

**Agenda for the Central Region Meeting of the Presbytery of San Francisco
August 27, 2019 | 5:05-5:40pm**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome and Establishment of a Quorum2. Approve the Minutes from our Regional Meeting of February 22, 20193. Presenting the Peer Review Team Recommendation to Endorse the Farmington Proposal<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Celebrating the Farmington Proposal through video witnessb. Officially voting on endorsement of the missional collaboration projectc. Praying over and with the Farmington Seeding Team4. Discussion Around Clarifying Questions:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. The definition of a Church in relationship to New Worshipping Communities as per quorum and voice articulated in our adopted regional charter.b. A chance for questions from the regional community5. Closing with Prayer and Gratitude | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bienvenida y establecimiento de un quórum2. Aprobar las minutas de nuestra reunión regional del 22 de febrero de 20193. Presentación de la recomendación del equipo de revisión por pares para respaldar la propuesta de Farmington<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Celebrando la propuesta de Farmington a través del video testigob. Votar oficialmente el respaldo del proyecto de colaboración misionalc. Oración por y con el equipo de siembra de Farmington4. Discusión sobre preguntas aclaratorias:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. La definición de una Iglesia en relación con las Nuevas Comunidades de Adoración según el quórum y la voz articulada en nuestra carta regional adoptada.b. Una oportunidad para preguntas de la comunidad regional5. Cierre con oración y gratitud. |
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Background on the Proposed Endorsement of the Farmington Regional Mission Project:

Irvington Presbyterian Church has proposed a missional partnership they've named the "Farmington Community Garden Project." They filled out the official grant application and submitted it to the Peer Review Team of the Central Region of the Presbytery of San Francisco as per the specifications of the charter adopted unanimously by the region at our stated meeting of 2.2.19. The proposal was submitted June 25, 2019.

The Peer Review Team elected the following PR Team members to conduct the review with Irvington Presbyterian of their proposal. These three members were: Elder Susanne Lea (chair), Rev. Monte McClain, and Rev Lauren Patrus-Betzel. They met together to review the proposal and to clarify scope, budgetary and staff requirements and measurability of the project. These clarifying questions were then asked of the Irvington Session and Mission Team. They responded in writing to the questions of the Peer Review Team on July 22, 2019. The Peer Review Team met again and endorsed unanimously the Farmington Missional Proposal and recommend it for approval by the Central Region at the Stated Meeting of the Region at the meeting of the Presbytery of San Francisco, August 27, 2019. The PR Team asked the Irvington Team to prepare a no-more than 3 minute video to identify and articulate the Farmington Project so that we might celebrate it at the regional meeting.

The Irvington Proposal has met all of the requirements articulated in our adopted regional charter.

Part of this first peer review team work was also to formulate and establish a peer review team process to be used going forward in future proposals. This was adopted by the Peer Review Team as of July 2, 2019.

**There is still some perfecting work to be done in terms of the fiduciary requirements, constitutional parameters and presbytery processes for dispensing the funds to the sponsoring organization (Irvington) of the project.*

**The Farmington Community Garden Project
of Irvington Presbyterian Church
Initial Grant Application | July 25, 2019**

Ministry Projects in which we will invest our resources of time, money and human skill shall respond to one or more of our established values. They shall be:

• **either an existing ministry with an established track record in need of expansion OR a new and exciting opportunity for mission-ministry;**

— over 20 years ago IPC began a morning breakfast program that serves over 150 people every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and is still going strong. This program is hosted by the church in the fellowship hall with many members past and present volunteering as workers and steering committee members. This mission is a partnership with other churches, government agencies, the city, and local volunteers. As an extension of this ministry, and as a new venture, IPC has begun work on creating a large community garden on part of its 4.5 acres. This garden is being modeled on gardens run by faith communities for education and stewardship as well as community gardens like LEAF, a large community garden in Fremont, growing produce for those in need and making garden beds available to local residents. The middle school across the street from the church is also interested in opportunities for their students to participate in the garden. The five faith communities that worship at IPC will also be active in the community garden. The Mosque Next Door to the church is also interested in partnering on the garden.

• **doable/feasible as well as viable/sustainable efforts;**

— IPC has a wonderful track record of partnerships with others in the community. The 22-year-old morning breakfast program is supported and funded by the city, Alameda County, and donations. The program is run exclusively by volunteers. IPC plans on using the skills and relationships they have nurtured in the breakfast program to support the community garden. Like the community breakfast, the garden will be sustainable over the long haul while applying for grants, etc to fund capital improvements and depending mostly on volunteers from the church and the community.

- **share the Gospel / Reach the unreached with the gospel message;**

— The idea of a community garden sprang from the reality that the people of God are people of the ground. From the ground we were made and then put in a garden to care for God's creation. In a time of isolation in our communities it is IPC's plan to use the community garden encounter the biblical text in new ways and give opportunities for community. The first workday on the new garden we had 10 folks from our immigrant populations, mostly Indian, taking part. The conversations during the work were all about how important working the farm was to them when they were growing up. These high tech workers were revitalized in working the land together. One mother from the Indian community later said how excited she and her husband were about the opportunity for her and her family to work together and with others in the garden. Having a labyrinth and community gazebo will offer outside worship space for groups and individuals. Using the model of other faith community supported gardens (ie Farminary at Princeton Theological Seminary) IPC plans on using the garden for education purposes.

- **advance the proclamation of the gospel through justice-related actions or ministries relating to material, social, or relational well-being;**

— IPC has been active in the Irvington community running the breakfast program, a homework club and an after-school program called Kings Club for many years. This IPC community has always had a heart for those in need in the community and have taken tangible actions to make a difference. The community garden will be a place to grow food for others, create space for community, provide educational opportunities for youth and adults and open land for groups and individuals to have space to garden. Even as IPC just begins working on the community garden project we already see a special interest and participation from our immigrant community. Many of these people grew up as "farmers" and miss the patterns farming life. They also grieve that their children and grandchildren are growing up without a chance to be intimate with the land.

- **be a joint ministry of collaboration among at least two or more congregations (approved by the specific sessions) of our region, aiming for maximum participation of faith organizations and other organizations in an endeavor that is local and/or international;**

— IPC has five congregations that call IPC home. Two of the congregations are Spanish speaking, one worships in an Indian dialect and one is a Mandarin speaking 1001 New Worshipping Community. The members of these 4 communities are recent immigrants. They are all excited to be part of the new community garden as a way to connect with the land, build community and outreach to those who are not part of the church. IPC is mostly an older English language group but now has a growing number of immigrant members who are planning on being part of the community garden. LEAF, the Fremont community garden, is partnering with IPC supporting this new community garden project. IPC is in conversation with Princeton Theological Seminary's "Farminary" a 15 acre farm used for educationally opportunities; "Urban Adamah" a Jewish community garden in Berkeley CA doing religious and ecology education through their garden and "The Edible School Yard" at MLK middle school in Berkeley, using their garden and kitchen for education in gardening, ecology, nutrition and food preparation.

IPC is interested in working with other faith communities and educational institutions to offer the community garden for their use.

- **respond to a root cause or need in a hands-on or;**

— The community garden will supply produce for the church's breakfast program as well as for the Tri-cities Volunteer Food Bank. The community garden will be making garden planting boxes available to those without access to places in which to garden. This can be particularly important to immigrants working in the high tech industry, the house-less, seniors, and those living in apartments. The garden will be designed with an outside worship space with a labyrinth. The church will also make the garden available to students from the middle school across the street from the church.

As the church looked at its future and how to use its open land, many different possibilities were investigated. Most of the opposition were buildings or to turn the church buildings over to a large church. When we looked at the history of the land the church was built on (a farm just a little over 50 years ago which is still served by the original water well) and the biblical stories of creation and the place of agriculture in the lives of God's people creating a community garden seemed like an obvious but overlooked plan.

IPC is "home" for many house-less people because of the morning breakfast program. With supervision and education, it is hoped that the garden can serve this population as well.

- **not simply be the replication of a ministry which already exists and is successful;**

— This will, in some ways, be an extension of the work the church has been doing in the community for over 20 years. The community garden will supply produce for the breakfast program as well for the tri-cities volunteer food bank. The church has a commercial kitchen that could be used for food preparation as well as a possible project to create value-added products for sale (fermented foods etc). But this is a totally new avenue that IPC will be setting out on.

- **have a measurable impact or outcome;**

— this answer seems to be included in the other narrative about the project.

- **excite and involve a core group of people from our region in ministry, mission, and relationship-building.**

— IPC has already started the community garden "Farmington" because of the excitement being generated by the hope that this project gives. The Session has approved \$10,000 of seed money for the community garden so it can get up and running this growing season.

The intent of such proposals (grants) will be to empower the fleshing out of a ministry proposal, taking into account realistic material and human needs, potential challenges, measurable goals, training needs, and articulated objectives. Should a proposal not be approved, concrete suggestions will be made in view of perfecting the proposal for approval.

The proposal (grant) application will be finalized by a peer group and adopted by a majority vote of the region at a meeting with a quorum.

It shall include...

project name: Farmington - the agricultural ministry of Irvington Presbyterian Church

cost: \$50,000 (budget attached)

material needs: fences, planter boxes, soil, irrigation, water supply, materials and plans for a labyrinth, materials and plans for building a large gathering gazebo, tool shed, greenhouse,

human needs: the project will be like the other community projects IPC leads. There will be a need to have IPC's pastor help coordinate the garden and its ministries.

a narrative of objectives: IPC seeks to use its resources of land, water well, experience in serving the communities that are in need and leadership to develop a large community garden that will serve educational, relational, food, and spiritual needs of the community. The community garden will be and already is a place for a diverse group of people to come together, building unity and building relationships for the good of the community.

a list of measurable goals: 1: work with partners who bring different skills and abilities to the project to make it sustainable. 2: build out the community garden (Farmington) in stages. 3: enlist others for support and extend the reach of the project to other educational and social welfare projects and programs.

Stage 1: Small Community Garden with water, planter boxes, fence.

Stage 2: Extension of the Community Garden - water, planter boxes, fence, tool shed.

Stage 3: Extension of the Community Garden - water, planter boxes with a labyrinth and gazebo to be used as worship and classroom space.

Future possibilities; Outside kitchen, lighting for night time use, firepit...

ministers and the ministry: the Pastor at IPC will be a coordinator of the project working with the mission team and a small Farmington steering committee of church and community members.

1. Measurability

- a. **Education:** Education is mentioned numerous times in the proposal. What are the educational goals and objectives, and who is the target audience for the education efforts?
1. To use the garden as an object lesson when doing bible study.
 2. For youth in and out of church to learn about gardening practices. Work with the Junior High School across the street for their work (edible schoolyard).
 3. To use the garden as a place as a sabbath place and rest.
 4. To have a safe place for our diverse community to come together for religious and cultural dialogue.
 5. A laboratory teaching/modeling good, agricultural practices. (permaculture, composting, organic gardening/gardening)
 6. By fostering collaboration between community members young, old, and of different backgrounds, we together create a certain synergy that can serve as a springboard to deal with larger social concerns.

- b. **Planter boxes/plots:** Roughly how many boxes/plots does IPC envision installing/preparing in each phase? Roughly how will they be allocated among individuals, nesting churches and other groups, and IPC?

1. The first phase will have 12 raised boxes (4X4 and 4X8) of varying sizes as well as space for open farming of corn, carrots, potatoes. There is currently one 30 inch elevated (24"X30") bed to accommodate handicap/older individuals who cannot work at ground level. More of these will be added in Phase 2.
2. We also have space for boxes in an adjoining parcel if needed.
3. We will determine the need for additional boxes in the next phases. We have space for up to 60 (4X12) boxes.

Note: Phase One is an area of 3200 sq feet with boxes in which are tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, herbs, cauliflower and bok choy. The open space has corn and squash and will include potatoes, carrots, radishes, etc

Initially, individuals, families, nesting churches and others from the community will have one box to start. More will be allocated by the Steering Committee after the annual review and progress. See 3d.

- c. **Spiritual needs:** What are the spiritual needs of the community (IPC, nesting churches, larger interfaith community, individuals) that will be addressed by the project? How?
1. IPC and the partner churches sharing the facilities have many immigrant members who are not very removed from agricultural societies. Having a community garden meets a deep need for working together on the land.
 2. The Junior High School across the street from IPC is expanding with many new buildings but very little open land. The school is interested in having their students working in the garden as a way of doing project learning.

3. Farmington will be a place of Sabbath for everyone, especially the immigrant families some of whom are living in crowded living conditions.
4. We presently have a houseless friend who is doing all the watering of the garden. This has become a source of pride as he participates in the IPC community as a valued and gifted member.

2. Staffing

- a. Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the pastor. Is he/she the organizer, coordinator, and/or overseer of the project? Are the pastor's roles and responsibilities spelled out in the current or emerging pastoral job description?
 1. The pastors of IPC have been active in projects like the Community Breakfast and Kids Club in the school for over 20 years. The Pastor is expected to help facilitate and provide spiritual guidance. We look to the Pastor to help us welcome and understand the community that will be involved in the garden. The job description for the new pastor includes this kind of community involvement through the projects of IPC.
- b. Do you see a need for a dedicated staff position, possibly paid for with grant funds?
 1. No. We have been running our three mornings a week breakfast program for over 20 years, feeding more than 100 people a day, with no paid staff. Farmington will also be volunteer run with a Steering Committee and support from our pastor.


3. Collaboration

- a. Identify each collaborating entity.
 1. Irvington Presbyterian Church
 2. The four partner churches sharing the facility.
 3. The neighborhood Junior High School
 4. Child Leap Pre School
 5. Islamic Center of Fremont
- b. Who (or what entity) oversees the volunteers and collaborative work with other communities (nesting churches, inter-faith entities, school, LEAF, Princeton Farminary)? Flesh out the roles and responsibilities of the "mission team" and "small Farmington steering committee of church and community members" in terms of building the collaboration envisioned by the project.
 1. The Steering Committee will oversee the project including the volunteers. There will be published guidelines and by laws. The Steering Committee will be nominated at the Annual Meeting.
 2. The Steering Committee will always include at least two IPC Session Members nominated by the Session.
- c. Will collaborating entities and/or individuals working a plot be asked to contribute funds or time and talent for the project?

1. Each group/individual outside IPC will be charged \$100 annually for water, a box/plot and a key.
 2. Everyone will be requested to contribute a minimum of 10 hours each year in maintaining the common areas of the garden.
- d. Is there a process or plan for moving groups from “interested” in the project to active commitment and involvement?
1. Yes. Interested groups and individuals will be added to the waiting list. When boxes or plots become available, they will be given to groups that are on the waiting list. During the we plan on teaming up interested parties with groups that already have boxes so that they can begin to participate and learn.

4. Budget/Authorization/Insurance

- a. Is IPC asking for \$50,000 for Phase 1 and 2? What is the plan for Phase 3?
1. Phase 3 would happen the earliest in the 3rd year. We plan for the Phase 3 are to be an organic garden. We expect to find others in our community and neighborhood who will become part of the Farmington community. Farmington is the only community garden in our part of town. We would hope to use some of the same funding sources as LEAF the 3-year-old community garden about three miles from IPC. LEAF receives funding from local markets (Whole Foods etc), agricultural grants and the city and county.
- b. How is the \$10,000 seed money being used?
1. We have been able get a good start on Farmington with the seed funding.
 2. We have 8 raised cedar planter boxes in place. There is a large crop of corn, squash, tomatoes, eggplant and peppers that will be ready to pick this summer.
 3. We celebrated communion with the whole church in the Farmington garden on Pentecost/wheat harvest Sunday.
 4. The youth have been studying the story of the creation narrative. They have been helping in the garden and made a banner for the Pentecost/wheat harvest Sunday event.
 5. Volunteers have been meeting every Saturday morning (some evenings) since session approved the project and provided seed money. Each week they prepare and work in the garden.
- c. Has session approved the proposal?
1. Yes. In addition to approving the project, Session voted a \$10K seed/loan to jump start the project that would be repaid when funding is received.
- d. Who is the contact person for the grant? Jonathan Jiang
- e. Will IPC’s insurance cover the activities of the proposed project? Yes

Irvington Project Proposal	
 Phase one (2019)	
Planter boxes	6000
Soil	2000
Fence and gates	5800
Water system	5000
Plants etc	900
Hospitality	300
Sub-total	20000
Phase two (2020)	
Planter boxes	5000
Soil	3500
Fence and gate	7500
Water system	9000
Plants etc	1500
Hospitality	500
Tool shed	3000
Sub-total	30000
Phase three (2021)	
Planter Boxes	7000
Soil	4000
Water system	9000
Fence and gates	10000
Plants	1500
Hospitality	1000
Labyrinth	10000
Gazebo	7500
sub-total	50000
TOTAL	100000