

## Meeting Minutes

### CBCGB Board of Elders (“BoE”) January 8, 2022

**Present:** Chaw-Bing Chang, Samuel Chang (BoD head), KC Chu (CBET chair), Yuguang He (BoE secretary), Paul Huang (BOE chair), Juta Pan (Senior Pastor), Ji-yong Wang, Ruike Wang  
**Invitees:** Taylor Birkhimer (minister), Nancy Cintolo (Mission Committee), Jeff Hwang (pastor), Stan Wang (deacon)

Date/time: 09:00 - 12:50, January 8, 2022

Location: Zoom meeting

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

**Brief sharing (learnings, thanksgiving, testimony, etc.)** (Paul)

- Taiwan’s trip last year, quarantines (14 days) + self-health monitoring (7 days), leaving 1.5 days of full freedom. Thankfully, the self-health monitoring period can stay with the family, so Paul has 8.5 days to be with his family. The purpose of the trip is to help his 92 years old mother to accept Christ.
- Previous experience that Paul missed the opportunity to share the gospel with his uncle before his passing always serves as a reminder for sharing the gospel whenever he can.
- Felt negative influence from the Taiwanese media on the locals’ attitude towards foreigners. They think foreigners are the major source of COVID-19
- Re-engaged with CES for collaboration on CM Spiritual formation
- Fellowship with hometown church and pastors, and being reminded of the need of paying attention to the church leaders’ spiritual health
- Another lessons learned from the memory loss of aged well known Taiwanese scholars is we should use the intelligence for the Lord while we still can
- Online meeting with Minister Kola and missionary Richard & Rechael. Also learn the evangelism strategies and challenges from them.

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

- COVID-19 situation
  - Surge at MA, also affecting the young people
  - Omicron variant infection being transmitted rapidly, although the symptom is milder
  - COM had some recent COVID-19 cases
  - Lexington campus now online until the end of January, COM hybrid, all fellowships flexible, church office remains open
  - February - to be decided
- Events
  - All celebrations and major events are back online, e.g., advents, Christmas, joint services, etc.
  - Postponed: CM Baptism, child dedication

- CC retreat: reach to the young generation
- ANM:
  - approved fundraising by pastoral staff, matching fund by CC
  - Government approved CBCGB team to proceed to adopt a Afghan family
  - Follow up in process (see ANM status report below)
- Winter retreats postponed or canceled
- Spring evangelistic meeting: speaker being Xue-De Fang, and exact format depends the COVID situation then
- Proposal on joint services in 2022 submitted to BOE to review
  - Used to have 5 joint services
  - Now propose two options for the future
    - 4 services: New Year, Good Friday, Anniversary, Christmas Eve
    - 6 services: New Year, Good Friday, Mother's Day service, Father's Day, Anniversary, Christmas Eve
- Pastoral staff
  - On reaching out to younger generation and online opportunities
  - P. Ziyi on sabbatical, P. Juta and Yuegang to cover the ministries for P. Ziyi
  - M. Pat's father in critical but improved condition
  - Juta to teach online for Global Mission Seminary on "Apologetics and Heresy" to Chinese in East Europe

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

- New Deacon Assignments
  - Jianzhong: CM IT, supporting SS
  - Petek: MC representative, e.g., ANM
  - Phil: YM representative
- Reopening updates (mainly for coworkers)
  - Those being in close contact with the covid-19 infected can serve under the conditions of fully vaccinated, wearing masks, complete asymptomatic, and negative test via church provided antigen rapid test kit
  - (All others guidelines remain the same)

#### **CBE Status (KC)**

- Promotion
  - Video to be created, to include pastor's sharing in terms of vision and church ministries
  - To be shared in fellowships, using all the materials
- Fundraising
  - 12 pledges so far, of total \$107,820, lower than expected but compatible to the last "151 building" project
  - Accumulative building fund TT: \$1,249,953
- Options forward
  - Wait until reaching \$1.2m pledge
  - Start a 1-6 year \$1.8m no interest member loan program from 2023-2028

- Only build Gym, defer or cancel the other parts
- Wait another 3-6 months before any decision
- [consensus]: wait for another 1-2 months for the promotion to sink in among the congregants through sincere prayers, and then to decide the direction to take

### **Possible bylaw revisions (Paul)**

- Three proposal about the bylaw revision:
  - Online voting, i.e., sections 8.4.3 and 8.4.4
  - Extension Deacons' maximum term from 4 years to 6 years.
  - Committees to report to BOE, sections 7.1-7.8
- [decision]:
  - Bylaws
    - [consensus]: Careful study is needed to understand the rationale behind the wording of the current Bylaws before actually conducting the Bylaws revision
    - [Q]: inactive vs. inactive membership
    - [Q]: Why not "online" voting included in the current Bylaws?
  - Deacons' serving term
    - If leaving people in one position for an extended period, what would be a consequence to the church ministry such as discipleship training?
    - Except in Bylaws would open doors for loopholes?
    - [decision]: not to pursuit this item at this moment
  - Committees to report to BOE
    - The current Bylaws is sound
    - [decision]: Paul to track the committee chair's confirmation history

### **Ministry Reviews (Paul)**

- Follow up on BOD structure (Ruike)
- Caring
- Fellowship
- Spiritual formation
- Local outreach/evangelism
- Youth/children mental health
- [decision]: Will continue the discussion in the BoE online follow-up discussions.  
Targeting to review 3-4 ministries

### **Mission Committee Sharing-Update from Afghanistan NTS (Nancy)**

- A family of 6 arrived (Jan. 5), assigned to CBCGB (Jan. 4), having stayed in Fort McCoy base for the past four months
- Care package was prepared by NST
- The family is now in Hope House in NH, hosted by the ParkStreet Church, which is a retreat center, can hold 15-20 families
- In the process to de-lead the apartment in Waltham, which would take 4-6 weeks
- Funding so far: by 12/31/2021, reached \$14K raised + \$14K matching fund

- Translators have been identified, among them two are Christians, who are refugees themselves but highly educated
- The apartment to rent is 3-beds, 2-baths, and a large kitchen, conveniently and closely located to some of the CBCGB members, with easy access to supermarket, hospital, elementary school. The signing lease period is from Jan-Aug, 2022
- The Afghan family, Zabit as the husband who served as a soldier as part of the US forces, is from Province of Khost (east of Afghanistan), speaking Pashto (people name as well as region, a rural area), traditional muslims (e.g., highly sensible to shame and honor), praying five times a day
- Everything is new or unfamiliar to them
- No English at all, no read/write Agghani (illiterate)
- No SIV, with I-94 (SSC being applied), medical examination done and them vaccinated
- Some minor illness with wife, going through medical evaluation, and then seeking healthcare program
- The Family is very stressful and weary now
- The family has two cell phones
- Next Step by NST
  - MoU signing b/w CBCGB and Ascentria
  - NST teams visitation after two weeks
  - Prepare the apartment
  - Fundraising
  - Apply MassHealth and find PCP for the family
  - Education: ESL for the family, schools for children (possibly March)
  - Admin: 1) apply for gov assistance from the gov, and 2) connect with Ascentria legal team and Agencia Alpha lawyer
  - Ride and culture mentoring: local culture, Halal food stores, etc.
- A number of trainings for NST has been conducted
- The morale is high among the CBCGB members, who actively chimed in to support the family, even with a short notice

12:50: **Closing prayer** (Paul)

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## Acronyms

ANM: Afghan Neighbor Mission

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*)  
CES: Chinese Evangelical Seminary  
ChM: Children Ministry  
CM: Chinese Ministry  
COM: City Outreach Ministry  
ESL: English as the Second Language  
HR: Human Resources  
IT: Information Technology  
MC: Mission Committee  
MoU: Memorandum of Understanding  
NST: Neighborhood Support Team  
SIV: Special Immigration Visa  
SS: Sunday School  
SSC: Social-Security Card  
TT: Total  
YM: Youth Ministry