

## Meeting Minutes

### CBCGB Board of Elders (“BoE”) August 14, 2021

Present: Chaw-Bing Chang, Samuel Chang (BoD Head), Yuguang He (BoE Secretary), Paul Huang (BOE Chair), Juta Pan (Senior Pastor), Ji-yong Wang, Ruike Wang  
Invitees: KC Chu (CBET Chair, off-board elder), Taylor Birkhimer (minister), Jeff Hwang (pastor), Jennifer Lin (pastor), Loren Shih (offboard elder, CB pastor search committee chair)  
Date/time: 09:00 - 13:56, August 14, 2021  
Location: Zoom meeting

09:00 **Opening prayer** (Paul)

#### **Brief sharing** (Ruike)

Book sharing: Vision of Duty - Sermons preached in Coventry Cathedral (UK)

1. Glory through suffering
  - a. Church building destroyed in World War II and then rebuilt in 1962, just like Jesus was crucified and resurrected
  - b. The spirit revived for the church, the public and nation
2. The Holy Spirit-Giver of Unity
  - a. 2 Corinthians: obedience, peace, unity, in the Spirit
  - b. Dieu le veut: As it pleases God

Reflection (BOE):

- CBE: Visible building
- CUM (church unity maintenance): Invisible church
- How to face today’s multi-conflicts’ world?
- What is the CBCGB’s vision of duty?
- How to give up our personal interests for the benefit of unity?

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

- Prep for fall reopening and returning to the new norm, including planning and meetings for worship, SS (Sunday School), fellowships, etc.
- CM (Chinese Ministry)
  - 07/18 service attendance: 95 onsite, 289 online
  - 08/01 service attendance: 69 onsite, 318 online
  - 08/01 theme Sunday school attendance: 3 onsite and 75 online (may be partially due to technical issue)
  - SS attendance: 147
  - 08/06-07 Stephen Ministry attendance: 350
  - 08/22: Stephen minister commission, 10 graduates
  - 08/22: summer baptism (8+1 candidates)
  - Fall SS planning (onsite, online, hybrid)

- 08/29: Fellowship meeting plan
- CB (Cross-Bridge)
  - 07/23-25: onsite interview for pastor candidate
  - 07/25 service attendance: 105 onsite
  - 08/08 service attendance: 125 onsite
  - 08/08 hybrid service, w/ BBQ
- COM (City Outreach Ministry)
  - Average attendance: 68 adults + 16 children onsite, 58 online
  - New students service: airport pickup
  - 10/08-10: fall evangelistic retreat at Grotonwood, speakers TBD
- YM (Youth Ministry)
  - One guy and two gal counselors are needed, one sister responded so far
- Outreach
  - 08/28: hybrid, chinese musical instrument performance
  - 09/24-26: fall evangelistic meeting - Quest for Life by Elder John Huang
- Congregation
  - 09/12: reopening day
  - NCPI fundraise: \$79,000+ by 08/08
  - CBET promotion on the process
  - Two new seminarians applying for scholarship, one at CM, one at COM
- Pastoral Staff
  - P. Yuegang in sabbatical until Sep
  - Min. Duane's ordination exam on 07/26, tentative ordination date of 10/13
  - Annual review signup started
  - P. Ziyi applying for sabbatical leave for 01-06/2022
- Issues/challenges
  - One CM presider's prayer raised some concern for political partisanship
    - Misleading the worshipers that our Church has a partisan preference. In fact Our stance was made clear in our 2020 announcement with regard to the election.Church as a charismatic stance
    - The presider should have the understanding that he has the obligation to represent the entire congregation
    - The presider has been noticed
    - More and clearer communication is needed
  - Online mission: opportunity and restriction, which is forced by the pandemic, such as overseas asking for baptism, worldwide online workshops

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

- Emergency this morning
  - CBCGB website, cbcgb.org, was deactivated this morning, in the process to get resolved, need to send alert to the whole congregation via CC secretary and to CM via CM fellowship deacon
  - The new website, cbcgweb.com still functioning
  - Long-term solution is being sought

- Updated CBCGB facilities reopening guideline of 08/08/2021
  - [decision]: approved by BOE
  - Proposed to have a general guideline for policy and leave all the details as the procedure for the committee to decide at will according to the best practice and diligence
  - [action]: guideline to be posted online (Samuel)
  - [action]: to make announcement at CB and YM, and all the other ministries (all ministers)
- NCPI:
  - started slow but picked up the momentum quickly and forcefully
  - TBD: matching fund for extra fund raised (finance committee, CC)
  - The committee: ask the sponsored churches to share how in general the fund is used and share with our church in written, video or other forms the benefits of the fund

### **Youth Ministry Review (Jenn and Taylor)**

- Friday ALIVE: online
  - Fluctuating between 70-130
  - 14 counselors last year, currently down to 11 (2 from CM, the more the better) with 3 vacancies
- SS (Sunday School)
  - 09/12 fully open w/ soft open on 08/22
  - Low attendance as for now
  - 7-20 attendances weekly, to evaluate as it progresses
  - online/onsite/hybrid all considered
- Retreat/mission
  - To resume this year
- Goals: Discipling
  - Near term: reconnect in person, train and equip, STM and retreats, outreach, connect to parents, find the lost from online
  - mid-term: growing relationship with schools, developing deeper relationship with the parents, establishing after school program, utilizing the church facilities
  - Long-term: disciple-making-disciple, parents-discipling-parents (parents team)
- Accomplishment
  - Made through online
  - Reached out students unavailable offline
- Challenges/difficulties
  - Online to connect and engage
  - Mentally and spiritually affected: anxiety, depression, sexuality, etc.
  - Unvaccinated students mingled with the vaccinated when reopened (12+/- yrs of age)
  - How to overcome the huddle from hybrids for two months to fully in-person (onsite) afterward? Supports needed
- Supports needed

- More counselors (currently need 2 male and 1 female counselors)
- Space: upstairs, any other rooms available
- Teach parents to disciple their kids
- Encourage students to come back in person
- Advocate for youth interests
- Remind parents to play major role in bringing up their kids
- New ideas from the church, lest being stuck by traditional ways of conducting ministry
- Update the church look for more welcoming environment for newcomers
- Suggestions
  - A/C control by pastoral staff
  - Remake church to be a welcoming environment for younger generation
    - Welcome center
    - map/sign at the door
    - Signs around the building for direction
    - Painting handrails and trim
    - tea/coffee in sanctuary and lobby
  - BoE to know the counselors and youths and let them be known, make BoE approachable, sharing the interests/cares for the youth (BOE may be invited to share in the coming days)
- BOE's responses
  - Appreciate the work by the youth ministry
  - Suggest to equip parents deal with the youth's current challenges
  - Suggest to encourage students to make friends with the newcomers
  - Suggest to make a priority list of the "suggestions"
  - Coming BOE meeting to brainstorm more on the topic of young generation
  - The idea of tea/coffee on sanctuary may not be feasible

#### **Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 52 Annual meeting prep work (Paul)**

- Vote: Confirmation of new elder and deacon candidates
- Ballot and voting procedure:
  - Propose to follow last year's practice, or combination of in person and mail-in, more time may be needed if mail-in
  - The Bylaws require that hard copies of ballots are needed (long-term solution may be needed should pandemic persist. Approval of change of Bylaws may be conducted via special membership meeting.)
- Annual report prep
  - [action]: to remind and provide guideline for every ministry for reports (Weihsin)

#### **Reopening Task Force update & Deacon Nomination Committee (Ruike)**

- Reopening
  - Procedure for the planned reopening though facing many uncertainties
  - Requirements for children (under 12) and elderlies coworkers to be vaccinated
  - Updated facility guideline

- CM-CB: 94% vaccinated over the surveyed populace
- YM (12-18 yrs): 85% vaccinated over the surveyed populace
- CB TM (Toddler Ministry): 100% (N=7)
- TBD: Reopening TF (Task Force) team to communicate among individual fellowships to understand the current needs
- It should be understood that children may be at a greater risk
- Deacon nomination
  - Six candidates (three first term, and three renominated for the second-term)
  - Pending on the return of questionnaires to finalize

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

- The entrance deck done (started on 4/14/2021 and finished in July), w/ total cost of \$35,000 (\$30,000 paid, \$5,000 withheld until the last touch for passing the inspection)
- CBE
  - Surface water survey ongoing. May need to find a new contractor, due to prolonged
  - HVAC/drainage design ongoing
  - Building permit application on 7/15: many questions and suggestions from the town (Lexington Building Dept)
    - Neighbor relationship with traffic
    - Parking lot pavement
    - Design Review Meeting (DRM) to be initiated with all the relevant officials on the planning board, which involve all the relevant departments
    - Fire truck access to the new building
    - Location of the fire alarm panel
    - Sprinkler system standalone or not
    - All fire protection to be according to IBC (MA state building code) 2015 and NFPA (National Fire Protection Association)
    - What is inside 151?
    - How to match the seats with the parking spaces at maximum? Not required to maximum if separate services are to be scheduled
    - How to use the gym? Any (pull down) audience benches?
    - Plan for a moveable stage and chairs?
    - Specific egress requirements for classrooms
    - elevator specs
    - Sewage: private septic in main building now, all to be connected to the public sewage?
  - Promotion:
    - 7/29 meeting, P. Jeff and Jenn came up with vision statement (being reviewed)
    - Questions from the congregation have been addressed
    - Promotion being translated to Mandarin
    - Relocation of elevator being proposed
    - 8/19 meeting again

- Plan to finalize the promotion prep in November
- Budget planning
  - Direct fundraising of \$3.6m, or
  - Issue member loan, or
  - Split in two phases (gym in pre-factory steel, chapel in convention way)
    - gym (\$1.2m) and then chapel (\$2.4m), or,
    - chapel (\$2.4m) and then gym (\$1.2m)

**CB pastor search and other updates** (Loren)

- Position: CB Fellowship Pastor
  - College, young adults, families
  - Discipling and pastoral care across variety of demographics
- Decision making process: Survey, references, opinions
  - Overwhelmingly positive
  - Fitting to the position
  - Well-known references and church background
  - Concerns:
    - Potential ministry challenge to younger generation, ICF and Charis
    - Preaching expertise
  - Pros
    - Qualified: families, small groups, college students, international, Chinese, being a parent with a teenager with special need
    - Strong references
    - Strong resume: 17 yrs in Park Street Church, worked for known and respected ministers
    - Strong positive feedback from families, e.g., experienced in handling family challenges
    - Experienced in counseling, plus wife being an emergency psychiatric clinician
    - Successful ministries, even initiate ministries
    - Theoretically mature and grounded
    - Strong Christian character: sincere, humble, trustworthy, approachable
- Committee, including Senior Pastor Juta Pan, endorses and recommends the candidate
- [Decision]: BOE approved on the committee's endorsement and recommendation

13:56 **Closing Prayer** (Ruike)