

Pray for Church Vision

Board of Elders

After one year of prayers and communications, elders are grateful that we were able to get agreed on the church vision statement proposal at the recent church council (CC) retreat. Now we are presenting the proposal to congregations.

Elders have been making effort in the past year, to promote prayers from church members and coworkers. Besides the prayer meetings among elders and pastors, we also asked people to pray for church vision at various occasions such as CC, fellowship, and annual meetings. Elders also encouraged communications with church members. We would like to express our thanks to all of you for the prayers and support, as well as all the suggestions and comments on church vision.

Besides promotions for prayers, elders also adopted the common way in church visioning process. That is, we formed three groups to study the church in the past, present, and future. This included the church vision in the old days when church was founded, the church history and how God blessed our church. It also included the analysis of current status of our church, the strength and the area we need to improve, as well as the target people groups we are serving. Finally, we also looked the challenges ahead for our church, and the expectation of our church in the future years. In the June CC meeting, elders briefly reported the study results to CC members.

The vision statement elders are proposing:

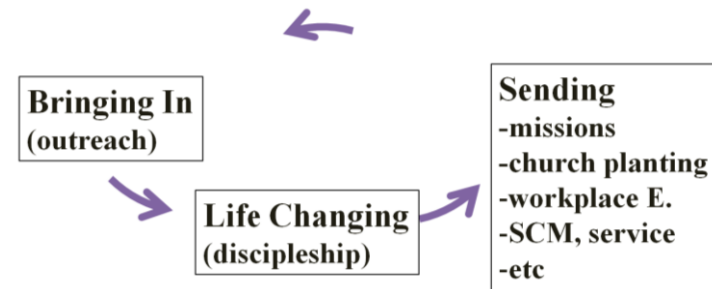
Every person of multicultural background in Greater Boston and beyond be a disciple of Christ.

A few notes about the vision statement.

1. Discipleship training. During the visioning process, Elders had unanimous expectation, that discipleship training will be the key for continuous growth of our church. Therefore, in the vision statement, we emphasized "being disciples", not just believers. Praise the Lord that we are seeing close to a hundred people baptized in our church every year, while many other churches are struggling to keep stable. On the other hand, with rapid increase in church members, particularly the newly baptized, we realize that we need to help the spiritual growth of these new members, so they will be a witnesses of Christ to the world. In addition, we are seeing the new wave of immigrants from China due to the economic booming there. The growth in Chinese population is much faster compared with previous immigration waves. The culture background and economic status of these new immigrants are very different. How to get trained

to reach them effectively will be a new challenge for our church. We are grateful that all our CC members have the same vision in this new focus.

We would like to clarify, that among the three phases of church ministry: bringing people to Christ; helping them make life change; and sending them to further God's Kingdom, we emphasized the second in the vision statement. on the other hand, our church was strong, and remains strong, for the other two. To keep our church strong in the future, however, discipleship is the key.



2. Culture background. As a Chinese church, to have a place for Chinese people to worship God was the vision for the brothers and sisters who founded our church. For many years, new Chinese immigrants have been the main people group our church serves. Today, our church is growing into a size with more than a thousand members. Particularly, with the growing numbers in English, youth and children ministries, elders realize that we should have broader mind with culture background of the people groups we are serving. Therefore, we proposed multi-cultural background in the vision statement. We understand that for quite long, new Chinese immigrants will remain the majority of the people our church serves. However, we will not limit our focus on this are. In the meantime, we also believe that with our prayers, the multi-culture background will help, not hurt, our church growth.

3. Extending God's Kingdom. With God's blessing, our church has been very strong in church planting and missions. We planted quite a few churches in Boston area. We are supporting city outreach program. We have sent and are supporting many missionaries among unreached people around the world. We are among few churches who had such strong mission heart. We will continue such tradition and work hard to extend God's Kingdom. We will not limit the vision only to our own church.

We welcome brothers and sisters to continue to discuss church vision with elders.

God bless CBCGB.