

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

In the Loop

A Summary of the September 2024 English Commission Meeting

Committee and Other Reports

1. San Francisco Presbytery
 - a. Presbytery announced the appointment of an Interim Executive, Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz. Her assignment has begun although it will be on a part-time basis through January 2025. She is a principal organizer of Crossroads, a provider of antiracism training, and recently served as a keynote speaker to the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women.
 - b. The search has begun for an Associate Executive Presbyter.
 - c. Relief is coming to the Committee on Ministry with plans to hire administrative support.
2. Mission and Evangelism
 - a. Asylee Accompaniment - The committee celebrated how God's Spirit moved those who were present on July 14th at the special Immigration Sunday service with Pastor Nadia preaching, and a Teatime presentation by Pastor Nadia, two Asylum Seekers (Issac and Jeremias), and Rev. Deborah Lee.
 - b. **Action:** MSP to set aside M&E funds to support asylum seekers and provide additional help needed at the PCC Food Pantry.
 - 1) Work Assignment – Help the pantry with loading and unloading pallets of food and cleaning the alley.
 - 2) Methods of Support for Work Performed - Various forms of payment or assistance are being considered such as cash, debit card, Clipper card and Food Pantry overage.
 - 3) Dave Chan and Annie Wong provided an example from the past; the case of Ed, an unhoused person, who slept outside the doors of the church and was offered a safer place to shelter in exchange for help around the church.
 - c. Study Hall – The Chinatown Community Development Center showed no interest in or need for setting up another study hall in the neighborhood. The Chinatown library plans to move temporarily to 950 Grant Ave. and will be able to provide Wi-Fi and a study hall at the new location.
 - d. Food Pantry - 325 persons were served in the past week. Many of the "pop-up" pantries have closed or are closing thereby displacing clients and increasing the burden on pantries that remain open.
3. Resource

Minute for Stewardship – Each fall, a segment of worship is set aside to focus on stewardship and the work of the church through their committees and leadership. Presenters are reminded to keep their messages brief and limited to 1-2 minutes.

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

4. Worship & Nurture

- a. The summer calendar was noteworthy for guest preaching and teatime presentations provided by Revs. Greg Chan, Victor Floyd and Nadia Tavera Medina, and Scott Barlow.
- b. The next community retreat is projected to be held in May 2025. Location will be decided and a return to the Mercy Center in Burlingame is a possibility.
- c. Jean Chin has graciously agreed to continue arranging flowers for the sanctuary with Nancy Chee providing back-up assistance. There is some thought about inviting the other worshipping communities to participate.
- d. SINKS and DINKS Fellowship cooked and served meals for 120 at Old First Presbyterian Church in August and were asked to consider returning for a second time each year.

5. Nominating

Question: Can a person who serves in one elected capacity such as Nominating committee be elected to serve concurrently in a second elected role such as Elder or vice versa? Yes.

6. Personnel

- a. The Satisfaction Survey was completed with a healthy number of responses. The committee is analyzing the data and will report back to the Commission in October.
- b. The Board of Pensions held a webinar on changes coming in 2025. An online calculator was developed for churches to anticipate costs associated with changes to medical premiums.
<https://www.pensions.org/calc/dues>

7. Treasurer's Report – Report on file

a. Budget Notes

- 1) Though we're carrying a deficit at the start of September, the Year-to-Date deficit of \$4,135.53 is much lower than a year ago.
- 2) Donations designated for the Living Waters project exceeded the amount targeted.
- 3) **Action:** By unanimous consent, we agreed to merge line items (946-Special Mission Projects, 950-Living Waters Mission, 951-2020 Mission Trip) into one and rename the new line item, Mission Resource Fund.

b. Income to Expense Report for August and Year-to-Date 2024

	August 2024	01/01 – 08/31/2024 Year-to-Date
Receipts (A)	\$16,414.10	\$147,989.77
Expenses (B)	\$18,332.70	\$152,125.30
Total = (A-B)	-\$1,918.60	-\$4,135.53

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

Mission Study Integration

Question: What is the current and future status of Cameron House as a Presbyterian mission and as a partner in mission with the EWC?

- a. The topic has taken on new meaning and urgency considering the CH Executive Management Team's decision to close the food pantry.
- b. Sampling of Comments
 - 1) Irving Leung, Out-of-School Time Programs Director, resigned without notice.
 - 2) There is a need to review the CH strategic plan.
 - 3) What do the bylaws of the Cameron House Board of Directors have to say about PCC representation? Though desired, it is not required to have PCC members on the Board.
 - 4) There is a need for an EWC forum on CH as a Presbyterian mission and as a viable mission partner.
 - 5) The English Commission has invited CH to reconvene the PCC/CH Committee for 5+ years without success.
 - 6) Does CH staff pray, study the Bible or worship? Who, if anyone, provides Christian education? Boards of Directors have spent considerable time and effort through the years on discussions of faith and developing a faith statement, but to little effect.

New Business

1. World Communion Sunday
 - a. **To Do**: Don will confer with the Cantonese Commission to talk over plans and whether to adjust the starting time of worship.
 - b. Lunch will be hosted by Eunice.
2. Church Anniversary Sunday
To Do: Don will confer with the Cantonese Commission to talk over plans and whether to adjust the starting time of worship.
3. Cameron House Food Pantry
 - a. Dave Chan summarized the chronology of events leading up to the special meeting called between the Cameron House Executive Management Team (Scott Lan, Bill Vigna, Yulanda Kwong) and members of PCC (Scott Barlow, Dave Chan, Pastor Don, Jeanette Huie, Susie Wong).
 - b. Susie Wong, Jeanette Huie and Scott Barlow were invited to the Commission meeting to share their observations and analysis of the Zoom meeting held on 09/16/24. The PCC team of five fielded extensive questions and comments from the Elders.
 - c. A proposal was introduced for the English Worshiping Community to assume management of the Cameron House food pantry that is scheduled to be terminated on 09.26.24.

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

Action: MSP unanimously that the English Commission will begin the transition to assume management of the food pantry at Cameron House including setting up one or more Memorandum of Understanding. (Subject to ratification by the PCC Session)

- d. **To Do:** An ad hoc information session for the community will be held on Sunday, September 22 at teatime.

Calendar Dates

October 1	M&E and W&N Committees
October 6	<i>World Communion Sunday</i>
October 6	<i>Peace & Global Witness Offering</i>
October 13	Resource Committee
October 15	English Commission
October 19	Living Waters Mission Project through October 26
October 20	Board of Deacons
October 27	<i>Annual English Worshiping Community Meeting</i>
November 3	<i>171st Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown</i>
November 3	<i>Annual PCC Meetings - Congregational & Corporation Meetings</i>
November 5	M&E and W&N Committees
Nov. 10	Resource Committee
Nov. 11	<i>Veterans Day Holiday Observance</i>
Nov. 17	Board of Deacons
Nov. 19	English Commission
Nov. 28	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
Nov. 29	<i>Day After Thanksgiving Holiday</i>