH PRESENTS  
THE 2021 IRVING C. LAMBERT AWARD TO  
MICHELLE CLIFTON-SODERSTROM



In grateful recognition of faithful commitment and passionate dedication to the cause of Christ through wholistic urban and ethnic ministries.

In *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, “The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community.” Michelle doesn’t love the idea of community or people in general; she loves the particular people around her in all their particularity and in concrete, everyday ways. Michelle exemplifies cultural humility in her commitment to learn and grow within real community. She is self-reflective and receptive to the input of others; she empowers instead of competes. She celebrates others’ victories and shares in others’ griefs. She is a visionary leader, dreaming big and working diligently and consistently over the long haul to realize those dreams—and then she shares the fruits of those dreams with the entire community. All these traits make Michelle a true leader, both grounded and innovative, respected and loved by those she leads.

For the past fifteen years Michelle has invested in the lives and faith development of students at North Park Theological Seminary. She models a practice of centering the voices of those who are often marginalized in order to create truly restorative and transformation spaces and communities. Michelle applies this type of leadership in every space she teaches or learns in, but perhaps nowhere more so than in the prison education context.

More than five years ago, Michell took a sabbatical to study how theological education could be

introduced into the prison system. This sabbatical eventually turned into her pioneering work in launching the School of Restorative Arts at Stateville Correctional Center. In entering the prison system with an attitude of mutual learning and growth, Michelle has created a beloved community whose impact goes far beyond the students and is recognized at the highest institutional levels, as well as throughout the prison.

Michelle stands out as a leader because of her humility and posture of mutuality and deep learning. She understands systems and narratives that harm and oppress, and she uses her influence and position to bring transformation and restoration in ways that are empowering and honoring to all involved.

Michelle fully embodies the values of the Irving Lambert Award by pursuing the beloved community within urban communities as her life work. It is with great honor and to the glory of God this award is presented at the 135th Annual Meeting, this 25th day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-one.