

*"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 March 2024 English Commission Meeting

Committee and Other Reports

1. Mission and Evangelism
 - a. Food Pantry - Satisfaction surveys were distributed in February to 280 participants. An overwhelming number of the 180 respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the program and felt respected and welcomed by PCC volunteers. Some asked for more variety and/or quantity of food,
 - b. Interfaith Council Winter Shelter Meal – The volunteer team (Carole Chinn-Morales, Jeanette Huie, Whitney Tom, and others) prepared and served 80 meals at the shelter.
 - c. Lion's Club Free Vision Clinic on March 16th - Lesley Kraechan reported that she recruited about 70 volunteers for vision and medical screening including optometrists, doctors, nurses, nursing students, and optometry students. 50 persons preregistered for eye screening and many more are expected to drop in.
 - d. Living Waters World Mission – The mission trip to Guatemala is scheduled for October 19 – 26, 2024. The next informational meeting for interested persons will be held on March 24th.
 - e. San Francisco Night Ministries – The community is invited to support Food for Neighbors on April 7th before worship. Volunteers will be making sack lunches for the Open Cathedral Service.
2. Resource
 - Building and Finance
 - 1) The annual energy audit report was submitted to the city's Environment Department. The audit provides a comparison between our energy usage and comparable buildings and helps to identify potential problems and efficiencies.
 - 2) The copier lease agreement is expiring. A decision will be made whether to purchase or lease new equipment.
 - 3) Pastor's Office Relocation and Remodel – Work is in progress led by the team of Dave Chan, Scott Barlow, and Terry Leong. The pastor's office will move from its current location to the Lorna Logan room adjoining Speer Hall.
3. Worship & Nurture
 - a. Women's Fellowship will be leading a special worship service on April 14th, *Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday*. The guest preacher will be Rev. Ellen Tanouye, retired minister of the PCUSA.
 - b. The committee continues to welcome feedback on recent modifications to worship.
 - c. Worship Attendance in February – Total (In person/Online)
 - 1) 2/4-61 (31/30) Communion/Sabbath Sunday
 - 2) 2/11-66 (34/32)

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3) 2/18-71 (36/35)

4) 2/25-61 (36/25)

4. Deacons

Monthly meetings have moved from the fourth Sunday back to the third Sunday of the month.

5. Pastor's Report

Pastor Don will be traveling to Colorado on April 23-24 on behalf of the Committee on Ministry to attend a conference on changes in policies and programs of the Board of Pensions.

6. Treasurer's Report

a. Budget Notes

1) Year-to-Date Surplus of \$4,041 – This is an unusual wrinkle in the budget year. Typically, we operate with a deficit in the early months of the year.

2) The Synod's savings interest rate has increased from 1.25 to 4%.

3) The planning committee spent \$1,300 to host Pastor Don's installation service and reception on February 3rd. The total cost is projected to be \$1,600.

b. Income to Expense Report for February and Year-to-Date 2023

	February 2024	Year-to-Date 2024
Total Receipts (A)	\$25,027.00	\$46,658.42
Total Expenses (B)	\$19,333.43	\$42,617.22
Total = (A-B)	\$5,693.57	\$4,041.20

Mission Study Integration

An English Commission retreat was held on March 3rd. Discussions focused on the four stated goals identified in the Mission Study and what the planning process might be going forward. The four goals identified in the Mission Study are:

- a. Strengthen the EWC's identity and work as a Matthew 25 church.
- b. Build stronger relationships with the PCC Cantonese and Mandarin Worshiping Communities.
- c. Continue to engage in missional action, beginning in Chinatown and extending out into the world.
- d. Build and invest in a hybrid model of church, a "both/and" scenario of an in-person and online worshiping community.

Old Business

1. Session Meeting Debriefing

a. Members shared their observations about the Mandarin Commission's request to revisit the PCC bylaws.

b. Stated Clerk, Dave Miller, has communicated with COM for assistance to assign a moderator to facilitate a special meeting of the PCC Session to review the church bylaws.

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2. Deacons on Committees of the Commission
 - a. Opinions vary about the long-standing practice of having deacons represented on each committee of the commission.
 - b. **To Do**: The topic will be revisited after the deacons have time for more discussion.

New Business

Action: The commission approved unanimously to serve communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28th. The service will be preceded by a simple meal at 6 pm graciously prepared by Eunice Bejar-Lee.

Calendar Dates

March 28	<i>Maundy Thursday Meal/Communion</i>
March 29	<i>Good Friday</i>
March 31	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
April 2	<i>M&E and W&N Committees</i>
April 7	<i>Communion/Sabbath Sunday</i>
April 7	<i>Pastor Don – On study leave through April 13</i>
April 14	<i>Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday</i>
April 14	<i>Resource Committee</i>
April 16	<i>English Commission</i>
April 21	<i>Board of Deacons</i>
April 23	<i>Pastor Don – COM Assignment in Colorado through April 24</i>
May 4	<i>Cameron Carnival</i>
May 5	<i>Communion/Sabbath Sunday</i>
May 7	<i>M&E and W&N Committees</i>
May 12	<i>Resource Committee</i>
May 19	<i>Day of Pentecost</i>
May 19	<i>Board of Deacons</i>
May 21	<i>Presbytery of San Francisco</i>
May 21	<i>English Commission (to be rescheduled)</i>
May 27	<i>Memorial Day Holiday Observance</i>