

Vision 2030_ Community Collaboration Transcript

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SPEAKERS

Speaker 6, Speaker 3, Speaker 2, Speaker 7, Speaker 5, Speaker 1, Speaker 9, Speaker 8, Speaker 4

 00:00

The President of the Board of Directors. It's a great honor to be here today and serve as the board president. I want to thank you because there could be so many other things you could be doing right now. You could be playing pickleball,

 00:16

oh there's laughter,

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but it just shows your commitment to Cameron House, wanting to be here today. I think that there's really not decades, maybe centuries,

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of Cameron House experiences in this room. And so there's really a very deep love and care for Cameron House here, and I know Cameron House has had such an influence on my life, and apparently all of yours also.

 00:56

So today we have a great panel here, and we're going to be talking about our strategic plan and also the role of faith in Cameron House. And I want to read something to you from my friend in the back there. Carol Chinn Morales. She and I had a coffee last lune. and she gave me

 01:23

this paper, and she said

 01:27

this question about faith at Cameron House has been around for a long time, and this is, this is when she was on the board. She wrote these notes up, and that was probably 10 to 15 years ago, so I'm just going to read this quickly.

 01:46

So this is Carol speaking for me as a developing Christian growing up in the Cameron House family and having the perspective of longevity that is having a personal view of how the ministry and personnel has evolved over time, I would contend that our DNA is still with us through though the ways we express it and the issues we address have evolved. It seems that we must work diligently to see the issues clearly and to take a fresh look at the role of faith at Cameron House. This was 10 to 15 years ago, and here we are today.

 02:29

So we're going to be revisiting history a bit today, and some of the information that I learned while we were preparing for this was brand new to me, even though I've been involved in Cameron House since I was in the second grade. So some of this is, what's new to me. It may not be new to all of you, or maybe perhaps you might have forgotten some of it,

 02:59

and for others of you, it may all be new, so I just ask you to come today with an open heart and an open mind to listen to all of this information. And I hope you find it very interesting, because I have just in preparation for today.

 03:24

Pastor Don first. Who is going to talk about today's intention.

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 03:51

Hello, everybody. My name is Reverend Donald P Hammond, for those of you who don't know me, my official title is the designated co pastor for the English worshipping community of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown. And I have been serving in PCC for we're coming up on the six year mark, where we've slightly passed the six year mark. And when I came, I came in 2019

 04:18

and about a month after I arrived, in June of 2019. Was when Cameron House named and the new executive director at the time, Mike Lee, who had started at that time. So I've already been here through one whole cycle of executive director and then interim with true on, and I am here today in my capacity as the pastor of the church, I want to be clear with everyone that although I very much support everything that goes on in Cameron House, I have no official role. I am not on staff. I don't currently volunteer, and so I'm here representing a part of the community the Legacy

 05:00

Committee that connects this institution with the Presbyterian Church, specifically in Chinatown, which was once called the Chinese Presbyterian Church. I'm very happy to be here, and I'm very happy to see you all here. Thank you.

 05:17

Oh, our intentions for the day.

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So I just came back from vacation, and part of me is still there. So one of the things that we are hopeful for today, and I'll certainly say for me hope today, is by this gathering and by this panel,

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we from the PCC side and from the Cameron House side, we're talking specifically and acknowledging a long history. It's a long history. It's a complex history, like long histories always do. It has ups and downs. It has periods of tight cooperation, and sometimes it has periods of loose affiliation. And what we're trying to do today is coming together in a spirit of openness. We're trying to rebuild and reconnect communication that certainly even over my six years, communication between the institutions kind of went to a low point, not low as in bad, but low as in intensity. And so my one of my hopes for today, and I think for all of us, is to help to reconnect the two institutions, publicly but carefully and with specific and I've been cut off. No, I haven't okay. So, so this today is to talk about some history. There'll be opportunities to talk about some plans for the immediate future, and the

opportunities for you as part of the extended community that's been involved here to share ideas, to ask questions and to help us as we collectively look for a new path, knowing where we came from, but not exactly knowing specifically where we're going yet. So that, I think, is how I want to set it from, from my standpoint, and for those of you who don't know the Presbyterian system or my church specifically, I do not speak for my church. I have a voice in my church. I often have the microphone like this, and I can be mistaken as all of the thoughts and hopes and dreams of my community. My community is hundreds of individuals, and we all practice ministry together, so my participation is as the pastor, but not as the voice of the church.

 07:51

Thank you, Pastor. Don Hello, everyone. How's everyone doing? We just put out some dim sums, so we gotta have the energy level a little bit higher here. How's everyone doing today?

 08:04

All right, much, much better. My name is Tom Hayashi, and I am with the Center for volunteer and nonprofit leadership. How many of you have heard of our organization? Not too surprising, because most of our work tends to be primarily in the North Bay, so a little bit north of us, we are primary service areas in Sonoma, Solano, Marin and Napa counties. But basically, we're a nonprofit organization in our own right, but our mission is to make other nonprofit organizations mission successful. And so my back, my a little bit of a background of our organization and how I have been working with board of the Cameron House about maybe almost a year and a half, two years ago, it's really I'm losing track of time. Seems like I'm part of the family already, but we've done some training with the board about that time, and then they said, Well, we're about to restart our strategic planning process. Could you come and help us? And I couldn't wait to accept that invitation. And so we have begun the strategic planning process for the next three to five years, about, I would say, about two, three months ago. And during that time, the board and the staff have been busily looking at different organizational information and also listening to the community. We've conducted surveys and focus groups, and we still are doing a little bit more data collection, just so that we could understand where folks are coming from, and to have folks provide some input on what they feel are the priorities for this 150 year old plus organization now.

 09:59

Now, which you all are part of, and so this community meeting is part of the strategic planning process, and the board coming out of the retreat is really wanting to make sure that they're circling around the community. Those of you who have been part of this network and family for many, many years. So thank you very much for joining us today. I also want to take this opportunity to make sure that everyone is introduced on this panel to start out with. So we just heard from Reverend Don and Scott Lan is our fearless leader, CEO, and also Reverend Harry. Chuck is here, who's been a long time executive director of Cameron House, as you all know. And then we also have Reverend Laura from the presbytery, and you just heard from Liane who also is our another fearless leader on the board side is the board chair, and then we also have Ed here, who has been a long time

 11:09

supporter, participant, you name it, with Cameron House, who's also has his connections with the church, and he will also be offering his perspective. So thank you all very much on the panel for joining us. I also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge speaking of the boards, let's start with The Cameron House board. Those of you who are members of the board, if you could please stand up or raise your hand so that you could be acknowledged. Thank you so much for your service.

 11:42

Applause. Right.

 11:44

Applause.

 11:45

And speaking of hard work, this type of program could not be possible without the dedicated support of the hard working staff at Cameron House. So if you're on staff, please raise your hand. Some of you are already standing up. Thank you all for your support.

 12:21

oh, what about the past board? Thank you so much for that. How many of you are past board members? Raise your hand. Thank you. Wow. That is great to have

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past board members here. Thank you for your service. Thank you for that suggestion. All right, now, let's quickly go over the agenda.

 12:46

And so just wanted to just flash this in terms of what our process for today. I'm not going to go into all the details, but we just want to make sure that before we kick off any conversations, immediately after this slide, I'm going to go over some group norms or ground rules, just so that everyone understand sort of how we're going to be having a respectful and positive conversation. Today. We also will be hearing from the panelists, from their various perspectives, past, present and their future vision for Cameron House. And then we wanted to give you all an opportunity to work in community have some conversations about, you know, what you really are excited about in terms of Cameron House's future, right? And how you might be engaged in its programming and various volunteer opportunities and those kinds of things. So we are going to have a breakout group, and there will be designated areas where we're going to give you all an opportunity to have smaller conversations

outside of this main room, okay? And then we're going to try to get you out of here just as efficiently as possible, just so that we're honoring your time, we really appreciate again, the time that you're taking to spend the Saturday afternoon with us. Make sense? Okay, great.

 14:30

just capitalizing on all of the air time here, we do want to try to give as much time as possible, especially when it comes to questions. And I'll go over the or actually, Kim Lan is going to be going over the protocol on taking questions, assume positive intent and acknowledge impact, just as Reverend Don has

 16:12

I'm going to try to get you out of here as as on time as possible. We did get started a little bit later, but I will do my best on that, and then focus forward, honor the past, and I think that that is something that I don't think I need to sort of reiterate. We appreciate all of what you represent as a history, and also the vision for Cameron hence, okay, next slide please. All right. So with that, we will go to the panel, but actually it may be helpful for us to go over how we're going to be taking questions first. So we're going to go a little bit out of order, but Kim Lan. Go ahead. Hi everybody. Thank you again, and I'm sorry for the redundancy. I'm Kim Lan Grout, the new Senior Director of Advancement here at Cameron House. On your tables, you have some index cards and writing utensils. Those are for you to take notes if you'd like to throughout this you're going to be getting a lot of information from our very wise panelists. But in addition, if those, if you want to transmute any of those to questions or comments, if you have a question that wasn't answered through all of this, I'm going to be personally answering them for you after this event. So go ahead and write whatever questions, comments, concerns or even how cute you think my outfit is, put that on the index card, and then at the end of the event, thank you. At the end of the event, go ahead and pass them to me. I'll collect them, and you'll expect an email or follow up, and everybody will get all of the questions and the comments that were asked as appropriate and the answer is, we want to make sure that everybody's on the same page. We're all about transparency here. So please hold on to those. If you need any others, just kind of raise your hand and we'll pass more on. Okay, great. Thank you. Next slide please.

 18:18

All right, so we will start with Reverend Laura, please take it away.

 18:26

Thank you. Hi everyone. I'm Laura Mariko Cheifetz. I use pronouns she, her and hers, and I serve as a transitional executive presbyter of the presbytery of San Francisco, which is pertinent because the Cameron House was begun as a Presbyterian mission and ministry. So I bring you greetings from 67 congregations and 18 new worshiping communities, over 9000 members in Alameda, San Mateo, San Francisco and Contra Costa counties, the Presbyterian Church is there. I'm real new so you can ask me questions, and I probably won't know, and that is, I'm fine with it, I will be happy to find you the answer, but I'm really pleased to be here with you something that I had shared with some folks up

here before. I actually was mentored by a lot of folks who came through Cameron House, because Cameron House and PCC together produced a lot of pastors, and I was mentored by a lot of folks who learned how to serve their communities by being really embedded in their community. So I'm really happy to be here with you all, and I suppose the other pertinent fact is that Presbyterian San Francisco owns a building

 19:56

this very moment, I asking myself for. What am I doing up here, looking out over the audience. It's like preaching to the choir, you know, probably just as much as I'm going to convey to you. So just sit back and be patient as you would with your grandfather or somebody, I may sound a little nostalgic, but why not?

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You know, if these walls could talk.

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There'd be a lot of stories, but looking out over

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the fellowship here, you have a lot of stories, stories about your experiences here at Cameron House, growing up in Chinatown, learning

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things for the first time that you never knew before. We share that a commonality amongst us. So over the past decade, I've grown a lot more appreciative of history. History has always been that required course you had in school, which nobody took seriously. You know, Christopher Columbus lost his shoe.

 21:31

So I've been trying to look at history as a way of retracing the events and the steps at my life. Why? Because I'm trying to get to know myself. How did I become the way I am? What were the influences and influencers in my life?

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So

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what do we know about this place? Well, it's been a it's been called a church related or faith related Community Center, a rescue mission, a youth hangout. But most endearing was the designation the home. People call it the home. My grandmother, who was a rescue enslaved by Miss Cameron called it a home. And when I was a child, my mother told me about that fateful day in San Francisco in its history, on April 18, 1906 at 5:30am in the morning. What happened?

 22:43

We had an earthquake, a big one.

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Do we have a slide?

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Have a slide up here, which is one of my favorites, and it,

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and many of you are familiar with it because it's a classic photo showing

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actually that that building held up very well. And I think Donaldina thought, well, we'll go back after the after

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this is all over. We'll sweep the place out and we'll pick up where we left off.

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When Donaldina came back

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to get into the building, she was confronted by soldiers with bayonets. Said, You're not welcome in there. It's too dangerous. She said I have to get our files out of there. There's a lot of confidential

there. It's too dangerous. She said, I have to get our files out of there. There's a lot of confidential stuff, and if you're going to stab me, go ahead and stab me. Well, she was a petite lady, but tough, and she made her point, and was able to rescue the files that was so important. I so when my mother talked about this earthquake,

 24:31

it was very graphic. I mean, I could almost see it. And my mom was six years old, and they were out in the street trying to they were seeking a way of getting to a safe place, and as they were going down the street, they bumped into Donaldina Cameron, and she already had about 50 women and their children with her, and.

 25:00

My mom said very clearly to me, said she pointed to her and said, and bring this one along too.

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So that's probably one of the reasons why I'm here today.

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There was a tremendous network then there, I guess there always has been of Presbyterian churches around the city. And so in order to get away from all the devastation here, and they started going up the hill, and he kept walking until they came to Venice Avenue. And what church is that that on Venice Avenue? Oh, first, what's, what's the name of the church today, old first. So there's a lot of history there. So it's difficult to imagine what it was like. And from old first, they were able to board the ferries. They went up across the bay. They went to San Anselmo, where there was another Presbyterian Church. Kept them going for a while, and then from there, they went to the Brooklyn Presbyterian Church, and they took care of them as the new building to this current building was being built and constructed.

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So you can understand why for the rest of their lives, all these women, all these children, thought of this place as the home, and they thought of Donaldina as mother. And

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what do we call affectionately mother in Chinese, Cantonese, anyway? Low Mo low, Mo. Okay,

 26:55

so let's fast forward to 1947

 26:59

I was beginning my first semester at Francisco Junior High School, which meant that I was going to school not in Chinatown anymore, but in North Beach. What's North Beach? Well, all I knew about North Beach was that it was the home of Joe DiMaggio, and that's where a lot of Italians live. That's where my mother bought potato salad and salami, and it was about approximately a miles walk to school every day. When I was at school one day, some some of my classmates came up to me and said, Hey, we're starting a boys club in Chinatown. You want to join? It's up there on that hill. It's that old brick building about a block up above the playground. And I said, Well, I'll come by and I'll check it out. And when I came by, and I stood there in front of that old, that old old door, you know, that old old door, if you look closely, has been reversed. It was there so long that it started looking kind of worn out. So they just turned it around, and what you see inside is out and outside is in. So some of the guys met me at the door with and they had paint brushes and hand others were had spackle. You know, that stuff that you patch walls with and they were making a lot of noise because they seemed to be having fun. I said, What are you guys doing? So we're working, we're fixing the place up so that we can have our club meetings here. And I said, How much do you get paid?

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you ask around Cameran House. Now nobody gets paid.

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So they said, but after, after we do all this work, we're going to go out the yard and we're going to play volleyball. But that sounded pretty good,

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and that was it. They were paid.

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What this

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one follower in that room?

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I'm sorry. My next visit was to a Friday night club meeting, and the club had over our club boys club had over 40 boys and we crammed into a club room kind of sweaty after playing basketball in the

had over to boys, and we crammed into a club room, kind of sweaty after playing basketball in the yard. And what followed there was my introduction to group work

 29:59

community building,

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and this is where we share many of these common experiences. I think I went to a meeting, a club meeting, Friday night, club meeting with boys who were young teenagers. And that meeting, to my surprise, was convened by one of them, one of the boys, he moderated at the meeting, and the others with him, sitting beside him were designated as officers, okay, a boys club, young teenagers. Vice. There was a vice president, there was a secretary. There's a treasurer for collecting dues, nickels and dimes to pay for the Kool Aid and the cookies. And there was an agenda ripped and scratched up with chalk and a chalkboard. And these were things that kept them being moving. And we followed. Imagine this. We followed simple guidelines from Robert's Rules of Order.

 31:07

Remember that

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spoke until spoken to and you vote when you ask to vote. So before adjourning, the club leader would lead us in a prayer of thanksgiving and concern for those who are absent. And we always close out these evenings, these meetings, with a ritual. And the ritual was we walked everybody home.

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So this was my introduction to group work,

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and what you can observe, and guess is that skill sets were being planted, and there's orderly decision making processes. They saw practice, and I was sold

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1947 that's a long time ago.

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So these skills were refined over time. We learned how to listen to others. We shared common concerns. We organized always a plan of action, such as planning food collections, raising money for UNICEF, a carnival to supplement summer activities, and the list goes on and on.

 32:33

Great when I think about the uniqueness of the Cameron House youth programs of the past, I realized that we were able to build a community within a larger community.

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You have to use your imagination, but that's what actually was happening. Thank you. Thank you, Reverend. I mean Reverend Harry. Harry fine,

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just let me close to this one comment.

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The owner row here at Cameron House runs deep

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with Cameron House alumni dedicated to community service.

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Are there some teachers out here with some social workers? Are there doctors, nurses, attorneys, law enforcement, ministers, government workers, as we continue to follow Youth and Family Services for these types of uncertainty, I can see how Cameron House continues to provide support

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to the community. Thank you,

 34:02

Reverend, Laura, if you wouldn't mind, maybe speaking to some of the points on this slide. And I think this is a really nice segue into just kind of highlighting a few of the transition that has occurred, especially as the presbytery. The presbytery has observed and supported over the years.

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Yeah, so

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the Presbyterian Church of Chinatown and Cameron House have a really unique, distinct relationship, and that continued for a long time. I won't tell you how old I was when this happened, but 25 years ago, they became two independent organizations, so separately incorporated and the two organizations have continued to be pipelines to each other. So Presbyterian Church of Chinatown, of course, feels very close to Cameron House because so many of the members are.

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Of Cameron House, in our Cameron House, and Cameron House also has provided a pipeline to the Presbyterian Church of Chinatown, doing a lot of the young adult and youth faith formation work and, of course, sharing volunteers and ministries throughout the years.

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So the separate 501, c3, obviously I was not around as I will not discuss my age,

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but that has enabled Cameron House to be able to seek different sorts of funding than you might imagine it being available to a church organization. So diversify the funding and that the two organizations also get to speak to each other as two different organizations, that is all I know. Great. Thank you so much for

 35:58

invite Reverend Don and Scott, as the CEO of Cameron House, to share some of their perspectives about the present state and some of the considerations for how the agency thinks about its future.

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Reverend, Don,

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 36:28

Thank you.

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So we really want to get into this, but we also have to just take a moment and we have to think about what's going on outside of San Francisco these days. What's going on outside in our country? We have to really seriously think about

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our country is in a time of

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startling uncomfortable and potentially very unsafe transition. I bring that up now because, in preparation for today,

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you can't see Harry's books here, but on the top, he has ventures in mission by Lorna E. Logan, and in the introduction of that book, she reminds the readers about when the Chinese were first here in San Francisco, it was not safe,

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the role of the church in today's society, and hopes and ideas for the role of Cameron House. And so

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We used to share it really hand in hand with Cameron House. Now we do it sort of as a parallel extension,

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but we have that purpose in common, to be a place of refuge and safety for those who need it, to be a place where people learn and grow, where they establish lifelong relationships and community, and where, hopefully, they are empowered to go back into their community and be forces for positiveness and for change. That's still the work of PCC, and I believe it is still the work of Cameron House that's shared in.

 40:48

that evangelical part of the faith, the talking about Christ, the focus on Christ, that happens across clay street now more than it happens here, and that has to do with the changes that have happened and the needs that have been put on Cameron House to serve in this new context. But if you take away the verbal component, the ministry part, can still exist and should still exist, the connection between one another, the value of a higher purpose in our lives, a connection to the divine, however, that might come across in someone's mind, and a sense of honor and service to one's neighbor to make a place that is safe in an unsafe world.

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and I believe that is still the work of Cameron House. But whereas we used to walk hand in hand together, we now walk side by side, and sometimes we may be going to the same destination, but we may be taking slightly different paths, but that connection and that service of our community has historically been a shared value, and I believe can be reinstated as a shared value going forward. And this panel, I haven't been invited to do anything like this in the six years that I've been here. I haven't seen a Presbyterian representative on a panel like this in six years either. There's other Presbyterian people here today too, not to call them out, but they're here. So this is a something that I haven't seen before, and I'm hopeful for what this means. It's, it's, it's a reminder of where we were and then deciding together how we go forward.

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I'm good. I can speak without a without a mic. Next slide, please. Thank you, Pastor. Don I just want to take a moment and

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to all of you. Thank you for coming out on a Saturday

 42:59

Perfect. Thank all of you for coming out on Saturday afternoon. Thank you so much for speaking here to pastor. Don't point. I'm humbled to sit amongst all of these folks. We had an opportunity last week to gather for multiple days and have deep, robust discussions about Cameron House, its past, its present and its future. And I'm very optimistic, I'm very hopeful. So thank you. Thank you all for being here. I just want to take a moment most of you will recognize some of these folks up on this slide. Of course, we have Donaldina Cameron, Margaret Culbertson, Lorna Logan, but also Tye Leung Schulze, the first Chinese American woman to vote in a US election, and of course, Marion Huang and so to echo what Pastor Don just said, we continue to honor the values of these of these leaders, some of you just took a quick tour of our new maker space, and I would encourage you to come and actually see it in action When we have kids during our bilingual after school program coming to learn and dig in and really be hands on with some of the new tools and machinery that we have in the maker space. And you'll see, you'll see, not just with the makerspace, but with our new Dragon and Lion

Dance Club, which our chief program officer, I'm not sure where she is, Yolanda. There she is, all the way back. Has started with the leadership of Corey Chan as well. And you can see that these values that have been practiced here for so many years are very much still alive and well. So if you have not seen it in action, I very much encourage you to come and check it out.

 44:45

Thank you so much.

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Next is I think we're going to be hearing from elder Ed Chin.

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Please take it away on your mark.

 44:55

Hi. Applause.

 45:00

Yeah, actually, like previous speakers have said all things I needed to say. But the main thing that I wanted to leave people with is, okay, there was a question that was asked of me, and it said, Why did you re up to be on the board? Okay, because I had just gotten off the board in 2019 so

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after retirement, I never dreamed I would be back on the board,

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but we're at a period of time that I felt was really critical, because I was worried about Cameron House. I said, Cameron House loses Seoul. Where are we going?

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What do we stand for? Because I could see that over the years, transition. We had gone from a period when I was coming to Cameron House, when it was synonymous. The church in Cameron House was one. We called it ministry. And they said, What church did you go to? How many kids answered

Cameron House? No one said. PCC,

 46:05

They said, Cameron House,

 46:08

and but that changed now, as a member of PCC, I wasn't thrilled with the change, because There went the pipeline, new members, new friends. Okay, we had to be on our own. Cal Chen became our first pastor call to the English and his one of his missions, because I had a conversation room back then, and he told me was to help form an identity for the English worshipping community.

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And we have formed an identity and become two solid organizations, the church as Cameron House, okay,

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over time, you know that Cameron House became much more independent, but together, we were partners in mission

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where we have a shared values. And I looked at I was reading the thing in the back the book Cameron House, values of community, service, servant leadership, authenticity,

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community. These are important values that we learn the Cameron House and the church. Which brings me to my next point.

 47:38

What is this? Was special about Cameron House? Yeah, we have the shared, common goal of Love your neighbor as yourself.

 47:47

But what is the biggest value of Cameron House? It was the community. Was the forming, as Harriet said, performing of the beloved community of God. Even if you take away the word God, you

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still are not going to take away the love that we share, and out of that love we share, we serve. That's Cameron House value.

 48:10

And so why did I Why did I come back after retirement? Because I was asked I had to pray about it, but the answer came back from God said, If not you, then who? Who am I going to nominate? If not now, then when am I going to do this? If this is important to me, if I want to participate in process, about the process, they must be part of this. So thank

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you. Next slide, please. We're

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going to be hearing from Liane as the board chair and

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so Cameron House here and now, what's happening today? So as you know, Cameron House is a nonprofit

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with all of those different backgrounds, we serve with equity and respect practicing what we call Big 10 inclusion, and it's very much the spirit that Donaldina Cameron and her leadership that filled an important and critical need in the city. And so programming goes on here during the week, with children, with adults and seniors, immigrants

 49:58

 50:02

Service is Cameron House. Cameron House is service. I'm going to

 50:14

Thank you, Liane.

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I think I just want to take a moment. I think you know this this past week, especially, I'm sure you all have been

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watching the news

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that the country, I think, is a tough one. I think we've become so so polarized

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that, you know, we can't even have

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a conversation two people who may disagree can't even have a conversation, and kind of the default, unfortunately, has become,

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in many cases, violence, right? And I think that now more than ever, Cameron House, PCC, the presbytery and and other AAPI organizations here in Chinatown, but also across San Francisco.

 51:12

And again, it's it's difficult times. I'm sure you all know what's happening with the city budgets and the budget cuts. Cameron House was, unfortunately, clock cut from multiple programs.

 51:35

which was something Lorna Logan spoke of, which was, you know, programs may change, but the community remains, and I think in times like these, we really need to lean on each other for support and come together to make sure that we can protect the communities that we serve.

 51:55

We just a couple of months ago, we partnered with Chinese for affirmative action. We had them come in, and they did an entire training, one hour training, on what would happen if ICE came knocking on our doors. Those are the times that we live in. But we want to make sure that we're prepared and we're ready to respond if something like that were to ever happen here.

 52:32

and you know, over the many years, it has evolved. It has changed. But one thing that will not change is, is this the community. Thank you so much. Just as to close out this wonderful panel of folks who are here to share some of the things that you know, we're just maybe all kind of collectively and individually reminiscing about, but this is really a future oriented also. It's a conversation that's also feature oriented, and I'm just curious with the folks who are here at the panel, what are you most proud of based on your

 53:14

involvement with Cameron House or affiliation with Cameron House, and what are you looking forward to? What are you proud of and what are you looking forward to?

 53:25

Then we can start with Pastor Don.

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So you're starting with the second person to not have grown up here.

 53:36

But let's, let's call it the way we see it. My community knows that very much. What? When I think about Cameron House, I,

 53:45

like Harry said, I'm big on history, big on where Cameron House came from, what Cameron House has done in the past. It's a fascinating institution with a fascinating history. There's a number of books written on it, but I think there are other books to be written.

 54:01

What I am the proudest about in Cameron House is that the institutions around it in the beginning,

 54:12

San Francisco in the 1850s and by the 1870s when we started, 1874

 54:20

Chinatown was a place that was almost walled off and it was cut off. People didn't have free access to get in and out. The Chinese themselves didn't have free access to get in and out of the country. The prejudice and the violence of the time created a need in Cameron House by blocking immigration and then creating a human trafficking railroad or ship lane at that time. And the people who came here were not originally from here, but they very much

 54:58

 55:18

It's often hard for me in public settings to really be the voice of my community, because I don't look like my community, and in a lot of ways, I don't have a shared experience with my community, but my community has taught me that we can bridge gaps like that, and we can work together. And I am proud of Cameron House for instilling that value in my community,

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because I have found it nowhere else in the same way.

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I think for me, I would be remiss if I did not mention

 55:59

the tireless efforts of my staff, and so I want Bill Yolanda, Kim Lan, Jenny, staff that are here today, can you just please stand up quickly? Because I do want to, you know, I'm the one who always is sitting up here at these at these tables, you know, speaking at events. But really the work that goes on behind the scenes, the day to day operations to make the magic happen,

 56:31

it's these folks,

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particular

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to to Yolanda, who has been here for over 25 years, and Bill has been here for, I believe, over 13 years now, and you've seen a lot of the change and the transitions and the challenges, but you are still here. And so I I'm humbled I get to work with these amazing people every single day. And so to you all, I appreciate you, and I'm looking forward to many more years of making Cameron House the absolute best it can be. Thank you.

 57:22

Of I don't think I could have gone through a lot of things that I had to deal with, were it not for powerful messages that and reminders from my life in the faith community, forgiveness is very powerful, and I think we all know that, and we all appreciate it.

 57:51

And because of that,

 57:55

even with

 57:57

mistakes and all the things that didn't go well, we never lost the trust of the community. So there has to be a higher power. There has to be more than just us at work,

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and I hope that the staff of both the Cameron House and the church will continue to work together

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and foster these values that we share great. I

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feel like I can spot Cameron house along, like, a

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like, a

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mile away, and usually I mean as a compliment,

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because I feel like Cameron House has produced a lot of people who are unafraid and remain committed to their communities, whatever that community happens to be, by the time I get to meet them. And so that's what I hope for Cameron House's future, to continue to produce fearless community embedded leaders,

 59:10

the Cameron House

 59:13

bloodline runs deep when I look out at All of you, many of you were my mentors. Were my day camp leaders, my club leaders, college leaders, and so I'm just proud of everybody still being around. Not that anybody's old, but you know, it's just like, like Carol, Carol said in her paragraph, it's in our DNA. And so the fact that we have this amazing turnout on a Saturday afternoon, on a gorgeous day, and you're all here, just it's.

 1:00:00

Says so much, and it means so much to me to know that you are here supporting Cameron House, because you care, and you've, you've been involved for so long, and it is just,

 1:00:14

it's heart warming, and it's, it's so meaningful to see all of you here. So I'm very hopeful for the future, knowing that in some way you can support us as we move forward. And there's a lot of exciting times despite budget cuts, there's always a light. So I hope we'll continue to see you involved in some way as time goes on, what

 1:00:50

am I most proud of

 1:00:53

it is this beloved community of

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not just at PCC, that's one sub community, but the broader community of Cameron House, people have gone through the doors, people to support Cameron House, people that have been served by Cameron House. We make so many friends. We grew up here. We learned so many things.

 1:01:50

What am I hopeful for? I'm hopeful that as we go into the future knowing what we know that Cameron House gets funding from federal, state and local government, which affects the way it won't proselytize Well, the needless PCC proselytize. We evangelize in a different way. We serve,

 1:02:25

support of Cameron House. Thank

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you. Don't have a copy

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of copies here for you to take home. Okay, this is a classic, as far as I'm concerned, the first 100 Years of Cameron House or the mission.

 1:02:48

Alright.

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Thank you so much, everyone so one one more time, one more applause for our wonderful

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panelists and wonderful leaders who

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we are so fortunate to be able to work with. Now we are at the time where we would like to ask you all to have some conversations amongst yourselves, given the time sort of limitations that we currently have, I'm going to suggest that folks actually break out into three or maybe even four small groups, maybe one at each corner of the room, not break out into the various rooms, because then we'll have to kind of herd people back and that sort of thing. And instead of asking you to focus on a number of these questions, if I may ask you to just focus on what is your vision for future collaboration among the presbytery of San Francisco, PCC, Cameron House, and also, maybe in that frame,

 1:03:51

think about some ideas that you would like for the leadership of Cameron House To think about to achieve these priorities. Okay,

 1:04:02

okay, thank you for that. It's a little different than we planned, but it's okay. That'll work. So we're going to focus on Yeah, so board members. Little change of plans. We're going to focus on Question two. Everybody's going to do question two, correct? All right, so that makes it very simple. And we have three groups actually, because we have three note takers.

 1:04:29

So let's do

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I can support the fourth

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group. Okay, great. So we have one group back there, one group over here. If you could just move your chairs and then repair so in the corners of the room, self select, because everybody's going to do the same question,

 - - - -

👤 1:04:51

yep, and you can even just stand around the corner. Don't even have to necessarily move the chairs, if that's a little too much of a logistical issue. Right? So maybe you could just crowd around there. And then also we have, we'll have about 10 minutes for this conversation, okay, and then we'll bring everybody back, and we'll do a little bit of a share out for about five minutes, and then we'll wrap up into a session. And are we gonna have a tour after this as well. Is that an outline? Okay, all right, okay, so if folks could just kind of go to the each corners, and I will go ahead and staff this corner so all the other if you could take a corner, that

👤 1:05:37

👤 1:05:37

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be great. Thank you.

👤 1:06:00

So let me.