

April 7, 2008

Dear PCC Family,

We are writing to you about the church trial for which we have asked you to pray in recent months. An investigating committee of the Presbytery of San Francisco had filed charges against Sherman Lum, a member and elder of our church, for three counts of sexual misconduct with youth in his charge when he was a leader at Cameron House and an elder at PCC. Rather than face trial, Mr. Lum renounced his membership and ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

We have been struggling with this case since it first came to our attention in the spring of 2006 through a Healing Workshop which Cameron House held in response to sexual misconduct by Dick Wichman. We took these accusations seriously and we found the case against Mr. Lum to be strong. The case grew even stronger with the work of the Presbytery Investigating Committee, when it was referred to them in Spring of 2007. For reasons of process and confidentiality, we have not been able to say more about this case until now.

Our initial hope was that Mr. Lum would see the nature of his sin and repent of what he had done. Before we referred the issue to the Presbytery, we met with him many times and tried in different ways to communicate to him the pain and suffering which he inflicted on his victims. Although he seemed cooperative at times, Mr. Lum did not meet the conditions which the English Commission had set for his continued participation in the life and worship of PCC, and we felt we had no choice but to ask Presbytery to investigate.

Even though there will not be a trial, a report on this matter will be shared at the April 12 Presbytery meeting and the charges filed by the Presbytery Investigating Committee will be entered into the Presbytery minutes. Mr. Lum's membership and ordination records will be removed from our church rolls. Now that the official process is over, we can talk about what happened and, as a community, seek healing.

We continue to grieve with those affected by abuses of power by leaders at PCC. We need to truthfully face the damage which has been done to individuals and to the body of Christ. Our prayers are that healing may come for the victims and for our whole community.

Yours in Christ,
The English Commission
Presbyterian Church in Chinatown

P.S. Please see page two for ways to ask questions and to respond to this letter

Opportunities to respond to this letter:

Contact a member of the English Commission. The Commission members are: The Rev. David Mote, Interim Pastor, Elders: Scott Barlow, Jim Caldwell, Laurene Chan, Sabrina Gee-Shin, Keith Jew, Ed Kam, Linda Lee, Shellee Leong, Irene Ng. Church phone number: 415-392-1500. pccsf.org.

Attend the Cameron House Healing Workshop on Saturday, April 19 at PCC from 9 AM to 2 PM. Contact Cameron House to sign up: 415-781-0401. www.cameronhouse.org. These workshops are planned by the Cameron House Healing Task Force and have primarily addressed the abuses perpetrated by Dick Wichman. The Lum case will not be the focus of the workshop, but the format allows for conversation on abuse of various kinds.

Attend the potluck fellowship dinner at the church on Saturday, May 10, beginning at 4 PM to discuss the case and what we can do in response. Members of the Presbytery Investigating Committee and Presbytery staff will be there to answer questions about the process.