

**Presbytery of San Jose: Notice of Stated Meeting
November 19, 2022 9:00 am on Zoom**

Pre-registration required

Zoom meeting (pre-registration required, Zoom link at <https://sanjosepby.org/>)

9:00 Opening Prayer Moderator,
The Rev. Nan Swanson

**9:05 Opening Reflection
Communion** The Rev. Nan Swanson

9:35 Transition to agenda

9:40 Stated Clerk The Rev. Erica Rader

Change in the Docket; Quorum call (8 ministers/8 elders/6 churches); Corresponding Members; First time attendees; Visitors

New Business (must be referred)

Consent Agenda

- 1) Motion to approve the September 24, 2022 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of San Jose. **pp. 3-21**
- 2) Motion to recognize this meeting as the annual meeting of the Corporation of the Presbytery of San Jose, a California Non-profit Corporation

Reports and Announcements Received in Docket

Report from Polity and Government **p.22**
Report from Presbytery Coordinating Council **pp.23-24**
Report from Committee on Nominations **pp.25-27**
Report from Stated Clerk **pp.28-30**
Report from Synod Assembly **p.31**
Report on Minister Member Status **pp.33-36**
Report from COM **p.37**
Report on GA 225 Constitutional Amendments **pp.38-41**
Report from Immanuel House **p.42**

9:45 Executive Presbyter of Synod of the Pacific The Rev. Nancy Martin Vincent

9:55 Coordinating Council recommendation:

Motion to elect to Nominating Committee of Presbytery:

Elder Charlie May (Trinity SC) Class of 2025

Rev. Irene Pak Lee as Chair of Nominating Committee (currently class of 2024)

10:00 Committee on Nominations

Elder Carlo Panighetti

- 1) Motion to elect the Rev. Erica Rader as Stated Clerk for 5 year term starting January 2023
- 2) Motion to elect the Rev. Edd Breeden as Treasurer for 5 year term starting January 2023
- 3) Motion to elect Nomination Slate pp. 25-27

10:10 Committee on Ministry p. 37

The Rev. Mark Peake

Report on Minimum Terms of Call 2022

10:20 Mission and Outreach Work Group

The Rev. Vincent Arishvara

10:35 Break

10:45 Committee on Representation & Empowerment

The Rev. Annanda Barclay

10:55 Church Health and Growth Work Group

11:00 Peace and Justice Work Group

11:05 Announcements

11:10 Stated Clerk

The Rev. Erica Rader

Annual Minister Rolls pp. 33-36

Annual Report of Stated Clerk pp.28-30

Amendments to Constitution pp.38-41

11:20 Adjournment with Prayer

The Rev. Nan Swanson

Next Standing Meeting of the Presbytery of San Jose will be on Zoom on February 4, 2023

**Presbytery of San Jose
Minutes of Stated Meeting
Saturday, September 24, 2022
via Zoom**

The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of San Jose was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by the Moderator, the Rev. Nan Swanson, who opened the meeting with prayer.

Elder Roseleen Zisch provided a land acknowledgement of our meeting in the Mukwekma Ohlone lands and shared about her indigenous ancestry.

The Moderator appeared against a background picture of Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Jose and Pastor Vincent Arishvara greeted us and participated in our opening devotion by reading Psalm 6.

The Rev Diana Gibson, a minister member in a validated ministry of university education provided a meaningful time of reflection on Psalm 6. She led us with times of personal reflection to consider the scriptural message from God's word "Do not be afraid, I am with you" as a salvation oracle that we might find expressed by God through ordinary people and circumstances that surround us.

Stated Clerk

The Rev. Erica Rader noted these items:

- No material changes in the docket but commissioners presenting on behalf of committees were added to agenda.
- The presence of a quorum (8 minister members, 8 Ruling Elders and 6 churches)
- Introduced visitors Charlen Nijmeh, Chairperson of Muwekma Ohlone tribe and Pilar Furlong, Bill Wilson Center
- Introduced Corresponding Member, Rev. Larry Thorson, member of Presbytery of San Francisco, who is serving as transitional pastor of First Presbyterian Mountain View.

Committee Chairs / Coordinating Council Present

Amboy, Elsa	Panighetti, Carlo
Hamm, Claudia	Rosen, Carolyn
Holsinger, Carol	Viale, Lynn
Ludwig, Marcia	Zisch, Rosaleen
Notor, Nannette	

Teaching Elders Present

Althaus, Ryan	Franzen, Bryan	Norman, Steve
Arishvara, Vincent	Fullmer, Paul	Olson, Robby
Bales, Jennifer	Gibson, Diana	Peake, Mark
Barclay, Annanda	Hahn, Taejinn	Rader, Erica
Barraca, Jason	Kim, Taelor	Rausch, Andy
Bennett, James	Kuo, Ruth	Sohn, Joseph
Boles, Margaret Willis	Lane, Bill	Swanson, Erik
Browning, Geoff	Lee, Joey	Thorson, Martha
Cabaness, Jack	Macway, Evelyn	Troester, Deborah
Choi, Don	Matusiewicz, Stella	Watermulder, David
Esterline, Jane	McAnelly, Anne	
Evans, Samantha	McGinnis, Katheryn	

Teaching Elders, Honorably Retired, Present

Ahn, Dong Sung	Breeden, Edd	Tsai, Andrew
Boatwright, Libby	McCreath, David	Vilardo, Larry
Bowles, Bob	Swanson, Nan	Yeane, Darrell

Teaching Elders, Not Present

Allen, Stephanie Lutz	Hoffman, Daniel J	Pearson, Marjorie
Boyer, Tim	Kim, Han Ho	Person, Brian
Crocker, Douglas	Kim, Hardy	Peterson-Iyer, Karen
Dix, Rebecca	Lai, Hsien-Chang	Reyes-Chow, Bruce
Drescher, Kent	LeClaire, Sharon	Van Laar, Trevor
Esaki, Ted	Lee, Fred	Williams, Chris
Eschen-Pipes, Kathleen	Lee, Irene Pak	Wong, Andy
Hansen, Chris	Lee, Jaeguen	Wong, Lindsey Woods
Hanson, Duncan	Logan, Molly	Woodsmall, Dennis
Hejmanowski, Karin	Minerva, George	Yoon, I Sil

Teaching Elders, Honorably Retired, Not Present

Baker, Debra	Choi, Samuel	Harrington, Nancy
Bender, Jim	Dosker, Richard	Harvey, Bill
Bland, Byron	Doyal, George	Hollingsworth, Mark
Bracey, Dale	Erickson, George	Hseih, Stephen
Bristol, John	Gardner, Thomas	Joy, Judith
Burke, John	Hansen, David	Kim, David Kwang

Kim, Insik
Kim, Kyung Jae
Kim, Young Han
Knowles, Steve
Kress, Karla (Norton)
Kwon, Young Bai
Kwon, Young K

Lewis, Charles
Longley, Jack
Lyke, Brian
Menser, Bruce
Momrow, Ed
Nelson, Jim
Palmer, Marge

Rowlinson, Bruce
Schmidt, Lyle
Smith, Kent
Solis, Dick
Spencer, Dick
Takarabe, Hei
Tyler, Lee

Elder Commissioners Present

Aptos, St. Andrew

Burk, Gene
Manning, Pat

Gilroy

(none)

Gonzales, Community

(none)

Los Gatos

Barry, Beth
Bordelon, Jackson
Koch, Diana
Lynner, Collette
Moriarty, Tammy

Monterey, El Estero

Gunter, Lynn

Monterey, First

(none)

Mountain View, First

Edmundson, Bruce
Edmundson, Lora

Palo Alto, Covenant

Bernstein, Frank
Dere, Beverley
Kerns, Kathy
Reynolds, Lizanne

Palo Alto, First

Choi, Sukgi

Salinas, Lincoln

Avenue

(none)

Salinas, Northminster

Cuda, Aimee
Gash, Jackie

Salinas, St. Phillips

(none)

San Jose, Cornerstone

(none)

San Jose, Evergreen

Wolfe, Pat

San Jose, Foothill

Moore, Woody
Rowser, Sharon
Wu, Xiwei

San Jose, Santa

Teresa Hills

Elliot, Paul

San Jose, Stone

Hurley, Meredith
Hurley, Nicholas
McCreath, Ruth
Nelson, Steve

San Jose, Taiwanese

American

(none)

San Jose, Trinity

Cox, Jon

San Jose, Westminster

Barrons, Ross
Burgess, David
Marovich, Andrew

San Martin

(none)

Santa Clara, First

Fitch, Robert

Santa Cruz, Bonny

Doon

(none)

Santa Cruz, Trinity

Bauerle, Ellen
Cobery, Chuck

Saratoga, Westhope

(none)

Sunnyvale

Mikles, Max

Reynolds, Barbara

Vickrey, Barry

Sunnyvale, Daesung

(none)

Watsonville, Westview

Rogers, Barbara

Visitors

Bill Wilson Center: Pilar Furlong

Comunidad Latinoamericana: Mike Matusiewicz

Gonzales Pres.: Ken Beadell

Muwekma Ohlone Tribe: Chairwoman Charlene Nijmeh

Northminster Pres: Barbara Perry

Presbytery Accountant: Diane Case

Corresponding Member from San Francisco Presbytery: Larry Thorson

Sunnyvale Pres., Presbytery Peace Advocate: Addie Domske

Trinity Santa Cruz: David Macway

Westminster Pres: Steven Frost

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was passed, to approve the Minutes of the May 7, 2022 Stated Presbytery Meeting and the celebration of Communion at the November 19, 2022 Stated Presbytery Meeting

Reports and Announcements Received in Docket

Report from Presbytery Coordinating Council **Appendix A**

Second reading: Amendments to Standing Rules **Appendix B**

San Jose Downtown Urban Commission Request **Appendix C**

Report from Committee on Ministry **Appendix D**

Proposed 2023 Budgets **Appendix E**

Report from Financial Affairs **Appendix F**

Peace and Justice Working Group:

Elder Meredith Hurley introduced Charlene Nijmeh, Chairperson of Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. She shared about tribal concerns, particularly about the need for support from allies to reinstate tribal recognition by the Federal Government.

Committee on Nominations

With no nominations received from the floor the Presbytery elected Elder Nan Notor (Westminster) Synod Commissioner Class of 2025

Polity and Government Sub Committee

Presbytery approved the motion from Coordinating Council: Amendment to Standing Rules **APPENDIX B**

Session Records Review update will be reported in the November meeting as some churches are still in process of getting their records reviewed.

Committee on Ministry

The Rev. Mark Peake reported that the Report on Clergy Terms of Call 2022 has been mailed to moderators and clerks of Session. Commissioners can contact the Presbytery offices for a paper copy as we are not distributing this electronically

The 2023 Presbytery Minimum Terms of Call will be reported in the November 2022 presbytery meeting.

Newest minister members Rev. Jack Cabaness and Rev. Paul Fullmer were introduced and gave brief greetings to Presbytery. **APPENDIX D**

October Peacemaker visit Rev. Julie Kandema

Elder Elsa Amboy shared about the various events where our PC(USA) peacemaker guest from Rwanda will be visiting our Presbytery Oct 5-12 with events at Santa Teresa Hills, Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos and First Presbyterian Church Monterey,

Committee on Representation & Empowerment The Rev. Annanda Barclay reported that Crossroads materials will be made available to churches for their use, upon request.

SJ Downtown Ministry Commission

Elder Sharon Rowser presented Funding Request recommended by Financial Affairs **APPENDIX C**

The Presbytery approved the motion:

Increase the Presbytery's funding for up to \$1.5 million to complete the renovation project, including \$80,000 in funds available to Westminster paid in quarterly amounts of \$20,000 as needed until rental income resumes.

225th General Assembly Report

Teaching Elder Commissioner Geoff Browning and Ruling Elder Commissioner Collette Lynner reported on their participation at GA225, a hybrid in Louisville KY and over Zoom, as well as some of the changes happening at the national level of PC(USA):

- GA225 Co-Moderators are Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace (Philadelphia Presbytery) and Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis (Charlotte Presbytery).
- Rev. Joey Lee is a member of the Board of Directors of the Board of Pensions.
- A covenant was established with SF Theological Seminary.
- The office of General Assembly will merge with Presbyterian Mission Agency.
- Per Capita rate will rise in 2023 and 2024.
- Five "Big Oil" companies are added to the GA Divestment/Proscription List (Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66, and Valero Energy.)

- The Decade to End Gun Violence is 2022-2032; PC(USA)'s investment arm MRTI will engage with publicly traded companies that sell guns.
- *The Presbyterian Tree Fund* is established as an extra commitment fund through PMA; Presbyterians are called to take personal action to support an energy transition and invest in a green future.
- New Standing Rules call for translation of GA communications to Spanish, Korean and English.
- PC(USA) is a sanctuary and accompaniment church that calls for humane treatment of migrants and refugees in accordance with the law.
- PC(USA) calls for peace and respect for human rights throughout the world; recognizes that Israel's laws, policies, and practices constitute apartheid against the Palestinian People; and condemns the Russian military invasion of Ukraine.
- PC(USA) apologized for participating in the sin of slavery and its legacy, denounced violence against Asian women and Pacific Islanders, directed support for Black teenage girls and for congregations of color without an installed pastor, and calls on Presbyteries to adopt an anti-racism policy.
- PC(USA) affirmed reproductive rights.
- Numerous changes proposed for the Book of Order include a policy of 12-week paid family leave for ministers; elimination of the designation 'Honorably Retired' going forward; a rewrite of the Rules of Discipline; strict boundary training & mandated reporter training requirements.
- Seven special entities were created and need volunteers: see ganominations.pcusa.org
- YAAD eligibility is now member/participant of a congregation, NWC, or Fellowship, and 18-23 years of age.
- GA226 will be a hybrid meeting in Salt Lake City, UT and Zoom.

Financial Affairs Committee

Elder David Macway presented the proposed budgets which were recommended by Financial Affairs Committee and

The Presbytery approved the 2023 Ecclesiastical and Program Budgets **APPENDIX E**

Announcements

The Rev. Erica Rader thanked the Rev. Margaret Boles for her service and friendship in the Presbytery and we pray for blessings for her family as she retires in October from her role as pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. Nan Swanson adjourned the meeting with prayer at 11:45 a.m.

APPENDIX A

Report from Coordinating Council of the Presbytery

The Coordinating Council met August 25, 2022 at 6:30 pm on Zoom

Financial Affairs Committee

The Coordinating Council reviewed Financial Affairs Committee (FAC). report about the Downtown SJ Urban Ministry Project's funding request. FAC will bring a motion to Presbytery to approve the AC's funding request. (Distributed prior to Council meeting.) Representatives from Westminster will also speak in favor of the motion.

Council voted to recommend 2023 Program and Ecclesiastical Budgets to Presbytery.

Some changes to budget to note:

- Insurance is moved to Ecclesiastical Budget from Program Budget
- Local Mission Grants funds also moved from Programs to Ecclesiastical Budget
- Per Capita is going up \$1 per member next year.
- Future Scholarship Reserve – makes scholarship funds available during the year for unanticipated scholarship requests.

Personnel Committee

San Jose is one of four Presbyteries of the Synod who met with Synod's Personnel Committee. The Synod provides HR and payroll services to our staff.

Service to national church and agencies At the General Assembly in June, Rev. Hardy Kim was elected to a position with the Presbyterian Disaster Agency. Rev. Joey Lee was elected to Board of Directors of Board of Pensions.

APPENDIX C

Date: August 23, 2022

To: San Jose Presbytery

From: Administrative Commission on the downtown San Jose project

Subject: 2nd request for Presbytery funds to complete San Jose Urban Ministry project

Costs continued to rise along with inflation after our request earlier this year, and the construction timeline more than doubled from the original plans as the project faced longer than expected lead times for several critical steps. Construction is currently underway; however, we were only able to begin by dividing the project into 2 phases and only contracting for Phase 1.

- Our Phase 1 contract with Bogaard Construction for \$4.56million includes funding from the sale of First Presbyterian Church of San Jose property, \$600,000 from Westminster, and most of the funds granted by the Presbytery earlier this year. This phase includes the startup activities like demolition, buildout and drywalling, plus items with long and complicated lead times. The funds for this phase would be committed by this fall.
- Phase 2 of the construction includes improvements that occur later in the plans and don't require long lead times. These include most of the finishes and the lift. The current estimate is approximately \$1.2million and the current schedule estimates an August 2023 completion date.
- We are additionally requesting \$220,000 for "soft costs" (various fees, inspections and design costs not included in the construction contract), and an \$80,000 grant for Westminster.

Our total new request is for up to \$1.5million. The construction costs are approximations, because we won't know the actual amounts until the general contractor is able to lock in the costs with the subcontractors. Some of the soft costs are also estimates as we await the final amounts for some of the mandated utility redesigns. The amount designated for Westminster provides support to the church during construction. The long delays in permitting and construction mean that Westminster has gone almost 2 full years with no rental income and is facing another 7-12 months before the lease with The Bill Wilson Center begins.

We are optimistic that the requested funds will be adequate to cover the remaining costs. In fact, we expect the costs to be less, because we have rounded up substantially to avoid another unexpected shortfall. We will only draw on the funds that are needed but, without this infusion of funds, construction will be incomplete and the building uninhabitable.

We have received a small amount in donations and plan to seek more over the coming months. Donations will decrease the amount needed from Presbytery funds, but timing is critical to the project and additional Presbytery funds will enable us to move forward without any delays. For the reasons stated above, we respectfully request the support of the Presbytery for this important project.

Also included for your information is the previous request to the Presbytery
Sharon Rowser, Co-Chair

APPENDIX C

To: The Presbytery of San Jose

Re: Update and Request for Additional Funding for the Downtown San Jose Urban Ministry Project

The Administrative Commission for the downtown San Jose project (the Commission) is ready to begin the remodel project on the grounds of Westminster Presbyterian Church (“Westminster”) relative to the pending Urban Ministry Center; however, the City permitting process took longer than expected and construction costs have been severely impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic and supply chain issues. As a result, we’re facing much higher construction costs than anticipated in 2021 with an increase in both material and labor costs by almost 40% at this point, with no increase in the scope of the work. Our project that was within budget a year ago, now anticipates a shortfall of almost \$989,000. We are prayerfully appealing to the Presbytery to help us close this gap. We have exhausted all avenues for downsizing the project and further delays are likely to drive prices even higher. The Urban Ministry Center, in partnership with Westminster is set to provide needed services in response to the physical, psychological, and spiritual needs of downtown San Jose residents, particularly in addressing issues relative to homelessness. This is an opportunity for the Presbytery to invest and participate in an outreach center critical to Westminster and the wider community.

Background. This Commission was created in the spring of 2019, subsequent to the dissolution of First Presbyterian Church of San Jose (“First Church”). It was tasked with managing First Church’s former property until the sale option officially changed hands with the purchaser, as well as investing the funds from the sale into a San Jose urban ministry as a legacy of First Church. The Commission has used some of the funds to relocate the historic First Church bell; preserve two of the antique, custom-made, stained-glass windows; provide support to Front Door Ministries; and cover the architectural, permit, and construction plan fees to date. The remaining funds available for the project total approximately \$3.2 million.

In the fall of 2019, the Commission began conversations with the leadership of Westminster and reached an agreement soon after to use part of Westminster’s property for the Commission’s idea of an urban ministry center. Our Commission was excited at the unique opportunity this arrangement afforded the Presbytery. The location is ideal for multiple reasons, there are existing buildings with parking available, and there is an inherent and ongoing relationship to the Presbytery. Westminster then brought The Bill Wilson Center to the table as a potential tenant. The Bill Wilson Center is a well-regarded community-based organization with a proven track record offering a range of services (billwilsoncenter.org). Our three organizations reached the following agreements:

- The Commission would provide the initial funding for the required upgrades and renovations of the two-story Education Building and partner with Westminster to oversee the construction phase.
- Westminster would clear the building of its few existing tenants to make it available for urban ministry, help manage the construction phase, and maintain management and maintenance responsibilities once construction was completed. Westminster also took out two different Synod loans to renovate the small Chapel adjoining the Education

Building and to contribute financially to the overall project. The renovated Chapel would also provide a multi-purpose space available for tenant use.

- The Bill Wilson Center signed a long-term lease that begins when construction is completed, which includes the use of the facilities for the Center for Living with Dying and other services compatible with the neighborhood. This guaranteed a strong presence, long-term stability, income to maintain the facilities, and to strengthen Westminster's ongoing call in the community. Partnering with The Bill Wilson Center also allows both organizations to complement each other's services, with Westminster providing spiritual support in conjunction with The Bill Wilson Center's resources.

The Commission engaged an architectural firm ("Artik") in late 2019 and a general contractor (Bogaard Construction) in 2020 and began an arduous process of fine-tuning, pricing and "value-engineering" the project to bring the projected costs in line with the funds available. This process stripped away virtually anything that wasn't necessary to bring the buildings up to code, allowing us to break ground once our permits were in place. Artik submitted preliminary plans to the City for review in June of 2020, which also initiated the permit process. This process was hampered by City office closures due to the pandemic. We just received our final permit approvals this February 2022.

Our general contractor recently began gathering final bids and we quickly saw that our current funds are insufficient to cover the higher costs. These costs are not due to inaccurate projections. The entire construction industry is experiencing these problems. However, we'll continue to be vigilant in overseeing costs and will try to come under budget, if possible, without compromising the quality of the work.

Our hope is that given the funds from the sale of First Church's property and the loans that Westminster has procured, that the Presbytery would be willing to also contribute to the project to cover the gap in costs. This is an outreach opportunity to address very real needs in our downtown neighborhood, as well as invest in one of our Presbytery's churches. Given our connectional nature, Westminster's well-being contributes to the well-being of the overall Presbytery and the community.

In light of the above, the Commission respectfully requests that the Presbytery Budget \$989,000 to cover the anticipated shortfall on the project.

On behalf of the Downtown San Jose Administrative Commission,

Sharon Rowser, Co-Chair

Carolyn Rosen, Co-Chair

APPENDIX D

The Committee on Ministry has no items for action for the Presbytery. The following is submitted for information, relating to the committee's activities since the May 2022 meeting.

Received as Minister Members:

- The Rev. Paul Fullmer
 - Transfer from Carlisle Presbytery
 - Validated ministry at Mission Hospice in San Jose
- The Rev. Jack Cabaness, Co Pastor Covenant.
 - Approved Presbytery Installation on Sept 25, 2022 at Covenant
 - Approved Presbytery Installation Commission:

Ministers:

Rev. Nan Swanson, HR, Moderator of the Presbytery

Rev. Dr. Libby Boatwright, HR

Rev. Vincent Arishvara, pastor, Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Jose

Rev. Dr. Margaret Boles, Co-pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto

Elders:

Elder Elsa Amboy, Vice-moderator of the Presbytery, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church

Elder Frank Bernstein, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto

Elder Carolyn Rosen, Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos

Appointed:

- Temporary Moderator for Gonzales – Frank Bernstein
- For Exit Interviews for Stone Church – Mark Peake & Frank Bernstein
- Temporary Moderator FPC Mountain View Rev. Larry Thorson

Approved Pastoral Relationships/Contracts/Validated Ministry

- Transitional Pastor Rev. Bruce Rowison at Gonzales
- Transitional Pastor Rev. Larry Thorson, FPC Mountain View (approved as a member of San Francisco Presbytery to serve in our bounds)
- Stated Supply renewed for Rev. Jason Barraca, Lincoln Ave.
- Validated Ministry for Rev. Sammie Evans, Civic Engagement Director at PACT

Approved congregations' work during pastoral vacancies

- Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for First Monterey
- Pastor Nominating Committee for El Estero
- Pastor Nominating Committee for Gonzalez
- Gonzales, Ministry Information Form for Church Leadership Connection
- El Estero, Mission Study
- FPC Mountain View, Ministry Information Form for Church Leadership Connection

Terms of Call Report and Minimum Terms of Call Policy

- 2022 Terms of Call for Clergy serving Congregations report will be mailed to those clergy and to Clerks of Sessions, at their church address. A copy can be mailed to Presbytery Commissioners at their church address upon request.
- In November COM will report the 2023 Minimum terms of call by county (Presbytery Policy PT-6/PS-1) based on 2021 and 2022 COLA.

Wm. Jack Cabaness
One-Page Biography

At the age of eight I wanted to be either a preacher or an astronomer. To me, either path seemed like an acceptable response to the awe and wonder elicited by an unimaginably vast universe. I would read through the religious tracts that my maternal grandmother gave me, and I was also obsessed with Carl Sagan's Cosmos series on PBS.

At the age of ten, I was baptized by my great-uncle Norman Gipson, a church of Christ preacher, and I became very active in a church of Christ youth group. In my junior high years I was a zealous member of the church, even to the extent of knocking on doors and trying to convince the Baptists that they were wrong about baptism.

In my high school years I remained active in youth group but I began harboring doubts about the rigidity and exclusivism of the churches of Christ. In my first year of college I exercised my freedom by not attending any religious services at all, but in my final three years I attended a number of churches and most often attended a more moderate Southern Baptist Church.

In law school I likewise tried a number of churches, and I finally landed at a moderate to liberal Southern Baptist megachurch in Austin, Texas. When I dropped out of law school, one of the Associate Pastors encouraged me to go to seminary, and specifically, a Presbyterian Church (USA) seminary because of the shift to fundamentalism in the Southern Baptist seminaries.

So I enrolled in Union Theological Seminary in Virginia and took courses on the side from the moderate-leaning Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond. I eventually felt that I would be more at home in the Presbyterian Church (USA). To me it was refreshing to understand God's salvation as a gift and not something that had to be earned through herculean self-discipline.

As an ordained PC(USA) pastor, I have served both large and small churches, and I have zig-zagged east and west to accept new calls. While serving a small congregation in Vermont, I met my future wife Emma. She and I went through a difficult journey of infertility that tested our faith and had us each grieving in different ways and at different times.

When we had been in New York for a few years we decided to become foster parents with the hope of moving toward adoption. We got our first and only foster kids on February 14, 2018. At the time Janelle was 3, and Josiah ("Siah") was 2. Their adoption was finalized on November 12, 2020.

As white parents of two black children, we are continuing to seek out diverse communities and collective wisdom. We are excited and hopeful about the possibilities in Palo Alto and the Bay Area.

Rev. Paul M. Fullmer, Ph.D.

Paul M. Fullmer's passion for learning and writing has driven most of his life achievements. After graduating from the University of Southern California and Fuller Theological Seminary, he was ordained at the First Presbyterian Church of Hayward, CA, where he served as Associate Pastor for four years. His passion for learning prompted him to leave the position in pursuit of a doctoral degree at The Graduate Theological Union.

Following the completion of his doctoral dissertation on the Gospel of Mark (*Resurrection in Mark's Literary-Historical Perspective* [T&T Clark, 2007]), Fullmer served for 12 years as Chaplain and Director of Community Service for Lebanon Valley College (LVC) near Hershey, PA. At the College, he coordinated opportunities for worship, service, and interfaith experiences at LVC and taught undergraduate classes on scripture.

In the process of learning ancient Greek, Fullmer published a series of four workbooks designed to help people read New Testament Greek (*Read Greek by Friday* [Wipf & Stock, 2005-2011]). Inspired by the rich architecture of central Pennsylvania, Fullmer also published a pictorial history for the Images of America Series (*Annville Township* [Arcadia, 2011]). He learned about a variety of faith backgrounds by co-hosting a monthly radio show—*You and Your Faith*—with a rabbi in the region.

In 2017 Fullmer relocated to his hometown, Menlo Park, to be closer to his parents and siblings. Seeking to enhance his knowledge of care for seniors, he held positions at three senior care agencies, most recently as Volunteer Coordinator at Mission Hospice & Home Care based in San Mateo.

Fullmer began his current work in healthcare chaplaincy as a 2020-2021 Chaplain Resident at Stanford Hospital where he continues to serve as a Relief Chaplain. The training he gained at Stanford qualified him to return to Mission Hospice & Home Care in the role of Spiritual Care Counselor, working alongside patients' families and faith communities to attend to their spiritual needs at end-of-life.

In his free time, Fullmer enjoys learning Cantonese language and culture. He finds inspiration in the stories and cultural learning he encounters in genealogy and movies.

Minutes from Stated Presbytery Meeting Sept 24, 2022

APPENDIX E

The Presbytery of San Jose				
Ecclesiastical Budget				
		2023	2022	2021
Income				
40100	Per Capita -Current Year	\$153,627.00	\$155,240.00	\$161,560.00
40200	Per Capita-Prior Year			\$0.00
45000	misc. interest			\$0.00
45500	Presbytery Pooled Investments	\$173,900.29	\$101,958.20	\$92,545.80
46000	books			\$0.00
	Community Mission Bin Interest	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	
	Congregational Growth Bin Interest	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	
46300	Per Capita Bin Interest	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
	Total Income	\$417,527.29	\$347,198.20	\$284,105.80
Expenses				
	Personnel Pool	\$12,700.00	\$5,590.00	\$4,000.00
60100	Stated Clerk	\$57,220.00	\$55,220.00	\$53,720.00
60200	Treasurer	\$21,181.00	\$20,431.00	\$18,185.00
60400	SC Travel & Expense	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
60600	Telephone	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
60825	Insurance Beach st	\$16,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
60830	property insurance	\$29,000.00		
60840	Property taxes	\$10,000.00		
61000	Accountant	\$62,756.00	\$59,256.00	\$59,256.00
61005	Payroll taxes	\$13,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
61100	Legal Services	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00
61200	Presbytery Meetings	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
61300	Accountant Retirement	\$6,276.00	\$5,925.00	\$5,925.00
61310	Accountant Benefits	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
61400	Stated clerk Pen / Med	\$20,027.00	\$18,766.00	\$18,766.00
61500	Financial Review	\$16,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
62100	Moderator Expenses	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
62500	Depreciation Expense		\$0.00	\$0.00
62600	Emergency Assistance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
	GA Travel Pool		\$0.00	\$0.00
Committee Expenses				
63100	Preparation for Ministry	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
63200	Committee on Ministry	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
	Community Mission Projects	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
	Church Growth Ministry	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
	Other committees			\$0.00
	Sub-total	\$361,060.00	\$292,088.00	\$226,752.00
66100	General Assembly Per Capita	\$36,907.95	\$34,851.38	\$36,270.22
66200	Synod Per Capita	\$19,559.34	\$20,258.82	\$21,083.58
	Total Expenses	\$417,527.29	\$347,198.20	\$284,105.80
Per Capita Assessment				
	Presbytery	\$25.93	\$25.80	\$25.80
	Synod	\$5.22	\$5.22	\$5.22
	General Assembly	\$9.85	\$8.98	\$8.98
	Total	\$41.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
	members	3747	3881	4039

Minutes from Stated Presbytery Meeting Sept 24, 2022

APPENDIX E

	Presbytery of San Jose Program budget	2023	2022	2021
	REVENUE			
	Congregational Mission Giving	\$150,000.00	\$180,000.00	\$180,000.00
50050	Synod Block Grant	\$44,709.00	\$44,982.00	\$44,574.00
50150	A Penke Fund	\$8,500.00	\$7,400.00	\$6,700.00
50153	Walker, Lundy, Miesse	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
50200	Hunger Action Enabler Grant	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
50250	Peacemaking Offering - Presby Portion	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
50333	Immanuel House	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
50350	Presbytery Pooled Investment Income	\$166,691.00	\$149,533.00	\$150,003.00
50360	Cornerstone Rent	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00
50400	Congregational Growth Bin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
50460	Community Mission Bin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
50463	Evergreen Custodial Income	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00
		\$451,900.00	\$463,915.00	\$523,277.00
	EXPENSES			
	YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS			
60230	Summer Camp/ Scholarships	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
60240	Ethnic Small Ch Scholarship	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
60250	APCE Participation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
60260	Youth Triennium	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
	TOTAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS	\$4,900.00	\$4,900.00	\$4,900.00
	YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP UNALLOCATED			
60310	Unallocated Youth Scholarship	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	TOTAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP UNALLOCATED	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	ADULT SCHOLARSHIP REPRESENTATION &			
60620	Clergy of Color retreat	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
60630	Leadership People of Color	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
60640	Leadership Women	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
60650	Leadership Variously abled	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
	TOTAL ADULT SCHOLARSHIP	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
	ADULT SCHOLARSHIPS UNALLOCATED			
60910	Unallocated Adult Scholarships	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
	TOTAL ADULT SCHOLARSHIPS UNALLOCATED	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
	FUTURE SCHOLARSHIPS RESERVE			
60110	Future Scholarship Reserve	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
	TOTAL FUTURE SCHOLARSHIPS RESERVE	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

Minutes from Stated Presbytery Meeting Sept 24, 2022

APPENDIX E

	Presbyery of San Jose Program budget	2023	2022	2021
	VISION GRANTS			
61210	Consultants (CG)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
61260	Crisis Intervention (COM)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
61280	Church Growth Seminar	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
61295	Unallocated Vision Grants	\$8,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
	TOTAL VISION GRANTS	\$11,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
	CHURCH GROWTH			
61320	Evergreen Presbyterian Church	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00
61340	Misc Cong Development	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
61345	Indonesian Christian Church	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
61350	Thai Fellowship of San Jose	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
61355	Comunidad Latino	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
61361	NWC Wednesday Revive	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
61362	NWC Beer Church	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
61363	NWC Sweaty Sheep	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
61365	Congregational Worship resources	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	TOTAL CHURCH GROWTH	\$36,000.00	\$37,000.00	\$37,000.00
	MISSION AND OUTREACH			
61420	Mission Trip	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
61430	Local Outreach Program	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
61435	PACT Support	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
61440	Task Force misc expenses	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	TOTAL MISSION AND OUTREACH	\$4,300.00	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00
	REPRESENTATION & EMPOWERMENT			
61520	Seminary Internships	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
61540	People of Color	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
61550	Women	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
61560	Variously abled	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
	TOTAL REPRESENTATION & EMPOWERMENT	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
	EDUCATION			
61670	UCCM Santa Cruz	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
61672	UCCM Stanford	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
	TOTAL EDUCATION	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,500.00
	PEACE AND JUSTICE			
61720	Emerging Issues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
61726	Grants	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00
61738	Scholarships	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00
61739	Programs/Speakers	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00
61753	Peacemaking Advocate	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$4,800.00
61765	Presbyterian Washington Office	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00

Minutes from Stated Presbytery Meeting Sept 24, 2022

APPENDIX E

	Presbytery of San Jose Program budget	2023	2022	2021
	MINISTRY			
61810	Pastor Support	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
	TOTAL MINISTRY	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
	GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE			
61901	Hunger Action Advocate	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
61904	Safe Church	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
61905	Director of Communications	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00
61910	Stewardship Training	\$6,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
61911	FA Com Expense	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
61915	Immanuel House	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
62100	Rent	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
62102	Insurance	\$0.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
62103	Maintenance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
62104	Utilities	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
62106	Taxes	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
62210	Postage	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
62120	Telephone	\$2,500.00	\$3,925.00	\$3,925.00
62130	Supplies	\$12,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00
62140	Professional	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
62150	Support Staff Cont Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
62160	Equipment Purchase/Lease/Maintenance	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
62210	WWW Site Maintenance - Council	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
62211	congrational growth projects	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
62212	community mission projects	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
62220	misc council expenes	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
	Presbytery Staff	\$236,700.00	\$236,700.00	\$232,700.00
	Personnel Pool	\$16,000.00	\$5,590.00	\$5,152.00
	TOTAL GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$370,200.00	\$376,215.00	\$431,777.00
	Total Total Expenses	\$451,900.00	\$463,915.00	\$523,277.00

APPENDIX F

Financial Affairs Report

Financial Affairs has met monthly since the May Presbytery meeting.

We have reviewed and approved leases for Westhope, Westminster, Stone Church, the Presbytery Office and Cornerstone.

We reviewed and approved an equity sharing agreement between Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian and pastor.

We set per capita for 2023 at \$41, based on the per capita amounts for General Assembly and Synod.

The market has been rough the last few months. Thankfully, since much of our investments are in lower risk areas, YTD we have had less than -3% return on investment, compared with -15% of the Dow Jones.

We met with the leadership of the San Jose Downtown Urban Ministry Project Commission and a representative from Westminster to receive an extensive report on the project thus far, the financial effect on the ministry of Westminster as a result of the construction being behind schedule due to permitting delays. We reviewed in detail the costs and projections.

We support the commission's request to the presbytery for up to \$1.5 million in funding to complete the renovation project, including \$80,000 in funds available to Westminster paid in quarterly amounts as needed until rental income resumes. Without these additional funds, Westminster will not be able to use the facility in the future for rental income, cutting more than \$70,000 net income from their budget with potentially catastrophic effects. Because of our responsible investment practices, our expectation is that we can continue to rely on income from the remaining investments to support our ongoing and future budget needs.

We have also had extensive conversations pertaining to the best management of the many properties under the Presbytery Office responsibility in different ways. Properties have varying aspects managed by commissions, local congregations, validated ministries, and the Presbytery Office staff. We are investigating the breadth of work that goes into such management hopefully to recommend best practices or opportunities to manage more efficiently. There are no conclusions at this time.

We also received a preliminary request from Urban Works Center of Inclusivity of Santa Cruz (formerly Sweaty Sheep). At the time of this writing, the committee had not had the time to review the request, but will at its monthly meeting, Wednesday, September 21. Finally, the committee has reviewed and recommends approval of the Ecclesiastical and Mission Budgets for the Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted, Lindsay Woods Wong, chair

Annual Report of Polity and Government Sub-Committee of Presbytery Coordinating
Council
Submitted by Carol Holsinger, chair

Thank you to committee members Bryan Franzen, Alice Thorn, Lindsay Woods-Wong.

On February 5, 2022, Polity and Government (P&G) held an informal Conversation with Clerks (of Session) after the Presbytery meeting via Zoom. Twelve people attended.

February 10, 2022, was the deadline for submission of all Statistical Reports. All churches met the deadline.

On March 19, 2022, P&G held a formal Clerk Training via Zoom, focusing on three subjects: reviewing the Clerk's Handbook, recognizing the importance of each church's Manual of Operations, and noting updates about electronic meetings. Seventeen people attended.

On May 14, P&G hosted an in-person Session Records Review where 11 of 28 churches reviewed each other's records. Other options were to meet with another clerk or a P&G member or to drop off records at the Presbytery Office. The bulk of the work of P&G since then has been following up with remaining churches to review their records.

As of the writing of this report, these churches have not had their records reviewed:

Bonny Doon (2019, 2020, 2021)
San Jose Cornerstone (2021)
San Jose Foothill (2021)
San Jose Trinity (2021)
Watsonville Westview (2019, 2020, 2021)

As of the writing of this report, these churches have had their records reviewed:

Aptos Saint Andrew	San Jose Evergreen
Gilroy	San Jose Santa Teresa Hills
Gonzales	San Jose Stone
Los Gatos	San Jose TAPC
Monterey El Estero	San Jose Westminster
Monterey First	Santa Clara
Mountain View	Santa Cruz Trinity
Palo Alto Covenant	Saratoga Westhope
Palo Alto First	Sunnyvale
Salinas Lincoln Avenue	Sunnyvale Daesung
Salinas Northminster	
Salinas Saint Philips	
San Martin	

Coordinating Council of the Presbytery of San Jose

Coordinating Council met on October 27, 2022 by Zoom

Actions Taken:

Nominating Committee: Carlo Panighetti

The Coordinating Council nominates the following people for the Nominating Committee:

- Charlie May Class of 2025.
- Irene Pak Lee, Chair (currently serving class of 2024)

Note: other continuing members include:

Anne McAnelly Class of 2024

Evie Macway Class of 2023

Carlo Panighetti Class of 2023

Approved a motion to meet via zoom through 2023

Approved a motion for the Feb 2023 Presbytery meeting to meet via Zoom.

Informational Items not included in Committee reports:

CPM: Andy Wong The Presbytery has five candidates for ministry under care, and two others who are certified as ready to receive a call.

Stated Clerk's Report, Erica Rader:

We are grateful and we recognize Nan Swanson's years of service, 2 year as Vice-Moderator and one year as Moderator during a time of transition and new ways of meeting and doing ministry.

We are grateful for Lynn Viale's service as the Chair of the Coordinating Council and she helped us reorient the Council as a body that engages and helps the Presbytery work together through new ideas and challenges.

Lynn Viale expressed gratitude that this council "starts with yes" and works with a mindset of abundance rather than scarcity. The council's specific vision from 2016 (connections, resources, ministries, and hope) is fulfilled.

Update on Urban Works of Santa Cruz: a nonprofit corporation formed to support the multitude of ministries associated with Sweaty Sheep of Santa Cruz. The 501c3 designation of Urban Works is mid-process. The board is predominantly Presbyterian and affiliated with Presbytery of San Jose.

An informal proposal for an Inclusivity Center was introduced at the September Presbytery meeting, and a 4-page brochure was added to the docket. That particular real estate opportunity was lost, but Urban Works SC is seeking other opportunities to purchase property for a scaled-back version of the project.

Council members discussed that it would be appropriate to call a special presbytery meeting in the event that Urban Works asks for resources to buy a new property, after any proposal is vetted by Financial Affairs or Council.

Council discussed the development of a thoughtful strategy of land investments.

In order to begin forming a vision of how to decide where bigger investments will be made, such as purchasing property, two visitors will be invited to the next council meeting for information gathering.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Northern California

Hardy Kim, News from PDA: there is still a PDA volunteer site in Oroville at Trinity Presbyterian Church there. They're having trouble getting volunteers to Oroville. Look up PDA Oroville for opportunities to be hands-on involved in the work of PDA.

Update from Sunnyvale: Worship Collective

The Intersections evening worship service at Sunnyvale Pres. is closing to give way to a new project that will meet 2x month on Wednesdays starting January 2023. Open to entire presbytery, this project will seek to write original praise music and poetry. Working title is "Progressive Contemporary Worship Collective."

Seeking Technology Experts

Annanda Barclay is seeking people in tech or in automation who are interested to speak on upcoming podcasts on the topic "Technology automation and the moral imagination." This is a project of Annanda's IRB research fellowship (in partnership with Auburn Seminary and Sunnyvale Church.)

Report of the Committee on Nominations – November, 2022

Moderator of Presbytery Elsa Amboy, 2023 (previously elected)
Vice-Moderator/Moderator Elect Andy Rausch, 2024 (new nomination)

Council-at-large Nominations

Jane Esterline	TE (First, Palo Alto)	Class of 2025	(1 st term)
Nan Swanson	TE(HR) Serving as past Moderator		Chair

Continuing Members of Council:

Jenni Bales	TE (Evergreen)	Class of 2024	(2 nd term)
Lynn Viale	RE (Gilroy)	Class of 2024	(2 nd term)
Jane Odell	RE (St. Andrew)	Class of 2024	(1 st term)
Hardy Kim	TE (Sunnyvale)	Class of 2024	(2 st term)
James Lee	RE (Daesung)	Class of 2023	(2 nd term)
Martha Thorson	TE (At-large)	Class of 2023	(1 st term)

Committee on Ministry (COM) Nominations

Lizanne Reynolds	RE (Covenant)	Class of 2025	(2 nd term)
Mark Peake	TE (First, Monterey)	Class of 2025	(2 nd term)
Chair			
Chris Hasegawa	RE (First, Monterey)	Class of 2025	(2 nd term)

Continuing Members of COM:

Deb Troester	TE (Santa Teresa Hills)	Class of 2024	(1 st term)
Jane Odell	RE (St. Andrew)	Class of 2024	(2 nd term)
Horace Hines	RE (Santa Teresa Hills)	Class of 2024	(1 st term)
Dave Heacock	RE (Los Gatos)	Class of 2024	(1 st term)
Sharon Rowser	RE (Foothill)	Class of 2024	(1 st term)
George Minerva	TE (HR)	Class of 2023	(2 nd term)
Frank Bernstein	RE (Covenant, PA)	Class of 2023	(2 nd term)
Dennis Woodsmall	TE (First, Santa Clara)	Class of 2023	(2 nd term)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) Nominations

Bruce Reyes-Chow	TE (At-large)	Class of 2022	(2nd term)
------------------	---------------	---------------	------------

Continuing Members of CPM:

Steve Nelson	RE (Stone, SJ)	Class of 2024	(1 st term)
Andy Wong	TE (Foothill)	Class of 2024	(2nd term)
Robby Olson	TE (At-large)	Class of 2024	(2nd term)
Chair			
Bowles, Margie	RE (Los Gatos)	Class of 2023	(2nd term)

Financial Affairs Committee Nominations

Sammie Evans	TE (At-large)	Class of 2025	(2nd term)
Dave Macway	RE (Trinity SC)	Class of 2025	(2nd term)
Chair			

Continuing Members of Financial Affairs:

Trevor Van Laar	TE (Gilroy)	Class of 2024	(1st term)
James Lee	RE (Daesung)	Class of 2024	(1st term)
Lindsay Woods Wong	TE (Foothill)	Class of 2023	(1st term)
David Burgess	RE (Westminster, SJ)	Class of 2023	(2nd term)

Personnel Committee Nominations

David McCreath	TE (HR)	Class of 2025	(2 nd term)
----------------	---------	---------------	------------------------

Continuing Members of Personnel:

Sandy Petznick	RE (St. Andrew)	Class of 2024	(2nd term)
Lela Noble	RE (First Palo Alto)	Class of 2024	(1st term)
Deborah Crim	RE (Stone)	Class of 2023	(1st term)
Denise Martin	RE (Gilroy)	Class of 2023	(2nd term)

Committee on Representation and Empowerment

Annanda Barclay	TE (At large)	Class of 2025	(2nd term)
Ruth Fong	RE (Los Gatos)	Class of 2025	(2nd term)

Continuing Members of CORE

Joe Sohn	TE(Cornerstone)	Class of 2024	(1 st term)
Elsa Amboy	RE (Sunnyvale)	Class of 2024	(1 st term)
Eric Min	RE (Daesung)	Class of 2024	(1 st term)
Katheryn McGinnis	TE (Trinity, SC)	Class of 2023	(1st term)

Continuing Member of Self-Development of People Committee

Ruth Kuo	TE (At-large)	Class of 2024	(2nd term)
Carol Holsinger	RE (Covenant, PA)	Class of 2023	(1st term)

Ordination Exam Readers Nomination

Andy Wong	TE (Foothill)	Class of 2023
Alice Thorn	RE (Stone)	Class of 2023 (alternate)

Permanent Judicial Commission Nomination (Each member serves one six-year term)

Jane Esterline	TE (First, Palo Alto)	Class of 2029
----------------	-----------------------	---------------

Continuing Members of PJC

Diana Gibson	TE (At large)	Class of 2028
David Burgess	RE (Westminster SJ)	Class of 2028
Jim Bennett	TE (At large)	Class of 2026
Eileen Mihm	RE (St. Andrew)	Class of 2026
Ned Finkle	RE (Los Gatos)	Class of 2024
Mark Peake	TE (First, Monterey)	Class of 2024

Synod Commissioners Nomination

Nan Notor <i>Previously elected</i>	RE (Westminster)	Class of 2022 (2nd term)
--	------------------	--------------------------

Continuing Synod Commissioners

Bob Bowles <i>Previously elected</i>	TE (HR)	Class of 2024 (2nd term)
Carolyn Rosen	RE (Los Gatos)	Class of 2024 (2nd term)
Jenni Bales	TE (Evergreen)	Class of 2023 (1st term)

Investigative Committee Pool (Each member serves one 6-year term)

Anne McAnelly	TE (St Andrew, Aptos)	Class of 2028
Claudia Hamm	RE (Stone)	Class of 2028
George Minerva	TE (HR)	Class of 2028

Continuing Members of Investigative Pool

Mohan Iyer	RE (First Palo Alto)	Class of 2026
Charlie May	RE (Trinity, Santa Cruz)	Class of 2026
Barry Vickrey	RE (Sunnyvale)	Class of 2024
Annanda Barclay	TE (First, Palo Alto)	Class of 2024
Evie Macway	TE (Santa Teresa Hills)	Class of 2024

Annual Report from Stated Clerk

Manual of Administrative Operations

The Presbytery of San Jose has documents which form the Manual of Administration and are available at <https://sanjosepby.org/policies>

- Standing Rules, revised Sep 25 2021
- PS-1 PT-6 Minimum Terms of Call, Nov 2021
- PS-2 Annual Review of Compensation
- PS-3 Job Description Performance Review
- PS-4 Part-Time Pastors
- PS-5 Tentmaking Ministry
- PS-6 Use of Study Leave
- PS-7 Sabbaticals
- PS-8 Family Care Leave
- PS-9 Medical Leave
- PS-10 Employment Rights for Chaplains
- PS-11 PT-1 Dissolving Pastoral Relationships
- PT-1 PS-11 Dissolving Pastoral Relationships
- PT-2 Relationship Between Congregations and Former Pastors
- PT-3 Interim Pastors, Nov 2021
- PT-3a Appendix A
- PT-3b Appendix B
- PT-4 Pastor and Associate Pastor Nominating Process
- PT-5 Equal Employment Opportunity in Ministry
- PT-6 PS-1 Minimum Terms of Call, Nov 2021
- PT-7 Receiving Clergy from other Denominations
- PT-8 PNC, APNC Liaison, Nov 2021
- ML-1 Minister Members-at-Large
- ML-2 Validated Ministries
- ML-3 EC-4 Ministers Not Related to Congregation
- HR-1 The Receipt of Honorable Retired Ministers
- HR-2 Presbytery's Relationship to Its Retired Ministers
- HR-3 Pastor Emeritus
- HR-4 ML-4 Parish Associates
- EC-1 Ethical Conduct for Ordained Officers
- EC-2 Sexual Misconduct Prevention, amended Nov 2018
- EC-3 Misconduct Reporting Procedure
- EC-4 ML-3 Ministers Not Related to Congregation
- EC-5 Use of Title Minister
- EC-6 Life Threatening Illnesses

The Presbytery utilizes the Synod of the Pacific for payroll and personnel services and has adopted the personnel policies of the Synod which can be found here:

<https://synodpacific.org/synod-administrative-manual/>

Insurance Coverage

The Presbytery of San Jose has insured property and liability through the Insurance Board. As the Insurance Board doesn't insure watercraft, the "Salty Sheep" catamaran is insured with a specialty broker, Markel American Insurance.

Financial Review

We are currently in process with a review of our 2021 financial activities with a new auditing firm, SD Mayer & Associates and we will report results in February 2023.

Review of Presbytery Minutes

The approved minutes of the Presbytery of San Jose have been reviewed by the Synod of the Pacific up to the Stated Meeting of May 2022.

Permanent Judicial Commission

There are no judicial actions to report.

Current and Former PJC Members, as of October 2022

Burgess, David	Westminster	RE	2028
Gibson, Diana	At large	TE	2028
Bennett, Jim	At large	TE	2026
Mihm, Eileen	St. Andrew	RE	2026
Finkle, Ned	Los Gatos	RE	2024
Peake, Mark	First, Monterey	TE	2024
Reynolds, Lizanne	Covenant	RE	2022
Stock, Stephen	Los Gatos	RE	2022
Burgess, David	Westminster	RE	2020
Gibson, Diana	At large	TE	2020
Rogers, Barbara	Westview	RE	2020
Bowles, Bob	HR	TE	2018
Kwon, Young K	HR	TE	2018
Henry, Ken	Stone	TE	2018
Johnson, John	Gilroy	RE	2016

Report on Members of Continuing Administrative Commissions

Watsonville AC: Regarding the property and resources from the former UPC Watsonville

Denise Martin, RE, Gilroy (Chair)
Charlie May, RE, Trinity SJ
Cory Pena, RE, First Monterey
Trevor Van Laar, TE, Gilroy
Samantha Evans, TE, Validated Ministry/PACT
Lizanne Reynolds, RE, Covenant
Dan Hoffman TE, Westview

Downtown San Jose Urban Ministry AC: Regarding the reinvestment of the property and resources from the former First Presbyterian San Jose into downtown urban ministry.

Sharon Rowser, RE, Foothill (Chair)
Carolyn Rosen, RE, Los Gatos
Steve Nelson, RE, Stone
Don Choi, TE, at-large
Jenni Bales, TE, Evergreen



Synod of the Pacific Take-Home Piece

**125th Stated Assembly
Zoom Video Conference
October 6-7, 2022**

The following notes are for commissioners' own use and for reporting to presbyteries. These are not official minutes.

1. On Thursday morning, nine new Synod commissioners were installed – six who began in the spring and three just starting their terms. The newest commissioners and several new presbytery staff participated in a “Welcome to the Synod” orientation on Sept. 22, which was led by Synod Stated Clerk, Kathy Runyeon, with the help of Synod Executive, Nancy Martin Vincent, and rising Synod Moderator, Nannette Notor.
2. Synod Executive Nancy Martin Vincent (MWS, SFR) and Synod Stated Clerk Kathy Runyeon (MWS, SFR) both reported on the first in-person gathering of the presbytery executives and stated clerks in three years. This gathering, held the last week of September, was appreciated by all who were able to attend. The time together included support, fellowship and education for all, plus the clerks' reviews of presbytery minutes.
3. On Thursday, Synod approved motions updating the Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation of Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center (ZPPCC), at the request of the ZPPCC Board of Directors. Two thirds of the ZPPCC Board are elected by this Synod, and the rest by the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii.
4. Deborah Wright (MWS, SFR) from PneuMatrix, and previously an executive in Stockton Presbytery, reported on how a Synod of the Pacific grant provided the seed for what has now grown into a nationwide project helping churches reimagine ways to create sustainable ministries.
5. Friday morning plenary began with worship, including celebration of the Lord's Supper and an offering of \$2275 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Outgoing Moderator, Kaye Whitney (MWS, RDW), shared a moving sermon calling all of us to pray for one another. Nannette Notor (RE, SJO) was installed as Synod Moderator and Bob Stebe (MWS, CAS) as Synod Vice Moderator.
6. Christine Long, Board of Pensions Church Consultant, shared resources and opportunities the Board of Pensions provides to congregations and mid councils of the PCUSA. A dues increase of 2% beginning January of 2023 will help in meeting the rising costs of medical care.
7. Stephen Kliewer (MWS, EOR) took time away from a conference at Ghost Ranch to report on a plethora of actions taken by General Assembly this summer. Kathy Runyeon shared additional info from GA, including a wonderful report on Synod minutes reviewed by GA, and pointed to many GA resources which may be helpful.

October Synod Assembly Report

8. Many resources, including the documents needed for Synod Assembly, are now available on the Synod website, www.synodpacific.org, at the tab related to Synod Assembly - Plenary and Committees.
9. At several times over the two-day meeting, attendees of the Synod Assembly were split into small break-out groups for fellowship and to reflect on questions related to Synod's Mission and Vision and reports from GA.
10. *Thank you!* and *Congratulations!* to the Rev. Phil Price who has taken a new call in Kansas. He has been wonderful as Recording Clerk for the Synod Assemblies, and we now seek to replace him. (At this meeting, two persons helped cover those duties to draft the Take Home Piece and to take notes and format minutes.)
11. The 2023 Synod Assemblies are scheduled for May 4-5, by Zoom, and October 4-6, in person, we hope!

Annual Review of Minister Member Rolls with the Office of General Assembly

Minister Roll and Status

Presbytery of San Jose November 1, 2022

<u>Name</u>		<u>Office of General Assembly Status Code</u>	
Vincent	Arishvara	101	Pastor
Jack	Cabaness	101	Pastor
Bryan	Franzen	101	Pastor
Tae Jin	Hahn	101	Pastor
Daniel J	Hoffman	101	Pastor
Hardy H	Kim	101	Pastor
Frederick	Lee	101	Pastor
Anne H	McAnelly	101	Pastor
Katheryn Anne	McGinnis	101	Pastor
Mark S	Peake	101	Pastor
Andrew Harp	Rausch	101	Pastor
Joseph	Sohn	101	Pastor
Erik	Swanson	101	Pastor
Deborah Lee	Troester	101	Pastor
Trevor	Van Laar	101	Pastor
David G	Watermulder	101	Pastor
Andrew Yung-An	Wong	101	Pastor
Lindsay Woods	Wong	101	Pastor
Dennis G	Woodsmall	101	Pastor
Karin	Hejmanowski	103	Associate Pastor
Irene Pak	Lee	103	Associate Pastor
Evelyn Bolin	Macway	108	Transitional Pastor
Jennifer	Bales	108	Supply Pastor
Ted	Esaki	108	Supply Pastor
Jane	Esterline	108	Transitional Pastor
Jason	Barraca	751/108	Army Chaplain/ Supply Pastor
Robert	Olson	301	Evangelist or Organizing Pastor
Joseph Shu Lin	Lee	302	Presbytery Executive
Erica Marie	Rader	303/108	Stated Clerk/ Supply Pastor
Han Ho	Kim	501	Pastor serving other denomination
Stephen	Norman	501	Pastor serving other denomination
Joong-Won Peter	Kim	503	Assoc Pastor serving other denom
Diana Clara	Gibson	562	Admin officer/ecumenical institution
Duncan	Hanson	565	Staff/educational institution
Geoff	Browning	641	Pastor/Chaplain Educ. Institution
Molly	Logan	641	Pastor/Chaplain Educ. Institution
James Brinks	Bennett	644	University faculty
Karen	Peterson-Iyer	644	University faculty

Annual Review of Minister Member Rolls with the Office of General Assembly

I Sil	Yoon	644	University faculty
Douglass Mcleod	Crocker	648	College/University Student
Paul	Fullmer	701	Chaplain serving institution
Ruth En-Jen	Kuo	701	Chaplain serving institution
Chris	Williams	701	Chaplain serving institution
Christopher	Hansen	761	Navy Chaplain
Ryan	Althaus	791	Minister in Validated Ministry
Annanda	Barclay	791	Minister in Validated Ministry
Samantha Lynn	Evans	791	Minister in Validated Ministry
Martha H	Thorson	791	Minister in Validated Ministry
Dong Sung	Ahn	797	Minister at large
Stephanie Lutz	Allen	797	Minister at large
John M	Burke	797	Minister at large
Dong Ho	Choi	797	Minister at large
Rebecca	Dix	797	Minister at large
Kathleen	Eschen-Pipes	797	Minister at large
Lemuel F	Ignacio	797	Minister at large
Taelor Tae	Kim	797	Minister at large
Sung Hoon	Kim	797	Minister at large
William R	Lane	797	Minister at large
Jae Guen	Lee	797	Minister at large
Sharon	LeClaire	797	Minister at large
Stella	Matusiewicz	797	Minister at large
James Oliver	Nelson	797	Minister at large
Marjorie L	Pearson	797	Minister at large
Brian Dn	Person	797	Minister at large
Lee	Purkey	797	Minister at large
Bruce S	Reyes-Chow	797	Minister at large
Craig Scott	Roberts	797	Minister at large
Andrew Lengchen	Tsai	797	Minister at large
Andrew	Yoo	797	Minister at large
Debra	Baker	299	Honorably Retired
James	Bender	299	Honorably Retired
Byron L	Bland	299	Honorably Retired
Elizabeth T	Boatwright	299	Honorably Retired
Margaret Willis	Boles	299	Honorably Retired
Robert Samuel	Bowles	299	Honorably Retired
Timothy R	Boyer	299	Honorably Retired
H Dale	Bracey	299	Honorably Retired
David Ernest	Bradley	299	Honorably Retired
Edward E	Breeden	299/108	Honorably Retired/ Supply Pastor
John S	Bristol	299	Honorably Retired

Annual Review of Minister Member Rolls with the Office of General Assembly

Samuel Ji Woong	Choi	299	Honorably Retired
Richard J	Dosker	299	Honorably Retired
George	Doyal	299	Honorably Retired
Kent David	Drescher	299	Honorably Retired
George V	Erickson	299	Honorably Retired
Thomas	Gardner	299	Honorably Retired
David C	Hansen	299	Honorably Retired
Nancy	Harrington	299	Honorably Retired
William R	Harvey	299	Honorably Retired
Mark	Hollingsworth	299	Honorably Retired
Stephen C	Hsieh	299	Honorably Retired
Judith	Joy	299	Honorably Retired
Kyung Jae	Kim	299	Honorably Retired
Insik	Kim	299	Honorably Retired
David Kwang	Kim	299	Honorably Retired
Young Han	Kim	299	Honorably Retired
Stephen D	Knowles	299	Honorably Retired
Peter G	Koopman	299	Honorably Retired
Young Ko	Kwon	299	Honorably Retired
Young Bai	Kwon	299	Honorably Retired
Charles	Lewis	299	Honorably Retired
Jack Clayton	Longley	299	Honorably Retired
Brian	Lyke	299	Honorably Retired
David William	McCreath	299	Honorably Retired
Bruce	Menser	299	Honorably Retired
George V	Minerva	299	Honorably Retired
Edward G	Momrow	299	Honorably Retired
Karla J	Norton	299	Honorably Retired
Marjorie D	Palmer	299	Honorably Retired
Bruce	Rowlison	299/108	Honorably Retired/ Supply Pastor
Lyle D	Schmidt	299	Honorably Retired
Kenton W	Smith	299	Honorably Retired
Richard L	Spencer	299	Honorably Retired
Nan Crawford	Swanson	299	Honorably Retired
Heihachiro	Takarabe	299	Honorably Retired
Tiat Han	Tan	299	Honorably Retired
Marvalee Anne	Tyler	299	Honorably Retired
Lawrence C	Vilardo	299	Honorably Retired
Darrell W	Yeane	299	Honorably Retired

Total Minister Count 118

Annual Review of Minister Member Rolls with the Office of General Assembly

Necrology

Benton M

Newcomer

December 20, 2021

Peter G

Koopman

January 10, 2022

Jay Rodney

Bartow

February 22, 2022

Action items:

Committee on Ministry will report on the calculation of the clergy minimum salary at the November 7, 2022 meeting

Informational items:

1. Supply Contract between El Estero and Ted Esaki was approved
2. Stone Church Mission Study was approved
3. Covenant Palo Alto: Jack Cabaness was installed as Co-Pastor of Covenant Church on September 25, 2022 and subsequently Margaret Boles has retired from her position as Co-pastor effective October 31, 2022.

GA 225 Amendments Notification

In our Standing Meetings of 2023 our Presbytery will vote on the proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the PC(USA) which were approved by the 225th General Assembly. The full text of the amendments can be found at <https://sanjosepby.org/>

We will address these amendments with recommendations from our Coordinating Council/Sub Committee Polity and Government.

Our usual practice is to provide a first and second reading of amendments to policies and standing rules. This notice serves as your first reading. The following is a brief synopsis of the amendments, prepared by a mid-council association colleague. Please refer to the full text of the amendments for full information.

- 22-A F-1.0302c THE CATHOLICITY OF THE CHURCH (POL-16 1a)
Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity
- 22-AA W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE (TWE-05 7)
Adds “particular specialized pastoral care” rather than adding to an existing list of such specialties
- 22-B F-1.0404 OPENNESS (POL-16 1b)
Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity
- 22-BB W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE (TWE-05 8)
Adds clarifying language in a section on “services of wholeness” to better express a Reformed understanding of those services
- 22-C G-1.0501 MEETINGS (ROD-06 2)
Establishes Robert’s Rules of Order (RONR) as the default parliamentary authority for congregational meetings, and authorizes electronic congregational meetings
- 22-CC D-3.0106 WHEN JURISDICTION ENDS (ROD-05)
Allows a disciplinary process to continue after an accused has renounced jurisdiction

- 22-D G-1.0503 BUSINESS PROPER TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS (ROD-06 1)
Adds receiving a disciplinary decision against a church member (as opposed to a minister) to the list of proper business at a congregational meeting
- 22-DD D-10.0302 IF CHARGES ARE TO BE FILED (ROD-04 3)
Grammatical change to an existing provision of the Rules of Discipline
- 22-E G-2.0503 CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP (POL-07)
Removes “honorably” before “retired” as the category for retired ministers
- 22-EE D-10.0303 PETITION FOR REVIEW (ROD-04 1)
Amends the current Rules of Discipline to include notifying the person accused if no charges will be filed (instead of just the person(s) who made the accusation)
- 22-F G-2.0505a(1) TRANSFER OF MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS (POL-15)
Adds the requirement to consult with the other denomination when receiving immigrant pastors without otherwise acceptable PC(USA) ordination educational requirements
- 22-FF AMENDING THE USE OF “THE ACCUSED” IN THE CURRENT RULES OF DISCIPLINE (ROD-04 2)
Changes “the accused” to “the person accused” wherever it occurs in the current rules of Discipline
- 22-G G-2.0603 PURPOSE OF INQUIRY (HSB-05 2)
Adds the requirement of boundary training during the inquiry phase of preparation for ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament
- 22-GG REPLACING THE CURRENT “RULES OF DISCIPLINE” WITH A NEW “CHURCH DISCIPLINE” SECTION (ROD-03)
Proposed a complete revision of the Rules of Discipline,
- 22-H G-2.0605 OVERSIGHT (HSB-05 1)
Adds a requirement of sessions to “report to the presbytery of any matters of sexual misconduct” of their members who are enrolled as inquirers or candidates
- 22-I G-2.0804 TERMS OF CALL (HSB-06)
Adds the requirement of a minimum of twelve weeks of paid family leave in terms of call for all installed pastors/associate pastors

- 22-J G-2.1001 FUNCTIONS (MC-08)
Adds language allowing Commissioned Pastors to be commissioned to more than one validated ministry at a time
- 22-K G-2.1002 TRAINING, EXAMINING, AND COMMISSIONING (HSB-05 3)
Adds the requirement of boundary training for those elders seeking to be Commissioned Pastors
- 22-L G-2.1103 CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS (HSB-05 4)
Adds the requirement of boundary training for those elders seeking to be certified as Christian Educators
- 22-M G-3.0104 OFFICERS (MC-05)
Adds language that “it is appropriate” to adopt procedures for electronic session meetings
- 22-N G-3.0105 MEETINGS (ROD-06 3)
Adds provision that all councils and their commissions and committees may meet electronically
- 22-O G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION (HSB-05 9)
Adds language regarding boundary training, including sexual abuse to the requirement for sexual misconduct policies required of councils
- 22-P G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION (POL-10)
Adds the requirement of an antiracism policy to the required policies of councils, and clarifies other language in that list
- 22-Q G-3.0303c RELATIONS WITH SESSIONS (MC-03)
Authorizes presbyteries to establish minimum requirements for severance packages in terms of call
- 22-R G-3.0401 COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES (MC-06)
Authorizes synods to enroll those serving terms in elected offices of the synod as additional members of the synod as a way to fulfill principles of participation and representation
- 22-S G-4.0301 TRUST AND CONFIDENTIALITY (ROD-07)
Expands and clarifies “confidentiality” requirements for ministers and commissioned pastors
- 22-T W-3.0205 CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (TWE-05 1)
Adds administration of the sacrament of Baptism to the list of appropriate actions following the proclamation of forgiveness in a service of worship
- 22-U W-3.0409 THEOLOGY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (TWE-05 2)
Adds “when appropriate” to the recommended act of providing an invitation to baptismal preparation for those who come to the table who are unbaptized

- 22-V W-3.0414 COMMUNION (TWE-05 4)
Removes the current requirement that a minister of the Word and Sacrament lead the prayer of thanksgiving that concludes the Lord's Supper liturgy
- 22-W W-4.0403 ORDER OF WORSHIP (TWE-06)
Adds a sentence about "signs and symbols of blessing" to the section on ordination and installation services
- 22-X W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP (TWE-05 5)
Adds a sentence on the importance of household worship in faith formation in the Reformed tradition
- 22-Y W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP (TWE-05 6)
Adds an additional paragraph to the existing section on household worship
- 22-Z W-5.0201 THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY WITHIN
THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH (TWE-05 9, 1 &
2)
Adds "discipleship" to a list of the Church's ministries that are connected to its worship, and adds references to statements in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity

Report on Immanuel House

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ... Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. Jer. 29:4-5; 7.

Have you heard the term “cultural bereavement”? It implies the avid sense of displacement and longing that many refugees feel. I thought of this term when I visited the house recently and was offered, as always, a beverage and a cookie. This time the beverage was very sweet hot tea with mint from the backyard garden, and it was prepared by a recent arrival, Ayham. After losing several family members to civil war, he was forced out of Damascus and spent five years on Malta before being relocated to San Jose. I sipped the tea and thought, “This is what I imagine Syria tastes like, and how Ayham must miss it.”

Psychologists believe community can help heal these emotional wounds. An observant visitor to Immanuel House can easily pick up on the supportive atmosphere that permeates the residence. We currently have eight men on site, including the house manager, Atilla, and our new assistant house manager, Ayham. (The manager we had retained in April, Vincent, has moved to Arizona.) Our latest resident brings our total housed, since late 2015, to 79. There’s no doubt the community of support has been a great blessing to these men in transition.

The house is in good condition, and the residents help keep it clean and well maintained. After recently discovering cracks in our sewer pipe, we are at present working with a contractor to replace this pipe and upgrade some concrete pathways. Our living room furniture, donated in 2015, has been well used and we are replacing some of those pieces with newer donations.

We have a strong partnership with our resettlement agencies, the International Rescue Committee and Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley, whose hardworking case officers and housing specialists do the heavy lifting of providing vital services. These include assistance with applying for work permits, securing appointments for health care, and providing English language tutoring when necessary.

Volunteers are welcome to tour the house and connect with a resident to offer one-on-one assistance. The most useful donations are monetary, which allow us to purchase new bedding and household supplies and pay for repairs like the sewer pipe. Contact information and donation details are on our website: immanuelhousesj.org. We remain grateful for your prayers and support.

*Martha Wills
Chair, Immanuel House Board of Directors
Elder, Los Gatos*