

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

In the Loop

A Summary of the August 2023 English Commission Meeting

Committee and Other Reports

1. San Francisco Presbytery
 - a. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church – Though the congregation has closed, \$20K was awarded to St. Paul's and designated for building repairs and deferred maintenance. There are ongoing efforts to sell the property at a favorable rate to a nonprofit group based in the neighborhood to maintain ministry related services in the community.
 - b. Book of Order – The 2023-2025 edition has been published and will include new church policy requirements such as antiracism.
<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2023/7/17/the-new-book-of-order-2023-2025/>
2. Mission and Evangelism
 - a. Study Halls in Chinatown – The public library in Chinatown is scheduled to close temporarily for renovation and seeking alternate space to operate in the interim. M&E is continuing their fact finding to determine whether a study hall is needed in Chinatown and what the requirements are to start up this educational service.
 - b. Vision Free Clinic – Representatives of M&E and Lion's Club met to discuss the idea of PCC hosting a vision clinic in Chinatown. Free services would include vision examinations, screening for eye problems, and referrals to obtain free or low-cost glasses. The Lion's Club would provide optometrists, equipment, and volunteers. Hosting a free clinic may be an opportunity for the three worshiping communities to work together. To proceed, M&E will need to present the project proposal to and obtain approval from the Commission, Building and Finance committee and Session.
 - c. Accompaniment – The first training session was completed, and three additional persons expressed interest in this ministry to asylum seekers. A follow-up meeting will be held to discuss what has been learned and whether accompaniment ministry is a good fit for the EWC.

To Do: Elders and the whole community are encouraged to watch the training video, deepen their knowledge and understanding of immigrant accompaniment, and determine what key questions still need to be addressed during this exploratory phase.

From Root Causes to Sanctuary: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mP-rCMzz7ag&ab_channel=InterfaithMovementforHumanIntegrity

San Francisco Interfaith Council Presentation:

<https://www.im4humanintegrity.org/2023/03/san-francisco-interfaith-council-hosts-nueva-esperanza-accompaniment-team-neat-program/>

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

- d. United Church of Christ Philippines (UCCP) - Rev. Ivie Francisquete-Apole, Eunice Bejar Lee's former pastor in Sucol, made an urgent appeal for support on behalf of UCCP ministers. There has been a resurgence of arrests of pastors who are engaged in organizing workers and in calling for government transparency. M&E approved a donation of \$500 to support the UCCP defense fund for pastors and church-related workers who have been arrested doing union and land reform organizing.
3. Resource
 - a. Volunteer Acknowledgments – Dave Soohoo will be compiling, updating, and publishing the annual list of volunteers who help staff church operations and ministries.
 - b. Membership – We have 111 active EWC members in the PCC.
4. Worship & Nurture
 - a. World Communion Sunday will be celebrated on October 1. Dave Miller will be organizing fellowship time after the service for the three worshipping communities.
 - b. Retreat – There are 31 registered. Reading materials will be prepared by our facilitator, Rev. Leslie Veen.
 - c. Worship Attendance – Approximately 1/2 to 2/3 of worshipers come in person (#s in parentheses). There are ongoing discussions about how to encourage the community to come in person.

6/4	77(40)	Communion, Sabbath Sunday
6/11	69(23)	
6/18	59(39)	Juneteenth
6/25	62(35)	LGBT+ Pride Service
7/2	77(40)	Communion, Sabbath Sunday
7/9	61(27)	
7/16	70(37)	
7/23	61(28)	
7/30	53(30)	
5. PCC/CH Partnership

Mike Lee, Executive Director, will be on leave through the end of August.
6. Deacons

Deacon Max Hum resigned, as he moved to Texas in July to attend medical school. He and former deacon, Rene Fong, were honored by the Deacons at a luncheon, in gratitude for their service and life transitions. Let's recognize and celebrate our young adults!
7. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Budget Notes
 - 1) June – Monthly receipts continued to lag expenses.
 - 2) July – Receipts exceeded expenses for the month and reduced the year-to-date deficit. Our treasury fronted the costs associated with the SRO school supplies project and Labor Day retreat as donations and fees continue to be collected through August.
 - 3) \$50K-\$75K will be transferred from the Synod account to fund another Certificate of Deposit (CD) at Bank of America to secure a higher interest rate.

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

b. Income to Expense Report for June, July and Year-to-Date 2023

	July 2023	Year to Date
Total Receipts (A)	\$22,968.99	\$ 107,159.28
Total Expenses (B)	\$14,241.61	\$ 124,410.26
Surplus/Deficit = (A-B)	\$8,727.38	-\$17,250.98

New Business

1. Communion
 - a. **Action**: MSP to approve serving Communion at the Labor Day retreat.
 - b. Communion by Intinction
 - 1) Servers will be masked and supplied with N95 masks.
 - 2) **To Do**: Hand sanitizers will be made available in the sanctuary.
 - 3) **Action**: MSP to resume the practice of intinction in September 2023.
2. Preview of September Session Meeting
 - Building & Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report
 - 1) Food Pantry Grant – Church Treasurer, Dave Soohoo, has prepared multiple budget options for presentation to Building and Finance prior to a final vote by the Session.
 - 2) Insurance Premiums – The treasurer and committee will be analyzing the costs and benefits of raising current deductibles as a way of saving money on annual premiums.
 - 3) Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Training – In-person training was delayed by the pandemic and will be replaced by online training.
 - 4) Church Building Rental Policy - Recent facility use requests pointed out the need to review and update our rental policy to cover events such as requests from persons outside of our community.

Calendar Dates

Sept. 10	Resource Committee
Sept. 10	PCC Session
Sept. 17	<i>Light Out of Darkness Sunday</i>
Sept. 17	Feedback session on IM4HI Accompaniment Program, "Nueva Esperanza" during Teatime
Sept. 18	Pastor Don – on vacation through Sept. 25
Sept. 24	<i>Gifts of Immigrants Sunday</i> , Guest Preacher – Rev. Deborah Lee
Sept. 24	Board of Deacons
Sept. 26	English Commission

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

October 1 *World Communion Sunday*
October 3 M&E and W&N Committees
October 8 Resource Committee
October 17 English Commission
October 22 Board of Deacons
October 29 Annual English Worshiping Community Meeting
October 29 English Consistory

November 5 *Daylight Saving Time*
November 5 *Communion*
November 5 Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting
 Church Anniversary
