



**Boston Chinese Evangelical Church  
2019 Annual Congregational Meeting  
October 27, 2019, 2:00pm**

Meeting Facilitator: Anthony Lai, Chairman of the Board of Deacons (BOD)

Translators: Michael Ho, Vincent Lau, and Mofei Xu

Secretary: Julia Zhu

Locations: JQES Auditorium, 885 Washington Street, Boston, MA

BCEC Newton Campus, 218 Walnut Street, Newton, MA (Live Broadcast)

**1. Hymn**

Pastor Enoch Liao led the congregation in singing the hymn, "In Christ Alone."

**2. Prayer**

Elder Brian Hui led the congregational prayer.

**3. Calling the Meeting to Order**

Anthony Lai called the meeting to order, with 394 members present in Chinatown and Newton. 319 members were needed to establish a quorum.

**4. Approval of Minutes from Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes from October 28, 2018, and Special Congregational Meeting Minutes from May 5, 2019**

Anthony Lai presented the minutes from the October 28, 2018, and May 5, 2019, congregational meetings.

Christina Lee motioned to approve the October 28, 2018, meeting minutes as presented. Isa Chen and John Wong seconded the motion. Motion passed with more than majority.

William Leong motioned to approve the May 5, 2019, meeting minutes as presented. Pasang Drolma seconded the motion. Motion passed with more than majority.

**5. Words from the Senior Pastor**

Pastor Steven Chin shared that it has been his privilege to serve as Senior Pastor over the last 19 years. He has witnessed blessings in the church as well as challenges. God has grown the church, and today, there over 1,100 adults in 7 services with multiple buildings in Chinatown and Newton. With growth, the church has also increased in complexity, with major facilities decisions. Although the sale of 249 Harrison Ave. will allow the city to build a new school, there have been some challenges. Leaders have not discerned a certain expansion direction. Continue to pray for the Board of Elders (BOE) and the BOD. Despite spiritual changes in our world and increasing hostility towards Christianity, our church attendance has remained stable. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can make more disciples, and our light needs to shine even more. Pray for boldness for Christians. The new staff included in the coming year's budget are needed. Upon Pastor Steve's retirement, Pastor Daniel Chan will become the Acting Senior Pastor. Pray for staff and leaders during this transitional time. Pastor Steve thanked everyone for their giving to the Lord. He shared his trust is in the Lord, thanking Him for raising up a new generation of pastoral staff and the BOD with hopes to add new Elders in the future. Pray for Senior Pastor succession process, Pastor Daniel as Acting Senior Pastor, and the new Senior Pastor when God blesses us with one. He thanked everyone for their love and support for him as Senior Pastor.

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

Anthony thanked Pastor Steve for his words of encouragement. He provided an overview of the duties and responsibilities of the BOD. Financially, the church has a surplus and a healthy reserve for emergency

purposes. He thanked the Pastor Steve, Mark Ho, and Gerard Fong for their work on the Expansion Task Force and for working on the PDA which provides more expansion opportunities. We also employed TriNet for human resources. The BOD worked with the BOE to develop the Senior Pastor succession process, the Job Description Committee, and the Search Committee, and we have made progress. Please pray for the Search Committee. The BOD and BOE will continue to work together on expansion. He invited the church to contact BOD members for any suggestions and to pray for the BOD.

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

Anthony Lai called for a vote for the approval for the following nominated deacons for a two-year term starting November 1, 2019: Pauline Huie, Charlotte Lai, Billy Ng, Andy Lui, Jessica So, Thierry Tzau, and Jevon Yu.

Jason Cheung oversaw the ballot counting in Chinatown conducted by Pamela Chan, Ying Pui Cheung, Steven Choi, Aaron Yip, and Priscilla Yu. Andy Te oversaw the ballot counting in Newton conducted by Janice Chung, Pasang Drolma, Joyce Lin, Sara Tan, and Nelson Wong.

## **8. Report on the FY2018-2019 Finances and Presentation of FY2019-2020 Budgets**

Anthony Lai presented the FY2018-2019 financial report and the FY2019-2020 budgets. Last year, our actual expenditure was lower than the budget for the general fund because some staff positions have not been filled, reduced expenses from the TriNet transition, and cost savings following the sale of 249 Harrison Ave. Next year's budget totals \$2,899,493 or a 3.6% increase. Anthony encouraged the church to pray and consider tithings, hoping for a healthy financial situation to leverage future financing options.

The Charity Fund had a deficit, which was filled by surplus; the FY2019-2020 budget will be \$43K (10% increase from the prior year's budget). The Missions Fund had a surplus, and the FY2019-2020 budget will increase by \$17K (5% increase). The Expansion Fund had a surplus, and the FY2019-2020 budget declined to \$102K (66% decrease) due to uncertainties in the expansion direction. Expenses beyond this budget will require a special congregational meeting. The 249 Sales Fund, including interest income, is \$9,546,479.

Brandon Lam asked what "ministry income" refers to in the general budget. Anthony stated that this usually refers to retreat registration fees that pass through the church.

## **9. Approval of All FY2019-2020 Budgets**

Christopher Fong motioned to pass the FY2019-2020 budget for the General Fund, Charity Fund, Missions Fund, and Expansion Fund. Andy Te seconded the motion. Motion passed with a majority.

## **10. Report on the Results of Voting**

The number of voting members increased to 406 at this point. Anthony stated all seven candidates have been elected as Deacons.

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

Katarina Ng, Personnel Deacon, appreciated and recognized the staff, lay elders, and Pastor Emeritus. On behalf of the Chairman of the BOD, Katarina appreciated the departing deacons for their service.

## **12. Prayer for the New Acting Senior Pastor**

Pastor Steve shared that his last day as Senior Pastor will be October 31. The BOD and BOE passed a provision that the next person on staff will become the Acting Senior Pastor. Under the new provision, Pastor Daniel Chan will become the Acting Senior Pastor.

Pastor Steve prayed for Pastor Daniel, as he becomes Acting Senior Pastor in the coming days.

Anthony presented a plaque to Pastor Steve, thanking him for his service and dedication to our church.

## **13. Closing Prayer & Benediction**

Acting Senior Pastor Daniel closed the meeting with prayer and benediction.