

In the Loop - English Commission Summary for Meeting of April 17, 2018
By Elder Nancy Chee

The Commission held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, from 7-10:30pm.

- Devotion led by Pastor Kimberly with an emphasis-on Earth Day and importance our being in relationship with the Earth, treating Earth as sacred (passages from Job and Psalms). Where are the places we feel connection with nature? Where do we notice the beauty of God's creation?
- Prayers requests and concern for the homeless man murdered In Joice Alley. No response to request for Navigation Center for Chinatown. Norman Fong organizing an event with Captain Paul Yep for April 18th.
- Pastor's Report - reviewed Kimberly's activities for the past month. She just completed her Interplay Life Practice Program and the participants of the program want to continue to stay connected.
- Pastoral Assistant Report- Review of Tad's activities including how a youth retreat at Lake Tahoe went, and the varied discussion topics. And thanks to Tad for leading icebreaker on April 8th Sabbath Sunday which brought out good collaboration and fun.
- Reflective discussion on topics which might help the EWC in moving forward with the Adaptive Change/Leadership process:
 - **What it means to be missional and narrowing down our missional focus?**
 - What are the local issues and agencies (immigration, housing, preventing gun violence, etc.)?
 - How do we identify what we have passion/energy in the EWC to focus on?
 - And what concerns and resources are needed to respond in a given area?
 - Can we take time to inventory how/where individuals are already involved in service?
 - Will it be helpful to have the EWC begin to self-reflect and own what we are doing?
 - Can this also be useful in getting to know one another better and to understand our strengths (or capacity limitations).
 - This can be a helpful process in understanding the fabric of our WC. (Kimberly to ask Jim Kitchens about process and understanding of missional focus.)
 - What activity or mechanism(s) can we use to elicit information from people, especially if there are some who are reluctant to talk about themselves (table sharing, interviews, etc.)
- **Non -Violent Communication Workshop** - a useful “tool” to add, how to communicate in a “safe space”, equipping us to talk to each other. Topics include how to listen, how to create empathy, how to have cross-generation

communication, be respectful, honest. There are some local Bay Area leadership, including an Asian American trainer.

- Commission & Session - Kimberly wants us to consider reflecting on outside sources of funding that can be pursued for mission and service. i.e., partnering with community for rental of building, other ways of fundraising.
- Consistory Retreat Dates/Desires - Still working to coordinate date for consistory meeting of elders and deacons. Sundays seem to work best as some are not available on Saturdays. Possible dates: Sundays: July 8, 15, 22, 29. Subcommittee from Commission & Deacons to plan. Kimberly noted that we might consider inviting Rev. Diana Cheifez to follow up on the article she wrote about being an Elder.
- Index Card, Member's gifts results - Tad added the latest replies to the list. Stan will share it with Resource and Diane will share with Deacons. Each group is encouraged to tap members' skills as needed.
- Clerk of Session: Another person has declined and will approach another. Presently we have adapted the role to taking minutes, getting translations, and doing the statistics.
- Committee Reports from Treasurer, Nominating Mission & Evangelism, Worship and Nurture, Resource and PCC Partnership.
- Other Business
 - “Trash Monitor” : Discussion on support for Marie and looking for others to help. Suggestion maybe we can video tape Marie, so that we have it for future use? The intent is to have someone who can setup the waste system prior to teatime, and we should have learned the system enough to self-monitor.
 - Continue to consider going to two-year terms for deacons, and to raise this at future Session.
 - Room use sign-up and demand, in particular for Mandarin mothers and small children on Sundays. Building use calendar is not regularly updated. Tad has an updated Google Calendar, but it needs to be posted. Need to inform Session and other WCs on use of calendar.

The next English Commission meeting is Tuesday, May 15th at 7:00PM.