

CBCGB 51st Annual Meeting Q&A
October 18, 2020

- **Q: "Recently a statement was announced by CBCGB leadership regarding the US election in 2020. I have the following questions:**
- **What constitutes ""openly campaign[ing]""? Is there a difference between ""expressing support for specific candidates"" and discussing politics with fellow church members?**
- **Does this extend to those who are not church members but are participating in official church meetings or social media channels?**
- **Who would be responsible for enforcing these guidelines and what guidance has been given to those individuals?**
- **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?**
- **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:** See annual meeting minutes for response.

- **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:** See annual meeting minutes for response.

- **Q: When a candidate's values are clearly against church teaching, what do we do? Can the Church have a clear stand on certain ethical issues?**
 - **A:** In theory, the church can have a clear standpoint against specific candidates' specific political statement. However, that does not mean we want publicly and officially against these specific candidates. Because in reality, if we want to publicly claim against any specific candidate because some of his political statements or characters are against our faith , we probably turn against all the candidates because we hardly see any candidates' statements completely accord with our faith. We rather focus on the public issue contradicting our faith than against the specific candidates.

- **Q: Are we still paying COM rental expenses during COVID-19?**
 - **A:** COM is paying for the Malden facility as the lease is an annual contract; COM stopped paying for the Boston facility during the pandemic. (For Ruggles Baptist Church, we only pay the renting fee when we use the facilities)

- **Q: What's the difference between CBE-AT and CBET? Why do we need two teams?**
 - **A:** CBET: The CBE Team mainly consists of the CBE Design Architects, Engineers, and Budget Planner. Their task is to come up with church building expansion proposals and, if a proposal is approved by church leaders, to search for contractors and manage the construction of the project.
 - CBEAT: During the 2018 church members information session, a suggestion was raised and later accepted by the elder board and church leaders. The desire was to form a Church Building Expansion Advisory Team to collect church ministries' facility needs from all levels of ministry leaders and draft a church building expansion requirements document. This CBE Advisory Team serves as the representative of the "owner" of the project (CBCGB). The CBE Team will serve as the design consultant of the CBE project. This document will be reviewed and discussed among CBE Advisory Team members and CBE Team members. Once the requirements document has been finalized and accepted by both CBE Advisory Team members and CBE Team members, this requirements document will serve as the basis for the CBE design proposal. Once the design proposal is reviewed and accepted by the church leaders, this design proposal will be used to hire a professional design/build company for design and construction.

- **Q: What is the timeline for CBE? Have we considered re-evaluating whether we should continue with CBE?**
 - **A:** In recent months, various ministries, especially CB, Youth and Children ministries, expressed their desire to have a multi-purpose facility, used as a sport gym, a worship chapel for CB, and multiple small-group activity rooms. The request considers the facts that in church's new norm after reopening more space is needed because of social distancing, and that with the current online Sunday worship and meetings during pandemic the construction will have minimal impacts on church's activities.
 - In Sep. 2020, CBEAT made a report on the ministries' requirement for the Multi-purpose Building. Based on the requirement, in Oct. 2020 CBE Design Team formulated an implementation plan, with optional features, for the building of the multi-purpose facility. Once this implementation plan is accepted by CBEAT, CBE will start to design in detail and to obtain cost estimates from contractors. After that, CBE will present the detailed proposal to the church leaders for approval.
 - As there are multiple factors involved in the process, it is hard to give an exact timeline for the CBE project now, but CBE will proceed in earnest and, if the project is approved, carry it out as soon as possible, so as to meet the requirements of the ministries. Please pray to our Lord for His guidance in the building of our spiritual home.

- **Q: Why is Loren Shih not representing Cross Bridge on the Board of Elders? With Elder Chris moving to Japan, current elders may not attend CB worship regularly, nor interact with CB core team or the congregation routinely in 2021.**
 - **A:** Elder Loren shared during the meeting that he declined to serve on the Board of Elders in 2020 due to family and other reasons. Unfortunately, we were not able to identify anyone from Cross Bridge allowed under our church bylaws who discerned a calling to the Board of Elders for 2021. Elder Chris will be stepping down from the Board of Elders at the end of this calendar year which means there will not be an elder from Cross Bridge for 2021. However, Cross Bridge deacons, pastoral staff, and lay leaders have strong relationships with the Board of Elders and will continue to work with them through the year. The Board of Elders will be in constant communication with Cross Bridge leaders and ask Cross Bridge leaders to participate at Board of Elders meetings.