

Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston

Invitation Policy for Outside Speakers and Performers

Pastoral Staff-02 (Rev. 1)
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This document provides guidelines for all CBCGB-affiliated gatherings and groups that would like to invite an outside speaker or performer to address or perform at their event.

In a church as large as CBCGB, members will have a wide range and diversity of contacts available to speak or perform. Both pragmatic and theological considerations drive the need for screening and scheduling.

In the history of Christianity, itinerant speakers and performers have always traveled the world in ministry. The New Testament supports the practice of screening visiting speakers (see, for example, Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Corinthians 3:1-2; 8:16-24; Philippians 2:19-23,25-30; 1 Peter 5:12; 2 John 10-11; 3 John 9-10,12).

The submission and approval process is as follows:

- (1) For the purposes of this policy, any CBCGB ministry or missionary receiving official and regular CBCGB support is considered pre-approved, subject to the consent of the pastor and Advising Elder overseeing the program and scheduling of the group issuing the invitation.
- (2) In all other cases,
 - (a) The name and a brief biography of the proposed speaker or performer is to be submitted to the overseeing pastor and Advising Elder at least two months ahead (six months minimum in the case of Sunday worship). Speakers and performers must be approved prior to extending any invitation.
 - (b) The overseeing pastor will screen prospective speakers and performers regarding topic, theology, testimony, character, lifestyle and expertise.
 - (c) Typically outside speakers will not be approved to speak on controversial topics. In all cases, fundraising, solicitation, the sale of items, and honorarium must be preapproved by the overseeing pastor and Advising Elder before the invitation is issued (subject to the CBCGB fund-raising policy, and the availability of funds).
 - (d) Final decision-making authority for congregation-wide gatherings and groups rests with the senior pastor in consultation with the BoE. Final decision-making authority for all other gatherings and groups rests with the overseeing pastor or Advising Elder for the gathering or group; in case of conflict, the final decision-making authority rests with the senior pastor in consultation with the BoE.