

Church 51th Anniversary Annual Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2020

- **Location:** Online over Vimeo

- **Meeting Agenda & Minutes**
 - Elder Ke-Chieh (KC) Chu opened the meeting at 11:15 am. Senior Pastor Juta Pan led us in opening prayer.
 - Welcome New Members
 - There were 74 new members added this year, compared to 103 new members added last year.
 - The congregation recited the membership commitment.
 - **Church Leadership**
 - Deacons
 - 2020 Deacons and role
 - Jason Lee (Head Deacon and IT/AV)
 - Samuel Chang (COM)
 - Hongwei Huang (Stewardship)
 - Jianglin Liang (CM Fellowship)
 - Kueiyu Joshua Lin (CM Worship)
 - Zongkui Joe Ma (Treasurer)
 - Ye Tang (Youth Ministry/Stewardship)
 - Charlene Tsang (Children's Ministry)
 - Beata Shih takes over for Charlene for the remainder of 2020 and all of 2021.
 - Dazhi Wang (CM Sunday School)
 - Stanley Wang (Secretary)
 - Ligoing Xu (Assistant Treasurer)
 - Yanhua Yan (COM Outreach)
 - Jason and Joe will complete their service at the end of 2020.
 - Samuel, Hongwei, Jianglin, Dazhi, and Stanley are up for renewal for a second term.
 - New nominated Deacons are Kelly Hsu and Elbert Chang
 - Elders
 - 2020 Elders
 - Chaw-Bing Chang
 - Ke-Cheih Chu
 - Christopher Cheng
 - Paul Huang
 - Jiyong Wang
 - Ruike Wang
 - Jian Zhang
 - Ke-Cheih will complete their service at the end of 2020.
 - Chaw-Bing is up for renewal for a second term.
 - Returning nominated Elder is Yuguang He.
 - Voting has met quorum, and all nominated deacons and elders have been confirmed.
 - **Annual Report**
 - **Board of Deacons (Stewardship)**

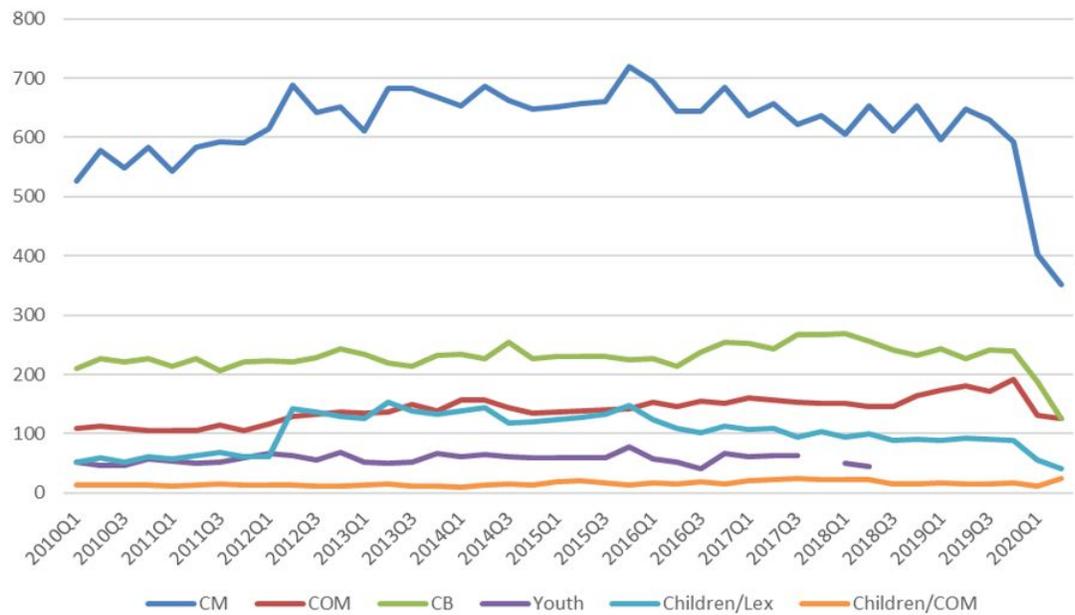
- Our Ministries
 - Property Management (Jay Huang, Yingyuan Zhang, Wei-Xin Chau)
 - Property Maintenance (Eric Young)
 - Church Van (Jinjie Tang)
 - Parking & Traffic Control (Paul Peng)
 - Kitchen (Han-Tai Lu)
 - Fire Drill (Binzhang Shen)
 - Spring/Fall Cleaning (Jianglin Liang)
- 2020 Projects
 - Main building lobby/hallway carpet replacement and wall repainting
 - Main driveway repaving
 - Resolution to basement leaks
 - Drainage behind church office
 - Children playground maintenance and improvement
 - Wall barrier installation on 3rd FL in main building
 - Van, kitchen, cleaning, parking, insurance, contracts, etc
 - PPE preparation and reopening implementation
- **Ministries**
 - **Cross Bridge Ministry**
 - Leadership Changes
 - Dr. Jeffrey Arthurs, Interim Cross Bridge Pastor, in reduced role due to serving as interim dean at GCTS
 - Jeff Hwang, Cross Bridge Minister, leading CB Leadership Core team
 - Elder Chris overseeing family ministry
 - Kola Aina started 9/1/20 as Interim Cross Bridge Minister
 - Search for CB Pastor continues
 - Sermon Series Highlights
 - Finished The Gospel of Mark
 - Songs of Advent
 - Habakkuk: When God Seems Silent
 - How To Get Unstuck Spiritually
 - Exodus 1-4: He Hears, He Remembers, He Sees, He Knows
 - Parables: The Kingdom of God is Like...
 - The Biblical Basis for Diversity and Inclusion
 - Starting Micah
 - Highlights
 - Old Testament Survey Group for adults and children
 - Home Improvement Ministries Marriage Retreat in February
 - Online Worship (Thank you worship/livestream team!)
 - Reflection over Racial Injustice
 - RightNow Media Resource available to CB
 - Donated out-of-print NIV84 pew bibles to other countries
 - Hybrid CB Retreat 2020 with online registration(!) (10/9-10/11)
 - We are active on social media – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (@crossbridgebos)
 - **Chinese Ministry (Fellowship)**
 - Fellowships/small groups play vital role in organically connecting and building up the church through various activities

- Equipped leaders with bible study materials and methods
- During pandemic, active gatherings through zoom and outings
- Photo show and hymn offering video during worship
- Fellowship cared for an infected couple
- **Children's Ministry**
 - Children's Ministry Core Leaders
 - Worship - Ying Huang
 - Nursery - Dora Yu
 - Preschool - Judy Miao/Cindy Yu
 - Sunday School - Ailan Guo
 - Philly - Rudy Cheung
 - AWANA - Sophie Yang
 - Cubbies - Yueping Zhu
 - VBS - Melissa Yang
 - Bible Quizzing - Bob Lei/Kathy Pan
 - Children's Sunday Programs
 - Children's Worship
 - Online since 4/26
 - Multiple home groups
 - Partnered with COM
 - Partnered with CCBMS
 - Sunday School/Mustard Seed/Philly
 - Provided resources for home worship since 3/15
 - Bible Quizzing
 - AWANA & Children's Friday Hangout
 - Online Hangout started 4/24
 - Online AWANA Handbook time added 9/11
 - 90+ registered pre-COVID (53 registered to date for online)
 - Sophie Yang continues as director
 - 20+ Co-Workers from CM fellowships participating
 - COM children are joining
 - Special Programs & Other Activities
 - Empower Kids Conference
 - Caring & Visitations
 - Continue to pray and care for children and their families
 - Visitations
 - Phone calls & Cards
 - Online Family Resources
 - VBS cancelled 2020
 - Melissa Yang stepping down
- **Youth Ministry**
 - Youth retreats continue to lead students into a deeper relationship with Jesus!
 - Passion Night outreach brought together youth from all over Boston. Students shared testimonies, led in worship and games, and created stations for students to reflect on Christ.
 - Students continue to grow in baptism and membership class! Praise God for 7 youth who were baptized this year!
 - Many former youth returned to serve the youth program at the Chinese Mission

- Conference this year!
 - We ended the school year on Zoom and celebrated our outgoing seniors in style.
 - Praise God for bringing Minister Taylor and his wife, Kylie, to CBCGB in February!! They are expecting their first child in November!
 - Praise God for Pastor Jen & Nate's wedding in August! Please continue praying for their marriage and future together!
- **City Outreach Ministry (COM)**
 - Responding to the pandemic, COM started all kinds of online activities and ministries.
 - Online Prayer Room
 - New Moms Chatting
 - Online Discipleship
 - Online Baking Class
 - Online Activities
- **Missions Committee**
 - Members
 - Chair – Eric Chiu (new)
 - Vice Chair – Bow-Nan Cheng (new)
 - Secretary – Lance Pan
 - Treasurer – Timothy Huang
 - Hank Lu
 - Evaline Lai
 - Noel Li (off 2020)
 - Rebecca Tsai (off 2020)
 - Advisors:
 - Pastor Steven Bowman (new)
 - Pastor Jennifer Lin (new)
 - Elder Jiyong Wang (new)
 - Many Global Partners
 - 2020 Report
 - Thank you! for generous giving to missions and faith pledge
 - Faithfully managed funds according to our policy's sending priority
 - Close to 100 individuals participated in the mission-focused Chinese Mission Conference (CMC) at Baltimore
 - Restarted the mission-focused prayer meeting in collaboration with the CM prayer meeting coworkers
 - Started the review of our mission ministry framework. Link Asia Survey (collaborating with OMF) is one of the tools that we deployed to help with this effort.
- **Social Concerns**
 - Members
 - Jimin Xiong (Chair)
 - Jay Huang
 - Jocelyn Chen
 - Stanley Wang
 - Winnie Carpenter
 - Yangsheng Tzeng

- **Community Outreach Committee (COC)**
 - 2020 Spring Mandarin evangelistic meetings (MGM) was cancelled due to Covid19 pandemic.
 - 2020 Fall MGM went online by zoom meeting.
 - In addition to the scheduled gospel music event, a gospel movie with pastor's short preaching was broadcasted on Saturday night.
 - Evangelism Explosion (EE) ministry training also went online by Zoom since March.
 - Initiating online visiting for seekers.
 - Gospel coworkers are adapting to this new approach.
 - Continue supporting parachurch ministers and organizations.
- **Church Building Expansion Ministry**
 - [DONE] Elder Jian Zhang will succeed as the chairs of CBE Advisory Team (CBE-AT) and CBE Team (CBET).
 - [DONE] CBE-AT will do requirement survey on C.C members.
 - [DONE] CBE-AT will do church building expansion requirement survey under pandemic on Ministries leaders.
 - [DONE] CBE-AT will make a report on the Ministries' requirement for the Multi-purpose Building.
 - [DONE] CBET will put forward suggestions and plans for the development of various outdoor facilities under pandemic.
 - [IN PROGRESS] CBE-AT and CBET will work together to formulate the feasibility report and the implementation plan for the building of the Multi-purpose facility.
- **Staff**
 - Recently Hired
 - Director of Children Ministry - Tony Ng
 - Youth Minister - H. Taylor Birkhimer
 - CB One Year Interim minister - Kola Aina
 - Resigned
 - Property Manager - Ruth Lu
- **Attendance**

2010-2020 Average Quarterly Attendance 每季平均出席人數



- Beginning from 3/15, the registered number is the analytic number of web connection due to the COVID pandemic, all the worships have been moved to online.
- **Finance**
 - Praise the Lord that during the pandemic, 2020 offering remains stable
 - Average weekly missions offering slightly lower than 2019, but higher than years prior
 - 61% of annual budget for staff salary and benefits
- **Looking Forward (Near-Mid-Long-Term Strategies)**
 - Strategy to support church vision and mission
 - Due to the Pandemic, more than 7 months of last year have been focused on closing church facilities, performing/improving online ministries and gradually reopening church facilities.
 - So, one of the near term goal for this coming year will be continuing the effort of reopening church facilities and gradually moving back to normal in-person ministries. Most of the goal set last year in the near, mid and long term are still valid for this year.
 - Near Term: Building pastoral team, increasing cross-ministry communication and cooperation, strengthening the coordination and cooperation of family ministry.
 - Mid Term: Church Building Expansion, Modernizing church AV System, strengthening the integration of local mission, social concern, cross-culture mission and developing high tech evangelistic media such as digital evangelism, etc.
 - Long Term: Strengthening evangelistic training, equip the saint.
- **Our Vision and Mission**
 - Reviewed and recited CBCGB Vision and Mission Statements
- **Congregational prayer**
- **Exhortation** by Pastor Juta Pan
 - James 1:2-6: "2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the

one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”

- Trials typically are undesirable
 - We are all facing it during the pandemic, even if it’s just an inconvenience
 - Some are facing economic struggles
 - Continue to face risk of being infected
 - Even within church, there are challenges of meeting virtually
- Can we really be joyful during this time?
 - The purpose of trials is so we can grow stronger in our faith
 - Compared to other regions, our church has been very comfortable.
 - Can we view this time as an opportunity to have a renewed joyful attitude?
- Joy is an attitude of optimism
 - We can have joy in that after the pandemic has passed, we have faith that God will lead us to grow in our personal and spiritual life
- Optimism is built on faith in God
 - We believe that in spite of trials, God is still in control
 - God’s wisdom will allow us to have a broader view
- Faith is cultivated during times of trials
- Pastor Pan has some suggestions in the annual report
- **Q&A and Discussion**
 - **Q:** Recently a statement was announced by CBCGB leadership regarding the US election in 2020. I have the following questions: 1. What constitutes "openly campaign[ing]"? Is there a difference between "expressing support for specific candidates" and discussing politics with fellow church members? 2. Does this extend to those who are not church members but are participating in official church meetings or social media channels? 3. Who would be responsible for enforcing these guidelines and what guidance has been given to those individuals? 4. How does Matthew 22:21 constitute Jesus instructing us to maintain a separation of church and state? What preaching may church members reference to better understand this principle? 5. From a legal/tax perspective, I understand there are certain regulations prohibiting non-profit organizations from expressing political opinions. Why is it important to maintain tax exemption and would there be any circumstances which would motivate the church to give this up? If so, can you give some examples?
 - **A:** The purpose of the church statement is to ask co-workers not to use church forums to openly campaign for a specific candidate (ie, pulpit, church communication channels).
 - This does not preclude us from caring about what’s going on in our society.
 - Pastor Pan encourages the congregation to care for the current public issues and social concerns.
 - There is no absolute “correct” or “incorrect” political candidate
 - Different candidates may have different stances that are both biblical sound
 - To preserve church unity, there is no official stance from the church. Church members public campaigns for specific candidates may cause division of the church.
 - When we do discuss political issues privately, we should do so with respect.
 - The leaders (pastors, elders, presiders, SS teachers, fellowship leaders) should be responsible for enforcing guidelines
 - From the US point of view, government cannot favor a specific religious organization
 - Similarly, no religious organization can use politics to bring the privilege or advantage of specific faith and to dispel different faiths or beliefs

- Tax exemption is a byproduct of the separation of church and state
 - By favoring a specific candidate, and thus lose the tax exemption, that would damage the church's reputation
- **Q:** After the CBCGB Racial Injustice Response I don't see our church doing actions (not just sermons) to address racism and injustice in our society. Is our church willing to be socially and politically engaged to speak prophetically and to affect change?
 - **A:** Pastor Pan agrees that our church needs to do better in this regard.
 - Traditionally, the Chinese Church in North America has ignored social justice issues. There are three reasons that cause this tendency:
 - 1. Most Chinese churches succeed in the Christian tradition that the church should be distant from society and public issues.
 - 2. Most of our members are first generation immigrant, and usually fall behind in understanding social justice issues and feel more distant from the issue
 - 3. Since social Justice is also a complicated topic, we are reluctant to deal with them.
 - CBCGB should go beyond the announcement and take more action
 - The second generation can become a model for the first generation
 - The rest of the questions will be answered and posted
- Elder KC adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm.
- **Addendum**
 - **In a congregational vote on the same day, the motion to approve the following seven deacon candidates to serve a two-year term starting in 2021 and the following two elder candidates to serve a three-year term starting in 2021 was passed.**
 - **Deacons:**
 - Elbert Chang
 - Samuel Chang
 - Hongwei Huang
 - Kelly Hsu
 - Jianglin Liang
 - Dazhi Wang
 - Stanley Wang
 - **Elders:**
 - Chaw-Bing Chang
 - Yuguang He