

Church 48th Anniversary Annual Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2017

A. Location: Church sanctuary

B. Meeting Agenda & Minutes

- a. Elder Yuguang He opened in prayer, reviewed the meeting agenda, and reviewed the membership commitment.
- b. The five deacon candidates who have been nominated to serve a two-year term starting in 2018 are:
 - i. Charlene Tsang (Cross Bridge)
 - ii. Yan-Hua Yan (Chinese Ministry)
 - iii. Berhan Yeh (Cross Bridge)
 - iv. Ling Zhang (Chinese Ministry)
 - v. Tuanfeng Zhang (Chinese Ministry)
- c. The two elder candidates who have been nominated to serve a three-year term starting in 2018 are:
 - i. Chaw-Bing Chang (Chinese Ministry)
 - ii. Ke-chieh Chu (Chinese Ministry)
- d. Annual Reports
 - i. There were 136 new members added this psat year across Chinese Ministry, Cross Bridge, and City Outreach Ministry.
 - ii. Cross Bridge attendance has risen since Pastor Tim Conkling started. Chinese Ministry and City Outreach Ministry attendance has been stable.
 - iii. 62% of the general fund was used to pay staff salaries this past year, but this amount should be seen as going to all ministries.
 - iv. Missions
 1. Four missionary families have recently retired (three in the last year). The church has added thirteen new missionary families that we have begun supporting in the last four years (seven in the last year). These numbers do not include Pastor Tim Conkling.
 - v. Social Concerns
 1. The social concerns ministry has been involved in a number of initiatives to serve the local and global community, including ESL, Operation Mittens, Summerbridge, China Orphanage Project Reserve, and Local Volunteering.
 - vi. Cross Bridge
 1. Prior to Pastor Tim starting, Pastor David Eng and Dr. Jeffrey Arthurs from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary led the congregation through sermon series in Philippians, Psalms, and the Sermon on the Mount.
 2. Cross Bridge's five strategic priorities are:
 - a. Encouraging Prayer
 - b. Integrating Newcomers
 - c. Promoting Children's ministries
 - d. Developing Discipleship ministries
 - e. Providing meaningful Sunday worship service
 3. Fellowship Groups include college, young adult, and 11 other community small groups that gather for Bible/book studies, prayer, caring, and sharing
 4. Sunday School Classes for this past year included "Foundations of the Christian Faith",

“Caring for your Soul”, and “Knowing God: The Attributes of God”. The current Sunday School is on “Dynamics of the Spiritual Life”.

5. There is a new discipleship ministry: Life on Life Missional Discipleship Movement
 6. Pastor Tim Conkling started in July as the new Cross Bridge lead pastor. There has been much interest in people attending both worship services to hear our new pastor.
- vii. Metro South became independent this past year, and the mother church remains committed to supporting its growth.
- viii. City Outreach Ministry (COM)
1. COM continues to expand, reaching students not just in Boston but also other parts in North America and in Asia.
 2. A third branch has been started in Malden.
 3. The Malden Student Fellowship started on April 28.
 4. COM has started searching for a second pastor/minister.
 5. For the second year, COM sent a short term missions team to Maine.
 6. A fall evangelistic retreat was held from September 29 to October 1 with 158 adults and 18 children attending.
- ix. Metro North
1. This undertaking was initiated by Chinese Bible Church of Greater Lowell, with CBCGB as a partner.
 2. Prayer started one year ago.
 3. A core team has been established.
 4. Regular fellowship started last summer, with discipleship training and fellowship bonding.
 5. The team is gradually moving towards inviting friends with the Gospel.
 6. The goal is to eventually plant a church in the Metro-North area of Boston.
- x. Chinese Ministry Fellowships
1. There are now twenty-five fellowships and thirteen small groups.
 2. A year-round training program has been established with about 35 regular trainees:
 - a. Small group/fellowship leadership training in spring
 - b. Inductive bible study training during summer
 - c. Evangelism Explosion training in fall
 3. Four new small groups were established this year:
 - a. ABW group in Allston, Belmont and Waltham
 - b. Little Star Group in Lexington
 - c. Salvation Group in Newton
 - d. Hosanna B Group in Newton
- xi. Children’s Ministry
1. Children’s Ministry can be seen as “The center of this church”, as well as the core of Chinese culture and the family. Parents are encouraged to visit Children’s Worship and to create a culture of worship within the family.
 2. Please continue to pray for the Philly special needs ministry.
- xii. Youth ministry
1. Minister Stan has been taking care of both Junior and Senior High during Pastor Jen’s sabbatical.
 2. More than thirty students participated in short term missions and service trips this past summer to Lynn, NYC, and Hopi.
 3. The 2017-.18 ALIVE vision is “To see students become disciples of Jesus Christ”

4. Youth Parent Association (YPA) Noodle Night will be on Saturday, October 21.
 5. Passion Night will be on Friday, November 24.
 6. Pastor Jen returns from her sabbatical in January.
- xiii. Community Outreach Committee (COC)
1. The spring evangelistic meeting was held on March 19-22. Its theme was “Outside of Expectations” with speaker Pastor Kuo-Lun Huang.
 - a. Twenty-one seekers accepted Christ
 2. The fall evangelistic meeting was on September 29-October 1. Its theme was “401K Life” with speaker Dr. Yeou-Chern Bor.
 - a. Ten seekers accepted Christ.
 3. The North Shore Student Fellowship Group was established by Brother Guan Liu
 - 4.
- xiv. Stewardship
1. Upper-level parking lot and all accessory projects have been completed.
 2. Natural gas powered HVAC has been installed for the chapel, first floor, and basement.
 3. Sewage system renewal project is in progress.
 4. A church van was purchased to support the North Shore student ministry.
- xv. Bookstore Ministry
1. The bookstore is small in size but rich in content.
 2. The bookstore provides needed support to other church ministries and activities such as baptism, evangelical events, book clubs, Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, and other special request needs.
 3. It ensures the best value for bibles, books, CDs, hymnals, gift items, greeting cards, and Bible study materials.
 4. The bookstore was recently renovated and reorganized for easier access.
- xvi. Church Building Expansion
1. Studies were conducted this past year to explore supporting multiple services or live-streaming services to multiple locations. Studies were also conducted regarding potential space usage (including the surrounding grass/hill area). The team is committed to keep members’ interests in mind when planning.
- xvii. Senior Pastor Succession
1. Senior Pastor Caleb Chang is planning to retire from CBCGB at the end of 2018.
 2. The Board of Elders is working together with pastoral staff on the transition plan.
 3. The Senior Pastor Search Committee (SPSC) is working hard to finalize the job description, with support from the congregation and church council.
- xviii. New Vision and Mission Statement
1. Vision statement: To see every person become a disciple of Christ, across all cultures, from East to West, from Greater Boston to the world.
 2. Mission Statement: We are a church in Greater Boston that brings people across all cultures together in Christ to inspire, disciple, and send them to be global disciple-makers.
 3. The Near-Mid-Long term strategy is as follows:
 - a. Embark on strategic planning based on the Mission Statement
 - b. Reaching out and expand the kingdom of God
 - c. Being disciplined like Christ, and making Christ-like disciples
- e. Pastor Caleb gave an exhortation message during which:
- i. Pastor Caleb clarified that his retirement will mean that he will no longer be on the church payroll next year. However, he will never step away from his calling to preach; retirement is just

a change of official status.

- ii. The church is not a cruise boat but a battleship. The church is not a single battleship; rather, we belong to a fleet.
 - iii. Pastor Caleb found while visiting other churches during his sabbatical that no successful church exists without small groups. He encourages members to think seriously about starting a small group in their home and neighborhood under the leadership of the church.
- f. The church secretary informed the meeting that there have been enough votes cast to make the vote official.
- g. Question and Answer
- i. How can church members submit suggestions regarding the church's mission and vision statements?
 - 1. There has been much discussion about the church mission statement as outlined in the Board of Elders meeting minutes. The Board of Elders welcomes any input and suggestions.
 - ii. How will the next senior pastor be chosen?
 - 1. The members of the Senior Pastor Search Committee have been announced. You may submit questions and suggestions directly to them.
 - iii. How many pastoral staff are needed to run the church? How many worship services does our church require?
 - 1. We can use as many pastoral staff as we can get!
 - 2. We will likely need at least two worship services. Elder Yuguang noted that some churches have more than five worship services each weekend.
- h. Elder Yuguang adjourned the meeting.

C. Addendum

- a. **In a congregational vote on the same day, the motion to approve the following five deacon candidates to serve a two-year term starting in 2018 and the following two elder candidates to serve a three-year term starting in 2018 was passed.**
- i. **Deacons:**
 - 1. **Charlene Tsang**
 - 2. **Yan-Hua Yan**
 - 3. **Berhan Yeh**
 - 4. **Ling Zhang**
 - 5. **Tuanfeng Zhang**
 - ii. **Elders:**
 - 1. **Chaw-Bing Chang**
 - 2. **Ke-chieh Chu**