

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

## In the Loop

### A Summary of the November 2021 English Commission Meeting

#### Committee and Other Reports

1. San Francisco Presbytery (Reported by Diane Go)
  - a. Stated Clerk Rochelle Shaw in her report reminded all that the 225th General Assembly will gather 6/25/22 through 7/2/22 with a mix of online and in-person meetings. She also informed us that the Youth Triennium will be meeting in Indiana 7/24/22 through 7/27/22.
  - b. One of our neighbors, the Chinese Congregational Church (UCC), has a new pastor who transferred to SF Presbytery from the Presbytery of New York, Rev. Steve Hong.
  - c. From the Committee on the Preparation for Ministry: 2 candidates were accepted for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, Brianna Oh Son of First Presbyterian Church in Livermore and Tori Bommarito of First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley.
  - d. During the 60-Second Celebrations, we celebrated the 135th anniversary of Irvington Presbyterian Church in Fremont. Rev. Norman Fong announced that there will be a Chinese New Year's Parade on February 19, 2022, in San Francisco.
  - e. From the Committee on Ministry: The Chinese Presbyterian Church in Oakland has called a new pastor, Rev. Peter Chang, whose call was approved during this meeting. Norman Fong reached out to him on our behalf to consider partnering to address structural racism in our communities.
  - f. From the Nominating and Committee on Representation: Rev. Barbara Barkley, Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church, will be the Co-Moderator for 2022-2023 with Co-Moderator Elder Mustapha Baksh of Irvington Presbyterian Church. And our own Rev. Don Hammond was nominated from the floor to be a 225th General Assembly Commissioner. Nomination was accepted and approved.
2. Mission and Evangelism
  - a. Christmas Gifts for Ping Yuen Children – Signups for gift giving have begun and will be handled via Google Sheets. December 12<sup>th</sup> is the final date to drop off Christmas gifts.
  - b. Rita S. Semel Endowment Fund of the San Francisco Interfaith Council – Rita Semel was instrumental in starting the Winter Shelter Meal program that we have participated in. Norman Fong serves on the Board of the SF Interfaith Council and asked if we might be willing to donate to the Semel Endowment Fund. MSP to donate \$200.00.
  - c. Winter Shelter Meal with SF Interfaith Council - The event will be on Friday, January 14, 2022, 3:30 pm at St. Mary's. The menu will be the same as in previous years: meatloaf, broccoli casserole, mashed potatoes & gravy. Jeanette Huie will contact the Winter Shelter coordinator to ask about Covid safety protocols before seeking volunteers to help with serving.
3. Resource
  - Telecommunications
    - 1) Dave Chan proposed a solution to improve the church's internet service by subscribing with AT&T Fiber at a cost of \$845.00/month with a two-year contract excluding taxes and telephone lines.

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- 2) Currently our monthly costs are: (1) an AT&T DSL line @ \$180.00/month, (2) AT&T Wireless 100Mbps @ \$326.00/month, (3) 2 "Hot spots" @ \$150.00, and (4) one business "Hot Spot" @ \$85.00 paid by Dave Chan for a total of \$741.00/month.
  - 3) Previously AT&T offered fiber optic service at 50 Mbps with an additional \$66,000.00 construction cost. Now the offer increases the speed to 150 Mbps and may eliminate installation fees.
  - 4) Additional hardware costs of \$500.00 are needed to provide phone services.
  - 5) The Resource committee voted to approve the AT&T fiber optic agreement with a stipulation that there will be no construction or installation costs charged by AT&T or their contractors.
4. Worship & Nurture
- a. The committee welcomed Norma Chan and Gwen Jeong to participation in the meeting.
  - b. Planning for Advent and Christmas
    - 1) A planning team consisting of Mildred Hall, Norma Fong Chan, Linda Lee, Dave Chan, Dave Miller, and Pastor Don decided to adopt the Marcie McFee series "The Inn – Housing the Holy". We will follow the scripture suggestions in the series and use parts of the liturgy she developed.
    - 2) We can use Tea Time as an opportunity for Advent studies based on the theme of the Sunday.
    - 3) A music planning team consisting of Mildred, Dave, Norma, and Pastor Don met to plan the music offerings for Advent.
      1. We will use Advent hymns as opening hymns and Christmas carols for closing hymns.
      2. We will use the song provided by the series as our centering music for all four Sundays
      3. Norma will organize choir offerings for the 2nd and 4th weeks (with tech and music help from Dave Chan & Dave Miller)
      4. We want to have prelude and postlude provided by members of the worshipping community. Norma will coordinate.
    - 4) The committee decided that we will use the Advent devotionals from *The Presbyterian Outlook* and try to focus attention on that one resource for our whole community this year.
  - c. The committee agreed to have Pastor Don invite Rev. Leslie Veen to offer her adult-education class "Facing Upheaval and Uncertainty" to our worshipping community.
5. Treasurer's Report
- For the month of October, expenses totaled \$14,943.99 and receipts totaled \$37,699.82 for a positive variance of \$22,755.83. Year to date, expenses totaled \$159,145.05 and receipts amounted to \$181,421.89 for a positive variance of \$22,276.84.
6. Pastor's Report
- At the Presbytery meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>, during the Nominating Committee segment, it was reported that there was a vacancy for a Commissioner to the General Assembly (GA) in 2022. As Pastor Don logged out to attend another

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meeting, Maggi Henderson from Old First nominated him as Commissioner. Pastor Don shared that he always wanted to go to GA, but as an Interim, he hasn't served in a presbytery long enough to have an opportunity.

### Old Business

#### Both/And Worship and Re-opening the Church for Worship

- a. The PCC Session approved the re-opening of the sanctuary for in-person worship beginning November 21, 2021. The Mandarin and Cantonese communities expressed their intention to return to in-person worship on that date.
- b. Dave Chan and Jackie Jew sat in with the Commission to discuss health and safety issues and plan for our return to in-person worship.
- c. **Action:** By unanimous consent, the Commission agreed to resume in-person English worship on December 12, 2021, the Third Sunday in Advent.
- d. **Action:** The Commission approved by unanimous consent to not require proof of vaccination as a condition for entry to the church for worship. However, worshipers will be strongly encouraged to stay home if unvaccinated.
- e. **To Do:** Pastor Don will be contacting individuals to serve as safety monitors beginning December 12<sup>th</sup> and attend a safety orientation at PCC scheduled for Saturday, November 20 to be led by Jackie Jew and Dave Chan.

### New Business

#### Authorization to Use EWC Communications Resources for Advocacy Work

- a. With the support of the Mission and Evangelism committee, Clinton Huey spoke on behalf of current nationwide efforts to protect voter rights and to educate our community about an opportunity to join a letter writing campaign to the White House to end the use of Senate filibusters. He provided a brief historical overview of the filibuster and how the will of a minority voting block can overrule the wishes of the majority such as the case of obstructing Civil Rights reforms.
- b. **Action:** By unanimous consent, the Commission approved M&E's use of EWC communications resources such as the Rag Sheet to encourage the community to learn about the history and relevance of Senate filibusters and participate in advocacy work to protect voter rights. This endeavor is consistent with the core principles of Matthew 25 to end structural racism.

### Calendar Dates

December 12 *The Third Sunday of Advent*  
December 12 Re-opening of the sanctuary for in-person worship in English  
December 12 Resource Committee  
December 19 *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
December 21 English Commission  
December 24 *Christmas Eve Service*  
December 25 Christmas Day  
December 26 Board of Deacons

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| January 1  | New Year's Day                             |
| January 4  | M&E and W&N Committees                     |
| January 9  | <i>Ordination and Installation Service</i> |
| January 9  | Resource Committee                         |
| January 17 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day                 |
| January 18 | English Commission                         |
| January 23 | Board of Deacons                           |