

News & Notes

Richmond Presbyterian Church

Deep with God, Wide with the World

March 29, 2020

Session Notes – March 24, 2020



Well, just as we had virtual worship last Sunday, we had virtual Session on Tuesday evening. I'm in a quandary as clerk; regulations require that the place of the meeting be recorded in the minutes. Not sure if 'cyberspace' will be acceptable.

As you might imagine, the bulk of the discussion was taken up with how we do church in a time of social distancing (an oxymoron?). It's particularly challenging when we are bringing on 2 new staff, **Anne-Marie Ellithorpe** (Director of Children & Youth Ministries) and **Jannie Lo Burdetti** (Director of Music). Normally we'd be planning cake, meet-and-greets, that sort of thing. What we can do is publish recorded introductions so that you can at least see and hear them, although not in person. So please take time to view these videos as they are made available. Anne-Marie's official start is April 1st, Jannie's is April 13th.

The virus situation is still fluid, although this week things seem to be settling in towards a 'new normal', at least until they change again! At the moment, our plans are:

- continue with closing the building to all groups
- continue streaming worship on Sunday mornings – we will get better at this: look for more music and more musicians, on-screen words to the songs, improved video and audio, children's time, and other enhancements

- have a virtual Munch & Mingle following worship – the office will send out the link you need to use to join in
- explore options for 'plateless' offerings
- continue with online bible studies – although unfortunately some regulars cannot participate online, we are getting a few new attendees who haven't attended before
- possibly add a short midweek online devotional with reading, prayer, and music

We understand that the latest technology, while powerful, is not everyone's cup of tea. So, we will be doing our best to stay in touch through traditional methods as well.

In this time of isolation, our elders will be making extra efforts to be in contact with you, by phone or by email, to keep in touch, talk about what's happening, and address pastoral concerns. In the current environment, there may also be practical concerns that we can help with: shopping, errands, and the like. Our care for each other is never limited to the spiritual, but very much the material as well. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Victor or Young Tae.

Stay well, stay distanced, stay in touch, keep praying, keep smiling, keep calm and carry on. God is always with his people through his people.

*Faithfully,
Graeme*

Richmond Presbyterian Church

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Meet our New Worship Director

Jannie Sing-Yen Burdeti

I am so looking forward to being at RPC, getting to know everyone, and making music together! I was born and raised in San Francisco, and after more than fifteen years of undergraduate and graduate studies in piano and chamber music performance at the Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Conservatory, Hochschule fur Musik in Freiburg, Germany, and San Francisco's Conservatory of Music, the light at the end of the tunnel is slowly emerging as a doctoral candidate. Although I have performed across North America and Europe, my spiritual journey has always been at the heart of my activities and inactivities (meditation). Nothing is more important to me than getting to know God more deeply and



serving through my gifts as a musician. Before I go on stage, my prayer is always to be an empty vessel so that God may use me, and my prayer as I start at RPC is no different. I come to you after serving as Music Director at Magothy Methodist Church, Govans Presbyterian Church, and St. Paul's United Church. In addition to music and God, *my passions include being a loving spouse, recycling, and doing dishes (not kidding).*

Meet our New Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Anne-Marie Ellithorpe

Anne-Marie was born in New Zealand, where she worked as a teacher and educational consultant. She has subsequently lived in Singapore, the United States, and Canada. Anne-Marie recently completed a PhD in practical theology through the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. Her dissertation is entitled: "Towards a Practical Theology of Friendship."

She enjoys fostering friendship and community within a variety of roles, including that of Research Associate at Vancouver School of Theology. Anne-Marie is married to Jim and has a fourteen-year-old daughter and a ten-year-old son.

