

# OMNIBUS REPORT

Report III A

**CENTRAL REGIONAL TEAM (OPEN SPACE) [FLYER LINK](#)**

Central Region Meeting Agenda May 21, 2024

1. Call to Order & Establishment of a Quorum
2. Considering two current grant applications for
  - a. St John’s Presbyterian Church: Recent Immigrant, Refugee Ministry Integration and Support
  - b. Montclair Presbyterian Church: Improving the Lives of Oakland’s Homeless
3. Electing 2 New Regional Community Members to the vacant spots on the Peer Review Team. The Team will bring nominations to the meeting to be considered. These nominations will correspond to descriptions as listed in [our established regional charter](#).

**Grant A.**

**Recent Immigrant, Refugee Ministry Integration and Support**

9/22/2022

**I Partnering Congregations**

**Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana de Oakland and**

**St. John’s Presbyterian Church, Berkeley**

Amount Requested: \$50,000

Short Term Emergency Relief	\$7,000
Community Organizing and Coordination	\$21,000
Legal and Life Needs fund	\$20,000

Help for Helpers

\$2,000

**\$7,000** - for short term emergency aid. Immigrants frequently arrive with little more than the clothes on their back. Food, clothing, transportation, and shelters are frequent needs to be addressed.

**\$21,000** - Community Organizing and Coordination:

Six hr/wk - \$7,000/ year for three years **\$21,000**

Irma Hernandez, the administrator for Primera Iglesia, already receives a significant number of requests for aid from recent arrivals. With these funds she and the church would be able to help more freely. She helps with orientation to the community, referrals to legal and social services, making connections and short term or emergency aid. She would also be the point person for contact for other opportunities we plan to offer with this project.

**\$20,000** Legal and Life Needs Fund

Micro lending endowment grants up to \$3,000 at zero interest, approved by joint committee, to be paid back at rate and time determined by the borrower. See report on previous grant for more information below.

**\$2,000** Help for Helpers. Church and community members are often willing to help with transportation, court appearances, food pick up, delivery or preparation. They may put in long volunteer hours and yet are financially limited themselves. This money goes for reimbursement cost for aid given by a volunteer, or for a periodic thank you gift as a small way to acknowledge their time and effort.

Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana is uniquely situated as a community to serve and incorporate recent immigrants and refugees from Latin America. Primera and St. John's have a long-standing relationship of cooperation addressing needs of immigrants and refugees. The need is tremendous, and the opportunity for church growth through offering of practical help and spiritual sustenance is significant.

## **II. The root cause or need our proposal is addressing**

Recent immigrants arrive bringing a cultural and personal history which is both rich with meaning and often fraught with trauma. If life in their nation of origin was not difficult, they would not have come. Sadly, reasons for coming are too often not just difficult but traumatic. In addition, there is added the precarious migration and the financial burden of the trip and legal fees. Upon arrival immigrants seek opportunity for new life, but they are also confronted with a strange and bewildering, intentionally arduous and increasingly hostile immigration system, and an exploitative labor market.

Quite often, this uprooting experience of immigration opens new arrivals to spiritual hunger for comfort, community, fresh commitment, and deepening relationship with God. This project has real potential to enhance the vital ministry and grow the congregation as we address material, logistical and spiritual needs for recent arrivals in the neighborhood.

This proposal is to supplement money we received in September of 2020 from the Missional Partnership Grant Fund. We ask for additional financial support from the Missional Partnership Grant of the Presbytery of San Francisco to extend administrative capability for another three years and enhance capacity for direct aid for refugees and recent immigrants. Due to Covid 19 other aspects of the original project funded by our first grant, other aspects of the original project (Continuing Education for the organizer and Workshops, events, and cultural celebrations) have been underutilized, and we still have some money in those areas.

## **III. Excitement and Involvement**

See report on previous grant in IV. Other information

## **IV. Other Information**

### **A Brief Report on the Status of our First Grant and Proposal for Further Augmentation**

Since receiving the \$50,000 Missional Partnership Grant in September 2020, we have made significant progress and met significant need in some areas mentioned in the grant. For example, numerous referrals to various social service agencies and provision of trauma counseling. Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic other areas which entail group activity have been limited. Primera Iglesia did recently have a fundraising food day for which about a dozen members of St. John's went down to celebrate with them.

The Grant Oversight Committee is made up of three St. John's members and five from Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana. We meet roughly every two months.

As financial hardship was exacerbated by the pandemic, both the Emergency Aid and the Legal and Life Needs Fund have been fully utilized (More on this below). Also, the intake and coordination effort of Irma Hernandez, the Administrator at Primera has been significant.

**Trauma Groups:** The Development of the **trauma Groups** (Sanidad de las Heridas) has gone very well, with training for leaders leading to fifteen different groups at a high point, all meeting on Zoom. The benefit of Zoom has been having participants from different places, including South America, Central America and Mexico. There is now an effort to move to in person groups. Both numbers and interest have been better than expected. There is a real need being met.

We have not spent any of the \$7,400 from the first SF Presbytery grant designated for Community, grief, trauma groups, food events and cultural celebrations, and Immigration Workshops has barely been utilized given lack of in person meeting due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. This money will continue to be available for these purposes as we begin to meet in person.

**Short Term Emergency Aid.** \$5,000 from our original grant went to help people with emergency need. The pandemic greatly exacerbated need, so this money was quickly utilized. We helped with funeral expenses for a family member of a recent immigrant who had died of Covid. We helped in multiple cases with emergency food or rent needs for people impacted negatively by layoffs or illness due to Covid and other health issues. The fact that undocumented people cannot utilize government aid means that unemployment or illness strike especially hard.

**Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana and St. John's would like to ask for another \$7,000 for Short Term Emergency Relief.**

#### **Legal and Life Needs Fund**

\$14,800 of our original grant went to the Legal and Life Needs Fund, seed money for a micro-lending endowment. \$1,465 in additional money has also been donated by individuals. We have established forms and protocols for application and repayment. The joint church grant oversight committee received requests through a simple application form. We have made a maximum limit of \$3,000 for a loan. Loans are given at 0% interest. The recipient decides how and when they will pay back the Fund. As of Feb 2022 \$9600, had been paid back to the fund, enabling further lending. So, from the original \$14,800 we have made \$21,500 in loans. While the vast majority of the people coming to Primera with

need are recent immigrants or refugees, the committee decided not to discriminate on the basis of immigration history but rather on financial need alone. It didn't make sense for us to tell a person with serious hardship that we can't help them because they are not a recent immigrant.

### **Examples of Loan Accomplishment**

A father and husband works to recycle cans for which his vehicle is essential. Due to an accident his truck was destroyed. A \$3,000 loan from the Legal and Life Needs Fund helped him purchase a new vehicle to continue working.

A \$2,000 loan was given to two women, both mothers to establish a street vending food business.

A \$3,000 loan was given to a man who works as an independent contractor and had his tools stolen. Without tools he couldn't work or make money. The loan got him back in business.

A \$3,000 loan was made to a woman whose husband was injured on his job and unable to work and make money. Due to his undocumented immigration status the family had no support from Workers Compensation or unemployment insurance. The woman started a food business.

This micro lending program has been extremely successful. It is our goal to get the Legal and Life Needs Fund large enough that it will be a continually revolving fund, with money paid back being lent again for many years to come. It has the potential to help hundreds of people out of desperate situations. The fact that the fund is held and administered by a congregation, the majority of whose congregants are low income and Latino, shifts the usual historical paradigm of charity held and given by wealthy, white people and organizations.

**We are asking for \$20,000 for the Legal and Life Needs Fund.**

### **V. Who is Accountable?**

#### **Grant Vision Team:**

The Reverend Dr. Pablo Morataya, 510-533-4321 morataya52@yahoo.com

Irma Hernandez (Elder/ Administrator at Primera), [irmahernandez777@yahoo.com](mailto:irmahernandez777@yahoo.com)

Fred Goff (Elder, Co-Chair St. John's Mission and Justice Commission) [fgoff@comcast.net](mailto:fgoff@comcast.net)

The Reverend Dr. Max Lynn

510-390-2759 [pastormax@stjohnsberkeley.org](mailto:pastormax@stjohnsberkeley.org)

Edis Mira, Book keeper

Raquel Perez, Chair of Deacons

Lisa Blampied, Elder at St. John's

We envision the Session of Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana de Oakland as having primary administrative oversight and delegating different aspects of the project. The short-term emergency aid is directed out of Deacons with both Pastor Morataya and Ms. Hernandez having quick, discretionary use up to a certain amount, and Deacon approval for over that amount.

The Legal, Life Needs Fund is currently administered by a committee of eight people, three from St. Johns and five from Primera. It would be the goal of this piece, that with experience, Primera leadership would take over long term administration. On the other hand, perhaps St. John's stays involved, and we get other churches on board too. While further contributors may be sought, being able to move quickly to address needs is very important, so a small quickly available oversight committee should retain authority. A track record of successful help will provide trust for further input.

Our Joint Church oversight committee meets about every two months to review the overall project progress and intends to continue doing so as long as the need exists.

**Date of Session Approval:**

Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana de Oakland Session approval      Nov 12, 2022

St. John's Presbyterian Church of Berkeley Session approval      Nov 15, 2022

Grant B.

**Name of Partnership Project:** Improving the Lives of Oakland's Homeless

**Please list the partnering congregations/organizations:**

Montclair Presbyterian Church, Oakland, CA (liability coverage)

Mission for the Homeless, Oakland, CA.

**Amount Requested:** \$50,000

**Please describe your proposed project by expanding upon the established values of the Central Region charter.**

Our proposed project builds upon an existing relationship between Montclair Presbyterian (MPC) and Mission for the Homeless (MFTH), a non-profit (501c) organization based in Oakland, CA. MFTH has been serving the homeless population in Oakland for over 10 years and the founder of MFTH, Vincent Pannizzo, has been working full time providing homeless services for over 25 years. The mission of MFTH is to provide daily compassionate and individualized assistance to the homeless in Oakland. MFTH fulfills this mission through daily contact, distributing food and clothing donated by volunteers, and providing housing assistance. Unlike larger nonprofits with operational costs and staff salaries, MFTH has no paid staff or building upkeep and is fully dependent on volunteers and donations.

Over the past several years, MPC's Food and Shelter Committee has served as a coordinating umbrella directing service activities and addressing food and shelter needs in Oakland, including providing meals for College Avenue Presbyterian Church's Friday night meal program. Most recently we began collaborating with MFTH in two ways: 1) we hosted an informational program introducing MFTH to MPC members and providing MFTH the opportunity to share their experiences and identifying their critical needs, and 2) we conducted a successful winter clothing drive, collecting over 25 boxes of winter clothing for MFTH to distribute to the homeless in Oakland.

Monetary support of the Central Region will enable MPC to expand our commitment to social justice and specifically to the homeless in Oakland by increasing our financial and volunteer support to our MFTH partner. The critical need is for monetary housing assistance. The ultimate recipients of this grant are the men and women who simply cannot survive on the street – people who are elderly or suffer serious mental or physical disabilities. We will also be able to purchase tents and blankets, items that are less likely to be donated.

MPC will continue to conduct several drives throughout the year to provide clothing, toiletries, and other needs. We will also coordinate volunteer efforts with the Alameda County Food Bank to benefit MFTH and we will assist St. John's Episcopal Church (Oakland) with their weekly food donations, which are provided directly to MFTH.

While our relationship with MFTH is relatively new, we have established an excellent working partnership, and we are committed to continuing our support. However, we are limited in the financial assistance we can contribute to support the expanding needs of serving Oakland's homeless population.

With additional funds, our project is clearly feasible. It does not require approval from governmental organizations, builds on an existing partnership and has realistic expectations. With expanded volunteer involvement from our members, other community partners who we intend to include in the future, additional grant opportunities we are pursuing, and a long-term commitment from our members, we believe the project will be sustainable

The founder of MFTH, Vincent Pannizzo, is known as Pastor Vinny. While Vincent is not an ordained minister, he has been spreading the good news of God in Christ to the homeless for over 25 years. Our project will allow him to expand his work and ministry. See media piece in the link in the other information section of this proposal.

**II. What is the root cause or need that your proposal is addressing?**

Oakland's homeless population has more than doubled over the past 10 years. With the increasing homeless population, the need for support continues to expand. While there are organizations in Alameda County providing assistance, the needs that we are addressing (daily compassionate and individualized service) are unique. MFTH engages homeless folks directly on the street providing essential resources such as food, blankets, housing, health care and assistance with accessing government benefits. Many of the homeless clients view MFTH as their primary source of support.

**What is the goal of your proposed project?**

MFTH currently provides financial assistance to six people through rooms in two small houses that MFTH rents and Single Resident Occupancy (SRO) in Oakland. This assistance is to supplement federal and state housing support. The goal of our proposed project is to ensure that this financial assistance can be sustained and to expand the number of housing units. In addition, we will provide other high priority items including tents, blankets and clothing.

We will meet monthly with MFTH leaders to review ongoing projects, current critical needs, and opportunities for coordination with other groups in the MFTH network.

**Please identify the goals, timeline for implementation and the measurable impact you hope to bring about.**

Goal #1 – Financial assistance for existing housing support that MFTH currently provides: timeline - 1-3 months; impact - ensure the continued availability of the six existing housing units.

Goal #2 - Expand the number of housing units - timeline - 3-9 months; impact - add three additional housing units.

Goal #3 – Donations and funding for high priority items including tents and blankets: timeline – 6-12 months – impact - averaging 10-20 blankets per month and 5-10 tents per month.

Goal #4 – Donations and funding for coats, socks, and sweatpants: – timeline - 6-12 months – impact - one donation and purchase cycle every 3 months and 2-3 large bags of items per cycle

**III. How do you hope this project will excite and involve a core group of people from our region in ministry, mission, and relationship-building?**

The proposed project will expand our volunteers from within MPC and affiliated groups/organizations we will engage. We will promote our work via social media and educate groups on the opportunities and value of working with MFTH. We will expand our existing working relationships with College Avenue Presbyterian Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, and the Alameda Food Bank.

**IV. Who is the Person accountable for this proposed project:**

Allen Spore

Phone: 510-381-3207

Email: allenspore@gmail.com

Address: 3001 Golden Rain Rd. #4; Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Date of Submission of the proposal: 4/3/24

Date of session approval of the proposal: 4/2/24

Name of Clerk: Susanne Lea

**V. Is there any other information you want us to know as we consider your application?**

Website for Mission for the Homeless – [www.missionforthehomeless.org](http://www.missionforthehomeless.org)

KALW Public Media - 2020

<https://www.kalw.org/show/crosscurrents/2020-03-04/pastor-vinnies-one-man-mission-to-fight-homelessness> ---

## Report III B

### STATED CLERK REPORT MAY 212024 SAN FRANCISCO PRESBYTERY MEETING

Thank you to Lafayette-Orinda Presbytery Church for your warm hospitality. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

#### 2023 Statistics for PSF

- **268** Minister of the Word and Sacrament; **48%** are Honorably Retired and **17%** Members at Large.
- **44** of our **67** churches (**65%**) submitted their reports. These reports inform us that:
- The active membership is **9,714**. We gained **105** and lost **798**.
- The average weekly attendance was **4,296** with **1,685** friends of the congregation.
- There are **2,736** members **71+** years old.
- The racial and ethnic breakdown is as follows:
  - **9** Native American/Indigenous
  - **32** Middle Eastern
  - **180** multi-racial members
  - **277** Hispanic/Latinx
  - **371** African American
  - **977** Asian American Pacific Islanders
  - **3,428** White

The Investigating Committee has been appointed and had their first training on May 3, 2023. The members comprise of the following:

**Deacon Mark Fong**

**Rev. Ana Espinoza**

**Rev. Joanne Whitt**

I am pleased to inform everyone that the Minister Cards were mailed in April. They were delivered to the Presbytery late due to Kris Valerius being out on leave of absence. If you have not received your card, please contact me at [lwilliams@sfpby.org](mailto:lwilliams@sfpby.org) to let me know.

This concludes my report.

Blessings,

Elder Leticia Williams, Stated Clerk

### **Report III C**

#### **T-CARE: Truth Commission Assessing Race Equity Report**

Time-sensitive survey to interrupt the patterns of racism in our presbytery.

T-CARE members interim report and invitation to participate in our survey: sharing on paper or QR code. Do it tonight or before June 10. You have information and experience we need to complete our analysis of how racism functions here. This is the central and most important phase in our work. [Open Space Flyer Link](#)

### **Report III D**

#### **ANNE PENKE 2025 GRANT PROPOSAL**

##### ANNE PENKE FUND APPLICATION

THE ANNE PENKE FUND IS A MISSION FUND CONTROLLED THROUGH THE SYNOD OF THE PACIFIC. THREE PRESBYTERIES BENEFIT FROM THE FUND- THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN FRANCISCO, THE PRESBYTERY OF THE REDWOODS AND THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOSE. THE THREE PRESBYTERIES SHARE EQUALLY IN THE AMOUNT OF THE FUND THAT IS DISBURSED EACH YEAR. FOR 2024 THE TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO S.F. PRESBYTERY ARE \$7400. THIS AMOUNT MAY BE DEVIDED BETWEEN MULTIPLE GRANTS.

THE CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING A PORTION OF THE FUND-

1. REQUESTS SHOULD BE RELATED TO THE DIRECT MAKING OF DISCIPLES FOR JESUS CHRIST (FOR OPERATIONAL NEEDS RELATED TO NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT, CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY TO YOUTH, ETC.).
2. REQUESTS SHOULD RELATE TO THE DIRECT RELIEF OF HUMAN SUFFERING AND NEEDS (PROJECTS WHICH RELATE TO THE POOR, SICK, HUNGRY AND DOWNTRODDEN).
3. REQUESTS SHOULD RELATE TO PROJECTS WHICH INVOLVE CHURCH VOLUNTEERS IN MINISTRY IN ORDER TO TRAIN PEOPLE AND STRENGTHEN THE TOTAL WORK OF THE PROJECT.

APPLICATIONS FOR A GRANT SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING AND SUBMITTED TO THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN FRANCISCO, ATTENTION: ANNE PENKE COMMITTEE, BY JUNE 15 SO THAT THE REQUESTS CAN BE REVIEWED AND SUBMITTED TO THE SYNOD OF THE PACIFIC BY JUNE 30. GRANTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED EARLY IN 2023.

### Report III E

#### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

**Approved** the terms for the interim associate pastor between **Rev. Jan Armstrong** and First Presbyterian Church Burlingame effective April 2024, and approved his transfer of membership from Santa Barbara Presbytery to San Francisco Presbytery.

**Approval** GKI Mission Discernment Profile.

**Approved** the agreement between Presbyterian Church in China, English Worshipping Community and **Rev. Greg Chan** as the Parish Associate.

**Approved** the merger of **WBCOM** and **EBCOM** to one **COM** effective May 2024.

**Approved** Mission Discernment Profile of Noe Valley Ministry.

**Approved** interim contract for **Don Strongman** with John Knox Presbyterian Church effective January 1, 2024

**Approved** interim contract for **Garrett Yamada** with John Knox Presbyterian Church effective January 1, 2024

**Approve** **Fred Harrell** to work within the bounds of San Jose Presbytery as the interim of Stone Church.

**Concur** with FPOC to provide financial support for 6 months in the amount of \$12,000 per month from Fund 3 for Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana.

**Concur** with FPOC to provide financial support for 3 months in the amount of \$3750 per month from Fund 3 for Ygnacio Valley.

**Approved** the renewal interim contract between the **Rev. Renee Rico** and First Presbyterian Church, beginning May 1st for one year.

**Approved** the contract between St. James Presbyterian and **Fernando del Rosario** as a temporary pastor and \$1,000 monthly support his compensation beginning of March 16, 2024.

### **Report III F**

#### **Rev. Don Hammond's Art of Transitional Ministry Flyer**

### **Report III G**

#### **Exhibit A: Executive Summary Financial Report**

### **Report III H**

#### **PERSONNEL WORKING GROUP REPORT**

##### **Staffing Transition**

- **New Hire: Caneisha Felder - Office Coordinator**
  - Started February 26, 2024
- **Update: Rev. Dr. Keith Geckeler - Judicial Assistant to the Stated Clerk**
  - Rev. Dr. Geckeler has begun his investigation regarding a judicial complaint received by the Stated Clerk.
- **Contract Extension: Linda Spencer - T-Care Racism Audit Coordinator, Contract Extension to Aug. 30, 2024**

##### **InHo Kim – Transitional Executive Partner for Congregational Vitality and Clergy Support; Contract Expiring May 31, 2024**

- InHo Kim has served in various staff roles serving the Presbytery of San Francisco for the past 14 years. He has worked as a colleague among pastors helping to generate new worshipping communities, supporting churches and pastors through transitions and celebrations, serving as a pastor at First United Presbyterian Church of San Francisco, and much more. On behalf of the Personnel Working Group, thank you, InHo, for your many years of serving on staff at the Presbytery of San Francisco.

**Karen Thistlethwaite – Transitional Partner for Operations, Finance, and Communications;  
Contract Extension (CONTRACT)**

**Motion:** At the recommendation from the Personnel Working Group and the Mission and Vision Leadership Committee, that the Presbytery of San Francisco vote to approve Karen Thistlethwaite to the new title of Transitional Partner for Operations, Finance, and Communications and extend her contract to perform this work up to when the Transitional Associate Executive Presbyter is hired. The reason for her extension is to retain institutional knowledge and maintain office operations in preparation for the hire of the new Transitional Executive Presbyter.

**Leticia Williams (Stated Clerk) – Contract Change to Full Time (CONTRACT)**

**Motion:** At the recommendation from the Personnel Working Group and the Mission and Vision Leadership Committee, that the Presbytery of San Francisco vote to approve changing the Stated Clerk Leticia Williams' hours from part time to full time temporarily until the Transitional Associate Executive Presbyter is hired. Williams will work an average of 25 hours per week for regular Stated Clerk work and 15 hours per week to address a backlog of work. The position will then be reviewed under new leadership to determine the needs of the presbytery.

**Employee Handbook Updating**

- The Employee Handbook has not been updated since 2019. Karen Thistlethwaite, David Marrs, Marci Glass and a volunteer from MVL are working on revising the handbook. With an eye toward completion by the end of the summer.

**Transitional Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee Assistance**

- The PWG has developed a job description and researched salary ranges in collaboration with the Transitional Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee.

**Volunteers**

- Looking for 3 volunteers to join us with the PWG work.

If you are interested, please reach out to the nominating and committee on representation chairs.