

In the Loop
A Summary of the April 20, 2021 English Commission Meeting

SF Presbytery (SFP) Report

Simultaneous translation in Cantonese and Mandarin will be offered for the first time at the May 11th presbytery meeting to increase access for and diversity of the participants. The PCC/CH Healing Committee will be making a presentation to SFP. Additional time will be allotted to the healing committee for follow-up discussion during the presbytery's Open Space segment on May 15th.

Committee Reports

1. Resource
 - a. Stuart Go took on the challenge of producing the annual energy report to the City and County of San Francisco's Department of Environment and successfully completed the audit ahead of schedule. In previous years, the report was prepared by an external contractor. Three cheers for Stuart!
 - b. Broadband at the Church – The church has opted to go with ATT wireless broadband service at a cost of \$200 per month that offers a contract-free service. All of the other options under consideration were estimated to cost \$500 or \$950 per month, much too expensive for our user needs.
2. Worship & Nurture
 - a. The Maundy Thursday service was moving and meaningful. With 82 devices connected to the broadcast, it was estimated that 108 people viewed the stream.
 - b. Hybrid Worship (in person plus streaming) – David Miller attended a webinar on this topic and will write up a summary of the recommendations for further study and planning.
 - c. For the Easter project led by Nancy Chee with assistance from Pam Jang and others, cards and a succulent plant were delivered to 35 people. The target groups were seniors who have been isolated and families who have lost a loved one this past year.
3. Mission Study Team (MST)
 - a. The MST has progressed to the next phase of their work, the task of envisioning.
 - b. A town hall meeting is scheduled for May 8. Participants are asked to register in advance and participate in a survey.

Additional Reports

1. Board of Deacons

Deacons+ assembled in March to resume efforts to connect with members of the worshipping community as we remain physically apart. For this effort, the expanded team includes the deacons plus Pat Chan, Norma Fong Chan, Terry Chan, Marie Chin, Wayne Eng, Mary Wong Leong, Dayton Leong, Joanne Woo and new members Shar Hall and Richard Jann.
2. Treasurer's Report
 - a. After the first quarter of 2021, there is a positive variance of \$4,724.52 in the operating budget.
 - b. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – The special collection of offering has yielded donations of \$650 in personal checks. Online donations to OGHS have not been factored into the total yet.

3. Pastor's Report

Rev. Cal Chinn nominated Pastor Don to serve as presbytery representative to the Synod. On May 5-7, Pastor Don will be attending the Synod of the Pacific Assembly via Zoom. The Synod of the Pacific is a mid-council within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). The Synod is currently made up of 11 presbyteries, 464 churches, 20 new church developments and 114,210 members.

New Business

1. Food Pantry

- a. Jeanette Huie reported that the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank has recommended that neighborhood food banks return to the farmer's market approach to food distribution. This approach is better suited to the needs of clients and offers benefits such as individual choice of foods and food shopping as a social activity. Organizationally the farmer's market approach requires half as many volunteers compared to the current method of prepackaging foods. Jeanette will attend an upcoming meeting with SF/Marin Food Bank on April 21.
- b. One of the volunteers conducted an informal poll of the clients and reported a surprising result that 80% of those polled have been vaccinated.
- c. Susie Wong reported that some food banks maintained the same method of food distribution throughout the pandemic. 183 clients were served last week. She asked for input and guidance on whether it is time to return to the pre-pandemic approach to Food Pantry services. Among volunteers polled, there wasn't a clear consensus of opinion about which mode of food distribution is preferred.
- d. Multiple factors to consider:
 - 1) Mode of distribution – a farmer's market approach that allows clients to have a choice of foods versus prepackaging of foods
 - 2) Volunteers – 25-30 are needed for the current model versus half the number required to staff a farmer's market model. During the pandemic, new volunteers are working at the pantry and these young adults are making a positive impact.
 - 3) Advantages of prepackaging food – reduced waiting time for clients, social distancing, efficiency of time
 - 4) Advantages of farmer's market approach – staffing efficiency, social aspect of food shopping, client's choice of foods
 - 5) Regardless of method of food distribution, a segment of the clients cannot participate in person and depends on home deliveries of food.
 - 6) Health and safety concerns such as the spread of new variances of COVID-19
- e. **To Do:** After the elders were polled and shared a range of opinions, the question of whether the Food Pantry is ready to resume a farmer's market approach to food distribution will be referred back to M&E and the Food Pantry coordinators for ongoing study.

2. Matthew 25 Task Force Report

- a. Some members of the task force (Clinton Huey, Diane Go, Ivy Yee-Sakamoto, Rev. Norman Fong) attended the commission meeting to share highlights of a month of meetings focused on the [PCUSA's Matthew 25 mission](#).
- b. Two of the priorities of a Matthew 25 congregation – to build congregational vitality and dismantle structural racism – match the EWC's faith journey, skills, history and service capacity.

- c. Task force meetings provided an opportunity for members to engage in deep dialogue and follow the practices recommended for Matthew 25 congregations such as personal storytelling and sharing of traumatic experiences.
 - d. There are questions about which external organizations we'll seek to partner with in the future – community-based and church organizations.
 - e. Current social movements have revealed the inspirational activism, leadership and vitality of young adults.
 - f. **Action:** MSP to have the task force complete one additional task prior to its dismissal, to plan and lead a congregational discussion on what it means to be a Matthew 25 congregation.
 - g. **To Do:** The task force report will be submitted to Billy Yu for translation and distribution to the Session.
3. Reentry to the Church Building Policy
The Resource committee's task force (Dave Soohoo, Winchell Quock, Jackie Jew) continues to work on developing a safety plan and COVID-19 reentry protocols and procedures for the church.

Calendar Dates

- May 4 M&E and W&N Committees
- May 8 MST Town Hall
- May 9 Mother's Day (Resource committee meeting moved to May 16)
- May 9 Mission Study
- May 11 Presbytery of San Francisco
- May 16 Resource Committee
- May 18 English Commission
- May 23 Board of Deacons
- May 31 Memorial Day Holiday
- May 31 Interim Minister's Contract Year 2 Expires

- June 1 Interim Minister's Contract Year 3 Begins
- June 1 M&E and W&N Committees
- June 13 Resource Committee
- June 13 Mission Study
- June 13 PCC Session
- June 15 English Commission
- June 27 Board of Deacons