

In the Loop
A Summary of the May 18, 2021 English Commission Meeting

SF Presbytery (SFP) Report

1. The Rev. Gregory J. Bentley and Elona Street-Stewart, Co-moderators of General Assembly, attended the May meeting.
2. Healing Committee – Brad Woo presented at SFP on the PCC/CH journey of healing from clergy sexual abuse and Shar Hall offered closing remarks. The presentation included a video clip of *Our Healing Journey* and an invitation to attend a follow-up gathering during the Open Space segment of presbytery a few days later.
3. Executive Leadership and Staffing – The transitional executive model and staffing plan of the Presbytery of San Francisco implemented a year ago will continue for a second year.
4. Emergency Funding – There are 23 congregations involved with food pantry ministries. The presbytery has allocated additional funding to address food insecurity and award grants of up to \$500 to local churches.

Committee and Other Reports

1. Mission and Evangelism (M&E)
 - a. Susie Wong is seeking input from volunteers and clients regarding the current and former approach to food distribution and will report back to M&E with her findings.
 - b. If the food pantry were to receive supplemental funding from SFP, the money could be applied towards the purchase of Chinese vegetables that are highly valued by the clients.
 - c. On June 11, the City will conduct a grant review with Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) and PCC representatives Jeanette Huie, Susie Wong and Rev. Ronnie Kaan.
2. Resource

In place of the regular monthly meeting, the Resource committee participated in a retreat facilitated by Pastor Don. The retreat is one of three to be held with EWC committees on the theme of *Sustaining Virtual Ministries Post-Pandemic*.
3. Worship & Nurture (W&N)
 - a. The annual LGBTQI Pride Service is scheduled for June 13.
 - b. August 29 is the target date to have a special outdoor gathering of our community.
 - c. Planning has begun for “hybrid worship” so that both in-person and streaming worshipers have a meaningful experience. Extra training will be needed for liturgists and more volunteers will be needed to run either the sanctuary A/V or the stream.
 - d. **To Do:** Send Dave Miller feedback about the EWC website that may need refreshing after three years of usage.
4. Mission Study Team (MST)
 - a. The MST is in the process of analyzing data collected from the congregational survey and summarizing notes taken at the town hall meeting.
 - b. A second town hall meeting is planned for July to report back on the findings of the May town hall meeting.

Additional Reports

1. Rev. Jesse Jackson is coming back to Chinatown
 - a. Friday, June 18 – Public rally at noon, Portsmouth Square
 - b. **Action:** MSP for EWC (and possibly the PCC) to be a co-sponsor of the *Solidarity and the Struggle* rally.
2. Treasurer's Report
 - a. At the end of April, the budget is operating in the black with a positive variance of \$7,552.96.
 - b. One Great Hour of Sharing –\$1,410.00 in donations were collected for this special offering. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>
 - c. Compassion Fund – An additional \$400.00 was received in April for a total of \$8,665.00.

Old Business

1. Safety Planning and Protocols for Eventual Reentry to the Church
 - a. Sampling of Aims to Accomplish and Factors in Planning to Take into Account:
 - a. Safety is foremost on our minds.
 - b. Working from a common set of knowledge, policies and practices
 - c. Keep apprised of and follow local public health guidelines
 - d. Building trust and consensus
 - e. Cross-cultural factors in communications
 - f. Three-way planning and shared decision making at PCC takes time
 - g. Incremental phasing in of our reentry to the church
 - h. Outdoor versus indoor gatherings
 - i. Interior preparations such as purchasing air purifiers
 - j. Modifications required in our worship practices
 - k. Assessment of volunteer workforce needed to do the work
 - l. Lessons learned from the Food Pantry's experience of modifying and implementing new policies and practices during the pandemic.
 - b. **To Do:** Pastor Don will reach out to the co-pastors to invite their participation on the task force on safety planning and protocols.
 - c. **To Do:** Dave Soohoo will distribute safety policy reference materials in translation to the session and invite representatives from the CWC and MWC to attend the next task force meeting on May 24th.
2. Facility Use Request

Building & Finance (B&F) indicated support for Cameron House's request to use rooms on the first and second floors of the church throughout the summer to support youth programming.

New Business

1. Pastor Don was excused from the personnel segment of the meeting. We were joined by Rev. Brian Camara who moderated in Pastor Don's place.
2. As Presbytery Liaison to the PCC in this time of interim ministry, Pastor Brian asked for and received confidential responses to the following questions.
 - a. How is the congregation doing?
 - b. How is the mission study doing?

- c. How is Pastor Don doing?
- 3. Personnel
 - a. Assessment of Year 2 Interim Ministry

To Do: At the June meeting, the elders will continue the assessment of the second year of interim ministry with Pastor Don and discuss whether there are any new priorities and planning objectives for the third year of interim ministry.
 - b. Compensation for Year 3 Interim Minister's Contract

Action: MSP to approve to extend Pastor Don's contract for a third year beginning June 1, 2021 and pass along a 1.6% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) that is consistent with the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco Bay Area February 2020 – February 2021. https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news-release/consumerpriceindex_sanfrancisco.htm#tablea
 - c. Next Steps in the Interim Minister Contract Extension Process

To Do: Carl Jew will prepare the Interim Minister Contract Extension with updated compensation data and shepherd the contract signature process that includes authorizations from the EWC treasurer, PCC clerk of session, Pastor Don and Rev. InHo Kim of SFP.

Calendar Dates

- o May 31 Memorial Day Holiday
- o May 31 Year 2 Interim Minister's Contract Ends

- o June 1 Year 3 Interim Minister's Contract Begins
- o June 1 M&E and W&N Committees
- o June 13 LGBTQI Pride Service
- o June 13 Resource Committee
- o June 13 Mission Study (MST)
- o June 13 PCC Session
- o June 15 English Commission
- o June 16 Banquet in Chinatown with Rev. Jesse Jackson
- o June 18 *Solidarity and the Struggle* rally at Portsmouth Square
- o June 20 Father's Day
- o June 27 Board of Deacons

- o July 4 Independence Day
- o July 5 Independence Day Holiday Observance
- o July 6 M&E and W&N Committees
- o July 11 Resource
- o July 11 Mission Study (MST)
- o July 18 EWC Town Hall with the MST
- o July 20 Pastor Don's Birthday
- o July 20 English Commission
- o July 25 Board of Deacons