

## Meeting Minutes (draft)

### CBCGB Board of Elders (“BoE”) December 4, 2021

Present: Chaw-Bing Chang, Samuel Chang (BoD head), Yuguang He (BoE secretary), Paul Huang (BOE chair), Juta Pan (Senior Pastor), Ji-yong Wang, Ruike Wang

Invitees: Nancy Cintolo (Mission Committee), Eric Chiu (Mission Committee chair), KC Chu (CBET chair, off-board elder), Jeff Hwang (pastor), Loren Shih (off-board elder, CB liaison), Weihsin Chau (office executive director), Josh Lin (medical team), William Hsu (medical team), Jennifer Ting (pastor)

Date/time: 09:00 - 13:37, December 4, 2021

Location: Zoom meeting

09:00 **Opening prayer** (Paul)

**Brief sharing (learnings, thanksgiving, testimony, etc.)** (Chaw-Bing)

(21st century mission)

- Great commission remains the same
- Also the same is our attitude of servanthood, either serving as a deacon, an elder, a pastor, while not as a lord over the people, just like Apostle Paul said, but as the servant to the gentiles and indebted to all
  - 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12, like mothers caring for little children, as fathers, to love flock, to be holy and righteous
  - Willing to die for the flock and the truth
- The difference are the strategy, demographics, culture, and uniqueness of today’s environment
- Our church is unique in North America as a Chinese ethnic, 1st and 1+ Chinese generations, ABC (American-Born Chinese), etc.

**Update for the state of the church-Major events and developments of the whole church**

(Juta)

- COVID-19 situation
  - Recent surge in MA
  - Omicron variant on the horizon
  - Recent cases at CBCGB, even this morning
- 3rd Month of church reopening status
  - All congregations dropped in the in-person attendance, 50-70%CM, 70-80%CB, 70%YM
  - ChM returned online till 12/12
  - Some CM fellowships returned online, and last Friday all fellowships returned online
  - YPF still remained in person on Saturday
  - Temporarily hold off food/drink service

- More efficient communication channels among congregations are in the discussion
- More cautious adjustments are needed to the new situation
- [Q]: How to deal with the shortage of coworkers during restrictions?
- Events
  - CBET promotion
  - Mission/social concern fundraising in process
  - NCPI follow-up, some NCPI coworkers were invited to and honored at COPAHNI, due to donation support to the Latin American church network, Juta shared at the gathering
  - Mission/social concern conference: 11/12-14
  - Afghan Evacuees supports, 30+ attended
  - Advent: started 11/28
  - Children dedication: 12/12, postponed to January, 2022
  - CM baptism, 9 candidates, a couple from NJ will join, 12/12, postponed to January, 2022
  - CBE info meeting: 12/6
  - CC retreat: 12/9, 12/11
  - Christmas Joint service: 12/19
  - P. Ziyi on sabbatical: 01-06/2022
  - Some pastoral staff have been tested COVID-19 positive: May affect ministries

#### **BOD updates-Major activities and planning (Samuel)**

- 3 new deacons this year: Jianzhong on CM IT, Phil on youth, and Petek on mission
- Potential ministry responsibility assignments: Stan to Children, Josh to CM spiritual formation with Kelly, all others remain in the same ministries
- Stewardship
  - Welcome center is furnished
  - Fall Cleanup: CB, CM, with great supports in food and spirit
- Communication over COVID-19 cases, e.g., w.r.t. pastoral staff situation
  - How to keep the balance between transparency and privacy?
  - [action]: Jeff to draft a church-wide email explaining personal COVID situation for the care of the whole church, BOE to review before sharing it publicly
  - [action]: Ruike to lead to evaluate the current situation among various ministries to decide if certain ministries would be online or remain onsite

#### **Mission Committee Sharing - Afghan Evacuee Supporting Plan (Nancy and Eric)**

- Initiative: care for afghan evacuees in light of Biblical teaching
- Partnership: Ascentria (LIRS) and Park Street Church
- NST (neighborhood support team): CB+CM with 40+ participants, local realtors, Agencia-alpha, a potential Afghan woman, etc.
- Goals (Long- and short-terms):
  - Great Commission in neighborhood
  - United effort from CB and CM

- Extended the blessings from God
- Reach out to people to bring them closer to God
- Step out of comfort zone
- Share resources
- Make friends with the strangers
- Approach Muslim community
- Witnesses to Jesus' story
- Bridge and connect Christianity and Islam
- Promote Perspectives and Kairos classes
- Testimonies sharing
- Adopt Afghan neighbor support as a church "mission" ministry
  - Women's team for wives and children
  - Men's team for husbands and young men
- More families to be adopted
- Make Afghan families settle in US and be productive in the communities
- Gain more confidence to reach out to more Muslim communities
- Church-planting to indigeneous communities
- Supports needed
  - Financial: \$80K/year/family, 501c(3) account setup by finance committee
  - Promotion: cultural trainings, long-term cross-cultural mission in the local areas, activities for more welcoming atmosphere
  - A representative to represent CBCGB for signatures
    - Housing rental agreement
    - MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) between CBCGB and Ascentria
- Training Courses
  - Afghan Culture: 8-9.30 pm., 12/7
  - Bridges: Christians connecting with Muslims: 9:30 - 11:30 am, 12/11
- Timeline
  - 12/4: BOE update and support request
  - 12/11: CC request
  - 12/18: fundraising begins
  - 12/31: Step 2 organize phase completed (fund ready)
  - 01/15/2022: Step 3 phase completed (housing)
  - 01/31/2022: The Afghan family arrives

#### **CBE status (KC)**

- Promotion
  - Brochure done
  - Content on the web
  - Video in process
  - Promotion session info meeting: 12/5
- CBE giving may not be obvious, even all the church giving is connected to Realm
  - [action]: Just activated
- Pledge form: make it easy for members

- [action]: Send it to all the members via mails (hard copy) and emails (BOD and office, before the end of year)
- [action]: Make web form ready

### **CC Retreat Prep. Work & Planning** (Yuguang)

- [Action]: Samuel to set up zoom link for Thursday's CC discussion session, to invite all the new members

### **CC Meeting Prep** (Paul)

- New members welcome
- Pastoral staff report
- BOD report
- BOE report
- Church calendar
- Ministry matrix
- Afghan evacuee supports
- Financial report
- CBE updates

### **2022 Ministry Matrix and Planning** (Paul)

- Updates (CC shared drive)
  - CBE
  - COC
  - CB Fellowships, ICF, Charis
  - CB Spiritual formation
  - Pulse (no BOE support)
  - CM Web team
  - HRC: POC
  - CM Sunday School
  - CM Evangelistic Meeting
  - BOE: All positions remain the same as the last year except that Elder KC will take over supervising CBE responsibility in place of offboard Elder Jian Zhang, and COC and Pulse elder advisor positions will be vacant

### **Emergency meeting with Church Reopening Task Force** (Weihsin Chau, Josh Lin, William Hsu, Jennifer Ting)

- Cleaning crew schedule
  - Tuesday, Wednesday: main building
  - Friday: 151
  - Saturday: office
- Reopening protocol: needs to be deep cleaned (instead of disinfection cleaning) momentarily and remains closed for 3 days
- Incubation period is uncertain, potentially many people may have been exposed, causing plausible concern for wider spread, besides the facility cleanness

- Acceptable and Minimized risks
  - Clean the facility
  - Minimize the number of coworkers present
  - Allow only essential coworkers with no known close contacts to the identified COVID cases
  - Base on volunteering
- [Actions]:
  - Close office today (Weihsin)
  - Conduct disinfection cleaning this afternoon by the cleaning crew (Weihsin)
  - Allow essential coworkers onsite only, voluntarily and available. Otherwise, go entirely online (Josh)
    - Holy Communion
    - Advent candle lighting and Scripture reading done by onsite coworkers (P. Yuegang to inform the family)
    - Kelly to contact the worship team
  - SS online
  - CBE promotion in the Sunday afternoon follow the same suit

13:37: **Closing prayer** (Chaw-Bing)

-----

## Acronyms

BoD: Board of Deacons

BoE: Board of Elders

CB: Cross-Bridge Ministry

CBCGB: Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston

CBCGL: Chinese Bible Church of Greater Lowell

CBE: Church Building Expansion

CBET: Church Building Expansion Team

CBEAT: Church Building Expansion Advisors Team

CC: Church Council

CCSANA: Chinese Christian Scholars Association in North America

COC: Community Outreach Commission

COPAHNI: the Fellowship of Hispanic Pastors of New England (*Confraternidad de Pastores Hispanos de Nueva Inglaterra*)

ChM: Children Ministry

CM: Chinese Ministry

COM: City Outreach Ministry

HR: Human Resources

SS: Sunday School

YM: Youth Ministry