

*"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 November 2023 English Commission Meeting**

#### **Committee and Other Reports**

1. San Francisco Presbytery
  - a. Leadership Model Task Force – Recommendations of the task force were approved. A presbytery nominating committee will be formed to conduct a search for an Interim Presbyter. The current transitional leadership team will continue in their roles until their contracts expire in May 2024.
  - b. The presbytery approved unanimously Rev. Don Hammond's call from an interim to Designated called position for the English congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown effective January 1, 2024. On behalf of the DPNC and PCC, Heidi Wong spoke in favor of the motion.
2. Mission and Evangelism
  - a. Food Pantry
    - 1) Enrollment - 15 new participants transferred from the Food Bank's discontinued Pantry at Home program. About 10 more participants will be added in future weeks to bring enrollment to 315.
    - 2) Calendar
      - a) November 18 - The pantry was closed because of logistical problems associated with the APEC conference.
      - b) Re-registration of clients will begin in December.
      - c) The City's required satisfaction survey will be distributed in February and due in March.
  - b. Christmas Joy Offering – This special offering is a way to honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by helping current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The offering will be accepted through Sunday, December 24, 2023.  
<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>
3. Resource Information Links
  - 1) Ragsheet  
<https://www.pccsf.org/news/>
  - 2) In the Loop  
[https://www.pccsf.org/files/ugd/66c1c4\\_cd48fecae9684672993c5f871d0c148e.pdf](https://www.pccsf.org/files/ugd/66c1c4_cd48fecae9684672993c5f871d0c148e.pdf)
  - 3) Good News for the Pews  
[https://www.pccsf.org/files/ugd/66c1c4\\_8de43ef071af4fc6bf492b1edcd7cd3e.pdf](https://www.pccsf.org/files/ugd/66c1c4_8de43ef071af4fc6bf492b1edcd7cd3e.pdf)
  - 4) Photography  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/140543919@N08/albums>

*"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. Advent

- 1) This year's theme is "The Gift of Being Present".
- 2) Advent Devotions – *Apocalyptic Advent, Embracing Hope in the Second Coming of Christ* by Presbyterian Outlook editor Terri McDowell Ott <https://www.pccsf.org/news/>
- 3) For Advent Studies, we'll be considering simple questions such as "What will I do with the gift of love", "What will I do with the gift of hope?" etc.

b. The committee authorized \$100 each to thank artists who provide music for our stream: Dan Musselman, Chris Brunelle, Wendell Kimbrough.

##### c. Worship Attendance (In Person)

- i. 10/01 – 81 (25) - World Communion English + Cantonese
- ii. 10/08 – 70 (44)
- iii. 10/15 – 52 (22)
- iv. 10/22 – 66 (33)
- v. 10/29 – 78 (59) – Annual EWC Meeting

d. Congregational Vitality – Among the range of ideas discussed, spirituality and spiritual growth were determined to be the committee's main priorities for the new year.

#### 5. PCC/CH Partnership

Pastor Don met with the Interim Executive Director, Dr. Bhupendra Sheoran. The interim appointment is part-time temporary for a period of 6-8 months.

#### 6. Board of Deacons

- a. Retreat - In October, Rev. Henry Wong, hospital chaplain, led a two-hour session on visiting the ill or hospitalized, as well as helped to explain why Chinese are so reluctant to discuss illness. Evaluation of the retreat was very positive and valuable.
- b. Christmas Gift to Food Pantry Clients – The deacons are pooling their resources with the Food Pantry to give clients a gift of oyster sauce for Christmas. Each bottle will be labeled with messages that read "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" and "We invite you to worship and fellowship with us" in English and Chinese.

#### 7. Pastor's Report

Pastor Don will be officiating Communion in the Cantonese worship service on Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>. Elder Eleanor Wong has also asked him to moderate the Cantonese Commission meeting that day. Currently, the Cantonese Commission is without an authorized PC(USA) Celebrant for Communion and a Moderator for their Commission.

#### 8. Treasurer's Report

##### a. Budget Notes

- 1) A portion of our reserves was used to purchase two certificates of deposit (CDs). The CDs will mature in January and October 2024 and yield interest of \$3,200 and \$5,000 respectively. Upon maturity, the funds will be rolled over and reinvested in new CDs.

*"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."*

2) Per Capita – The cost will increase from \$38 to \$40 in 2024.

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

	October 2023	Year to Date
Total Receipts (A)	\$19,553.06	\$177,225.32
Total Expenses (B)	\$16,478.42	\$180,780.21
<b>Surplus/Deficit = (A-B)</b>	<b>\$3,074.64</b>	<b>-\$3,554.89</b>

### Old Business

Debriefing on Annual and Special Meetings

- a. Annual EWC Meeting – No comments
- b. Special EWC Meeting - There was follow-up discussion about the factors that led the DPNC to select the position title Designated Solo Pastor instead of Co-Pastor.
- c. November 5 Worship Service – Only a handful of worshipers attended online.
- d. PCC Congregational Meeting (Suggestions for Future Meetings)
  - 1) Conduct one comprehensive vote to accept all reports to be entered into the minutes to save on meeting time and effort.
  - 2) Discontinue the use of direct mailings. Send out meeting materials electronically to save on costs and time.
  - 3) Encourage newly elected deacons, elders, and committee members to attend in person and take time to recognize them during the Nominating committee presentation.
- e. 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fellowship - Highlights included interactions with other worshiping community members and music selections from the Cantonese choir.
- f. Hybrid Meetings in the Fellowship Hall – Building & Finance will be discussing how to improve technology and user experience of hybrid meetings in the fellowship hall.

### New Business

1. Installation/Ordination Service of Deacons and Elders  
**Action:** The service will be held on January 7, 2024.
2. Installation of the Designated Solo Pastor
  - a. **To Do:** Pastor Don will poll the elders to identify a Saturday or Sunday in January-February to hold a special service of worship and celebration.
  - b. **To Do:** An event planning committee will be formed to give support to Pastor Don in planning the installation service and reception.
3. Study Hall at the Church
  - a. The Commission acknowledged and appreciated the extensive work done by Kevin Feeley to identify and research an unmet need in Chinatown and propose a strategy to fill an educational need of students in Chinatown when the Chinatown branch of the library is closed for renovation in spring 2024.

*"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."*

- b. **To Do:** The concept of hosting a study hall as a joint ministry of the church will be brought to Session for discussion on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Calendar Dates**

Dec. 10	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
Dec. 10	Resource Committee
Dec. 10	PCC Session
Dec. 17	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
Dec. 17	Board of Deacons
Dec. 19	<i>English Commission</i>
Dec. 24	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Dec. 24	<i>Christmas Joy Offering</i>
Dec. 24	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
Dec. 25	<i>Christmas Day</i>
January 1	<i>New Year's Day 2024</i>
January 2	M&E and W&N Committees
January 7	<i>Communion/Sabbath Sunday</i>
January 7	Ordination/Installation of Deacons and Elders
January 14	Resource Committee
January 15	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>
January 16	<i>English Commission</i>
January 28	Board of Deacons