**WESTERN REGION MEETING – April 17, 2021, 10 am**

Via Zoom Conference call

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| Moderator (temp) | Erwin Barron |  |  |  |
| Calvary | Joni Lachman | Betsy Dodd |  |  |
| Chinatown | Amy Feng | Jeanette Huie |  |  |
| Covenant | Maureen Chen |  |  |  |
| First United | Giovanni Tomasolo | Flora Gee | Margaret Grant |  |
| Indonesian  | Evangeline Pua | Rony Kurniawan |  |  |
| Ingleside | M.J. Gordon |  |  |  |
| Mission Bay | Annanda Barclay |  |  |  |
| Noe Valley | Cindy Cake | David Brown |  |  |
| Old First | Lori Yamauchi |  |  |  |
| SDOP Committee | Ginger Smyly |  |  |  |
| St. John’s | Martha Woodward |  |  |  |
| Seventh Avenue | Susan Baker-Lehne |  |  |  |
| Sturge | Don Smith |  |  |  |
| Trinity | Mike Garoutte |  |  |  |
| Valley  | Robin Polastri |  |  |  |

The meeting began at 10:05 with Erwin Barron moderating. Cindy Cake will moderate during the EC House discussion and vote due to Erwin’s close connection to EC House. He gave a brief background of how Fund Your Vision was established then offered an opening prayer.

The Committee received five applications for this fourth, and final, round of funding. Unfortunately one application was submitted after the deadline date and could not be considered. During this meeting,

the summaries will be read and discussed first. Then we will vote yes or no on the committee’s funding recommendations.

1. **Renewal of Ecumenical House Ministries (Lakeside) ($40,000)**

One question arose about the EC House property and rental situation. Erwin described the building and location and its set up of an intentional community which is currently not active.

1. **Partnership for Helping Immigrants (Calvary, Old First, Mission Bay) ($50,000)**

$40,000 requested for Catholic Charities and $10,000 for Calvary Presbyterian Church.

There was a question about the video that was supposed to be produced from Calvary’s first

Grant. Betsy Dodd replied: The video, *A Knock on the Door*, is completed and available for

viewing on Calvary’s website. They will work on sharing it more widely throughout Presbytery.

Calvary is currently providing direct assistance to three immigrant families. Another question

about where Catholic Charities is providing services – they have an office in San Mateo and now in San Francisco.

1. **Today’s Youth, Our Future (Presbyterian Church in Chinatown) ($27,000)**

One question arose about the Pastor Assistant position – will this be filled by one of the youth? Amy Feng replied that a young man who is a member and Elder of the church has been identified for this position. He is the Chair of its current youth group. Amy shared her contact information on Chat for referrals of Cantonese or Mandarin speaking youth. The EC House is another resource for joint activities.

1. **Anti-Racism Capacity Building (Old First, Noe Valley, Ingleside) ($31,500)**

The first question was about how they will get congregations engaged/involved. Lori Yamauchi replied that about 30-35 people (representing 13-14 congregations) participate in their West Bay Group meetings and they can start from there. They will also be focused on the smaller racial ethnic churches. An assessment process will take place for interested churches to identify their needs. The second question was will the churches be only Presbyterian? Lori replied that it would be great if Presbyterian churches want to partner with other faith based groups. The purpose is to find more resources for congregations to do this anti-racism work.

1. **Preferential Option for the Homeless ($48,700)**

A question was asked if they have a goal of reaching more homeless with this grant. Sunglae Cho said that about 15 people would show up at the church each Sunday for coffee and cookies pre-COVID. The church has not been open because of the pandemic so it’s not possible to estimate. With the grant, their goal is to prepare 100 care packages per month.

Don Smith commented that “211 San Francisco” needs to know when programs/services become available for the homeless. It was also suggested that since Iglesia is in the same neighborhood, they could possibly work together.

Each application was voted on separately. The votes were unanimous to approve the committee’s recommendations for funding. **Total amount of grants: $197,200.**

The committee will send MOUs to the applicants as soon as possible and checks will be sent out in a few weeks. This portion of the meeting was closed with prayer by Erwin Barron.

The meeting continued to discuss future initiatives for the Region and how to organize them. Don Smith inquired about interest earned from the $1,000,000 and could that be used by the Region? The region can only use the amount that was provided by Presbytery.

It was MSP to disband the Fund Your Vision panel with the criteria that the panel will meet with the Region in early 2022 to evaluate.

What does the Region now want to do?

* Anti-Racism issues
* Organize joint youth programs
* Explore new uses for our vacant church buildings

Teresa Cho is a good person to approach on this topic. The Re-Envisioning Committee has already been established and are looking at the St. Paul’s Church building.

We can work on various initiatives but need overall leadership to coordinate. There’s no specific contact person for the Region. The region as a whole needs leadership for Presbytery to approve and bless.

Don Smith misses having discussions with others in the Presbytery. They used to review Christian Education materials and other things of interest to the churches.

Lori stated that the region should encourage clergy and others to participate in Anti-Racism work and make use of the resources provided by Presbytery.

She spoke to Don Hammond recently about the small ethnic congregations who are struggling and need help financially. How can the region connect large churches with these congregations so they can provide some support?

Robin suggested that each church address these issues by gathering in small groups and then report back to the Region.

Erwin said we need something exciting that will attract and engage people.

David Brown wants Presbytery to provide some direction and structure for the Region. For example, Presbytery conducts an election for a Moderator.

M.J. reflected that the regions were established so they could exercise leadership within their own area instead of having Presbytery make decisions for the regions.

Erwin agreed with David that some direction from Presbytery would be helpful.

Erwin will call InHo and Jennifer and come up with a plan. Erwin will help facilitate but not be a Moderator.

Meeting ended at 11:35 am

Submitted by

Jeanette Huie