

FUND YOUR VISION PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Today's Youth, Our Church's Future

Submitted by: **Presbyterian Church in Chinatown** Session Approval: **March 14, 2021**

Amount requested: **\$33,000**

Categories addressed by this proposal: **Youth and College Ministry**

The Mandarin Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown is facing a generation gap between its aging adult population and its youth and young adults. As many of the youth have aged out or moved away, youth-oriented programs have dwindled. The church also draws many international students from the many nearby education institutions, but there is no real program to welcome and keep them.

A small core group of youth leaders remains, one of whom also serves on Session. The goal of this proposal is to rebuild a strong youth program, developed and run by youth, with the help of a part-time pastor assistant, whose salary is a component of the grant.

The church basement space will be equipped to attract young people for recreational and social gatherings. Core Group leadership training and support, upgrading electronics, publicity and outreach, purchasing indoor sports equipment/games/musical instruments, and a welcome event will be provided. (The church also hopes to organize a retreat at some point – see note in recommendation below.) Once equipped, the basement space will be open to all in the congregation.

A long-term hope is that the rebuilt youth program will result in an additional complete and separate youth service at the church, with young adult leadership, and youth-oriented worship style and music. Programs and activities tailored to youth and young adults will help ensure the survival of the church going forward as the older generations are no longer able to attend services.

Recommended by Fund Your Vision Panel: ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Amount recommended: **\$27,000** (The FYV Grant Panel is recommending a reduction of \$6,000 from the original amount requested, suggesting that the church pursue other fundraising options to cover the cost of the proposed retreat.)

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West Bay Region, San Francisco Presbytery
GRANT APPLICATION
(12 point font – 3 page max to answer all questions)

Project Name: Today's Youth, Our Church's Future

Primary Contact Person: Pastor Guo Hao

Primary Contact Phone: 415-763-9913

Primary Contact E-mail: Israel.hao@yahoo.com

Name of Church(s) Submitting Grant: Presbyterian Church in Chinatown

Date of Session Approval: 3/14/21 (submitted by email) Clerk of Session: Mary Leong

Project Description:

1. Fully describe how the project fits into one of the six **required** ministry areas for Fund Your Vision: Housing/Shelter/Homelessness; Micro Loans/Grants; Food Insecurity; Immigration and Refugees; Youth and College Ministry; Systemic Change to Dismantle Structural Racism

Our project proposal fits exactly to the “Youth and College Ministry” area for Fund Your Vision. As Presbyterian Churches are facing a generation gap in youth and young adults, we need to do something! The Pandemic is real, but it also gave us a chance to sit down, slow our pace, and really think about our church and its growth. “The Youth is the Church’s future”, with their presence in church, they bring ‘life’ and laughter, the energy they possess carries through by their enthusiasm of God’s love spreading and one can see the Holy Spirit working through them! Yet, where are the youth in today’s churches?

Situated in San Francisco Chinatown, where mostly immigrants from China, and other parts of the East Asian countries, where are our youth? We are lucky, actually, to be situated in SF Chinatown, surrounded by many colleges and universities with foreign students coming here for their graduate studies. We are surrounded by students from the Academy of Arts University (AAU), Hult Business School, an extension of City College campus in Chinatown, and the almost to be completed subway right next door to us, which brings us even closer to SF State University, and City College main campus, just to name a few. Now is the time to reach out to this lost generation!

2. Describe how the project meets any or all the additional criteria listed in the guidelines.

PCC – M was without a pastor for 3 years, and our newly commissioned CLP, being with us now for 2 ½ years, sees where our Mandarin’s most desperate need is. We need to build a strong youth fellowship, let the youth lead the youth, they have a common language. CLP Hao himself can lead by example, as he is also a young adult, with such a calling and vision to pinpoint right on!

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In order to do so, we need to first re-build our youth program and make it strong. Before and now during the pandemic, the youth are scattered, and have not really met! How to get their commitment? We need to equip our own youth first. We will need to call on a few to be our core group.

The fund will help ensure a beginning boost mainly at the Welcome Back to School Night. This successful push is a necessity for the program's success! We have time for planning and educating our core group, enabling them as leaders.

Although our focus is the international students, however, there are some that do remain and stay on for their OPT (Optional Practical Training) in their professions. If they decide to stay, they can be part of our resource, along with our church members who have always seen the youth's program as a priority. They will be willing to continuing the resources in funding. The youth can also explore different options of fund raising to sustain this vital part of the program.

When God is willing, there is no stopping us; when a door closes, He will open a window for this ministry!

3. Describe the key needs you are looking to address with this proposed project.
 - We are hoping for a pastor's assistant, a paid position within our core youth group, someone who has been in our church and served for a while, knows our structure, and can also commit and focus on task at hand. This person's energy and focus solely for this project and not distracted elsewhere.
 - We need certain equipments, upgrade some out-dated ones; concentration on developing a brochure and updating our website.
 - We need training, attend seminars, continued education to equip our core group for the start up of this long-term, on-going, for the future of our church
 - Funds for the Welcome Back in Fall in nearby colleges and universities

Project Timeline:

Start Date: Summer 2021

End Date: Summer 2022

Financial Description:

Amount Requested for One-Year Project from Fund Your Vision: \$33,000

Total Project Budget: \$33,000

Budget Justification Narrative.

Please explain your budget and how the grant funding will be spent, if awarded. Describe the full expense budget and how you will "close the gap" if the project budget is beyond the grant request.

For the pastor:

1. Pastor assistant (15 hours per month: $(\$20 \times 15 \times 12 = \$3,600)$ totally to help with the youth program.

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Our own youth fellowship's rebuild:

2. Through seminars (\$2,000) Related Educational classes, etc.
3. Retreat (\$250x6=\$1,500) 3 day 2 night retreat for planning \$150 for pulpit, in pastor's absence, \$150 pulpit, pastor to take one week to pre-plan the retreat
4. Studies (\$800)

Spreading the good news:

1. Through media, buy ads, face book priority, websites (\$2,000-\$3,000)
2. Good old fashion flyers, billboards, brochures (\$500 print job)
3. Open House during beginning of school year, in September, food, prizes, games, music and devotion (food & prizes \$1,000)

When in Session:

1. IT Equipment: power point projector, screen, microphone sound system, white board (\$4,000)
2. Music Equipment: Keyboard, drum set (see if the one we have still works) (\$500)
3. Bible: simplified Chinese Character Bibles (50@\$30ea= \$1,500)
4. 2 Table tennis set (\$1,500); 2 badminton sets (4 rackets, net, birdies \$500-\$1,000)
5. Recruit cook for meals (Church volunteer)
6. Friday night dinner served (\$100 x52=\$5,200)
7. Annual Retreat (\$150x40=\$6000)

Total Funding requested: Approx. \$33,000

To "close the gap" if we were to go beyond our allotted Funding money, we will do envelope drives, and we can do lunch fundraising, and or hand made dumplings (which has always been a hit among our church members), but cooking is only upon our ability to return to the church! Our means of fundraising may be limited due to SIP, so we really depend on the full funding to meet our needs. If we must, we will cut out the pastor assistant, and the retreat will be a one day, maybe multiple times, instead of a bond-building 3 day 2 nights.

Project Impact

Describe what your proposed outcomes of the grant will be and describe processes and systems you will have in place to evaluate the project's success.

We anticipate the first welcome back to attract 30-40 students in nearby colleges. If will have surveys and evaluations, and ask for feedbacks among the attendees, as well as the core group on a quarterly basis to see where we can improve, and what we may be lacking. Where might be the break in communications, and how we can better serve these students. Are we getting the gospel across to them?

Each quarter, we also ask them to bring or introduce at least one friend to the program. There are 4 quarters, so, if we start with 50% of the Welcome Back attendees, i.e. 20, 20+20; 40+40, etc...

We are hopeful that with the success of this project, we will bring energy back to our Church life and its ministry!

3 PAGES MAXIMUM for Grant Request to Answer All Questions!

Fundyourvision@sfpby.org - email address for electronic application submission & for questions!