

In the Loop
A Summary of the English Commission Meeting
September 2020

Presbytery of San Francisco Report

1. The Presbytery of San Francisco identifies as a Matthew 25 presbytery that is committed to *act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.*
To Do: The Commission will study whether the EWC seeks to align with and commit to be a Matthew 25 congregation.
2. Rev. Cal Chinn nominated, and the Presbytery elected Pastor Don to serve as commissioner to the Synod of the Pacific. He will serve in this capacity for a three-year term and attend approximately two meetings annually.
3. West Bay Region Fund Your Vision – Jeanette Huie reported on three proposals endorsed by the English Commission at the August meeting. The Cameron House proposal will be funded \$50K as requested. The two change proposals to the Fund Your Vision program recommended by Jeanne Choy Tate, Ginger Smyly et al. were approved.

Committee Reports

1. Mission and Evangelism
 - a. The committee seeks to expand its membership and welcomed Clinton Huey, Carole Chinn Morales, and Joseph Fong to its recent meeting.
 - b. In the November election, there are two local propositions on the ballot that will impact Chinatown. The committee wants to ensure that the community is well informed and is exploring how to proceed with voter education. As a matter of principle and practice, the church does not take a position on individual candidates; however, the Commission has on occasion taken a stance on propositions that are linked to issues of conscience.
 - c. Coleman Advocates was selected by M&E as the community-based organization to receive a \$500 contribution from the church towards their mission to end structural racism and promote hope and justice for children and families in San Francisco.
 - d. Living Waters World Mission canceled the Guatemala mission project planned for October that the EWC had intended to support. Jeanette Huie will be notified once Living Waters mission trips resume.
2. Resource
 - a. Volunteer Recognition – The Committee seeks to recognize all of the contributions of EWC volunteers and acknowledge the amount of work involved to sustain our worshiping community. One idea under consideration is to dedicate a segment of an upcoming worship service to this purpose.
To Do: Pastor Don will confer with the W&N committee about scheduling a time for volunteer recognition.
 - b. 925 Stockton – A team comprised of Scott Barlow, Terry Leong and Winchell Quock under the able leadership of Wayne Eng completed preventative maintenance in August. In addition to sealing the seams around the perimeter of the building, windows on the ground level were caulked to prepare for the rain season.

- c. Worship Support – The committee recently conducted an outreach and recruitment effort to expand the tech team of volunteers. The task of livestreaming worship on Sundays requires persons who possess specific skill sets and a willingness to learn new software. Access to suitable tech equipment and bandwidth from home is a necessity while the church building remains closed.
To Do: Dave Soohoo will inform Dave Chan of the progress made to expand the tech team and proceed with planning for next steps such as orientation and training of prospective volunteers.
3. Worship & Nurture
 - a. Virtual worship services have expanded our geographic reach among worshipers and guest preachers. Lessons learned about worship planning in these pandemic times may have long-term impacts on worship and nurture planning.
 - b. The Worship Planning Team is actively engaged in planning for Advent mindful that the 2020 season will be unlike any other while the community shelters in place.
 - c. Inquirers Class – The preliminary plans are for classes to be held and led by Pastor Don on Wednesdays beginning January 27, 2021.
 - d. School of Discipleship – The study of the book of Jeremiah will conclude on September 28. More information will follow.
4. Nominating
Nancy Chee asked for clarification of the nomination timeline in relationship to the EWC annual meeting. Ideally the goal is to complete the committee work and notify the EWC of the slate of nominees in writing (email and/or postal service) two weeks prior to the annual meeting planned for October 25. However, there is discretion to compress the notification timeline when necessary such as two Sundays, not two full weeks, prior to the annual meeting.
5. PCC/CH Partnership
Pastor Don recommended that the Commission increase PCC representation on the committee in anticipation of increased discussions with Cameron House on partnering in mission. Carl Jew volunteered to join Jeanette Huie and Pastor Don on the committee.
6. Deacons
Translation of Compassion Fund documents are in progress as the Deacons prepare to meet with the co-pastors about this new ministry.

Treasurer's Report

For the month of July, there is a deficit of \$4,964.03; however, the year-to-date (YTD) budget report remains healthy and shows a positive variance of \$3,818.66.

Old Business

1. Elder Training – Scheduled for Saturday, January 23. Hours will be confirmed.
2. Deacon Training
To Do: Pastor Don will confer with the Deacons to select a date.

New Business

1. Annual PCC Congregational Meeting
 - a. Logistics – As the public health order on social distancing remains in force, distance communications and access to timely information will be essential.

- Increased costs for postal service and effort are anticipated to ensure that everyone receives information to make informed decisions at the annual trilingual meeting.
- b. Translation Services – Unfortunately the highly regarded translation service utilized by the PCUSA is too costly for our needs and budget.
 - i. **To Do:** Pastor Don will work with the co-pastors to identify members to help with oral and written translation.
 - c. Bylaws – Pastor Don pointed out that there are segments of the PCC Bylaws that are outdated and need to be updated.

To Do: The Commission will plan to review and propose modifications to the Bylaws in January-June 2021 prior to bringing the change proposals forward to the other worshipping communities.
 - d. Corporation Officers – Dave Soohoo, PCC Treasurer, described the roles and expectations of officers of the church corporation and led a discussion of who might be nominated to serve in 2021.
2. Imagining Church Research Project – Princeton Theological Seminary
- a. *Imagining Church: Envisionings and Embodiments of the Ecclesial Enterprise* – The project seeks to further understand a handful of diverse worshipping communities across the country, assessing patterns and practices of thriving (as a worshipping community), studying *That Extra Something Special (TESS)* quality of a worshipping community, and ecclesial imagination.
 - b. Methods and Procedures: This qualitative study has both descriptive and applied/action research phases. The researchers will be using social constructive theories of human behavior and research that are best assessed through ethnographic methods including interviews, participant observation, and focus groups.
 - i. Phase One (April-June 2020): Sampling
 - ii. Phase Two (Fall 2020-January 2021): Digital Data Collection
 - iii. Phase Three (February-December 2021): Project Development
 - iv. Phase Four (January-April 2022): Site Visits from Research Team members
 - v. Phase Five (May-December 2022): Final Evaluation
 - c. After the EWC was identified as a prospective candidate for the research project and a review of project design, the Commission accepted the invitation to participate.
 - d. **To Do:** Select a member of the congregation to serve as liaison to the Imagining Church research project of Princeton Theological Seminary (fall 2020 – 2022).
3. PCC/CH Healing Event
- The time of the November 14th event was adjusted to 2:30 – 5:00 pm to avoid a time conflict with the Food Pantry. The Healing Committee also recommended that the November 15th worship service include a segment on the theme of healing.
4. Faith in Blue March
- a. The event sponsored by SFPD Central Station invites Chinatown religious leaders to join with the police in a community march on Friday, October 9. The program includes stops at each place of worship for a time of prayer and blessing.
 - b. The SFPD Central Station representative gave assurances that the Faith in Blue March isn't anti-Black Lives Matter.
 - c. **Action:** The Commission advised against participating in the march in accordance with current social distancing guidelines and supports the pastor (if he so chooses) to host and pray with the Faith in Blue March when it stops by 925 Stockton.

Expanded Calendar of Dates

- October 5 Pastor Don – On study leave through October 11
- October 6 M&E and W&N Committees
- October 11 Guest Preacher – Harry Chuck
- October 11 Resource Committee
- October 18 PCC Session
- October 18 Mission Study Committee
- October 20 English Commission
- October 25 Annual English Worshiping Community meeting
- October 25 Deacons
- November 1 Annual PCC congregational meeting