



**Boston Chinese Evangelical Church**  
**Minutes of 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**October 29, 2017**  
**Josiah Quincy Elementary School Auditorium**

**1. Praise**

Pastor Barry Lam led the congregation in singing the hymn "The Church's One Foundation."

**2. Prayer**

Pastor Daniel Chan led the congregational prayer.

**3. Call the Meeting to Order**

Anthony Lai, Chairman of the Board of Deacons (BOD), called the meeting to order, with 375 members attending (346 members were needed to establish a quorum).

**4. Approval of Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes from October 30, 2016**

Suk Han Lok motioned to pass the minutes as printed. Ryan So seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Words from the Senior Pastor**

Pastor Steven Chin thanked the brothers and sisters for their prayers and service, and he encouraged all of us to read God's work in the annual report. Continue to pray for our worship attendance, as the numbers have not grown over several years.

Pastor Steve expressed gratitude that there was an unusual number of people attending seminaries. Some have graduated and started serving other churches. It is a challenge to serve in Boston, reaching secular people. We prayed to the Holy Spirit to lead people, for us to have courage to share the gospel, and to live Christ-like lives, which would draw people to Christ.

Pastor Steve emphasized unity, as diversity is obvious with 3 languages used in the annual meeting. Love in Christ and love for each other are more important. Unity is more than getting together. It is an attitude of love and patience practiced in everyday life. Unity can be practiced in helping other congregations, as 3 staff members have been called to serve elsewhere, leaving deep needs in several of our congregations.

Pastor Steve asked all of us to continue to pray for our pastoral staff, including our continued search for a Newton Mandarin minister. He also asked us to continue praying for him, as he is still listening to God's voice regarding when to retire from full-time ministry.

The current expansion plan is focused on Chinatown. We have ministries at 5 different locations, and the long-term plan is to minister in one building Lord willing. Pastor Steve encouraged everyone to pray for the current developments as they may have long-term implications to our plan.

As we bring our expansion plan to the city of Boston, city leaders have asked what benefits BCEC would bring to the city. The local church is the hope of the world. Christians can bring hope and solutions that draw upon God's help. We should continue to work together to offer the hope of Jesus to a dark world.

**6. Words from the Board of Deacons**

Anthony Lai shared with the members on the role of the Board of Deacons (BOD). The BOD is responsible for managing the finances of the church, hiring new pastoral staff members, and maintaining all of our facilities. The BOD especially faced challenges in personnel and resources. BOD took on these challenges by recognizing God is the head of the household, as well as working with the pastoral staff and Board of Elders (BOE).

Anthony asked the congregation to join the BOD to work through these challenges in the coming year and to accept the calling to serve.

## **7. Voting on Deacon Nominees**

Anthony Lai called for a vote for the following:

- a. Approval for the 7 nominated deacons for a two-year term: David Cheng, Pasang Droma, Edward Lau, Billy Ng, Katarina Ng, Tierry Tzau, and Siu Yu for a two-year term
- b. Approval of employing Pastor Ken Liu as the Newton English pastor

Ballot counting was overseen by Jason Cheung with the following people: Danielle Ha, Gabriel Ha, Ying Pui Cheung, Patrick Lam, Ziyi She, and Jerry Huang

## **8. Report on FY2016-2017 Finances and Presentation of FY2017-2018 Budgets**

Joyce Lin and Albert Chan, the Accountant Deacons, presented the FY2016-2017 financial report and the FY2017-2018 budgets. For FY2016-2017, there was a surplus for the General, Missions, and Charity Funds. The Expansion Fund, however, experienced a deficit. The surplus in the General Fund was due to lower expenses, but there was a deficit with regards to the income. The income deficit has continued for several years.

The FY2017-2018 General Fund budget was 7.2% higher than the previous year. The increases were in personnel and capital expenses. The deacons encouraged the congregation to give sacrificially to close the gap between income and budget.

## **9. Facilities/Expansion Update**

Mark Ho reported that we are continuing to renovate 120 Shawmut Ave. to accommodate more existing church and community ministries to move in.

BCEC's programs are spread over five buildings in Chinatown. As such, it would be more efficient to consolidate into one facility for more efficient use of our resources. We are currently filing a joint Planned Development Area (PDA) application with our neighbors at 112 Shawmut Ave. and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA). Approval for this PDA would allow BCEC the flexibility of zoning law changes in future development.

BCEC has also been approached by the City of Boston regarding its potential interest in building a new high school on a lot where 249 Harrison Ave. is part of. As this is a new topic, much more work will have to be done and the Expansion Committee will continue to report to the congregation as progress is made.

Mark asked the congregation to continue praying for God's guidance on these matters.

## **10. Approval of All FY2017-2018 Budgets**

John Wong motioned to pass the FY2017-2018 budget for the General Fund, Charity/Social Responsibility Fund, Missions Fund, and the Expansion Fund. Sam Ng seconded. All approved. Motion passed.

## **11. Report on Results of Voting**

The vote for Pastor Ken Liu to be the Newton English Pastor was approved. The votes for the 7 deacon nominees were also approved

## **12. Appreciation of Staff and Lay Elders**

Charlotte Lai and Rich Su recognized the faithful service of all the staff members and elders in the past year.

## **13. Installation of 2017-2018 Board of Deacons**

Elder Brian Hui delivered the exhortation and installed the new Board of Deacons.

## **14. Benediction**

Pastor Andy Su, Pastor Kenneth Kwong, and Pastor Enoch Liao closed the meeting by giving the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lui

2017-2018 Secretary of the Board of Deacons