

Meeting Minutes

CBCGB Board of Elders (“BoE”) November 12, 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: Patrick Chen (minister), Paul Lowe (HR), Eric Chiu (Mission Committee Chair), Jeff Hwang (pastor)

Date/time: 09:00 - 13:00, November 12, 2022

Location: Hybrid meeting (zoom)

Opening prayer (Paul)

Brief sharing (Chaw-Bing)

- Barcelona, Spain:
 - Columbus status - a piece of history: an Italian commissioned by Spain for the exploration of the new world
 - Imposing architecture by Antoni Gaudí: unfinished church
 - Gate of Triumph
 - Flock of doves in the square
 - Amazed by the friendliness and cleanliness of the city, especially to kids
- Reflection on full retirement in a few days (11/17) from MIT Lincoln Lab
 - Retired = retarded?
 - No longer active contributor to what you used to do
 - Wrote a textbook and taught in the Lab, to be taken over by a new generation staff
 - No more appointments in calendar
 - Take a break
 - Retire = Re-tire!
 - A fresh start, a new beginning (Lamentation 3:23), there is a hope for Israel, a new covenant to be carved in our heart,
 - Inspiring hymn: Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866-1960): Great is Thy Faithfulness, and
 - Oh to be like you
 - Living for Jesus

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

- Current status
 - In person attendance: reached 80% and stable for both COM and CB, 55% from CM to about 500 (new norm?), ChM and YM steady and growing
 - Lunch service to 300+

- CM fellowship attendance steady
- More thoughts needed for outreach and mental care needs
- ChM: 90 attendance in Fall harvest fest
- COM
 - 10/08-10: 160 registered in fall evangelistic meeting
 - Coworker exhausted due to new school year ministries
- CBE project promotion started
- CB DNA study, More BBQ gatherings
- YM: Started two SS classes, one for senior high and the other for junior high
- Future Events
 - CM
 - Space issue manageable now on Fridays but potentially challenging in the near future
 - Newcomers follow-up in need
 - SS adapting new format: lecture + panel discussion
 - 10/09: new membership transfer ceremony
 - 11/20: Child dedication
 - 12/11: baptism, 6 applied by 11/12
 - CM: Thanksgiving outreach
 - Platform for ministry needs and congregation
 - CB:
 - 11/20: 7 candidates for CB/YM baptism
 - 11/20: Thanksgiving banquet
 - 6 in baptism class, 10 in membership (including the 6)
 - Fellowship for young families
 - ChM
 - Special needs children ministry planning
 - YM
 - 11/27: Passion night
 - COM
 - 6 in baptism class
 - Fellowship for young families, monthly meeting
 - Congregation:
 - 10/2: World vision staff visited for children adoption project
 - 11/11-13 mission/social concern conference
 - 12/24: Christmas Eve joint service
 - 12/25: Christmas Sunday Service
 - STM in 2023
 - London
 - Kyrgyzstan
 - Central or South America
 - Youth?
- Thoughts
 - Resume STM

- Community connection and outreach
- New immigrants
- Newcomers ministry
- Campus ministry
- CB: CB's DNA study
- YM: YPA and new minister search
- ChM: Special needs, AWANA schedule
- COM: service for young families
- Church: inter-denominational relationship and ministry coordination
- Search for new ministries in new norm
- Pastoral staff
 - YM minister search: one more member needed for
 - Min. Pat: passed the pastoral interview
 - Shanshan: on board as interim YM minister
 - P. Duane on vocation for a month
 - Juta teaching at CESNA
- Requests and issues
 - Un-ordained minister for baptism?
 - [Q]: For transferred members, do we require their baptism from other churches by an ordained minister? How to verify the status of ordained or not?
 - [Action]: check the baptism policy (Juta)
 - church -wide reflection in pandemic?
 - CORI check: commitment and acceptance by coworkers?
 - Better connections with sister/daughter churches?
 - Counseling team with the seminary trained sisters with MA for church services?
 - Turkey/Greece trip as a church hosted event and mission trip?

BOD updates-Major activities and planning (Jianglin)

- Stewardship
 - ChM: security enhancement proposal ready, search for contractor
 - Property: fire drill, roof and basement fixings in church office, chapel
 - Kitchen: diligent and working hard, enriching menu, and serving more and more people
 - Parking and traffic task force team: reminder for the church
- CM Fellowship
 - Fellowships fill up Friday space
 - Autumn cleaning
 - Thanksgiving gatherings in observation
 - AWANA to start at 7pm survey in progress
- Health Insurance Renewal
 - To be decided soon
 - [action]: BOE to review, pastoral staff review, and BOD to decide
- BOD assignments for new deacons (suggesting to consolidate some deacons positions)

- He Dong: treasure track (trainee, transitioning)
- Sophie Yang: children
- Zhongli Zhang: COC
- Lilian Wang: SCM
- Eric Miu: secretary
- Ye Tang (2nd): stewardship (w/ Hongwei Huang to support)
- Kelly Hsu: worship

Mission Fund Planning (Eric)

- Deficit
 - Donation rate has declined since COVID
 - Getting into deficit because of expense increase when some missionaries moving back from the mission field to high cost regions due to restricted rules for foreigners in the serving countries
 - ANM or NCNI may not be the reason directly contributed to the deficit
- Communicated with church members, preparing a letter for all
- Meet with fellowships to address questions and concerns, and provide guidance
- Identify areas for adjustments, may prioritize the fund sending for
 - CBCGB sent missionaries
 - Support for missionaries working at unreached people group
- Ask partners to prayer together
- Leverage some surplus funds from other ministries?
 - Unwritten code: honor the donors' purpose
 - Special cases: end of the year to decide the surplus, which needs CC
 - E.g., ANM, general fund
 - ANM committee has the legal stand to decide the direction of the fund
 - [actions]:
 - ANM committee to decide the leverage from ANM fund
 - Mission committee is solely responsible for the fund either surplus or deficit
 - Inform the missionaries about the financial situation
 - Suggest to educate members to support missionaries collectively instead of individually
 - Suggest for mission committee to summarize the situation for BOE

Special Needs Conference (Ruikie, Pat)

- Slightly different from Stephen ministry
- Training for special needs?
- Mobilize already trained coworkers?
- Pastoral care deacon?

CBE Update (KC)

- Promotion kicked off

- CBE brochure updated and printed out, to be distributed to the congregation and former CBCGB members
- Fundraising
 - Pledges: \$234,140
 - Donation received: \$173,249
 - Total fund so far: \$1,390K
- Projection: By 10/2023: \$1,570K+\$300K capital fund
- Phase I need: \$2,400K
- Phase II: \$1.52m
- Shortfall: \$530K
- CBE plan: remain the same, same budget and design
- Pending for the written Contract from the contractor towards the end of November this year
 - Phase I: \$2,366K
 - Phase II: \$1,516K
 - Phase III: \$781K
- Some delay in schedule
- Shared in some fellowships already, feedback coming in
- More sharing to be done in CM, CB, and COM
- Suggest to come along with Pastors for some fellowships
- [Actions]:
 - Jiyong and Chaw-Bing to work with COM for promotion
 - Yuguang and Ruike to work with CB pastors to schedule the promotion at CB home groups and fellowships
 - Paul and Juta to work with Hope and Love fellowships for promotion
 - KC, Paul, Ruike, and Yuguang to work with all the rest of CM fellowships under the shepherd for promotion

Lo-Ammi Bible Dedication (CB+BOE)

Closing prayer: Chaw-Bing

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
MA: Master of Arts
MC: Mission Committee
MGM: Mandarin Gospel Meeting
MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
NCNI: Neighbor Church
NST: Neighborhood Support Team
NYT: New York Times
SIV: Special Immigration Visa
SS: Sunday School
SSC: Social-Security Card
TT: Total
YM: Youth Ministry