

**Meeting Minutes**  
**CBCGB Board of Elders (“BoE”)**  
**February 11, 2017**

Present: Yuguang He (Chair), David Ho, Timothy Lu, Loren Shih (BoE Secretary), Bryan Che (via Skype), Pastor Caleb Chang, Haiguo Wu (BoD Chair), Shanchuan Zhao.

Absent: None.

(9:00am-9:15am) BoE personal sharing and setting up Skype

(9:15am) Loren Shih opened in prayer.

**Senior Pastor Update**

Pastor Caleb (Senior Pastor) shared on:

- EPSC (English Pastor Search Committee). On-site interviews from 2/2 to 2/7 including several interviews, Q&A, hospitality. CM members also attended CB service, CB service had 350 people in attendance. Collected a lot of feedback from groups and individuals, more than 40 people gave feedback online. On 2/12 EPSC will debrief. We may call a special BoE meeting, to be decided by CC chair Yuguang He.
- Stewardship will plan and lead a church-wide cleanup. We lost our church cleaning company.
- Christine Chang, new English Administrator, started this week.
- Junior High, Senior High, ICF retreats this month.
- We hosted Life On Life Clinic, an English-speaking discipleship training program. 45+ people from 8 churches including out of state came, this was the first meeting in a series.
- Wensong Pan preaching on 2/12 for CM Sunday service.
- Requests from BSF (Bible Study Fellowship, an international group) leaders to partner with us. Next month we will discuss formally in BoE whether we will sponsor them.
- Loren is refreshing the pastoral annual review process. P.Caleb offered to share existing documentation, and encourages us to clarify the goals of the review.
- No major CB (Cross Bridge) activities in next month, but as CBa is planning events, it will advertise to BoE and/or in church calendar for awareness and in case CM is interested in participating.

**BoD (“Board of Deacons”) Update**

Haiguo Wu (BoD Chair) shared highlights from January BoD and 2016:

- Balance of MetroSouth building fund and general surplus is in process of being transferred to CCMSB (Chinese Church of Metro-South Boston), \$121K.
- Some connectivity issues with wifi thermostats, for 151 and Chapel. IT committee is fixing.
- Stewardship acquired quotes for upper parking lot road lights.
- New cabinets and countertop installed in nursery room.
- For 2016, stewardship completed 21 major projects.

**CBCGB COC (Community Outreach Committee) Review**

Shanchuan Zhao (COC Chair) shared the goals, responsibilities, challenges, staffing of COC.

- Purpose of COC is “to fulfill our Lord’s Great Commission and Great Commandment in the Greater Boston area and its vicinity.”

- COC is involved in many different functions, including running MGM (evangelistic meeting), Evangelism Explosion, financial support for parachurch ministries, and many others.
- Overall COC staffing structure was shared. Elder David Ho will be stepping down as director after he ends his BoE term in 2018, so will need a successor.
- Opportunities and Challenges:
  - MGM invites speakers as far in advance as possible, but it still takes a long time to close on speakers.
  - EE wants to train coworkers to join Sunday morning greeting team.
  - EE needs training materials, including training books and handout materials. BoE advises adding this to the budget.
  - Suburban Campus Ministry on Brandeis, Bentley, Northshore, this is a strategic mission field because many Mandarin students, and most of these students return to China:
    - For Northshore, need transportation, may need to add to budget.
    - For Northshore, one volunteer is paying for food weekly.
    - BoE discussed - what are we trying to achieve between CB, COM, etc., can we align our resources, do we need to hire a fulltime staff for this? David and Shanchuan to form a task force to define the needs and come up with a proposal for full time coordinator if needed.

#### Mission Statement Update

Bryan Che (Mission statement chair) gave updates on the missions statement process:

- “We are a church in Greater Boston that serves as a bridge across cultures to inspire, disciple, and send people to be global disciple-makers”.
- Breakdown by components of any mission statement:
  - Key market: “Greater Boston”.
  - Contribution: “Inspiring, discipling, and sending people to be global disciple makers.”
  - Distinction: “Bridge cultures.”
- Primary focus is to “send people” out, versus planting churches.
- Feedback from BoE is that there is some confusion around whether “bridge across cultures” means that we are de-emphasizing our own culture. Bryan clarified that this is not the intent -- i.e. we do not want to exclude our own culture -- so perhaps the missions statement could be clarified.
- Next CC meeting (2017/03/11) we will review the missions statement.

#### SPC (“Senior Pastor Search Committee”)

Yuguang He (SPC chairman) gave updates on our newly formed committee:

- Committee members are: Yuguang He, Paul Huang, Xin-Yu Li, Ling Xie, Loren Shih, Melissa Yang, Chaw-bing Chang
- Will have kickoff meeting soon.

#### Church stance towards political issues

Bryan Che led discussion on whether/how the church takes political stances:

- For recent transgender bathroom political issue, CBCGB cited that we will not take a political stance. From 8/13/2016 notes:

- The church will not take any official position on political issues and will not endorse or oppose, explicitly or implicitly, political efforts, including efforts to sign petitions. The church is focused on worship and ministry
- The church will also not prevent individual members from soliciting others on a private basis to sign petitions or participate in political events
- During recent CB service, 3 parties introduced political stances through offering, prayer, sermon.
- Loren cited that P. Tim Conkling shared his opinion during his visit that Romans 14 says to submit to government authority until it becomes contrary to a clear commandment to God.
- A few possible approaches:
  - “Here’s what the Bible says and here’s what God says” without taking a political stance.
  - “We will remain politically neutral but encourage individuals to follow their conscience and act in politically responsible ways.”
  - “We will take a stance if we feel it is Biblically appropriate.”
- P.Caleb will bring up with pastoral staff our official stance.
- Action items:
  - [Loren] We will provide some more material on why we are taking our stance. E.G. Scriptural background for our position. Loren volunteered to lead drafting a stance and document.
  - [Loren] We will share what we are doing, Loren to create an email or something consumable that can be distributed.
  - While we draft this policy (and even after), we will need to provide an outlet for members who have concerns or questions. Maybe a feedback form or some other channel.
  - [Pastoral staff] As new issues come up, people will want to know what the Biblical stance is, what should our concern from a Biblical perspective should be. Maybe we can provide scriptural feedback on various topics. We may use P.Chuck as a consultant.
  - We will put this item on the CC meeting agenda.

(12:08) David Ho closed in prayer.