



Good News for the Pews

February 2024

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 38

Moment for Stewardship by Pastor Don Hammond

Hello! Before I left on vacation, thank you, I recorded this brief message as a Moment for Stewardship. As Winchell Quock mentioned last Sunday, my compensation package represents the largest single line-item in our annual budget.

I have many roles in our worshipping community: I am an *ex-officio* member of all our standing committees, including, Mission & Evangelism, Worship & Nurture, Resources, and the Nominating Committee. In each of those committees I work to make sure there is adequate coordination laterally between committees but also between the committees and the English Commission. Each committee is actually a *sub-committee of the Commission*, and their respective areas of responsibility are *delegated to them*. The Commission, in turn, is delegated its power from the All-Church session. The Session, and the elders on it are elected by the Congregation. Our structure is complex, and representative in nature. My role is to make sure the will of congregation, following the calling of God, is realized through the work of the elders and the standing committees. Meetings, preparing for them, attending them, and then following up from them, are a large part of my work.

I also work with volunteers to prepare our weekly worship services. I usually write a significant portion of the service each week, in addition to the sermon itself. I support the sermons with teachings and commentaries, often in the School of Discipleship, but also through theological expositions (as necessary) in regular committee meetings. I continue to be the main interlocutor between the leadership of the three language communities, even during this time of distance and uncertainty. I also prepare and facilitate education for Deacons and Elders in the performance of their ministries.

I do some administrative work for the English Commission, but often that involves my finding volunteers or assigning tasks back out to the committees.

I meet with members of the congregation regularly, for pastoral care and conversation. This often takes the form of table fellowship and take a few hours on a couple of days each week. I also engage with leaders of community organizations with whom we partner in mission and ministry. As we begin this new season of ministry together, I expect to continue with the work above,

You make all this possible with your faithful support. Thank you for all the ways you partner with PCC as we continue to provide our Christian Witness to Chinatown.

Minute for Stewardship

Stewardship and Infrastructure by David Soohoo

We, as members of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and the Presbyterian Church USA are guided by God, the Book of Order, and the Book of Confessions. Our denomination's hierarchy regarding polity and governance lies with the (1) General Assembly, the highest governing body responsible for the mission of the whole church. (2) The Synod of the Pacific, the governing body that oversees the life and mission of PCUSA within our geographical region. And (3) the Presbytery of San Francisco, which has jurisdiction over sessions and minister members within their district. To give you some perspective we have one General Assembly, which meets biennial, 166 Presbyteries, 16 Synods, 8705 congregations and 1,140,665 members at the end of 2022. https://pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/statistics/2022_stats_comparativesummaries.pdf

Locally, the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown's infrastructure is governed by our Session, which is made up of active and elected Elders from each of our three Commissions/Worshiping Communities with their respective pastors. Each Commission is and has been responsible for their programs, ministries and service. According to our current bylaws, we still are one "congregation".

Our English Commission and worshiping community rely heavily on the leadership of its Elders, Deacons and a multitude of volunteers. The English community structure includes the Worship & Nurture, Mission & Evangelism, and Resource Committees with the support of the Personnel and Nominating Committees.

Our **English Resource Committee** provides oversight, support and administration of the budget and finances, communications, membership rolls, and stewardship for our English Worshipping Community. Along with the Building and Finance Committee of the Session, we are actively engaged in the facility maintenance, security, and space utilization of our building. Those serving with me on the committee are Stuart Go, Max Hum, Jackie Jew, Terry Leong, Winchell Quock, Annie Wong, and Pastor Hammond.

Stewardship is an important aspect that contributes to a successful organization's infrastructure. Your participation and contribution, whether it's your time, service, donations and gifts continue to support our pastor's salary, worship, mission-driven programs, the church building, and the work of the church.

2023 Stewardship Minute

Winchell Quock, EWC Treasurer

Hi, I am Winchell Quock, your English Worshipping Committee Treasurer, appointed by your English Commission to work with the Resource Committee to manage your Commission finances. I would like to take a moment to briefly outline the 2023 budget.

As you can see on the slide, our total budget is \$226,908.

It is broken down in several major categories:

Pastor Don's salary package of \$120,738, includes a 39% Board of Pensions contribution.

The Common building fund is our portion of common building costs for operations: including insurance, elevator and HVAC maintenance, utilities, janitorial service, garbage pickup, and costs to repay our loan for the solar panels.

Per Capita – is that amount paid to presbytery as an active membership tax,

Our mission giving comprises 13% of our budget. Local causes we have made contributions to include Calexo Methodist Church, Philippines churches, Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Rights, Tsuru Solidarity, Safehouse, Asian Women's Shelter, and SF Night Ministry.

The remaining 8% of the budget pays for zoom subscriptions and live streaming, worship planning materials, subsidies for retreats, pulpit supply honorariums, and committee expenses.

Your monetary contributions to PCC, whether by mail or on-line, keep our church finances in order. The monthly In-the Loop report from the Commission will keep you apprised of our finances each month. Thanks to you, our finances are healthy.

Thank you for your faithful and ongoing contributions in response to God's grace and love for each of us.

2023 PCC – English Worshipping Community Budget

Total budget \$ 226,908 100%

Pastor Don’s salary package (includes 39% Board of Pensions)

Salary and Manse \$80,835

Board of Pensions (39%) \$32,428

Reimbursable expenses \$ 5,675

Pretax retirement \$ 1,800

\$120,738 53%

Common Building Fund - apportionment

Based on active membership of 113 \$ 52,778 23%

Per Capita (active members x \$28) \$ 4,641 2%

Mission giving: General Assembly - \$ 18,000

Cameron House - \$ 7,500

M/E Committee - \$ 5,000

\$ 30,500 13%

Balance – various committees expenses

(includes temporary pulpit supply) \$ 17,250 8%

Winchell Quock

Kevin Feeley, Our New Church Member



I grew up in Chicago in a very traditional family with three sisters. My dad worked for the Chicago Teachers Union and my mom was a school teacher and a stay at home mom when my sisters and I were growing up.

I grew up in the Catholic Church and went to catholic school from elementary school through high school.

I moved to Long Beach, California in 2017 for a new job with the computer consulting company, Accenture.

Also in 2017 I married for the first time and became a step dad. My wife, Liuhong, and I moved to San Francisco in 2020 when I started a new job at the University of California at Berkeley computer department.

My son is in his fourth year of college at Purdue University in Indiana.

I started looking for a new church after moving to San Francisco. Looking for a church nearby that shared my theological beliefs and helping the community. I found PCC and started attending service shortly after in-person service started about 2 years ago. I joined the church by affirmation of faith on October 29, 2023.

I am on the Mission and Evangelism Committee and occasionally volunteer with the Saturday morning food pantry.

Liuhong cross country skiing >



In the winter I like to ski up in Lake Tahoe. The two photos are at South Lake Tahoe, Palisades Ski Resort.

Kevin Feeley