



Boston Chinese Evangelical Church
2018 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Locations: JQES Auditorium, 885 Washington Street, Boston, MA
BCEC Newton Campus, 218 Walnut Street, Newton, MA (Live Broadcast)

1. Praise

Minister Steve Liu led the congregation in singing the hymn “Crown Him with Many Crowns.”

2. Prayer

Elder Jack Lee 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 379 members in attendance (85 members from Newton Campus). 303 members were needed to establish a quorum.

4. Approval of Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes from October 29, 2017

John Wong motioned to pass the minutes as printed. Pauline Huie seconded the motion. Motion passed with more than majority.

5. Words from the Senior Pastor

Pastor Steven Chin thanked the church for his 4-month sabbatical leave. He had a good rest and accomplished 75% of his goals. One of these goals was to think, pray, and listen to God. He had shared in the 2015 Annual Meeting that he will listen to God on when he would retire. During this sabbatical leave, he received the time would be 2019. The rough timing will be between June to October of 2019. He would be 68 years old and would have served the church for 42 years.

Pastor Steve would continue to serve the church with 3 elements of considerations:

- i. His own health – There are no issues, but mind/body is not as before.
- ii. Parents’ health – Father/mother health are stable, but they will need increasing help.
- iii. Church’s health – Church attendance number has been stable, but he felt the church’s health has grown.

Pastor Steve is hopeful for the future of the church.

- i. Good pastoral staff.
- ii. Major vacancies were filled.
- iii. Congregation is giving sacrificially of their time, talent, and money.
- iv. Remain faithful to God’s Word.

Pastor Steve compared the pastoral succession to running a relay race. Both runners have to run on full speed in order to win. He believed BOE and BOD, guided by the Holy Spirit, will select the best successor. All of us need to pray for our leaders. Pastor Steve thanked the congregation for the honor to serve as Senior Pastor since 2000.

Finally, Pastor Steve shared the exciting news of the Chinatown facilities. The City of Boston has expressed interest to purchase 249 Harrison Ave. to build the new Josiah Quincy Upper School. He urged all of us to pray for the Lord’s provision.

6. Response from BOE and BOD

Elder Bak Fun Wong from the BOE and Anthony Lai from the BOD thanked Pastor Steve for his faithful service in leading the church.

7. Voting on Deacon Nominees

Anthony Lai called for a vote for the following:

- a. Approval for the 6 nominated deacons for a two-year term starting from 11/1/18: Kevin Fong, Emily Ho, Anthony Lai, Paul Lam, Sam Lok, Julia Zhu.
- b. Ballot counting was overseen by Jason Cheung with the following people: Ying Pui Cheung, Steven Choi, Isa Chen, Bonnie Ho, Chris Fong.

8. Report on FY2017-2018 Finances and Presentation of FY2018-2019 Budgets

Joyce Lin and Albert Chan, the Accountant Deacons, presented the FY2017-2018 financial report and the FY2018-2019 budgets. For FY2017-2018, we have a small surplus in all the funds. In the General Fund, hiring was done in the latter of the fiscal year that resulted in lower expenses. This surplus was put into the Facilities/Capital/Maintenance fund for unexpected events in these areas. The FY2018-2019 General Fund budget is 6% higher than previous year. This increase is mainly due to staff expenses such as an increase in insurance. To support this increase, the offering will have to increase 11% from last year's actual.

The Charity Fund had a surplus, but the FY2018-FY2019 budget remained the same. The Missions Fund had a surplus and a small increase in the FY2018-FY2019 budget. The Expansion Fund budget was set much lower for FY2018-FY2019 due to uncertainties in the expansion direction. Any expense beyond this budget will require special congregational meeting.

9. Expansion Update

Mark Ho shared the reason to pursue the Planned Development Area (PDA) for 120 Shawmut Ave. The PDA provided us a framework for future growth – offering protection from the changing landscape and maximize the growth potential of God's provision in 120 Shawmut Ave. The PDA process took over two years and is now approved.

Mark also updated the congregation on the city's interest and proposal in purchasing 249 Harrison Ave. to build a new high school. Town hall meetings will be set up to provide details and solicit comments.

Mark asked the congregation to pray for God's guidance.

10. Approval of All FY2018-2019 Budgets

Ida Kwong motioned to pass the FY2018-2019 budget for the General Fund, Charity/Social Responsibility Fund, Missions Fund, and the Expansion Fund. Karen (Newton Campus) seconded. More than majority approved. Motion passed. No one objected.

11. Report on the Results of Voting

The votes for the 6 deacon nominees were approved.

12. Appreciation of Staff and Lay Elders

Katarina Ng showed a video to recognize the faithful service of all the staff members and elders in the past year.

13. Benediction

Pastor Andy Su closed the meeting with prayer and benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lui

2017-2018 Secretary of the Board of Deacons