

OMNIBUS REPORT

MAY OPEN SPACES & UPCOMING TRAINING FLYERS:

[CRE-CP REUNION INVITATIONAL](#)

[PALESTINE JUSTICE NETWORK BAY AREA OF THE PC\(USA\)](#)

[FINANCE AND PROPERTY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE](#)

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Transitional Executive Presbyter Report to Presbytery

May 13, 2025

Respectfully submitted, Laura M. Cheifetz MWS

Introductory Remarks

By the time we gather, we will be into my fourth month with you as the Transitional Executive Presbyter. I am working hard with all of you toward a transformed culture and system that better serves congregations and presbytery members, so all of us are supported and freed to be effective witnesses in our communities to the good news of the gospel. Below is a partial

accounting of some of my activities. I will share in my report on the floor more about the status of internal dynamics and conditions.

Study Leave

I attended the fortieth annual conference of PANAAWTM (Pacific Asian North American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry) in Decatur, GA on the campus of Columbia Theological Seminary March 27-29.

Transitional/Presbytery Leader Development

I will have attended the Presbytery Leader Formation (PFL) Residency May 4-9. I have monthly sessions with a coach through PLF and several times a month with the provided 90-day companion, a seasoned mid council leader also located in the west.

Relational Work

I have visited the following congregations and worshiped with them:

- Broadmoor Presbyterian Church
- Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church
- Faith Presbyterian Church (Oakland)
- Elmhurst Presbyterian Church
- First Presbyterian Church of Hayward
- First Presbyterian Church of Oakland
- Igreja Brasileira Presbyteriana
- Ingleside Presbyterian Church
- New Bridges Presbyterian Church
- New Liberation Presbyterian Church
- Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana

I have met with over 30 presbytery members individually or in small groups outside of committee meetings, and hosted a couple of gatherings for at-large members and those in validated ministries.

Committee Support

As the Transitional Executive Presbyter, I am providing staff assistance to all committees, and in conjunction with other staff, I am resourcing or have observed the following committees:

- Committee on Ministry
- Education Working Group
- Finance and Property Oversight
- Meetings Working Group

- Mission and Vision Leadership
- New Worshiping Communities
- Personnel Working Group
- Standing Rules
- Transitional Associate Presbyterian Search Committee
- Race Equity Coordinator Search Committee

Personnel Updates

I am immensely grateful to the generosity shown to all of us by the Rev. Dr. Grace Kaori Suzuki, who provided vital leadership as the Bridge Executive for the Committee on Ministry. Her tenure ended March 31st. Thanks to her, my learning curve in supporting COM is less noticeable than it would otherwise have been.

I am also privileged to be able to work with the Rev. Karen Thistlethwaite, the Transitional Associate Executive. She has been flexible and helpful as I came on board, and is providing essential assistance with improving systems, recreating staff culture and pulling together a new team, pointing out areas of work to be prioritized, and keeping the whole thing afloat. We will have the chance to celebrate her ministry at presbytery.

I am working with a committee of great committed folks to hire the Race Equity Coordinator, one of the outcomes of the T-CARE report from the last presbytery meeting.

It has been a delight to work with a committee of talented and dedicated people to hire the Transitional Associate Executive. You will hear more during the meeting, but I am quite proud of the work we have done, and am excited for this new team member.

Finances

As of May 31st, we will have transitioned to a new financial services provider, Ekklesia Financial Services. ND Solutions has done a great deal of heavy lifting over the past several years, and we are grateful for their work. It is now time to shift to a provider who can meet our specific needs and conform to the updated financial policies passed at the end of 2024. The month of May is the beginning of the transition. You may continue to send inquiries and items to accountant@sfpby.org, but that now goes to the presbytery staff who will collect records and forward items on to the new service provider or the Treasurer as needed. You may notice that we will be changing some of the paperwork and processes and eventually the reports, but that will be rolled out as we work with the new service provider. I am working with a small team of folks who have done a financial services conversion in the past.

Treasurer Cindy Cake has begun attending staff meetings, particularly in this time of switching providers, to facilitate the communication and ensure a smooth transition. We hope to avoid any glitches, but I have no doubt that we will run into something at some point! I thank you for your patience.

If you ever have any questions, you may contact me or Cindy Cake.

Broader Church

I attended the Board of Pensions benefits regional summit in April. As a reminder, validated ministers who work for an employer that doesn't offer a pension are able to participate in the pension program. Employers are also able to offer benefits from a flexible menu, instead of being bound to offer all or nothing. I encourage you to attend any BOP benefits webinars (available on their website and occasionally advertised by the presbytery) to learn more. Participating in at least one part of the BOP programs provides access to many of their grants and continuing education programs to any participating member (pastor, CRE/CP, or church staff), including wellness retreats, educational webinars, and, if participating in the Employee Assistance Programs through the Covenant Package or in the medical option, unlimited coaching and assistance navigating mental health care.

Thanks to a grant-funded event at San Francisco Theological Seminary in late April, attended by the Stated Clerk, the Transitional Associate Executive, and myself, the Presbyteries of San Francisco and San Jose collaborated to host the 226th General Assembly Co-Moderator, the Rev. Tony Larson. We invited folks to brunch at the presbytery office with him, and to tea with him in San Francisco hosted by St. John's.

We have partnered with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to schedule two support conversations for members of the presbytery affected by concerns surrounding immigration and migrants, LGBTQIA+ issues, and job loss and economic uncertainty. Each session (Monday, May 19th, 7pm; Wednesday, June 4th, 12pm) will be held on zoom and will be capped at 20 participants. Please do avail yourselves of this opportunity; PDA has a team of trained responders to offer pastoral support in times of crisis and they will be leading the discussion.

Additionally, we are grateful to Grace Presbyterian Church (Walnut Creek) working with PDA and the presbytery to host a film screening of "[Evicting the American Dream](#)" on May 8th. PDA will return to screen this film in the area in the fall as well.

"Evicting the American Dream amplifies the voices and stories of children and families confronting eviction and homelessness. Through additional interviews with pediatric

psychologists, social workers, tenant rights organizations, housing authority officials, and eviction lawyers, this film explores the root causes and systemic issues that perpetuate this epidemic.

“Often when we hear the words ‘homelessness’ and ‘eviction’, there is a dominant narrative that says: “There is nothing we can do to prevent this from happening.” This film seeks to reframe, humanize, and transform how the wider public understands eviction and homelessness and the ways in which this is preventable.”

Stated Clerk Report

2024 Statistics for the Presbytery of San Francisco

265 Ministers of Word and Sacrament; 43% are Retired and 12% Members-at-Large.

44 churches submitted their statistical reports in 2024.

These reports inform us of the following:

- 9,339 active members (260 gained, 621 lost)
- Average weekly attendance was 5,286. There were 1,687 friends of the congregation that attended. The report informs us that there are 437 Ruling Elders on Session.

Age Distribution of Active Members

- 98 – 17 & Under
- 392 – 18-25
- 738 – 26-40
- 1,042 – 41-55
- 1,444 – 56-70
- 2,396 – Over 70

Gender Distribution of Active Members

- 3,816 Women
- 2,428 Men
- 19 Non-Binary

Racial/Ethnic Breakdown:

- 6 Native American/Indigenous
- 43 Middle Eastern
- 183 multi-racial members
- 165 Hispanic/Latin-x
- 280 African American
- 864 Asian American Pacific Islanders
- 3,059 White

Report III A

Committee on Ministry

- A Pastoral Response Team is being formed as described in our *Sexual Misconduct Prevention Policy*. We are still looking for 1-2 volunteers to serve on this team.
- Our *pulpit supply list* is being updated
- A small group from COM is *reviewing the language of 2025 Minimum Compensation Guidelines* to help clarify the confusing verbiage currently being used.

Report III B

Mission and Vision Leadership

Dear MVL and Presbytery of San Francisco,

Happy spring to all of you! As an update, Leticia, Christine Long of the Board of Pensions, and I have endeavored to put the following program together, as directed by the MVL. Certainly, most, if not all, of the program content will be provided by the Board of Pensions. We're attempting to provide content to clergy and church workers that educate them about money management, retirement planning, and dealing with money because we live in the very expensive San Francisco Bay Area.

WHY

Matthew 22:36-40

36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" 37 He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Ministers and church workers are so dedicated to their ministries that time for "loving themselves," like thoughtful planning and preparing for their futures, is often put on the back burner. These workshops are a way the Presbytery of San Francisco and the Board of Pensions can strongly encourage you to spend a bit of time on "loving yourselves," as well.

Program Schedule

1. May 6th, at 7 PM Open Space ONLINE workshop (Topics of discussion: Retirement preparations, money management and other related money factors related to living in the SF Bay Area).

2. The Board of Pensions will offer various general workshops (online, webinars, etc.) in August.
3. November 15th IN PERSON workshop (Topics of discussion: Retirement preparations, money management, and other related money factors related to living in the SF Bay Area) during the Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Alameda.

We will persistently promote these workshops because:

There was an old man and his donkey walking along the trail. Suddenly, the donkey stopped and refused to go any further. The old man pulled and pulled on the reins to no avail. Then, along came another older man and asked what was the problem. The first old man said, "My donkey simply refuses to move or pay attention to me." The older man looked around for a big fallen tree branch. He took the branch and smacked the donkey right between the eyes. The donkey looked up, and then the second old man pulled on the reins and got the donkey moving. The first old man asked the second old man who wielded the branch, "Why the big branch?" The second old man said, "Sometimes you've got to get their attention first!"

By the grace of God—

Greg

[Report III C](#)

[Anne Penke Report](#)

ANNE PENKE FUND APPLICATION

THE ANNE PENKE FUND IS A MISSION FUND CONTROLLED THROUGH THE SYNOD OF THE PACIFIC. THREE PRESBYTERIES BENEFIT FROM THE FUND- THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN FRANCISCO, THE PRESBYTERY OF THE REDWOODS AND THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOSE. THE THREE PRESBYTERIES SHARE EQUALLY IN THE AMOUNT OF THE FUND THAT IS DISBURSED EACH YEAR. FOR 2024 THE TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO S.F. PRESBYTERY ARE EXPECTED TO BE \$8100. THIS AMOUNT MAY BE DEVIDED BETWEEN MULTIPLE GRANTS.

THE CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING A PORTION OF THE FUND

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

APPLICATIONS FOR A GRANT SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING AND SUBMITTED TO THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN FRANCISCO, ATTENTION: ANNE PENKE COMMITTEE, BY JUNE 15 SO THAT THE REQUESTS CAN BE REVIEWED AND SUBMITTED TO THE SYNOD OF THE PACIFIC BY JUNE 30. GRANTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED EARLY IN 2026.