

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
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In the Loop
A Summary of the December 2023 English Commission Meeting

Committee and Other Reports

1. Mission and Evangelism
 - a. Christmas Gifts Project – 100+ SRO children and their families celebrated Christmas at Gordon Lau Elementary School on December 10th.
 - b. IM4HI Accompaniment – Carole Chinn-Morales and Clinton Huey will finish their current accompaniment team assignment before starting a new team at PCC to accompany a recently arrived immigrant.
 - c. 2023 Mission Giving –

Organization	Amount
1) Interfaith Council Winter Shelter Meal	\$259.00
2) Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IM4HI)	\$500.00
3) Calexico United Methodist Church	\$100.00
4) SRO Children's School Supplies	\$843.00
5) SRO Donation	\$355.00
6) San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC)	\$500.00
Year-to-Date Total Distributed through November 2023	\$2,557.00
7) Pipit Fund	\$500.00
8) Tsuru for Solidarity	\$300.00
9) International Rescue Committee (IRC)	\$500.00
10) San Francisco Safe House	\$250.00
11) San Francisco Night Ministry	\$250.00
12) Asian Women's Shelter	\$250.00
13) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	\$393.00
December 2023 Giving Planned	\$2,443.00
Total 2023 Mission Giving	\$5,000.00

2. Resource
 - a. English Worshiping Community Membership Total – 113
 - b. Stewardship Presentations – Evaluations concluded that the presentations are valuable though some talks need to be shortened.
 - c. Church Building – It was reported that the building has gotten messy especially the library, children's room, and Speer Hall. Primary users of the space were informed and reminded to make better use of storage sheds to declutter the building.
 - d. Building and Finance Committee
Office Relocation – The committee approved the request to relocate Pastor Don's office to the Lorna Logan room that is adjacent to Speer Hall. The new office will offer better ventilation and sound proofing for confidential conversations. Relocation will occur in 2024 at a time to be determined. In the coming months,

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the Building and Finance committee will be reviewing suggestions for future use of the office to be vacated.

3. Worship & Nurture

- a. January 7, 2024 - This will be a communion service with the ordination of Kimball Wong as an elder and installation of the other elders and deacons with terms starting in 2024. Everyone is encouraged to wear red – the color of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Saturday, February 3, 2024 – The Presbytery will be installing Pastor Don as our Designated Pastor. Ministers and Elders from other churches of the Presbytery will be participating in and leading this service of worship. Pastor Don has assembled a committee of Nancy Chee, Jackie Jew, Annie Wong, and Eleanor Wong to help with planning the reception.
- c. After 12 consecutive years of service, David Miller will be taking a sabbatical in 2024 from the Worship and Nurture committee and other areas of worship planning and production. We give thanks to God for David's spiritual gifts, talents, and faithful service as he completes his term of service as a ruling elder.

4. Board of Deacons

- a. Cookie Distribution – On December 16th, the deacons helped organizer Nancy Chee pack 36 bags of homemade cookies and treats. The cookie bags were delivered by the Deacon team of elves to members of our community focusing on our super-seniors and those whose lives were touched in 2023 by death, surgery, illness, and other special circumstances.
- b. Christmas Gift to Food Pantry Clients – The Deacons teamed with the Food Pantry and M&E to buy and distribute 260 bottles of oyster sauce to clients. As the gifts were handed out to clients, Shar Hall greeted them in Cantonese with "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This is a gift from the Presbyterian Church".

5. Pastor's Report

- a. Pastor Don will continue to serve on the Presbytery Committee on Ministry through 2026 and will be adding a new assignment on a special committee tasked with rewriting the standing rules of the Presbytery.
- b. He gave his final report as the Interim Pastor and closed his remarks by saying, *I am excited (by) the possibilities that we will explore together. I am thankful to our God that we have so much new to explore. I am looking forward to our work together to be good stewards of what we have inherited here in PCC and to see how we can adapt.*

6. Treasurer's Report

- a. Budget Notes – A generous unrestricted donation was made in November that will contribute to building our Legacy Fund.
- b. Income to Expense Report for November and Year-to-Date 2023 –

	November 2023	Year to Date
Total Receipts (A)	\$22,495.69	\$199,721.01
Total Expenses (B)	\$17,568.62	\$198,348.83
Surplus = (A-B)	\$4,927.07	\$1,372.18

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New Business – Elder Committee and Other Assignments for 2024

Committee	2024 Assignment
Mission and Evangelism	Edmond Chin Kimball Wong
Resource	Winchell Quock David Soohoo Annie Wong
Worship and Nurture	David Chan Mildred Hall
Personnel	Carl Jew Heidi Wong Edmond Chin (Elected by EWC)
Nominating	To be determined

Other Assignments Held by Current Elders	2024 Assignment
Presbyterian Women	Mildred Hall
Presbytery Judicial Commission	David Soohoo
PCC Treasurer	David Soohoo
PCC Administrative Support	Annie Wong
PCC Building and Finance	Winchell Quock David Soohoo
PCC Child Safety Task Force	Carl Jew
PCC Food Pantry	David Chan Annie Wong
PCC Building Crew	David Chan
EWC Treasurer	Winchell Quock
EWC Worship Planning	David Chan Mildred Hall
EWC Worship Musician	Mildred Hall
EWC Worship Production	David Chan
EWC Sabbath Sunday	Annie Wong
English Commission Secretary	Carl Jew

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New Business – A Message from the English Commission to the Worshiping Community

The English Commission continues to deliberate on the action taken by the Mandarin Commission as reported to the Session on September 10th and reiterated on December 10th. The ramifications of their decision have led to ongoing discussions by the English Commission that touched on the requirements of the PCC Bylaws, revelations from the Bible, guidance of the Book of Order, roles and responsibilities of ruling elders and teaching elders including commissioned lay pastors, and theology.

The issues are complex and highly sensitive and require the Commission to uphold confidentiality. Further, we understand the Community's need to be informed and desire to help. We offer the following summary and timeline of key developments from Session and Commission records and ask for your patience and prayers of guidance from the Holy Spirit.

September 10 – PCC Session Meeting

The Mandarin Commission decided they will not participate in or attend any joint worship services where Pastor Don is officiating as a worship leader. They took this action because Pastor Hammond announced in a sermon on June 25 that he is bisexual and is currently dating a gay man. They based their vote on their understanding of Romans 1:18-32.

Because the Session had approved a trilingual worship for World Communion Sunday, October 1, the request by the Mandarin Commission for a separate communion service on October 1 needed to be approved by the Session. The motion was carried with two opposed.

October 1 – World Communion Sunday

81 members of the Cantonese and English communities joined together in person and online for worship, communion, and fellowship.

November 5 – 170th Anniversary of the PCC

The annual trilingual meetings of the congregation and corporation were held and followed by a time of fellowship.

November 14 – Presbytery of San Francisco Meeting

Rev. Don Hammond's call to serve as Designated Pastor for the English Worshiping Community of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown effective January 1, 2024, was approved unanimously by the San Francisco Presbytery.

December 10 – PCC Session Meeting

The Session Moderator, Rev. Hammond, requested to re-open discussion in the Mandarin Commission about their decision not to participate in worship when Rev. Hammond is leading. The Mandarin Commission reiterated that their position had not changed.

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Calendar Dates

January 1	<i>New Year's Day 2024</i>
January 1	Pastor Don begins his term as our Designated Pastor
January 2	Mission and Evangelism Committee
January 7	<i>Communion/Sabbath Sunday</i>
January 7	<i>Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders</i>
January 9	Worship and Nurture Committee
January 14	Resource Committee
January 15	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance</i>
January 16	English Commission
January 28	Board of Deacons
February 3	<i>Worship Service of Installation of the Designated Pastor</i>
February 4	<i>Communion/Sabbath Sunday</i>
February 6	M&E and W&N Committees
February 10	<i>Lunar New Year</i>
February 11	Resource Committee
February 13	Presbytery of San Francisco
February 14	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
February 18	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>
February 19	<i>President's Day Holiday Observance</i>
February 20	English Commission
February 25	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>
February 25	Board of Deacons