

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

Committee and Other Reports

1. San Francisco Presbytery
The West Bay region of churches will be convening on Saturday, April 23rd to prepare for the next round of Fund Your Vision grants administration. Jeanette Huie will be attending.
2. Mission and Evangelism
 - a. M&E met with YIMBY, a group that advocates “Yes in my Backyard” to positive new development in the San Francisco metropolitan region in locations where there are safe, affordable homes near jobs and services. The organization may return as a presenter in the future.
 - b. Living Waters Mission – The EWC released \$4,000.00 that were held in reserve to fund a water system for a Guatemalan village, the project was suspended during the pandemic. The EWC opted out of direct participation in this mission project for the time being.
 - c. Dr. Russell Jeung, professor at SF State University and co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate, presented at a recent San Francisco Interfaith Council meeting. Afterwards, Norman Fong and Pastor Don arranged for Dr. Jeung to speak to the PCC on June 4th, 1:00-2:30 pm. Pastor Don will expand the invitation to include the San Francisco Presbytery, Chinese Congregational Church and other racial ethnic churches.
 - d. Food Pantry - On May 21, the Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) will conduct their annual site visit to verify that the pantry meets grant requirements. This will be the first time that a site visit will occur during pantry operating hours.
3. Resource
 - a. AT&T Fiber – New telephones and internet service have been installed and activated.
 - b. Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training is planned for June 5th subject to Session approval. Dave Soohoo will be identifying and inviting key persons to attend from each of the three worshipping communities and Cameron House.
 - c. Presbyterian Foundation – The committee will be inviting Maggie Harmon, Ministry Relations Officer, to a future meeting to discuss investment opportunities and legacy giving through the Presbyterian Foundation.
<https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/investment-services/>
 - d. Building Usage – Cameron House will be using the building to support summer programming from June 13 – July 22, 2022.
 - e. Municipal Transit Authority (MTA) Chinatown Station – The projected opening date is October 2022 pending approval of elevator/escalator licenses, etc. Once the station is operational, exterior gates to the property will be closed daily 12:00 am to 5:00 am. Bids are being solicited from agencies that will oversee the use of public terrace courtyard and open space.

4. Worship & Nurture

- a. The season of Lent concluded with Holy Week services – a special Zoom service on Maundy Thursday, an interdenominational Good Friday service with the Chinese Christian Union, the first in-person Easter service in three years.
- b. The estimated attendance at worship in March averaged 57 online and 17 in person.
- c. The church organ needs to be repaired and is scheduled for service. This topic sparked a discussion about succession plans and the next generation of music accompanists, and alternatives to live music such as the use of prerecorded music files or programmable features of the organ like a player piano of hymns.

5. PCC/CH Partnership

Cameron House received special designation as a Heritage School by the Office of the Mayor and State Department of Education; schools and programs that operate outside of compulsory education to offer instruction in the culture, traditions, or history, and language of a country other than the United States, and their annual registration process. Therefore, the CH afterschool program will be exempt from paying the additional costs associated with childcare licensing and compulsory staff training. Lauren Mark serves as the first principal of the Cameron House Heritage School.

6. Board of Deacons – Pastor Don facilitated a retreat with the deacons in lieu of the regular monthly meeting.

7. Treasurer’s Report

	March 2022	Year-to-Date
Total Receipts (A)	\$16,317.34	\$75,897.59
Total Expenses (B)	\$16,722.27	\$54,010.88
Surplus/Deficit = (A-B)	-\$404.93	\$21,886.71

Budget Notes

- 1) The EWC continues to be financially healthy which reflects positively on our ministries and collective leadership.
- 2) The Christmas Joy Offering yielded a total of \$3,345.00 that will aid current and retired church workers in their time of need and develop future leaders among communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools.
- 3) \$1,820.00 in memorial gifts were given in honor of Al Hall and Rachel Wong.
- 4) Asian Presbyterian Women (APW) – The APW treasury had been held for safekeeping by Christ United Presbyterian Church until recently. \$7,167.76 of APW funds were transferred into the EWC account on a temporary basis.

Old Business

Status of Parish Associate Agreement

- a. The process of formalizing a parish associate agreement between Norman Fong and Pastor Don is in progress.

- b. **Action:** MSP to purchase PCC business cards for Norman Fong upon approval of parish associate status by the presbytery. Further, Norman will be issued a pccsf.org email address to support his work as a parish associate.

New Business

1. Personnel: Year-end Review
 - a. The Commission engaged in discussion about the four approved objectives for 2021-2022 (Mission Study, Safe reentry to the church, Matthew 25, Sustaining Virtual Ministries Post-Pandemic). For more information, read the May 2022 edition of *Good News for the Pews*. <https://www.pccsf.org/english>
 - b. Many of the observations shared dealt with health and safety and the process of reentering the church for in-person worship and other church activities.
 - c. Continued attention is needed to further our understanding of being a Matthew 25 community given our congregation’s action– and achievement–oriented tendencies.
 - d. In the process of critiquing ourselves, we were reminded that there are benefits gained even when we fall short of achieving our goals and cautioned against being overly critical of ourselves for not doing enough.
2. Personnel: Pastor’s Continuing Education Leave Time Request
 - a. Background: In the early months of the global pandemic, the Commission granted Pastor Don an extension of time to use his study leave benefits and approved the following action in April 2020:
 - MSP to extend the time allowed for Pastor Don to use his first-year study leave benefit for six additional months through November 30, 2020, due to extenuating circumstances associated with the public health crisis.
 - b. **Action:** MSP to extend Pastor Don’s current study leave benefit through June 2022, one month into the fourth-year contract. The extension will enable Pastor Don to apply the remaining one week of leave time to support his attendance as a commissioner at General Assembly in Louisville, KY.
3. Approval of Compensation for 2022-2023, Year 4 Interim Ministry Contract
Postponed until the May 2022 meeting when a substitute minister will be called upon to moderate the personnel segment of the commission meeting in place of Pastor Don in accordance with the Book of Order (G-3.0201).

Calendar Dates

May 7	Special Meeting of the PCC Session
May 8	Resource Committee – Canceled for Mother’s Day
May 10	Presbytery of San Francisco Meeting
May 17	English Commission
May 22	Board of Deacons
May 29	English Consistory (Deacons, Elders, Pastor)
May 30	Memorial Day Holiday Observance
May 31	End of Interim Ministry Contract, Year 3
June 1	Start of Interim Ministry Contract, Year 4
June 4	Presentation by Dr. Russell Jeung – Stop AAPI Hate
June 5	Day of Pentecost

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

June 7	M&E and W&N Committees
June 12	Pride Sunday
June 12	Resource Committee
June 12	PCC Session
June 18	General Assembly through July 9
June 19	Juneteenth Sunday, Father’s Day
June 19	Guest Preacher - TBA
June 21	English Commission
June 26	Board of Deacons