**Nominees for the Executive Panel**

**for Grant Proposals to the Million Dollar Fund**

**Western Region, Presbytery of San Francisco**

*The following candidates have been nominated by sessions and pastors of churches in our region to serve on the executive panel which will screen grant applicants and bring recommendations to the region.*

*We will elect five executive panel members to serve in the first year. The election will take place at Old First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 10, at 10 am. We will have a chance to meet the nominees and vote at that meeting. We will also discuss the process for inviting grant proposals.*

**The Nominees** (in alphabetical order)

**Susan Baker-Lehne**

Nominated by Jeff Gaines, pastor, Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church

The one million dollars from Presbytery is an invitation to congregations to channel our energy, intelligence, imagination and love in new ways to address needs that often seem overwhelming. Being part of the panel to review applications fits with my personal interest in refugee needs, food insecurity and housing/homelessness. In prior years I served on the Healthy Congregations Committee, where I participated in review of mission studies, and requests by certain congregations for money from Presbytery. I believe this experience would be helpful in reviewing project applications.

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**Erwin Barron**

Nominated by pastor Maggi Henderson, Old First Presbyterian Church, San Francisco

I would like to serve on this panel to help see the process through to the end of these grant moneys helping our community in San Francisco and the peninsula be a better place. I was on the planning committee to write the guidelines and will be helpful to the executive panel in understanding the process. I am a lifelong Presbyterian, growing up in the southern stream of the church during the civil rights era. I have served churches in New Jersey, Oregon, Minneapolis, and here. I believe Jesus calls us to bring justice and righteousness to our society. I have been involved in many groups working for that, serving on boards, working in the streets, and traveling with church groups on mission projects around the globe. Currently, I am a professor at City College in San Francisco and serve as parish associate pastor at Old First where I have been involved for twenty years. I am now serving as our presbytery representative on the board of Ecumenical House, our campus ministry at SF State, rebuilding an exciting ministry to bring progressive Christian values to young people in this secular society. (For full disclosure, I know that Ec House will apply for funds through this grant, and I will carefully recuse myself from any discussion of that application.) I have been a driving force in getting this proposal written and passed through presbytery, and I will be excited to see the results of good mission work getting done to help the people of our region.

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**Cindy Cake**

Nominated by the session of Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church

My name is Cindy Cake. I have been a member of Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church in San Francisco for over 30 years. During that time, I have been an elder and deacon as well as church treasurer. Noe Valley Ministry has historically been active in social justice issues. I was Business Manager for the Presbytery for the past seven years until I retired this spring. In addition, I just completed a three-year term as Presbytery treasurer. I serve on the Finance and Property Oversight Committee for the Presbytery. I have prior experience in contract administration, project management, budgeting and cost accounting in the chemical and environmental science industry. I have an MBA in finance from the University of Chicago in addition to a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. We have before us a golden opportunity! I believe my skills in project administration as well as a deep knowledge of our Presbytery and its workings will be an asset to the Western Region executive panel as we seek to do the maximum good for our region with the funds available to us.

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**Jeanette Huie**

Nominated by the session of The Presbyterian Church in Chinatown

I am a native San Franciscan and through my experiences in the Cameron House high school and college-age programs, I started attending the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and was baptized in 1974. At PCC, I’m currently serving as a Ruling Elder, a member of the Women’s Fellowship, a member of the Mission & Evangelism Committee and a volunteer in our food pantry which serves mostly seniors who live in Chinatown. The mission projects that I’ve participated in, both locally and nationally, have offered me opportunities for learning, introspection, and community building. For Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery, I serve as the Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

My interest in serving on the West Region Executive panel for the Million Dollar Fund stems from my years of involvement in the nonprofit sector in a number of capacities -- as a staff person, board member, volunteer – and seeing the needs of vulnerable populations here in the Bay Area and the challenges organizations face in operating with limited budgets and resources.

I was excited to hear that these funds will be designated for mission projects in the Western region of the Presbytery. I served on the Presbytery’s Partnering & Resource Committee from 2006-2009 that was tasked with making recommendations for disbursement of mission funds. Committee members reviewed applications and did site visits of the organizations and met with their staff. Back then, the funds available were a very small percentage of what we have today. It’s exciting to think of the impact the Million Dollar Fund could have in our region by seeding new projects or strengthening existing programs. The recommendations made by the Executive panel on behalf of the Presbytery will be a caring response to the needs around us.

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**Joni Lachman**

Nominated by the session of Calvary Presbyterian Church

Thank you for considering my nomination to serve on the Executive Panel of the Presbytery. I have lived in San Francisco for over two decades and spend much of my time, personally and professionally, promoting work that gives all our citizens a chance to lead lives of opportunity, productivity and happiness. I have a Master's in Developmental Psychology and my working career has all been with youth and family community-based organizations. My deep experience, creative thinking and thoughtful decision-making will be assets I can bring to the Panel. I'd love to join the team in this exciting opportunity, bringing to life the love and commitment of San Francisco Presbyterians.

Joni Lachman has been a member of Calvary for 20 years and has served as Deacon, Elder, and served on various committees, such as Children’s Ministries, Faith in Action, and pastoral searches. She has a Masters in Psychology and has spent her career in youth-serving non-profits, both in NYC and San Francisco. Joni is the Vice President of Boys and Girls Club of San Francisco.

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**Robin Polastri**

Nominated by Pastor Jenny Walker, Portola Valley Presbyterian Church

As a professional volunteer for most of my adult life, my heart is called to partnership with the underserved, the under-represented, the invisible. I served at the St. Anthony Foundation for 25 years in various capacities helping people who suffer the impacts of homelessness, low-income and addiction, including 10 on the board of directors. Simultaneously, I was on the board of San Francisco Network Ministries, alongside Reverend Glenda Hope for more than 20 years. As a life-long member at Valley Presbyterian Church, I served on session twice and on the Mission Committee for 30+ years, organizing many trips to our sister-church in Tekax, Yucatan, and to outreach projects in El Salvador, Haiti, and Palestine. Finally, I am currently part of a team working to sponsor the resettlement of a Palestinian refugee living in Thailand.

These life experiences have only increased compassion in my heart and the ability to get things done. I have developed a skill set, including program development and review, grant writing, and effective collaboration, which I believe would make me well qualified to review grant applications as to their likelihood of success and sustainability and would be honored to serve, if chosen.

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**J.D. Ward**

Nominated by Rev. Chris Gelini, Lakeside Presbyterian Church

I was asked to serve on this committee by both Rev. Cal Chinn and Rev. Chris Gelini.  I believe they felt my 20+ years serving as a pastor in charge of mission would help me give valuable feedback in the discernment process.  In addition, I have lived in and served poverty communities for over 30 years, so I have direct involvement with the communities this grant hopes to serve.  Finally, I am the lead consultant for the ReWire group which runs the Missional Leader Cohort for the Presbytery.  In this role I have been exposed to hundreds of churches engaged in meaningful mission.  I hope this gives people a helpful overview of how I can be helpful."