

OMNIBUS REPORT

OPEN SPACE FLYERS

[Stewardship Conversations](#)

[Session Records Review Commission](#)

[Bills & Overtures Committee Conversation](#)

[First Time Commissioners Orientation](#)

[Finance & Property Oversight Committee](#)

[Mission & Vision Leadership](#)

1. **Presbytery website upgrades:** Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz updated us that Rev. Sam Kim has been working on the website updates. The group was asked if they are okay with the minor revisions he has made to the website. The group approved to move forward with the website adjustments. (April)
2. **Partnership Working Group:** In April, Michael Kim-Eubanks reported that the group has been giving a third task by the presbytery. They have room for four more hunger grants that they can give out and will inform churches and make this announcement at the presbytery meeting. There will be a report to show what the impact has been with the funds.
3. In May, Michael Kim-Eubanks gave an update on hunger/immigration support and reported that they have given about \$61,000- \$ 62,000 so far. He also stated that Central and South America are not the only places that are impacted by the immigration terrorism campaign. He asked if MVL and FPOC know how much money they are supposed to give out overall or if they have come up with an ideal number.
4. **Budget Deep Dive group:** Rev. Laura Cheifetz reported that the group has two tasks: one is the budget, and the other is to figure out how to have conversations about money without falling into old toxic patterns. They would like to hold some conversations to get a sense of what people think their theologies on stewardship are. Looking to start these conversations in the middle of June, we are working on setting up registrations. (May)
5. **Standing Rules Implementation** - they have been approved! Now to implement. (May)
 - a. Transition plan to move from the Mission and Vision Leadership to the Coordinating Cabinet and the Visioning Team – discussion
 - i. What issues do these new Standing Rules seek to address?
 - i. What hope/new life do we hope these new Standing Rules help bring?
 - i. How might they help the presbytery heal?
 - i. How might we orient members to the new structure? What is our communications plan to congregations?
 - b. Rev. Laura Cheifetz reported that standing rules have been approved, and for the implementation, Rev. Sam Kim has put together a draft organizational chart of how the committees, commissions, and working groups will work. Rev. Karl Shadley asked that members think of what a dream team would look like when thinking of people to ask to join the committee, and to also try to ask those who haven't served on a committee before. Lori

Yamauchi spoke on the clarity of the committee contacts for the churches and clergy, so there is no confusion. Rev. Barbara Barkley agreed to having a clear structure of the committees and working groups for people to feel and be heard.

6. **Presbytery Book Club Proposal** (June)

Rev. Laura Cheifetz

- a. [The Vanishing Church](#) by Ryan Burge
 - i. Supplemented with speakers on how these trends impact specific communities of color
 - a. September 2026 through April 2027, meeting once during these months:
 - i. September-November, January-April
 - a. Proposed cost to be drawn from MVL “Leadership Development” budget line:
 - i. \$20/book = \$1,500 (75 books, discounted, plus tax/shipping)
 - i. \$500 for modest honoraria for speakers (or \$1000 for some modest honoraria for speakers plus one slightly larger honorarium for the author)
 - i. Total: \$2,000 (with hopes to request donations to help cover book costs)
 - i. If we have an in-person gathering, the catering costs will be covered by the TEP’s “Meals with Presbytery members” budget line
7. **West Region Envisioning Team:** Marc Jung updated that WRET has decided to meet quarterly instead of monthly; they are trying to work with the congregation at Covenant Presbyterian Church to find them a new place of worship. Marc reported that FPOC is working with General Counsel Michael Glass in locating a broker to help market the building; this will be brought up at the August Presbytery meeting as a formal motion. The community garden is still active at St. Paul’s at this time. (June)

[Report III A](#)

[Stated Clerk’s Report](#)

Thank you to Tri-Valley Presbytery Church. We appreciate your willingness to host our August 11, 2026 presbytery meeting.

PUBLIC TRIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Presbytery of San Francisco for
the Presbytery Church USA

v.

Graham Baird

Friday, August 14th - 9am to 7:30pm
Saturday, August 15th - 9am to 7:30pm
Sunday, August 16th - 2pm to 6pm

Location:

Berkeley Zion Presbyterian Church
545 Ashbury Ave. El Cerrito, CA 94530

As always, keep the presbytery in your prayers, as we pray for you.

Respectfully submitted,
Leticia Williams

[Report III B](#)

[Transitional Executive Presbyter's Report](#)

August 11, 2026

Respectfully submitted July 27th, Laura M. Cheifetz MWS

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 of the transitional period.

Transitional Period

After this presbytery meeting, I have a maximum of 13 more presbytery meetings and just over 3.25 years remaining in my contract with you (yes, I have a countdown). I would encourage all of us to:

- not let the perfect be the enemy of the good
- never waste a good crisis
- think strategically rather than reacting
- (yes, I'm going to add new points here to every presbytery report)

I will give far more detail in my spoken report.

Five Year Arc

We are deep into Year 2 of my transitional period with you, and I'm beginning to understand the arc of the transitional period specific to the context of the Presbytery of San Francisco. This is my rough outline, subject to change as conditions change. This does not encompass all the details, but should give a sense of the big picture.

Year 1: Changing financial services providers and financial systems, hiring staff

Year 2: Affirming and implementing new standing rules (including by-laws and articles of incorporation), beginning culture change on finance and mistrust

Year 3: Living into new standing rules, writing new manual of operations, culture change work and trust-building on finance

Year 4: Mission study and revisiting staff and committee structure

Year 5: Hiring new executive and associate, and cementing culture change

Relational Work

Since the May presbytery meeting and by the August meeting, I will have visited the following congregations and worshiped with them:

- New Bridges Presbyterian Church, Hayward (including a presentation about per capita in worship)
- John Knox Presbyterian Church, Dublin (served on the commission at the installation of their new pastor)
- St. John's Presbyterian Church in San Francisco (for their annual Dolly Church event)
- St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley

I also gathered with Spanish-speaking leaders in the presbytery, consulted with the session of the Mission Presbyterian Church (Iglesia Presbiteriana de la Mision) in San Francisco, and attended the World Refugee Day Panel at Calvary Presbyterian Church, San Francisco. I worked with Jorge Bautista, the Race Equity Coordinator, to convene the retired pastors.

I will have preached at and worshiped with:

- Delta Community Presbyterian Church in Discovery Bay
- Lakeside Presbyterian Church in San Francisco
- Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church in San Francisco
- St. John's Presbyterian Church in San Francisco

Several of us in leadership were invited to get to know Berkeley Presbyterian Mission Homes and explore how the presbytery might become more familiar and potentially partner in the future. I attended the conference of the Asian Pacific American Religious Research Initiative as my schedule permitted, as it was held in Berkeley, and spoke on a panel entitled "Interfaith Resistance to Fascism" alongside scholars/activists Sarah Merchant, Rita Nakashima Brock, and Najeeba Syeed.

I also attended the "PCUSA Polity for All" sponsored by the CRE/CP program.

General Assembly

The Synod of the Pacific's leadership, along with the leadership of the constituent presbyteries and staff of Presbyterian Life & Witness (the national agency formerly known as the Interim Unified Agency, the new agency into which the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, formerly known as the General Assembly Council, were combined) facilitated preparation for advisory delegates and commissioners to the 227th General Assembly. It has been a delight to work so closely with the other presbyteries in the synod. (Stay tuned for more collaborative workshops in the future.)

The Assembly met first online for committee work and then in person in Milwaukee. The Presbytery's commissioners and young adult advisory delegate were excellent! I got to observe their work in committee and on the floor, and we on staff provided them with things to help them focus (namely caffeine, fruit, and coloring books). It was a privilege to support Barbara Barkley as she stood for co-

moderator - she was calm, prepared, and her responses to questions on the floor were wise and compassionate.

One of the reasons why I was at GA was that I was invited by the co-moderators of the 226th General Assembly to preach the closing worship.

Here is the video of the sermon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzFddyBCWe4>

Here is a Presbyterian News Service article:

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/7/2/ga227-closing-sermon-gives-audacious-reckoning-church-harms>

Here is the text of the sermon, very kindly posted as a guest blog:

<https://www.reyes-chow.com/guest-laura-mariko-cheifetz-general-assembly-sermon-text/>

Administration

Adding to the list of “fun things I discovered,” I encourage congregations to check and make sure that their Statement of Information is up-to-date with the California Secretary of State. Out of date status with the state is one of the most common things found by General Counsel when working on lease/use agreements or other legal things on behalf of congregations.

The Presbytery needs to revise the by-laws to be commensurate with the new standing rules, and we discovered (so fun!) that our articles of incorporation are very out of date (as in, the current articles list a parent entity that no longer exists). This is a short-term very important project to keep the presbytery functional.

Finances and Taxes

ND Solutions worked with several congregations on property taxes. This responsibility has not transferred to Ekklesia Financial Services; we are working with a California-based provider. *Please reach out to one of us at the office (either myself or Caneisha Felder) if you receive a tax bill or assessment previously handled by ND Solutions or have questions.*

We have a new mission giving form for 2026 that is greatly simplified, and congregations can use either an online form or this PDF for giving beyond per capita.

I am continuing to work through the audit requirements for fiscal year 2025 with the help of Cindy and with Thomas James of Ekklesia Financial.

The “Deep Dive” working group continues to meet and formulate a plan to end up with a guiding theology of stewardship/finance. The emerging theology will serve as a lens by which the presbytery may set priorities. By the August presbytery meeting, we will have hosted ten (10) conversations with members of the presbytery, including sessions in Spanish, Mandarin, and Korean, and sessions for presbytery volunteers, members of Black churches, smaller churches (fewer than 300), and larger churches (more than 300). We have also worked with FPOC to host the budget conference on August 1st, where FPOC convenes the committee/working group leadership to work on the 2027 budget. This budget will be presented for a vote at the November presbytery meeting.

[Report III C](#)

[Transitional Associate Presbyter’s Report](#)

My report today is about time.

Not long ago, I met with a congregation preparing to enter a pastoral leadership transition. The session members were understandably anxious about the process. Before meeting with the congregation, they wanted to have every detail in place. They hoped the entire transition process could be completed within a few months, and they asked how quickly the Committee on Ministry would respond to their questions.

I understood both their anxiety and their frustration, but I also needed to be honest with them. I said, “Church time runs weekly. COM time runs monthly. Sometimes it takes a whole month to receive an answer. Unfortunately, it can sometimes take two months because COM meets only once a month.”

Today, I want to add another observation: **our shared time—your time with me as the Transitional Associate Presbyter—runs quarterly.**

Since I began serving in August 2025, we have gathered for only four Presbytery meetings. This meeting marks the first anniversary of my transitional tenure out of five years.

You may find it difficult to believe that a year has already passed. I find it difficult to believe as well—not because nothing has happened, but because so much has had to fit into a relatively small amount of time.

A year contains 365 days, but it does not contain 365 working days for me.

From August 5, 2025, through the completion of my first year, there were approximately 261 weekdays. After subtracting 13 weekday holidays and 275.55 hours—or approximately 34.44 days—of annual leave, sick leave, study leave, and floating holiday time, approximately 213.56 working days remained.

A significant portion of those days was devoted to responsibilities within the wider church and to my continuing formation as a Presbytery leader:

- Synod Forum and Assembly: 5 days
- Mid Council Leader Orientation: 4 days
- Leaders of Color Retreat: 3 additional working days
- 227th General Assembly: 9 working days
- Presbyterian Leader Formation: 6 days

Together, these accounted for another 27 days.

That left approximately **186.56 working days** for the local, day-to-day ministry of the Presbytery of San Francisco. Only 186.56 days. That number may sound surprisingly small. It may even lead you to wonder what could possibly have been accomplished during that time. So, let me share a partial quantitative account of how those days were used.

My calendar records:

- **98 committee and working-group meetings**, including meetings of NOM, the Education Working Group, MVL, COM, and the New Worshipping Community Working Group
- **13 congregational visits**, representing at least 20 hours of scheduled ministry
- **14 preaching engagements**, representing at least 17 hours
- **49 lunch appointments**, representing approximately 70.3 hours
- **1 funeral**
- **1 ordination**
- **3 installations**
- **2 congregational meetings**
- **6 session meetings**
- **1 church event support**

These figures represent **187 distinct ministry engagements**—approximately one documented engagement for every local working day available to me.

Of course, these numbers do not include the time required for preparation, travel, emails, phone calls, reports, follow-up conversations, document reviews, crisis response, administrative work, or the many informal conversations through which relationships and trust are gradually built. Numbers can tell us how time was occupied, but they cannot fully tell us what happened within that time.

The qualitative stories matter even more: congregations receiving guidance during uncertain transitions, pastors finding support, committees making difficult decisions, new communities imagining possibilities, and relationships slowly being established across the Presbytery.

I have received some encouraging words about this work. I plan to reserve the fuller stories and feedback for next year's annual report. But I can tell you that the messages remind me that transitional ministry

cannot be measured only by how many meetings were held or how quickly a task was completed. Some work produces immediate and visible results. Other work involves planting seeds, building trust, clarifying responsibilities, and preparing the ground for decisions that may not bear fruit until much later.

Thank you for supporting all the members of our Presbytery staff. I am also grateful to everyone who has trusted and participated in these transitional efforts. Transition is not simply about moving quickly. It is about discerning what must be done now, what requires patience, and what God may be preparing over time.

My prayer is that we will continue moving forward—not at the pace of anxiety and not at the pace of unnecessary delay, but at the pace of faithfulness. May we use the time entrusted to us to strengthen relationships, clarify our common mission, and make room for the future to which God is calling us.

[Report III D](#)

[Finance and Property Oversight Report](#)

It was approved to advance funds for urgent roof repairs to Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church, under the condition that the Synod of the Pacific recommended approval of the loan up to \$60,000 to the Synod's Mission Finance Committee. However, an anonymous donor covered the cost of the roof repairs, and so CVPC has repaid the presbytery in full on the advance. (May)

It was approved to concur with Committee on Ministry to fund the cost of a pilot coaching program by Convergence with 4-6 "threshold congregations" from Fund 3, with a maximum cost of \$1,500 per congregation. (May)

It was approved to concur with Committee on Ministry, approving the request from the Calvary Presbyterian Church, Berkeley Administrative Commission request for \$1,000 from Fund 3 to cover the cost of an independent financial review. (May)

It was approved to concur with Committee on Ministry to provide a one-time \$10,000 grant from Fund 3 to Iglesia de la Mision (SF), to support their ministry while they seek a tenant and stabilize their finances. (May)

It was approved that the Treasurer and the Transitional Executive Presbytery close the Presbytery of San Francisco CD account at Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program and use the funds to open a custodial/demand account at the Synod of the Pacific. (June)

It was approved that the Presbytery continue to serve as the fiscal sponsor for First Presbyterian Church, Hayward until December 31, 2026. (June)

It was approved to concur with Committee on Ministry to offer Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church a loan of \$2,605.39 from Fund 3 to temporarily meet their (behind payment on) Board of Pensions obligation, to allow STPC time to deal with their issues. Loan would be due in 4 months with zero interest. (July)

[Report III E](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

[Presbytery of San Francisco Overall Financial Report](#)

[Report III F](#)

[Standing Rules Implementation Team Report](#)

Update on Standing Rules Implementation

August 11, 2026

We are inviting applicants to serve on the new(ly formed) committees and working groups of the Presbytery!

All applicants welcome. The [new Standing Rules](#) call for diverse committee membership, including race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, geographic or theological conviction. Many committees and working groups are open to any volunteer, no ordination required.

While some of the committees and working groups are typically nominated through specific entities, we would love to hear if you are interested! Applications will be eagerly considered by the appropriate parties.

[Link to application](#)

Committees and Working Groups Seeking Members

([Draft job descriptions here](#). These are living documents, subject to change.)

Anne Penke Memorial Fund Advisory Committee (seeking 1 additional member)
Commissioned Pastors/Elders Working Group (seeking any additional members)
Committee on Ministry (seeking 4 additional members, must be Ruling or Teaching Elder)
Committee on Preparation for Ministry (seeking up to 7 additional members, must be Ruling or Teaching Elder)
Committee on Representation, Belonging, and Empowerment (seeking 5 members)
Coordinating Cabinet (seeking 2 at-large members)
Finance & Property Committee (seeking 3 members to begin in 2027)
NEW Healthy Congregations Committee (seeking 12 members)
NEW Mediation Management Working Group (seeking members)
New Worshiping Communities Committee (seeking 2 members)
Nominating Committee (seeking 7 members)

Partnership and Justice Working Group (seeking 2 members)

Personnel Committee (seeking 2 members)

Self-Development of People Committee (seeking 2 members)

Session Records Review Commission (seeking 3 members, must be Ruling or Teaching Elder)

NEW Visioning Team (seeking 9 members)