

## In the Loop

A Summary of the December 21, 2021 English Commission Meeting

### Committee and Other Reports

1. Mission and Evangelism
  - a. Christmas Gift Giving – Over 100 gifts were committed by donors this year including contributions from Covenant Presbyterian Church and Sabrina Gee-Shin’s community of friends.
  - b. Food Pantry – SF/Marin Food Bank agreed to cover the \$300.00 cost to obtain a permit for the passenger loading zone in front of the church to support food pantry operations on December 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Winter Shelter Meal on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary’s Cathedral – The church will prepare and serve meals to 67 homeless persons and 10 staff. The menu will include meatloaf, broccoli casserole, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls, and cupcakes. Volunteers will be needed to help with grocery shopping, cooking, serving, and cleaning.
  - d. Mission Giving – At year’s end, there is \$4,150.00 available for donations. M&E discussed principles that guided their decision making such as Matthew 25 objectives. The committee agreed to make the following contributions for 2021:
    - 1) \$500 level - Tsuru for Solidarity, Poor People’s Campaign, Coleman Advocates for Youth & Families, Interfaith Movement 4 Human Integrity, Cantonese Congregation, S.F. Night Ministry
    - 2) \$300 level - Safe House for Women, Asian Women’s Shelter, Pipit Fund
    - 3) \$250 level - Young Community Developers
  - e. Jeanette Huie announced that she will be stepping down as Co-Chair of the committee after two years in the role. Planned rotation of co-chairs will help with committee leadership development and continuity.
2. Resource
  - a. At&T Fiber Optic Project – Installation is delayed due a moratorium on construction work during the holidays and other logistical issues.
  - b. Chinatown MTA Station – Winchell Quock continues to work with Wayman Lee of the SFMTA on reparations for damages to the building’s north and east exterior, northeast metal gate and northside foundation wall.
3. Worship & Nurture
  - a. Norma Fong Chan was commended for her excellent work organizing the choir in the singing of hymns and pre- and postludes.
  - b. After discussing options for Christmas Eve, the committee decided that worshipping in-person in the sanctuary or outdoors at Cameron House posed too many issues and recommended to the Commission that the Christmas Eve service with communion be held online via Zoom.
  - c. An adult education class led by Rev. Leslie Veen is planned for January 23, 30 and February 6 at 4:00 pm. The title of the class is “Facing Upheaval and Uncertainty: Biblical Stories and Our Stories”.
  - d. Christmas Cookie Project – Nancy Chee reported that she has a total of 22 bakers who will be preparing 36 bags for delivery to recipients.
  - e. As Nancy Chee prepares to step down as an active elder, she will also be taking leave from the committee. Please contact Dave Miller, [david.k.miller@pccsf.org](mailto:david.k.miller@pccsf.org), for more information about the work of the Worship & Nurture Committee whose

goal it is to *provide meaningful opportunities for worshippers to experience God and to acknowledge and celebrate God’s love and grace. The Committee, either directly or through other PCC groups, provides opportunities for people of all ages to build, study, renew and enhance their faith.*

4. Mission Study Team
  - a. Consultations with the leadership from Cameron House, and Cantonese and Mandarin Commissions have been completed. Three additional focus groups are planned for January that will be geared towards young adults, families and others who didn’t attend previous town halls.
  - b. The next town hall meeting is planned for February 26.
5. Personnel

**Action:** MSP to approve a one-time increase to the Interim Pastor’s 2021-2022 medical reimbursement budget from \$1,000.00 to \$4,752.22. The additional \$3,752.22 is funded by a grant from the Presbytery to off-set Pastor Don’s emergency medical expenses of August 2021.
6. Treasurer’s Report
  - a. For the month of November, receipts totaled \$35,706.49 and expenses totaled \$16,546.50. After 11 months of the budget year, offering and other income has totaled \$217,128.38 compared to expenses of \$175,691.55 for a positive variance of \$41,436.83.
  - b. The improving status of the operating budget is attributed to recent, unsolicited lump sum gifts to the English Worshiping Community.

## Old Business

1. Both/And Worship
  - a. The sanctuary reopened for in-person worship services for the past two weeks with an attendance of approximately 27-29.
  - b. Four Commission members returned to worship in person and shared their observations:
    - 1) There was a noticeable happiness among participants
    - 2) Feeling restricted by not singing nor being able to stay behind to chat
    - 3) Surprised by the substantial difference between worshipping in person and via livestream
    - 4) Safety procedures went smoothly with monitors on duty
    - 5) Color dot system on nametags was well received
    - 6) Worship technology continues to work well
2. West Bay Grace and Restoration Project
  - a. After meeting with Rev. Carmen Mason-Browne, a follow-up discussion was held about the Grace and Restoration Project and the project’s goals, expectations, and potential benefits.
  - b. **Action:** MSP to inform Rev. Carmen Mason-Browne that the EWC will not be participating in the Grace and Restoration project at this time.

## New Business

The Commission closed the meeting with a time for gratitude as Nancy concluded six years of faithful service as an Elder.

**Calendar Dates**

January 9	<i>Ordination and Installation Service</i>
January 9	Resource Committee
January 14	Winter Shelter Meal at Saint Mary’s Cathedral
January 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance
January 18	English Commission
January 23	Guest Preacher: Mike Lee, Executive Director, Donaldina Cameron House
January 23	Board of Deacons
February 1	Lunar New Year
February 1	M&E and W&N Committees
February 13	Resource Committee
February 15	Pastor Don – On vacation through February 24
February 15	English Commission – Guest Moderator: Rev. Leslie Veen
February 20	Guest Preacher: To be announced
February 21	President’s Day Observance
February 26	Mission Study Town Hall Meeting
February 27	Board of Deacons