

## Meeting Minutes

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

**Present:** Chaw-Bing Chang, KC Chu (CBE chair), Yuguang He (BoE secretary), Paul Huang (BOE chair), Juta Pan (Senior Pastor), Jianglin Liang (Deputy BoD head), Ji-yong Wang, Ruike Wang

**Invitees:** Steven Bowman (pastor), Patrick Chen (minister), Paul Lowe (HR), Zhongli (Joe) Zhang, Jeffrey Hwang (pastor), Yanhua Yan (COC chair)

**Date/time:** 09:00 - 12:15, October, 2022

**Location:** Hybrid meeting (zoom)

**Opening prayer** (Paul)

**Brief sharing** (KC)

- Whole family is excited to welcome a newborn, the fourth in the younger daughter’s family. Younger daughter was involved in a serious auto accident more than 20 years ago, whom the doctor was suspicious if she could ever have any baby, but more than 20 years later she has been blessed with four children
- The Psalmist says: Children are the heritage from the God
- Whole family is very grateful for the blessing of God

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

- Current status
  - Reopening has been positive
  - CB: 200 in person
  - COM: 140 in person + 30 online
  - CM: 250 in person but 500 in total
  - ChM: 70 at Lexington, 30 at COM
  - Lunch service:200+
  - More coworkers needed: especially in children, CB worship, CM PPT, transportation, kitchen
  - More CM fellowship coming back in person
  - Youth attendance high
  - Fall evangelistic meeting: no response but more attendance than ever, reflection has been going on
  - Friday space issues arising
  - 10/1: Newcomers welcome event, 50+ attended
  - 09/10 online workshop: Justice and Love by Professor Lo (羅秉祥教授) of Fuller Theological Seminary

- 10/01: Coordinator meeting: Future ministry focus: review evangelistic strategy, short term mission, connecting church and community, men's ministry, online ministry
- COM:
  - picked up 100+ new students
  - 9/11: newcomer welcome BBQ
- Future Events
  - CM
    - SS: Christian Ethics, lectures and panel discussion
    - 12 new transferred members
  - CB:
    - 10/9: Fall BBQ
    - 6 in baptism class, 10 in membership (including the 6)
  - ChM
    - 10/31 fall harvest festival
  - COM
    - Fall Evangelistic Retreat: 160 registered
    - 6 in baptism class
  - 10/2: World vision staff visited for children adoption project
- Pastoral staff
  - Yuegang returned from sabbatical
  - Youth minister search: forming the search committee, with Elder Terry as the chair, recruiting members now
  - 10/10: Pastoral retreat
  - M. Pat ordination at interview phase
  - Finalize life ethics and abortion at the end of October
  - Juta on vocation to teach online course at CESNA, but try to keep the working schedule
- Requests and issues
  - How to encourage more members to attend the annual meeting? (welcome all inputs)
  - Potential candidate YM staff maybe available, who is a recent graduate from Dallas Theological Seminary
  - CBE promotion: fellowship, home groups of all congregations, town hall meetings?
  - Churchwide thanksgiving for the grace of God during the pandemic?
  - How to make better connections with other sister or daughter churches?
    - Started from pastors and elders to share the blessing of the common church history and to learn from each other, e.g., church expansion, and to motivate the members of all the churches

### **CB Vision Framework (Jeff)**

- The frame is where to start for assembling a jigsaw puzzle, and so is for vision
- DNA
  - Culture: who we are and what we do

- What is the uniqueness of CB and fulfill the great commission?
- What is God leading us?
- Each church is different from the other churches
- Mission (what), Motives (why), Marks (when), Maps (how)
  - Mission: Bridging Cultures to build a Family (physical and spiritual) in Christ
  - Motives: For God, Scripture Driven, Better together, Servant-hearted
  - Marks: Missional in life, Shaped by Scripture, Walking in Community, Serving with Joy
  - Maps: Concentric Circles: big, mid, small
- Direction: Vision inside picture being worked on
  - Short-term: 90 days, 1-year, 2-3 years
    - 2-3 years:
      - Small group strategy
      - Organization Health
      - Pathway of development
      - Sabbath culture
    - 1-year
      - Alignment of ministries and people
      - Attune
    - 90 days: comms, buy-ins, sabbath foundation, planning to plan
  - Long-term: 5-year goal, beyond-the-horizon vision: institutional renovations in order to pursue leadership multiplication (staging)
    - Build
    - Gain sight
    - renovate

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

- Stewardship
  - ChM security enhancement
    - card /mobile system
    - Single entry
    - Basement security
    - Traffic flow control
  - Property management
    - Leakage fixes in main building
    - Lounge room renovation
    - TV-installation in 151
  - Signage installation: in/outdoor
- CM Fellowship
  - More people coming back in person on Fridays
  - YPF desiring to come back to Fridays, to take Salt and Light Fellowship space
  - Timothy moves to 128 main building
  - Friday/Sunday parking space is almost full

- CBE promotion in progress
- Kitchen service to 250+ people and growing, with some revenue generated

**Ministry Review: CM Local Outreach (Yanhua, Zhongli)**

- MGM
  - Current:
    - Twice a year, onsite and online
    - Good attendance and even better
    - Online: may have reached out to worldwide audiences
  - Challenges:
    - Good speakers hard to find
    - Follow-up afterwards
    - Hybrid mode
    - On Saturdays children were few, burdensome to coworkers in terms of schedule and effectiveness
  - Future
    - Hybrid maybe for some longer time
    - New formats may be adopted for MGM: live testimonies, panel discussion, Q/A, monthly messages, fellowship retreats, regular prayer meetings, etc.
- Pre-gospel events
  - Introduce to fellowships
  - Special topics, musical
  - Challenges: generating more interesting topics
- EE ministry
  - Visitation made online
  - Coworkers mostly sisters
  - Training: 2-4 students
  - Challenges
    - Fewer people wanting to be visited
    - Need gifted and pursuing coworkers
    - Trained coworkers did not stay long in the field
  - Future
    - Promotion in fellowship
    - Encourage people to come to the newcomer welcome and seeker's class
    - Update the training material
- Suburban campus ministry
  - Very limited references
  - Lack of on-campus fellowships
- Other supporting
  - Parachurch campus coworker support: CRU, intervarsity
  - Overseas Christian returnee service: ongoing and sensitive
  - NEWS group: ongoing

**Collaboration with May Institute (Steven)**

- Philly ministry: we are all special need people
- P. Kingfai started the ministry
- Societal issues in special needs children
- Coworkers needed more than ever
- 25+ on the autism spectrum, or having relational issues coming to church each week, with some being wandered outside occasionally, due to lack of supervision
- Even w/o formal trainings, coworkers are doing amazingly
- Coworkers meeting regularly for the needs, seeking for assistance
- A coworker, whose kid is in the autism spectrum, recommended an institute, May Institute, which is not Christian per se
- Also another institute called Community Therapeutic School around the corner of the church as well may be considered
- None of the Christian Institute has been identified so far
- Initial contact will be done with the institute to get the understanding, learning from the professionals and tactics for Christian counseling eventually

### **CBE Update (KC)**

- Plan to promote among selected fellowships and home groups
  - [action]: Elders to sign up for sharing the promotion in various fellowships
  - [action]: KC to email the promotion material to BOE
  - Ideas
    - Combine fellowships for small town hall meetings
  - Challenge: how to effectively reach all or the majority of the congregants?
- CBE brochures updated with graphic design, thanks to Brother Bob
- Plan to send out the updated brochure before Thanksgiving
- Fundraising
  - Pledges: \$234,140
  - Donation received: \$160,459
  - Total fund so far: \$1,377K
- Projection: By 09/2023: \$1,560K+\$300K capital fund
- Phase I need: \$2,400K
- Shortfall: \$540K
- CBE plan: remain the same, same budget and design
- Written Contract is expected from the contractor towards the end of October this year
- Carriage house will be the first to go in CBE construction
- Children's area renovation is starting imminently, actively looking for contractors

### **Closing prayer: KC**

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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  
CESNA: Chinese-Evangelical Seminary of North America  
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  
MGM: Mandarin Gospel Meeting  
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