

# Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston Annual Meeting Minutes-Questions and Answers

19 Oct 2014

## Questions Regarding our Bylaws

### **1. Bylaw changing process, is it too simple, too easy for a few people in leadership to change?**

Elder Tsai's Response – we had a large change in the bylaws last year, and a lot of time was spent discussing this with brothers and sisters. Because the changes last year were more extensive, we held public meetings and talked to fellowships. The changes this year are much smaller, and so this type of dialogue was not held. That being said, regardless whether the changes are big or small, we should involve more people in the discussions moving forward.

### **2. Should we be using Robert's Rules as part of the process?**

Elder Yang's Response – The bylaws serve as a legal document that is given to the government to tell them how we function as an entity. As such the legal proceedings need to be acceptable, and Robert's Rules are the standard that are used in society, and thus are in fact the highest standard that can be used. In terms of actual implementation, this change in the bylaws this year is a relatively minor change. In fact, it codifies what we already do.

The problem with the current bylaws is the interpretation of "quorum." The word quorum says the number of people that are physically present at a meeting required to validate the activity of the meeting. As an example, according to our bylaws, we would need to have 380 people physically present at this meeting for it to be valid, and for the votes we cast today to be valid. As we move to a multi-facility church, this rule becomes increasingly difficult for us to meet this goal for quorum. Thus, this change is being made to our bylaws to protect the integrity of the votes in future meetings.

### **3. Should we change the voting policy to not be a simple majority (i.e. greater than 50%), but instead greater than two-thirds to better unify our church?**

Elder Chu's Response – Simple answer is that we don't have to make any changes because our current bylaws clearly states how the decisions are made. Our bylaws state that if there are no special circumstances, we use Robert's Rules as the standard. Robert's Rules state that decisions can be made with only a simple majority. There are special circumstances for major issues, we need two-thirds to pass the decision. For example, confirmation of elders and deacons, two-thirds are needed to pass. Similarly to change the bylaws, two-thirds are needed.

## Open Q & A

### **1. Members that are in their 60s and 70s, what can they do? They've served with campus fellowships for the past 30-40 years to Taiwan and Hong Kong immigrants.**

Pastor Caleb's response: I appreciate very much with your suggestion in terms of mobilizing Christian of all age. Especially, mature Christian should not only consider retiring but being more useful in leading the younger generation in discipleship and leadership trainings.

**2. While we're discussing a lot of church expansion, what about church planting?**

Elder Ho's response – Planting churches are always in the minds of the elders. This is why we have the Lowell, Metrosouth and COM expansions. We understand that MS has some financial burdens as they're looking to grow out of their facilities. So we have set aside some funds for this church development. If we see needs from other church plants, we will separate out funds for their growth. We may also set up Sunday schools for church planting. This will be suggested to the Sunday school principal so that further discussion can be had. Brothers and sisters interested should approach the BoE for further discussions.

**3. We have not heard as much from our pastors from Metrosouth and COM. Is this something that we can do?**

Pastor Caleb's response – Of course. Unfortunately, we only have one CM service, and it will require coordination work without interrupt MS and COM pulpit ministries. Once a year for MS & COM pastors to speak is our norm for now. Besides, we consider all pastors are CBCGB pastors, just with different focus of ministry.

**4. Separate service for mature English speakers?**

Elder Chen's response – we will bring this up with the BoE and the pastoral staff.

**5. Is it possible to add in more contemporary worship music into the Chinese worship?**

Pastor Caleb's response – If we completely changed to contemporary worship music, half of the congregation may leave. If we don't, the other half may leave. Pastor Caleb has been to many different types of services and has enjoyed them all. However, each church has its own traditions. If we want to make changes, we can, but we have to be mindful as we do.

**6. Thanks to the in-house website team for the work they have done so far.**