

SUMMARY OF MAY 8TH BREAKOUT GROUPS – FOCUS AREAS/COMMON THEMES

ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION OF FOCUS AREA/COMMON THEMES
C	Community – Within and Outside
M	Mission – Service & Support to local, state, national or global mission
V	Vitality – Health and vitality of our members and worshipping community
O	Other – Other areas of focus

'C': COMMUNITY: (Summarized Points: Focus on the community to be serve – all ages and races in Chinatown community based on need. Within PCC – build stronger working and supportive relationships with Cantonese and Mandarin leadership).

- Partnership with other CBOs in carrying out our mission for the people of Chinatown.
- Service to the Chinatown community is leading us now is in the direction of bridging relations between the Black and Brown members of the Chinatown community, such as folks who live at the Pings, and Asians.
- Growing the youth at EWC did not seem viable. What might work is doing our own programming related to youth, or with kids who are currently using spaces such as the Chinatown public library.
- Every person in the group said that Chinatown should be the focus of our mission efforts, as it has been in the past through Mei Lun Yuen, Super Sunday, etc. Focusing on youth is unrealistic. Perhaps a focus on the senior population, many of whom may be isolated, non-tech-connected, fearful of anti-Asian sentiment, facing the challenges of aging, may be a calling.
- Providing escort service for elderly Asian folks, reach out to those in the Ping Yuen where there's a black community. EWC/PCC wants to serve in Chinatown and wants to bring the gospel to whom we serve yet this hasn't been defined and needs to be strategized and worked out.
- We need to work toward building better communications and solidify our working relationships with the Cantonese and Mandarin Pastors, Elders and Worshipping Community to assist them in their service to the people of the Chinatown community. We need to aim toward being more unified, trusted and loved. Perception is that EWC is an adversary versus a partner.
- To be more open when people come in, they would know who we are.
- Area of ministry that comes up most is centered around Chinatown, reaching out to our neighbors more, community engagement (i.e., Ping Yuen).

'M': MISSION: (Summarized Points: Mission work/being in mission is a core part of our DNA, but being more specific about whom we want to serve, ways we can serve effectively and the purpose/reason we serve needs to be spelled out. Adaptive Change focuses are important and relevant but Matthew 25 areas need to be factored in. While services can be provided within our church, we also need to partner with other CBOs. If programs/activities are developed where participants feel they're making an impact, they will come. Our connections to the PCUSA and its mission focuses as well as support M&E does, should continue.

- Focus and have priority conversations around mission of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and build mission program or activity that attracts others.
- Participants willing to focus on mission and youth leadership development and reflect on the needs that serves the needs in the larger community.
- Mission work/being in mission is a core part of our DNA. The strategies for doing this are not straightforward, but could involve social outreach, educational tutoring, and/or family support.
- Intentional mission work to Cameron House, or using the church building and its Wi-Fi to conduct, or at least host, tutoring and study sessions
- Others added that our connections to the PCUSA and its mission focuses (such as One Great Hour of Sharing, etc.) should continue.
- Adaptive Change focuses are still relevant, answers ranged from: Yes, still relevant but add Matthew 25; Yes, still relevant but mission and intergenerational connection are more important than music and building rentals.
- A few said the 4 AC recommendations were important but we need to better understand our purpose and reason of our actions as a Christian community given the environment of society due to the pandemic and political dynamics and hate crimes, that has resulted in different interactions. EWC needs to be a "Beloved Community" with a role that inspires, that shows love and helps empower people.
- Youth/Young Adult (Y/YA) development strategy should be on engagement in societal issues and if we're engaged, the Y/YA will come along. "If the program is there where they can make an impact, they will come".
- "Mission" of the EWC is not clear as to not only who we serve and in what way we can serve effectively in this community. Assessment of needs for the community needs to be done first and then how we can reach out and meet some of these needs.
- Provide services through our church (i.e., ESL, SRO, sponsoring immigrant family, child care) or partnering more with local community groups (i.e., CH, CCDC, other churches).

'V': VITALITY: (Summarized Points: Congregational vitality should be on quality and not quantity. We have the wealth of experience and desire that we can offer and be involved in. We need to support our aging worship community and simultaneously have a vision to lay the groundwork for the next generation of our worshipping community (the younger population – Families, YA, and Youth). Building and feeding the spiritual life of our members is key that provides the energy and purpose to be involved in programs and activities in their service to our community and world.)

- Show appreciation of mission and worship/nurture. Programs and activities built could energize and give people a sense of purpose in their service.

- With participants willing to focus on mission/Youth Leadership Development, this shows action to engage versus only saying what we should do. Responses to questions demonstrate their commitment to the Presbyterian Church and Chinatown community.
- We have a wealth of experience among our members, and can offer skills building and mentoring.
- We need a focus on both the internal and external. Spiritual health and growth, and building community are important, and equip us when engaging in the world. Our church can be a beacon of light on social justice issues such as anti-racism. A pastor supports us, teaches us, and challenges our faith to grow.
- Instead of adopting the Adaptive Change focuses, we need a vision, laying groundwork for the next generation of our worshipping community, thinking deeper and more creatively.
- Congregational vitality that builds and feeds the spiritual life of its members is key like planned sharing of faith stories in School of Discipleship. Also, dismantling systemic racism, embracing diversity that brings unity and inclusivity in sharing our Asian history; to use our voice and decide to participate alongside of those groups.
- Focus should be on quality and not quantity.
- Congregational vitality and what we would be need to do to support our aging community and at the same time be able to build a younger population (young, YA, families).

'O': OTHER:

- Have a balanced workload amongst the people who keep our church and worship running.
- Being a Matthew 25 church provides the broad umbrella for the action we discussed in townhall.
- Renting the building in a way that aligns with our mission was universally popular. As we age and our WC dwindle, it will put a greater financial burden on the remaining members to meet our budget. Rental will not only support us but allow us to spend money on our own mission goals.
- This group endorsed the hiring of a full-time pastor, as opposed to a part-timer. “Our staff needs to be able to live,” given the expensive reality of living in the Bay Area.
- We need to be intentional in the integration of our faith and to teach ourselves how to share our Christian purpose and reason why we do what we aim to do in serving and volunteering. If Christ isn’t in our hearts, service is empty.
- We have to learn how to build better communications, to be tactful in our interaction, show mutual respect, encourage, support and make the Youth/Young Adults (Y/YA) feel a part of the ‘Body’ without being judged.
- Like to see how we can make worship more worshipful that focuses on each member; that helps them to grow spiritually that enables all of us to collectively serve and fellowship together, whether young or old. Likes to see music integrated that’s mission driven.
- Church lacks identity in community (aside from just being a building) and to be more open when people come in, they would know who we are.