

Empowered by God's Love Through Christ, We Welcome, Celebrate, and Serve our Community

In the Loop

A Summary of the October 2021 English Commission Meeting

Committee and Other Reports

1. Mission and Evangelism
 - a. Loving Kindness (Eradicating Systemic Poverty, Hunger Ministries, Community Action, Local/World Missions)
 - 1) Food Pantry – The annual recertification process is coming up and 105 of the 222 enrolled are expected to participate. Mandarin and Cantonese community members have begun to return as volunteers. Bilingual volunteers are still needed to help with the recertification process and nutrition survey.
 - 2) Presbytery Discipleship Grant – The church submitted a proposal for emergency grant aid and was awarded \$1,200.00 to support work of the Food Pantry.
 - 3) **To Do**: Jeanette Huie will draft a letter to the SFMTA advocating for the reinstatement of the Chinatown Park and Ride program that offers weekend discounted parking at the Embarcadero Center. The intent is to increase parking options for church volunteers and ease the demand for parking on weekends at the Cameron House lot. Pastor Don will seek out support from the Co-Pastors to join in advocating for reinstatement of this service to Chinatown.
 - b. Walking Humbly with God (Building Congregational Vitality)

Hunger and Homelessness Sunday – Rev. Trent Thornley will be the guest preacher on November 14th. He is the Executive Director of S.F. Night Ministries and works with interfaith volunteers, ministers, and seminary students to reach out to the homeless and provide food and other basic needs.
2. Resource
 - a. Reopening the Church Task Force – The task force, comprised of two elders and the Co-Pastor from each worshipping community, will be convening on October 31 to resume planning. The EWC members are Winchell Quock, Dave Soohoo and Pastor Don. Dave Chan and Jackie Jew also participate as non-voting technical advisors.
 - b. Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting – November 7, 2021
 - 1) The meeting's agenda, slate of corporation officers and terms of call have been finalized. The information will be mailed on October 23rd, two weeks in advance of the meeting.
 - 2) The Commission thanks Terry Leong for producing the PowerPoint slides to enhance participation in the trilingual Zoom meeting.
3. Worship & Nurture
 - a. Liturgists & Readers – Pastor Don has begun to handle sign-ups and notifications for these assignments.
 - b. TeaTime – The committee proposes that teatime be structured more as a time of fellowship rather than a time for studying a particular topic.
 - c. Matthew 25 – The committee has begun to examine the criteria suggested for Vital Worshipping Communities. Specifically relevant to the committee's work are lifelong discipleship formation, spirit-inspired worship, and caring relationships.

Empowered by God's Love Through Christ, We Welcome, Celebrate, and Serve our Community

- d. Worship planners are gearing up to plan for the season of Advent and Christmas Eve worship.
- e. Pastor Don continues to meet periodically with young adults in what he calls the Young Adult Wellness Check.
4. Nominating
In the past month, the committee presented the slate of nominees to the Commission and sent messages of gratitude to each nominee. The worshipping community will be informed of the slate of nominees two weeks in advance of the October 31 annual meeting of the EWC.
5. PCC/CH Partnership
Pastor Don accepted an invitation to serve as an advisor to the Nominating Committee of the Cameron House Board of Directors to help with identifying candidates from the presbytery to serve as directors.
6. Treasurer's Report
For the month of September, expenses amounted to \$15,188.81 and exceeded receipts of \$12,817.90 for a monthly total of **-\$2,370.91**. The year-to-date budget after nine months is essentially even with a negative variance of **-\$478.99**.

Old Business

1. Matthew 25 Updates
Welcome Kit – Pastor Don received a packet of Matthew 25 resources from the Presbyterian Mission Agency such as Bible study and worship resources and will distribute these resources to the appropriate committees and individuals.
2. Reopening the Church Task Force
In anticipation of the October 31st meeting of the task force, the Commission discussed whether and how other churches in the presbytery have resumed in-person worship and fellowship activities and surveyed the level of individual readiness to return to the sanctuary.

New Business

West Bay Connections' Anti-Racism Capacity Building and Congregational Partnerships Project

- a. Rev. Carmen Mason Browne, retired Presbyterian clergy and expert in antiracism initiatives, reached out to Pastor Don about working together with other West Bay congregations to raise awareness and capacity on antiracism work including education about systemic/structural racism in the church and the world.
- b. **To Do:** Pastor Don will invite Rev. Carmen Mason Browne to meet with the Commission for a consultation.

Calendar Dates

November 2 M&E and W&N Committees
November 7 Annual Congregational Meeting
November 14 *Hunger and Homelessness Sunday, Guest Preacher: Rev. Trent Thornley*
November 14 Resource Committee
November 14 PCC Session
November 16 English Commission
November 22 Pastor Don will be on vacation through November 28

Empowered by God's Love Through Christ, We Welcome, Celebrate, and Serve our Community

November 25 Thanksgiving Holiday Observance
November 26 Thanksgiving Holiday Observance
November 28 *First Sunday of Advent, Guest Preacher: Rev. Ruth T. West*
November 28 Board of Deacons

December 5 *The Second Sunday of Advent*
December 7 M&E and W&N Committees
December 12 *The Third Sunday of Advent*
December 12 Resource Committee
December 19 *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*
December 21 English Commission
December 24 *Christmas Eve Service*
December 25 *Christmas*
December 26 First Sunday after Christmas
December 26 Board of Deacons