



Dr. Kyoko Mary Toyama

Kyoko Toyama was the daughter of a priest in the Japanese Anglican Church of Nippon Sei Ko Kai. Born in Okinawa and raised in the church, from her coming to New York in 1983 she has continued as an active, committed member of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. She has served on the Commission on Ministry, the Anti-Racism Committee, and the Absalom Jones Service Committee. She has also been in the leadership of the Japanese Convocation of the Episcopal Asian American Ministry. After her early membership in the Church of the Holy Trinity in Inwood, she joined the Congregation of Saint Saviour at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine at its founding. There she offered herself to service on the Altar Guild, noting that by doing so she lowered the average age of the Guild by a couple of decades!


In 1986 she also became affiliated with the Metropolitan Japanese Ministry of our diocese, serving as secretary and vice-chair of the board. It was in that capacity that she also became an early leader of the Episcopal Asian American Ministry, and is a founding member of EAST - the Episcopal Asian Supper Table - our current Asian-American ministry. Most recently, she and the Reverend Kyrie Kim initiated a new Metropolitan Japanese Ministry service in our cathedral, helping to expand the diversity and richness of worship at our mother church.

In her professional life in the Counseling Department of LaGuardia Community College, Kyoko has made profound contributions in the areas of cross-cultural counseling and women's psychological development, and in interracial, interethnic and interfaith family and identity development. There she also teaches Japanese. She has served on the Board of CUNY's Asian American and Asian Research Institute, and has been and continues to be a notable leader in New York's Japanese American community and organizations.

Kyoko is an accomplished Japanese Taiko drummer and instructor who employs drumming in her professional therapeutic intervention for children and adults with special needs. Those who have attended our annual Absalom Jones service will have seen and heard her lead a team of young people in Taiko drumming for the celebration, signifying that our celebration of Absalom Jones has significance on a canvas across the many communities in the Episcopal Church, and is good news and liberation for everyone. She has carried her family's legacy of Christian service forward in her life, and continues as a Christian ambassador of infectious enthusiasm and energy for the proclamation of the Gospel and the Vitality of the Christian church. She has been a tireless witness to the vitality of Japanese people in the Episcopal Church, and for the unique Asian expression of our Episcopal identity.

Therefore, in recognition and gratitude for her self-offering in lifting up the Japanese community and life within the Episcopal Church, offered to the glory of God, we, on this 12th day of November 2022, in the eleventh year of our consecration, do award her

The Bishop's Cross


The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche
XVI Bishop of New York