

In the Loop
An Overview of the February 2022 English Commission Meeting

The Rev. Dr. Leslie Veen was the appointed moderator for the Commission meeting while Pastor Don was away on vacation.

Committee and Other Reports

1. San Francisco Presbytery
 - a. Mission Funds – The West Bay region of churches will be meeting to discuss how to utilize and disburse the next round of mission funding.
 - b. Rev. Barbara Barkley was elected as Co-Moderator of the Presbytery and will be sharing the role with Elder Mustapha Baksh.
2. Mission and Evangelism
 - a. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – Looking ahead to the OGHS special offering to be collected on Easter, M&E is planning to host a guest speaker for Tea-Time to present on topics such as Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the theme of Matthew 25.
 - b. Food Pantry – 234 persons are enrolled and approximately 180-190 participate each week. Thankfully there were no cases of Covid recorded at the pantry during the Omicron variant surge.
 - c. Organizational Liaisons – There are nine community organizations that currently receive mission funding disbursed by M&E on our behalf. Committee members were identified to serve as liaisons to the following organizations:
 - 1) Asian Women’s Shelter – Doreen Der McLeod
 - 2) Cameron House – Shar Hall
 - 3) Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) – Susie Wong, Jeanette Huie
 - 4) Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth – Jeanette Huie
 - 5) Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IMHI) – Carole Chinn Morales, Clinton Huey
 - 6) Living Waters World Mission – Carole Chinn Morales, Doreen Der McLeod, Jeanette Huie
 - 7) San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) – Jeanette Huie
 - 8) San Francisco Night Ministry – Susie Wong, Pastor Don
 - 9) Tsuru for Solidarity – Clinton Huey
3. Resource
 - a. Building Repairs – In the past month, repairs were completed on several jobs including the reinstallation of the north gate on Stockton Street adjoining the SFMTA property, front door kick plate, exterior fire alarm bell, and front doorbell and camera.
 - b. Custodial Services – Annie Wong reported that the custodians who provide janitorial services twice a month have recovered from their recent bout with Covid and are happy to be back at work.
4. Worship & Nurture
 - a. Dave Miller shared with Rev. Leslie Veen positive feedback received regarding her three-part series on *Facing Upheaval and Uncertainty: Biblical Stories and Our Stories*. The educational series provided a rewarding mix of discussions about personal and Biblical stories of facing upheaval and uncertainty.

- b. Youth & Young Adults Discussion – The committee started a discussion on nurturing faith with a focus on youth and young adults, to be continued.
 - c. The Season of Lent – Norma Fong Chan, Linda Lee, Mil Hall, Dave Miller and Pastor Don form the planning team for Lent and have chosen to utilize Marcia McFee’s curriculum *Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith* to examine our culture's obsession with achievement and perfection and how this keeps us from the true depths of life and faith.
 - d. The committee discussed the issues around having Both/And worship versus just worship in person in the sanctuary. Worship attendance and financial giving continues to be steady despite being an online church for most of the past year.
 - e. Dave Miller shared an opinion piece entitled *Going to Church in Person Should Not be Optional* written by Tish Harrison Warren, an Anglican priest who reflects on matters of faith in private life and public discourse for the New York Times. The W&N committee affirms the value of in-person worship and recognizes that the YouTube stream is the only reasonable option for some people.
5. Treasurer’s Report
- a. January 2022 – Winchell reported a deficit of \$3,054.86 after one month into the new fiscal year; however, the annual PCUSA per capita assessment of \$4,408.00 was paid in full in January, not in 12 monthly installments of \$367.33 across the year.
 - b. The operating budget closed 2021 with a surplus which affords us an opportunity to transfer some of our cash on hand to the EWC account with the Synod of the Pacific that yields a better interest rate than our Bank of America checking account.

Old Business

Food Pantry – The Commission expressed their appreciation to Jeanette Huie (and Susie Wong) for preparing the Food Pantry report. The report was accepted as is and deemed to be ready for translation and distribution to the Session for the March 13 meeting.

New Business

On the topic of parish associates, Leslie Veen shared her experiences serving in this capacity with two congregations, Mission Bay and Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Churches, for over ten years combined. Her duties as a parish associate and time commitments varied with the two congregations and were tailored to her gifts as a teaching elder and the needs of each community.

Rev. Leslie Veen closed our meeting with a time of remembrance and prayer for the life of Jeanette Jaye Chan and her family.

Calendar Dates

March 2	Ash Wednesday
March 6	First Sunday of Lent
March 13	Second Sunday of Lent
March 13	Resource Committee
March 13	PCC Session
March 15	English Commission
March 20	Third Sunday of Lent

“Empowered by God’s Love Through Christ, We Welcome, Celebrate, and Serve our Community”

March 27	Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 27	Board of Deacons
March 29	Presbyterian Foundation Webinar on Planned Giving https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/day-of-learning-planned-giving-registration/
April 3	Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 5	M&E and W&N Committees
April 10	Palm Sunday
April 10	Resource Committee
April 14	Maundy Thursday
April 15	Good Friday
April 17	Easter Sunday
April 17	One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
April 19	English Commission
April 24	Board of Deacons