

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

In the Loop

A Summary of the December 2024 Meeting of the English Commission

Committee and Other Reports

1. Mission and Evangelism

a. Accompaniment – The EWC team has been activated and accepted a request to accompany a couple from Peru. The team of 9 from PCC will be joined by 2 from the Sha'ar Zahav Synagogue. The first meeting of the accompaniment team was held on December 17th.

b. End-of-Year Mission Giving – With \$3460 remaining in the budget, the committee agreed to make the following donations to organizations, all of which have an ongoing relationship with M&E and the EWC.

1) International Rescue Committee	\$500
2) Pipit Fund	\$500
3) Safehouse	\$500
4) S.F. Night Ministry	\$500
5) Tsuru for Solidarity	\$500
6) Middle East Children's Alliance for Peace	\$450
7) Asian Women's Shelter	\$250
8) S.F. Interfaith Council	\$250
Total	\$3450

To Do: M&E will discuss how to include the Community's input as it relates to which charitable organizations are selected for mission giving.

c. Food Pantry (Stockton Street)

The wait list has grown to 60 as the pantry has felt the impact of pop-up pantries shutting down across the city and takes on more clients who have been displaced by pantry closures.

d. The Matthew 25 work group (Whitney Tom, Greg Chan, Pastor Don) agreed on a name change and will now be called the Matthew 25 Engagement Team.

2. Resource

The committee approved a motion for the Second Pantry to have their own line item in the 2025 budget to help with tracking donations and expenses.

3. Worship & Nurture

a. **Action:** MSP unanimously to recommend to the Commission increasing the honorarium for Pulpit Supply from \$150 to \$250.

b. Retreat Plans – The retreat will be held on June 13-15 at the Siden Center (formerly known as Redwood Glen) from Friday after dinner through Sunday lunch. If we're able to guarantee attendance of 36, we'll be offered exclusive use of the property.

1) There is a possibility that the Cantonese Community will be invited to share the facility to hold their own retreat.

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- 2) Consider using our reserves on a one-time basis to increase church subsidy for the retreat, decrease registration fees and encourage greater attendance.
- c. Attendance – We're averaging 60+ in combined in-person and online worship attendance.
4. PCC Second Pantry (Joice Alley)
 - a. Pantry volunteers gave input on and agreed to expand enrollment beginning 01.02.2025. Minor adjustments will be made to accommodate the growth such as expanding the food distribution schedule to 10:20-Noon. Capacity will increase from 272 to 305.
 - b. Weather Concerns – Discussions are ongoing about making improvements to the CH parking lot to provide shelter from rain.
 - c. Special Handling – Approximately 12 of the 50+ Mei Lun Yuen residents enrolled in the Food Pantry (Joice Alley) have their groceries delivered with support provided by Community Ambassadors.
5. Pastor's Report
 - a. Cantonese Community – Pastor Don's commitments have increased and now include pulpit supply and serving Communion on the first Sunday of the month, quarterly Cantonese Commission meetings that precede Session meetings, and annual events such as ordination and installation of Elders.
 - b. New Members' Class – 2 of 5 meetings have been held and attended by 2 prospective members plus instructional support from Elder Ed Chin and Deacon Carole Chinn-Morales.
6. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Budget Notes
 - 1) The budget is neutral after 11 months of the fiscal year.
 - 2) The Peace and Global Witness Offering generated \$2,193 in donations.
 - b. Income to Expense Report for November and Year-to-Date 2024

	November 2024	Year-to-Date 2024
Total Receipts (A)	\$17,089.97	\$206,538.83
Total Expenses (B)	\$18,405.88	\$206,345.07
Total = (A-B)	-\$1,315.91	\$193.76

New Business

1. Personnel - Revised Terms of Call
 - a. **Action:** MSP unanimously to recommend increasing study leave from 2 to 3 weeks including one week designated for the Art of Transitional Ministry program in July.
 - b. **Action:** January 26, 2025 was chosen as the date to hold a special meeting of the EWC to conduct a vote on the revised Terms of Call. The agenda will include a report on the Ministry Satisfaction Survey.

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2. 2025 Proposed Budget

- a. **Action:** Three adjustments to the 2025 proposed budget were accepted by unanimous consent.
- 1) Personnel - Add \$500 to the study leave allowance to fund a third week of study leave. This increase will be off-set by a \$500 decrease to Pastor Pension Reserve line item (rainy day fund for medical premium cost increases).
 - 2) Worship and Nurture - Increase Pulpit Supply by \$1,000. to cover the projected increase of \$100 x 10 guest preachers annually. Honoraria will increase from \$150 to \$250 after an informal survey of churches was conducted.
 - 3) Board of Deacons - Increase funding by \$1,000 to cover the cost of providing supplemental food purchases to Food Pantry (Stockton Street) participants.
- b. **Action:** MSP to allocate \$2,000 for a new line item, Matthew 25 Engagement to cover anticipated expenses such as guest speakers.

3. Elder Assignments for 2025 - Tabled and rescheduled for the January meeting.

Calendar Dates

January 19	Board of Deacons
January 21	English Commission
January 26	Deacon Retreat
January 29	<i>Lunar New Year</i>