

## Meeting Minutes

### CBCGB Board of Elders (“BoE”) July 09, 2022

**Present:** Chaw-Bing Chang, Samuel Chang (BoD head), KC Chu (CBE chair), Yuguang He (BoE secretary), Paul Huang (BOE chair), Juta Pan (Senior Pastor), Ji-yong Wang, Ruike Wang  
**Invitees:** Patrick Chen (minister), Paul Lowe (HR), Melissa Yang (CBL core lead)

**Date/time:** 09:00 - 13:20, July 09, 2022

**Location:** Zoom meeting

#### Opening prayer (Paul)

#### Brief sharing (Paul)

- 2 Cor 1:3-4
- On 6/26 while preaching at MetroWest
  - Verse: Luke 4, Jesus got rejected from his hometown people
  - Nazerens rejected healers
  - Preach the word in season and out of season
  - Golden rule of preaching: at the end you have a live witness to resonate the message, choosing my own suffering as an example in April when flying to Taiwan to attend to my mother who was passing away. I was trying to preach Jesus to her as I did for the past 36 years. When doing Bible study together she collapsed in ICU
    - Praying hard for her to repent and turn her back to God the night before, even having not seen any sign in the past
    - A calmness fell on me and baptized her at her deathbed
    - Found her praying memoirs afterwards, realizing that she had accepted Christ by herself, which is comforting
  - A sister jolted down every word of the preaching, which is encouraging, knowing afterward that she had been in the similar situation and needed encouragement

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

- Current status
  - Moving into summer
  - Traveling season, while congregants are in/out
  - COM: yearly transition, graduation, job seeking
  - Still some confirmed Covid-19 cases, some light symptoms while other more severe
  - Attendance:
    - CB: more than 150 in person
    - COM: stable
    - CM: more than 200 in person, others online

- Lexington lunch service resumed and expanding
- COM plans to resume lunch service in mid July
- Father's Day service, with bothers serving throughout all the service, including choir, with excitement
- STM commissioning happened at CM and CB
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- Events
  - CB: 3 youths and 2 adults baptized
  - VBS: more than 70 children registered
  - 2 Philly children baptized
  - Hope house mission reached to a new phase, half of the attendees were Somalis and the other half Afghans. 15 members from COM participated enthusiastically
  - YM: summer schedule, no Friday nights activity
  - Mission: Afghan family leaving this weekend, program may need new coordinator, and the next stage planning is needed
  - P. Bowman to London at the end of July for COCM
- Near-Future plan
  - CM
    - 149th baptism on 8/18
    - Summer SS started with theme: Commit to Lord's Church
  - YM
    - Hawaii STM, 7/9-19
  - COM
    - 07/31: Baptism, 7-8 candidates
    - 7/11-15: VBS with Ruggles Baptist Church
    - Needs of young families arise
- Mission
  - Seeking new ANM coordinator, Afghan family moving to Oklahoma
  - David Ro preaching on 7/17/22
  - Eva coming back to visit
- Pastoral staff
  - P. Yuegang Sabbatical in July to September, got Covid-19 again
  - P. Jennifer resigned
  - P. Bowman to London on STM from 7/22-31
  - Pat's ordination process started on 6/24
  - Pastoral staff working on a statement on life ethics and abortion
- Requests and issues
  - Gas rate reimbursement, now reviewed by the finance committee
    - Policy may need to be revised by BOD and circle back to BOE for approval or further suggestions
    - BOD is working on it
  - Proposal of intern or interim youth minister, part-time or full-time needed, ministry gap may be expected
  - Restraining order for Jim Wang (a CB member) over mental issue

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

- Stewardship
  - Meeting with stewardship committee
  - Fire code update
  - Decluttering: hallway, staircase
  - Signage project in progress: signs inside/out, roads, etc. professionals help sought, may not be high priority but need to be addressed sooner than later since the issue has been raised many times
  - Children safety project in progress: doors, etc.
- Deacon nomination
  - 5 new deacon candidates: 2 CM, 2 CB, 1 COM, young generation, more sisters
  - [Suggestion]: invite ministry leaders to BOD meetings to get familiar with the process
- NCPI
  - Proposal in review
  - Decision to move forward as an independent ministry pending future review
  - Haitian churches: Support FHEPNE church rebuilding project in Haiti

### **Youth Minister/Director Position (Paul)**

- Search committee to be formed, including choosing the chair
- Except the senior pastor, all the other pastoral staff positions need to be overseen and approved by the senior pastor (viz the Bylaw)
- Senior pastor to take the initiative to form the committee
  - Pastoral staff should be part of the process but not chair the committee to avoid the conflict of interest
  - Sisters need to be on the committee
- The current HR manager is to post JD, screen the applications, present the qualified applicants to the committee. This part of responsibility is the same as the role of the last HR committee chair,
- The committee, once decided to raise the status of an applicant to candidacy, will then present the candidate to BOE for feedback
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- The senior pastor has the authority to decide to accept or reject the candidate for the position. The final recommendation of the candidate for the position needs to be made by the Senior Pastor to BOE.

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

- Promotion
  - Final video produced
  - Plan to promote among large fellowship and home groups in joined fashion
    - [Action]: KC, Paul and Juta to communicate with fellowship deacon and CB pastoral staff and home group leaders to coordinate the promotion
  - Brochure to be updated and then mailed out to present and past members
- Fundraising
  - 37 pledges so far

- \$1,343K available in CBE funds so far.
- Expected more pledges and donations after the promotion among fellowship groups.
- Plan: 3-phase approach
  - \$2.9m needed (major phase): classrooms, offices, multi-function room foundation, chapel framing, children's area renovation
  - \$1.1m needed: multi-functional facility.
  - \$1.0m needed: chapel finish, parking lot improvements
- Quote from a contractor is close to the projected budget, but may be expected to rise if delayed too long due to market uncertainty
- Member loan may be proposed if insufficient fund is raised in time, but paying back the loan may not be easy by looking at the current general fund surplus trend
- Schedule may be delayed due to lower than expected pledges participation rate and monthly donation to the CBE funds.

### **Miscellaneous (Paul)**

1. NCPI fund policy revision approval
  - a. A valuable initiative and yielded fruitful results
  - b. \$9,000 in the fund, still being denoted and functioning
  - c. Options of fund
    - i. Close the fund
    - ii. Merge with other funds
    - iii. Keep as is as independent
  - d. [Decision]:
    - i. Keep the fund as is
    - ii. Operation over the fund by the policy to manage the fund
    - iii. Approval of the policy revision
    - iv. Contingent to future review
2. Dr. Tod Bolsinger's adaptive leadership workshop for 2023 CC training?
  - a. Anticipated outcome
    - i. Equipping leaders
    - ii. Leadership identity
    - iii. Challenging leaders
    - iv. How to work together as leaders
  - b. CB is committed, as an opportunity to bring CB together in visioning and ministry
  - c. [Suggestions]:
    - i. CB inviting BOE and CC members to attend and understand what CB is taking
    - ii. Encourage leadership to attend with limited financial support from the church at will
  - d. [Considerations]:
    - i. Resources may be widely available online, need to justify this resource over others, if strongly recommended or even mandatory

- ii. Our church is multicultural and it is not easy to choose one-size-fits-all program for training purpose
  - e. [Decisions]:
    - i. Encourage CB to pursue as planned
    - ii. Encourage leadership from all ministries to attend at will
- 3. Memorial Fund approval
  - a. To be discussed online
- 4. Clifford's request on Jim Wang's behalf
  - a. Suggest that BOE personally visit Jim Wang for encouragement, due to positive experience in the last per visit by a past senior pastor
  - b. Visit may boost the morale temporarily, but in the long run, it may not help due to his mental issues that jeopardizes his judgment
  - c. Some restraining order has been in place for Jim Wang with limited escorted visiting to the church property
- 5. Recent issues
  - a. postponed

**Closing prayer:** Paul

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## Acronyms

ANM: Afghan Neighbor Ministry

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

DNC: Deacon Nomination Committee

ESL: English as the Second Language

FHEPNE: Fellowship of Haitian Evangelical Pastors of New England

HR: Human Resources

IPS: Investment Policy Statement  
IT: Information Technology  
MC: Mission Committee  
MoU: Memorandum of Understanding  
NST: Neighborhood Support Team  
NYT: New York Times  
SIV: Special Immigration Visa  
SS: Sunday School  
SSC: Social-Security Card  
TT: Total  
YM: Youth Ministry