

English Commission Meeting of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown April 2020 In the Loop

The Commission met three times this month to work on its regular agenda as well as emerging issues resulting from the current state of emergency.

April 2 Meeting

CROWN Summer Basketball League

The Commission reviewed the CROWN summer basketball league registration materials and its impending April 6th registration deadline. Concern was expressed about complicating factors such as the current state of emergency and the open-ended order to shelter in place.

Action: It was MSP* to not register for CROWN summer basketball by the April 6th deadline.

However, the Commission remains committed to supporting youth and young adult-serving programs and values its long association with church-based sports leagues and will maintain communications with CROWN leadership on the status of the 2020 summer leagues.

Face Covers

1. San Francisco's Department of Emergency Management issued a new public health recommendation to wear cloth face coverings combined with physical distancing when leaving home for essential activities.
2. **To Do:** Pastor Don will inform Susie Wong of the Commission's decision to conform to the change in practice and ensure that food pantry volunteers and clients are notified and properly equipped.

April 8 Meeting

April 5 Palm Sunday Worship Service

A debriefing was held to review the positive outcomes and technical glitches encountered in this fourth attempt at livestreaming worship services.

April 8th Communications from the Presbytery of San Francisco

Please Practice Safety as We Are Spiritually Together This Holy Week

1. The Commission reviewed the Presbytery's advisory to refrain from gathering in person and transitioning to livestream worship services. *"It's imperative that we protect each other by making lifesaving choices in staying at home...We can worship and celebrate the Holy Week and our Lord's passion and resurrection spiritually together but physically apart. The church is the people, not the building. The Lord will see us through this."*
2. **Action:** MSP to comply with the recommendation of the Presbytery of San Francisco and transition worship beginning with Easter Sunday to all-remote components with no one leaving home to produce our worship services effective immediately and until further notice.
3. **To Do:** Pastor Don will meet with the worship planning team on April 9 to inform them of the Presbytery's health and safety advisory, and the Commission's decision to transition to full remote worship services effective immediately. The worshipping community will be informed of these changes in the weekly digest.

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April 21 Meeting

Correspondence from the Presbytery of San Francisco

The Presbytery through the Funds for Struggling Churches will distribute \$5,000 grants to support each of its member churches. An additional \$1,000 grant is available by application to each congregation for meeting the needs of individuals or families, at the discretion of the Pastor.

Committee Reports

1. Mission and Evangelism
Food Pantry – Jeanette is helping to coordinate volunteers and their orientation to reduce Susie's increased workload during the crisis. The volunteer corps has been strengthened with additional help coming from the YMCA, Project by Project, PCC & CH volunteers.
2. Resources
 - a. The extraordinary technology efforts of Dave Chan and Nancy Chee have helped to ensure the continuity of worship services during the crisis.
 - b. The committee discussed the formation of a Compassion Fund as an extension of the work of the deacons.
3. Worship and Nurture
 - a. Worship Feedback – Streaming worship services on YouTube has yielded unexpected benefits such as reaching worshipers beyond geographic and time boundaries.
 - b. Nurture Activities – Stuart and Diane have begun hosting TeaTime on Zoom and creating a space for fellowship online and an opportunity for sharing reflections.
4. Mission Study
A Presbytery liaison hasn't been identified yet to replace Maggi Henderson. The Mandarin representative position remains unfilled on the Mission Study Team.

Pastor's Report

1. Worship Planning – The topic of succession planning was introduced as it relates to key areas of worship staffing and its potential impact on budget and planning.
2. Young Adult Ministry – Pastor Don met with a group of young adults in person a few months ago and held a Zoom meeting last week.

Treasurer's Report

1. Through the end of March, the budget is operating with a surplus of \$1,330 after three weeks of mandatory sheltering in place and reliance on streaming worship services.
2. Dave Miller and Jackie Jew are continuing to update and expand the EWC contact list.
3. Establishment of a budget line item for the Compassion Fund will be funded by monies currently held in other funds such as creche and jewelry.
4. The number of users of online giving has increased from 3 to 9 in recent weeks.

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New Business

1. Annual Performance Review of the Interim Minister
 - a. The elders conducted a review of Pastor Don's portfolio of work and written testimonies from the EWC.
 - b. **Action**: MSP to extend Pastor Don's contract for interim ministry through May 31, 2021.
 - c. **To Do**: The Commission will review and update goals of interim ministry with Pastor Don in preparation for the second year of his contract.
 - d. **To Do**: The Commission will finalize the details of Pastor Don's contract extension and obtain approval from the Presbytery of San Francisco Committee on Ministry.
 - e. **Action**: Due to extenuating circumstances associated with the public health crisis, it was 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.
2. Ragsheet
While the English Worshiping Community continues to shelter in place and until worship services return to the sanctuary, the Ragsheet will be published in digital format only.
3. Presbytery Commissioner Representatives for 2020 (2 slots to fill)
 - a. Commissioner – Diane Go
 - b. **To Do**: Diane will contact a second nominee for appointment to serve as a commissioner.
 - c. Alternate – Carl Jew

Calendar of Events

- May 5 – Mission & Evangelism, Worship & Nurture Committee meetings
- May 10 – Resource Committee meeting
- May 12 – Presbytery of San Francisco Zoom meeting
- May 18-24 – Pastor Don is scheduled to be on vacation. Brad Woo will be preaching on the 24th.
- May 26 – Commission meeting