

*"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 June 2024 Meeting of the English Commission

Meditation: The elders were guided in thinking about session/commission meetings as a time of worship and a means of expressing faith.

Committee and Other Reports

1. San Francisco Presbytery Meeting of May 21 (excerpts of a report from Linda Lee, PCC Representative)
 - a. The Rev. Nancy Vincent Martin, Synod of the Pacific Executive, presented on two important topics: 1) Synod investment accounts are still at a good interest rate for congregations and the deposited funds get loaned out to churches in our synod at low interest rates; 2) There are grants available for church food pantries through Hilda Thompson synod grants (application deadline unknown).
 - b. Nominations for various committees and commissions were approved.
 - 1) Elder David Soohoo was appointed to the Permanent Judicial Commission for the class of 2030.
 - 2) Mark Fong was appointed to a special committee formed to investigate a complaint.
 - 3) It was noted that more volunteers from congregations are needed to fill several vacancies (Hint).
 - c. Personnel Working Group (PWG) reported on staffing changes:
 - 1) Rev InHo Kim will leave on May 31st after 14 years of service.
 - 2) Rev. Karen Thistlethwaite will assume a contract extension with a new title - Transitional Partner for Operations, Finance and Communications.
 - 3) Stated Clerk Leticia Williams' hours will temporarily increase her hours to full time to address the backlog of work.
 - 4) The search for a Transitional Executive Presbyter continues.
 - 5) The PWG is seeking additional members.
 - d. New Business was brought to the floor to discuss divestment from companies doing business with Israeli-related military. However, due to lack of quorum at his time the discussion was ended.
 - e. Representation – Technically, PCC is one congregation with a membership of 100+ and is eligible to send 2 delegates to presbytery with voting privileges. However, we currently have a total of 3 with one representative from each worshiping community.
2. Mission and Evangelism
 - a. Study Hall Proposal
 - 1) Public library services will relocate temporarily to 950 Grant Avenue and occupy the street and mezzanine levels of a commercial building.

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- 2) The Chinatown branch (Him Mark Lai Library) offers extended hours Tuesday-Thursday till 8 pm and free Wi-Fi service. Approximately 10-20 children study there each evening.
 - 3) CCDC is in the process of surveying the 40 families who reside in Chinatown SROs to assess the need for afterschool study space.
 - 4) The next task force meeting is scheduled for June 27th to discuss how and whether to proceed with the project proposal.
 - 5) The library graciously donated 6 boxes of books to the Pipit fund.
- b. Food Pantry
The pantry reached a new record of serving 310 clients.
- c. Immigrant Accompaniment
- 1) On Sunday, July 14, Rev. Nadia Tavera Medina from Interfaith Ministry for Human Integrity (IM4HI) will be preaching in observance of *Immigration Sunday*.
 - 2) Clinton Huey and Susie Wong joined a short-term IM4HI accompaniment team working with University of San Francisco student volunteers and asylum seekers who will be housed on campus for 8 weeks.
3. Resource
- a. The commission acknowledges the work of Stuart Go for arranging a donation of telecommunications equipment from his employer to support Zoom functions.
 - b. Toshiba Copier – The five-year lease agreement has expired. PCC decided to buy the machine for \$1.00 plus the cost of an annual service contract.
4. Worship & Nurture
Rev. Greg Chan presented an article on loneliness and guided a discussion about the need for human connection and nurture and its implications for a community of faith.
5. Nominating
- a. The first meeting was held and focused on their task in accordance with the Book of Order.
 - b. A question was posed whether the nominating committee or commission ever participated in recommending candidates from PCC to the Cameron House Board of Directors. There was a question, too, about whether any slots on the CH Board of Directors are designated for the PCC or the PCUSA. The answer is apparently not for both questions.
6. Pastor's Report
Vacation Coverage in August
- 1) Worship - Diane Go and Nancy Chee will handle any last-minute changes to the schedule of scripture readers and liturgists.
 - 2) Pastoral Care – Revs. Norman Fong and Maggi Henderson may be providing coverage for this area of responsibility.
 - 3) Commission Moderator – Rev. Leslie Veen is on call to moderate commission meetings as needed.
 - 4) **To Do:** The commission will decide whether to take a summer recess in August while Pastor Don is away.

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7. Treasurer's Report

a. Budget Notes

Synod of the Pacific is offering an attractive interest rate of 4% that is competitive with current certificate of deposit rates, but without conditions and restrictions.

a. Income to Expense Report for May and Year-to-Date 2024

	May 2024	Year-to-Date 2024
Total Receipts (A)	\$21,602.24	\$100,103.55
Total Expenses (B)	\$17,708.14	\$98,074.33
Total = (A-B)	\$3,894.10	\$2,029.22

New Business

1. Supplies for the Homeless

- a. Background – Toiletries and other supplies designated for the unhoused have remained in storage for over five years.
- b. **Action:** MSP to donate the supplies to Saint Anthony's since the accompaniment team doesn't have a need for them.

2. Special Meeting of the Session

- a. Time and space were set aside for debriefing and processing our observations about the special meeting.
- b. **Action:** The English Commission will host an information session during Sabbath Sunday lunch on July 7th to learn about ongoing discussions between the Mandarin Commission and the PCC Session.

Calendar Dates

July 2	M&E and W&N Committees
July 4	<i>Independence Day Holiday Observance</i>
July 7	<i>Communion/Sabbath Sunday Lunch/English Commission Conversation with the Worshiping Community</i>
July 9	English Commission (Rescheduled from July 16)
July 12	Pastor Don – Away on study leave through July 19
July 14	<i>Immigration Sunday – Guest Preacher: Rev. Nadia Tavera Medina</i>
July 14	Resource Committee
July 21	Board of Deacons
August 4	<i>Communion/Sabbath Sunday</i>
August 4	Pastor Don – Away on vacation through August 7
August 6	M&E and W&N Committees
August 11	Resource Committee
August 12	Pastor Don – Away on vacation through September 3
August 18	Board of Deacons
August 20	English Commission