



Good News for the Pews

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A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

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From Pastor Don

Very soon, sometime after our annual English Congregational Meeting, we will gather together again, officially, to elect our Pastor Nominating Committee, or PNC. That small group will have a rather big task ahead of them, that being to search for, interview, and then provide a finalist candidate to come and meet the congregation before being voted upon as the EWC's next pastor. Before they begin their interviews, the PNC will be spending time reviewing the Mission Study Report, not because it contains the search criteria for the next pastor, it doesn't, but because they will need to keep the Envisioning and Goals section of the report top of their minds as they review applications, called Personal Informational Forms (PIFs). Eventually, they begin their interview process.

Then the PNC, working with the Personnel Committee and the English Commission, will produce an online profile of our worshipping community that will also express what we are looking for in a new leader. This is called a Mission Information Form, or MIF. There is an online database which helps to match MIFs with PIFs. Now most of you are past the point in your lives where you are using online dating apps to find new relationship partners, but this process is actually quite similar. Matching MIFs to PIFs is how things start, but the potential candidates will be doing more than just reading. The potential candidates will be making use of something called *theological imagination* to see if they can envision themselves here and envisioning themselves to help the EWC achieve its goals. Kind of like dating (if you remember), they will be thinking of the EWC and trying to imagine themselves here.

So what does that mean? In addition to reading the online MIF, candidates will be looking at our website and looking to see if we have a social media presence. They will be looking at our Mission Study Report and they will be praying and trying to discern if they see themselves helping the EWC achieve the things listed in the Envisioning and Goals section. They will be trying to imagine themselves in this place and with this community. If they can see their own gifts and skills adding to, and helping the EWC to achieve its goals, they will be motivated to enter into relationship with this community.

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Minute for Stewardship – EWC Nominating Committee *(continued from page 2)*

What does it mean to be deacon? The work of Deacons are those called to the ministry of “compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress” (*Book of Order*, 2009–11 version, G-2.0201). Sound familiar? We affirmed this in our Mission Statement of “*building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. We strive to nurture and support our members through every age and season of life.*”

Not everyone may feel they are cut out to be an elder or to be a deacon. But I am sure we all have unique gifts that might be used to serve God’s “Mission” in other ways. This is where you might think to serve on other committees like those of Worship and Nurture, Mission and Evangelism and Resources. You do not need a committee to recruit you. This was done a long time ago when you made a commitment to Christ who recruited you to his service. And in your life, Christ has called you to act faithfully in the spirit of Micah 6:8 “*to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God*”. No kindness or service is ever too small. So if ever an opportunity knocks, think about it and try opening the door to a new experience.

The Nominating Committee is extremely grateful to those who have accepted nominations and the call to serve as Deacons or Elders for this coming year. It will be an exciting time of change for all of us moving forward. You, as the community, will be entrusting them to guide us, making decisions that equip and strengthen our community. It is not all for us to just elect them, but to support them fully and when called, to work together as one in Christ.

We will be presenting these Deacons and Elders, and voting for their acceptance in our Annual English Worshipping Community meeting in November. Please come to meet and support them.

Thank you for the work of Nominating Committees of years past, current and for the future. Your work shapes our community. Your Nominating Committee for this year includes Mary Wong-Leong, Jerrick Woo, and myself, Jeanine Lim as the Deacon Representative, and Carl Jew as your Elder Representative.

Please pray for all those who will guide us as our community moves forward in our “Mission.” We are your humble servants.

Thank you.

* Given at the Worship Service on October 2, 2022

The Deacons started with all nine members on board, reviewing the duties and responsibilities of being the caring arm of the church along with the ruling elders and Pastor Don.

We examined our Deacon's Manual and discovered items done by individuals that continued as they became Deacons but really are not the Deacons' role. Those duties that aren't, may be picked up by the other committees or worshipping communities.

The Deacons+ group was formed in the Spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 shut-down of the church. That was our way of keeping in touch with each of our members. Members were glad to hear a familiar voice on the phone or receive a note from the church. When the church re-opened for in-person worship, the Deacons+ group was phased out in July but ready to be back in action if needed again.

As the "caring arm" of the church, we call, send cards to members celebrating birthdays, retirement, and notes and cards to those dealing with health issues, death and other needs. We make visits to members in hospitals, rehab facilities, or homes with Pastor Don.

We made 4 double-fleeced prayer blankets with written notes on top and gave them to members recuperating from illness or surgeries this summer. Care packages filled with treats were recently sent to 11 college-agers studying away from home.

Prayer requests are followed up and given to Pastor Don and the liturgists; we respect those requests by obtaining permission if they're to be made public or to remain private.

The COMPASSION FUND established in September of 2020 during the COVID epidemic, was used recently to help individuals who had financial needs due to loss of income from illness/job. Donation envelopes are available for your donation to replenish funds that have been spent.

Class of 2022—Eunice Behar-Lee, Terry Chan, Max Hum
2023—Ed Kam, Jeanine Lim, Carole Chinn-Morales
2024—Jackie Jew, Rene Fong, Shar Hall

In August, four members of the PCC community were identified as needing our prayers and support. The Deacons organized a Prayer Blanket project for our friends. For two Sundays during Teatime as well as during a Saturday Food Pantry, family, friends, and people who care were given the opportunity to tie the knotted edges and send their prayers and good wishes via the blankets. The congregation was also given the option to send their messages to the Deacons via email for transcription onto the blankets. The blankets were given to family members or delivered by Deacons+ during the first week of September. Our prayers for comfort, strength and healing are ongoing for our friends.



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Deacons Corner *(continued from page 5)*



The Care Package program for our college agers has been revived. Eleven care packages were sent out in October.



PCC sent our college-agers off with our prayers and good wishes (and snacks) for a safe, happy, and productive year in school: Cody, Tristan and Tully at University of Hawaii, Ian at SF State University, Samantha at UC Davis, Mari at Chico State, Rene at University of Santa Clara, Caitlin at Vassar, Ella at UCLA, Justin at UC Irvine, and Jeff- our post grad at USC.

**S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS of
CHURCH PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION**

by Carl Jew

<p>(S) STRENGTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longevity • Our Financial Health 	<p>(W) WEAKNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Written Personnel Policies
<p>(O) OPPORTUNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Envisioning Goals from the Mission Study 	<p>(T) THREAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of Housing • Minister Burn-out

This Minute for Stewardship focuses on personnel administration using a method of planning called S.W.O.T. Analysis to identify our worshipping community’s Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

For example, we are set apart from other congregations by the **Strength** of our:

- Longevity – Our church is the oldest Asian-serving Protestant church in North America that formed under the leadership of only four members and the Rev. William Speer.
- Financial Health – We pay our bills on time. We have a well-funded budget to support our ministries and offer fair compensation to our pastor while maintaining healthy financial reserves. Our community is generous in giving of time, talents, and treasure. It’s easy to imagine why a future minister candidate might be drawn to serve a church known for its longevity and financial strength.

In the second box entitled **Weakness**, “Doing all things decently and in order” is a trademark of Presbyterian church leadership. However, it is worrisome to know that we have few personnel policies written down. It will be a priority of the personnel committee to develop new policies to create order and ensure fair employment practices.

The third category is **Opportunity**. The Mission Study presents four, new Envisioning Goals for us to embrace and implement. We have an opportunity to ask and answer how will we invest our time, talents, and treasure towards these goals. Who will be called to pastor this church and partner with us as a “both/and” church that is dedicated to missional work and demonstrating God’s reconciling love for our neighbor?

Regarding the fourth box, **Threats**,

- An ongoing external threat is the high cost of housing. Economic pressures can’t be ignored as we prepare to recruit, call, and retain the next pastor.
- Pastor Burn-out – A recent article published in the New York Times reported on a nationwide survey of ministers during the pandemic and discovered that 2 out of 5 pastors surveyed, 40%, have seriously considered quitting full-time ministry in the past year. The main reasons cited were “the immense stress of the job,” and “feeling lonely and isolated.” This is a stark reminder that the work and profession of minister is far more taxing than we may think. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/28/opinion/pastor-burnout-pandemic.html>

This brief demonstration of a SWOT Analysis as it relates to personnel work reminds us that it is by God’s grace that we came from humble beginnings in 1853 and continue to assemble for worship after 169 uninterrupted years. We strive to be the faithful Body of Christ while recognizing that we possess a particular set of strengths and weaknesses and are faced with present-day challenges in the form of new opportunities and persistent threats.

Members of the Worship & Nurture Committee want to share with you what we do and how your support for us makes a difference. Members are Gwen Jeong, Mildred Hall, Terry Chan, Ed Kam, Nancy Chee, Pastor Don and myself, Dave Miller.

Our goal for worship is to provide you opportunities to celebrate God's love and grace. While this might not happen every week, we hope that you often experience God's presence while you're at worship either in the sanctuary or at home.

We depend on your feedback. What about our worship brings you closer to God? What makes you feel more distant from God than you'd like? If you join Sunday worship via YouTube and you live locally, what are the conditions under which you'd want to worship in-person rather than on-line?

One of our biggest challenges over the past two years has been supporting Tea Time. We know that pre-pandemic Tea Time was a time of fellowship, of food and of study. We know that Tea Time over Zoom isn't as satisfying. As more and more of you come to worship in-person, Tea Time in Fellowship Hall will give you opportunities to visit and learn. But, we still want to provide a time of fellowship and learning if you're not able to come in to Chinatown. We'll be trying to have more presenters and more questions to discuss. Give us feedback about what works best for you both in-person and via Zoom.

Our other responsibility is to ensure that our church provides opportunities for people of all ages to study, renew and enhance their faith. We have scheduled study sessions with Rev. Leslie Veen and an examination of the Confession of 1967 led by Pastor Don. We encourage and support the School of Discipleship, Women's Fellowship, East Bay Covenant Group, the Wednesday Night Fellowship, DINKS and SINKS, and Pickleball.

You can help us provide you with study opportunities and fellowship opportunities by letting us know what you need. What aspects of faith trouble you? What could help you better withstand the struggles you are going through? Should we form an additional fellowship group?

We'd love to welcome you to participate in our committee meetings, the first Tuesday of the month at 7 via Zoom. We love new ideas and the perspectives additional people bring to our meetings.

Please talk with any of us on the committee. Give us your positive as well as negative feedback. Give us your ideas about how we can strengthen our ties as a community. We depend on you!

Dave Miller

Chair, Worship & Nurture Committee

2022 天山退修會感受：

三年後的今天，我們再一次舉辦了退修會，主題：《在拆毀中悔改，在重建中更新》

參加人數 29 人，其中有五位第一次參加我們的退修會，三位慕道友。

1. 悔改：認出自己的不對，全然徹底拆除，謙卑自我，向主認罪悔改
2. 重建：在主裏，求主賜我們力量，重建活在主裡的我。與主的關係再次和好，委身於主
3. 更新：舊事已過，都是新的了。將纏勒我們的種種的種種，主已釋放，腦海裡，心裏，全然 let go! 再活的不是我，乃是主在我裡活著！如何回應？主啊！我在這裡，請差遣我！請用我！
 - 最高興是看到以往的青年人已經是有家有孩子的 young families...然而幾家的感情永固，大人孩子都相處融洽，就是“一家人”。其他年輕人也快了……
 - 這次的退修會也大多數是由年輕人主持多數項目，年輕人哪！你們就是現在的教會……不只是以後的……you are not only the future of the church, you are the NOW! 主有否感動你，不要再推辭，站出來，說，主啊，我在這裡，請用我！
 - 經過恩悅師母，再是郝牧師所傳達的信息，聖靈在每個人的心中，動工……有的是激動痛哭流淚；有的反覆思想，主的話語打觸到心底……台上台下都收穫滿滿。是的，主啊，我們向祢懺悔認罪、悔改。我們要在祢的話裡重新建造。求祢更新我們，活在主的旨意裏，走當走的道路，讓我們成為別人的祝福，我們所做的是討祢喜悅，榮神益人！將一切頌讚、榮耀都歸於祢，三一之神！阿門！

Heavenly Hills Christian Camp 2022 Retreat, My Thoughts and Feelings

Three years since the pandemic, we once again held our ‘annual’ retreat. Our topic: “Repent in Demolition, Renew in Rebuild”. Speaker: Cathy Wang, Pastor Hao’s wife.

In attendance: 29 people. Of the 29, 5 are first timers to our retreat, and 3 are non-believers. 5 children, 9 older adults, 15 young adults.

We went back to the basics of the 3 R’s: Repent, Rebuild, and Renew: a summary of what I learned and took with me from the retreat.

1. Repent: I need to acknowledge my faults, totally demolish my wrongs, humble myself before God, repent to God.
2. Rebuild: In God and with God, ask God to give me the strength to rebuild my life within Him, rebuild that relationship with God, submit my all to God.
3. Renew: Old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17) Let go of all those weighing me down, God has already freed those burdens from me. Let go of those worries, troubles, heavy heart...He has

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set me free. He lives in me, and I live for Him! “Lord, Here I am, please send me, use me!”

I was most grateful and happiest to see:

1. Our youth we nurtured are now young adults, many married and with families, their children....It is so delightful and with a grateful heart to see them grow in God.
2. More than half of the attendees were young adults! This is so promising to see! Youth: you are not just the Future of the Church, I say, you ARE the Church! Don't hesitate, don't push back! No more excuses, “Lord, here I am, send me!”
3. God's words, through Cathy, have touched all of us, some in tears, others contemplating in their hearts, like needles, pricked through our hearts, awakened our indifferent attitude! Lord, help us. We kneel before you and repent, please rebuild our faith in You once more, rebuild that relationship with You, and renew us once more, so we may be used by You!

May we be a blessing to others, our lives to be one to Glorify You. Praises Be to the Lord! Amen!



Youth

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The Women



The Group

Submitted by Amy Feng
Mandarin Worshipping Community

A New Hymn

“Presbyterian pastor and hymn writer, the Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, has written a new hymn, *O God of All Creation*, after Hurricane Fiona brought devastation to Puerto Rico and other islands in the Caribbean before turning toward the Maritime provinces in Canada.

“This new hymn was written after severe storms caused massive flooding and damage in Pakistan, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and other places” Winfrey Gillette wrote. “It is written in a general way so that it can be used in the future after other hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones, which are unfortunately becoming more severe due to climate change.”

The new hymn is set to Samuel Sebastian Wesley’s “AURELIA,” the tune for *The Church’s One Foundation*. Winfrey Gillette grants permission for churches to use the lyrics in worship and in support of relief efforts.

by Mike Ferguson / Presbyterian News Service

O God of All Creation

O God of all creation, as ocean waters warm,
we grieve the devastation that comes with violent storms.
We pray for people struggling — who need your help and grace
on every flooded island and in each flooded place.

We pray for all your children, so dearly loved by you,
who know such great destruction as winds and rains crash through.
We pray for all those hurting, who grieve for what is gone —
for neighbors, friends and siblings who struggle to go on.

We pray, O Lord, for churches that help to build anew.
We pray for rescue workers and all the good they do.
We pray for those with vision who serve as they restore —
who make homes more efficient and stronger than before.

O Christ who calmed the waters and stilled the stormy seas,
You teach us: “Love your neighbors!” and “Humbly care for these!”
Now lead us by your Spirit to gladly lend a hand —
on every struggling island and in each hurting land.

Submitted by Irene Ng

By the Rev. Ronnie Kaan

(The English translation follows on the next pages).

自 2011 年七月一日，正式投入三藩市中華基督教長老會，參與粵語事工服事，轉眼十一年了！*[我拿甚麼報答耶和華向我所賜的一切厚恩]* 詩篇 116:12。

2011 -

七月一日粵語信徒舉行半天退修會，參加人數十九人。於今天疫情前三年，參加粵語信徒三天兩夜退修會，人數達四十餘人。每年訂立不同主題，邀請特約講員，以聖經真道教導信徒，能使信仰融入日常生活。

2012 -

進入區會考驗期。雖早已受按立為改革宗牧師，但因著必須深層了解和認識美國長老會，按規章修讀禮儀、體制和教義。但不知可因？時間卻被拖延了，經過得到黃長老追查後，獲得資深牧長莫牧師的細心教導，結果在區會四位牧長監察下，順利通過了考試。上帝帶領於十二月二日，在三堂的會友和長老見證下，由區會委任李凝金長老主持就職聖禮。

[靠著愛我們的主，在這一切的事上，已經得勝有餘了] 羅馬書 8:37。於九月十二日上午辦公時間，被一名卧在大門外非裔露宿者闖入後，當天值日長老竟登記簡牧師偷取露宿者一百元，幸有堂會及督會澄清事實，甘卓劍長老註消記錄。

[當將你的事交託耶和華，並倚靠祂，祂就必成全] 詩篇 37:5。剛到教會上任不久，便發生了小插曲：經區會 COM 金牧師以區會印信，簽署核准後，可在粵語堂主持會議、並執行各項聖工及禮儀，但竟被指責冒用區會印信與金牧師之簽名，幸得金牧師認證，那委任信出自於他個人簽署核實。

2013 - 2017

[無論做甚麼，都要從心裡做，像是給主做的，不是給人做的，因你們知道... 你們所事奉的乃是主基督] 歌羅西書 3:23-24。趁著 CYC 青年中心借用本會作為暑期活動場地，藉此機會向他們青年人招手，以教授唱歌、鋼琴等音樂等免費課程，先後吸引了青少年二十餘人進入教會，開展了青年(靈潔)團契、詩班、頌讚小組及青年夏令退修會。於 2013 年十二月懷著「不做不知道，要做便知道」的心態，嘗試設立靈友(美鄰園)團契，徵得美鄰園同意後，在該交誼廳開始每月一次的聚會，由粵語堂耆英團契主領，後來日子也因人數不如預期，暫停了兩年；至今年疫情大流行過後，亦應美鄰園邀請，已於 2022 年一月重啟「靈友團契」月會。

傳福音不是靠著口才,乃是要使聽的人得看見:小學補習班、華埠街頭派發福音單張、成人英語會話班、少年空手道班、耶穌愛華埠、健康營養班等,一系列福音外展事工,都是蒙上帝憐憫,因著我們願意去做,祂將得救人數加給我們。

2016 - 2019

[在人是不可能的, 在上帝凡事都能] 馬太福音 19:26。 在這三年間,青少年漸漸成長。他們不少人要離開三藩市,有進入大學的、也有進入社會尋求工作的;但上帝給我們看見祂另有預備,除了每年舉辦三天兩夜信徒退修會外,於每年暑假期間,舉行了:教會領袖研習會,目的是加強造就教會領袖,裝備信徒成為基督精兵,以強內拓外的信念,才可以堅固教會聖工。

2019 - 2022

[因為, 耶和華賜人智慧;知識和聰明都由祂口而出] 箴言 2:6。 肺炎疫情大流行在這數年間,教會聖工停頓,崇拜也停擺了;粵語堂長老們在上帝恩賜下,曉得運用 WhatsApp 作為主日崇拜、小組查經、主日學校等等的活動和會議。

當踏入 2021 年十一月,督會通過重啟主日崇拜,粵語堂開始實體崇拜外,同時透過視頻網站伸向外界接觸。時至 2022 年,我們藉著網上直到今天,吸引了渴慕福音的新朋友前來教會,參加了每主日的粵語崇拜。

回顧快將完結這十一年,有人說,若懂得在教會拖著太太下樓梯,他就是好牧者?可是,我從沒有拖著師母在教會下梯級。另有人說,我們這部是老爺車,不要駕駛太快,很容易車毀人亡?但當要負起粵語堂事工的第二年,我已全速行駛,第三、第四年更是超速駕駛,幸好仍是平靜安穩,感謝上帝!

或許有人再問,你人矮膽小無學識,甚至問題多多,憑甚麼?配得嗎?
[在罪人中我是個罪魁,然而,我蒙了憐憫,是因耶穌基督要在我這罪魁身上,顯明祂一切的忍耐,給後來信祂得永生的人作榜樣] 提摩太前書 1:15, 16。 一位資深牧長曾經分享:聖經中的大衛,自小就被耶和華揀選,他一生中經歷了大大小小的試煉和試探,上帝一直帶領他、眷顧他,在他軟弱失敗的事情上,憐憫他、赦免他,最後以色列的後裔也從他而出。

「11」從新數上是 1+1 結果才是十一,只要前面的 1,以上帝為一生主宰,後面的 1,我還怕甚麼!
[你當剛強壯膽!不要懼怕,也不要驚惶, … 耶和華你的上帝必與你同在] 約書亞記 1:9。 願將一切榮耀頌讚,歸予我們在天上的 父,阿們!