



November 14, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ :

This year the Pastoral Team has sought our Lord Jesus Christ's help to be loving, wise, and faithful shepherds to His flock here at CCCTO. We began the year with great hope that we would see new pathways of service and witness for our Lord Jesus Christ. Indeed, He has given us many opportunities to do this, but in ways we never could have imagined.

With Covid-19 we had to consider how best to serve the church and community. Although we had many hopeful plans for outreach and fellowship, we cancelled all in-person gatherings for the health and well-being of everyone. All of our Sunday services, fellowships and meetings began to meet virtually. Although we miss seeing everyone, we are grateful that we have still been able to express our faith, worship and serve our Lord, and bear witness to for Him.

We have sought to build up the body of Christ. A few of the highlights for us in 2020 have been:

- **To serve with our new elders Steve Yao and Mitch Hsu.** Together we enjoy our fellowship and ministry for the whole church, and we experience love, joy, and unity amongst ourselves.
- **To call and install Jacy Yu as our new youth director.** We are very proud of her faithfulness and diligence in serving our Lord. (We continue to search for a new children's director since Jacy's main role is to lead our youth.)
- **To search and interview potential candidates for the Mandarin ministry pastoral position.** With our first candidate, we worked long and diligently, praying for discernment of the Lord's will. And though it was difficult, every elder believed that this candidate was not the right fit for our church. We are so grateful to God, for then providing us with our current candidate, Pastor Ming Li. And we continue to fellowship with him as we seek God's will for him and our church. Throughout this time with both candidates, we have experienced sincere unity and support the process of seeking a new pastor. For all of this we know it is the Holy Spirit working, and we thank and praise God!
- **To work with Pastor Youping Wang to arrange a thoughtful plan for his retirement,** at the end of this year, and also create a wise succession plan of the leadership team for the next few years. We will miss Pastor Youping as a part of the PT, but we praise the Lord that he will remain in our congregation as an active member, especially in missions.

We have also sought to give support and encouragement to our two faithful ministers: Sonia Renzi and Paul Tian. We can see God's hand working in the Cantonese Ministry as minister Sonia works hard to lead, preach, teach and shepherd the congregation. Minister Paul has provided strong leadership in



regards to the development of the technology needed for all three congregations live-streaming. We are especially grateful for his wisdom, teaching, and love for the Lord.

We have also faced issues where we were (are) uncertain and have not fulfilled what we hoped for: There have been problems in the church we planted in Palau. To help them, we met with elder Wen Hu to propose means for renewed vision and healthier leaderships, which he and pastor Youping delivered to them. We have not progressed with the Great Oaks Christian Ministry (GOCM) as we hoped in regards to church planting and community care. And each of us personally have had to face our own weaknesses, but we have tried to be honest with the Lord and one another – seeking to build each other up and pray for one another. These humble us to remind us of our dependence on the Lord for all things. We also ask for your prayers as we seek God’s wisdom to address our concerns.

This year has indeed shown us all that this world is filled with difficulties, division, and darkness. As His Church we are to be His light to those around us. God charges us with these practical and piercing words: *Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life... Philippians 2:14-16.* It is our intent and goal to have CCCTO be blameless and pure and shine like stars... as we hold out God’s word of life.

*Your servants for the sake of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom,*

*Elder Meisheng Jiang*

*Elder David Fang*

*Elder Steve Yao*

*Elder Mitch Hsu*

*Pastor Youping Wang*

*Pastor Curtis Lowe*



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亲爱的主内弟兄姐妹，

今年，牧長團向主耶穌所尋求的是成為滿有愛心、智慧充滿並且忠心的牧者，牧養祂千橡城基督教會的群羊。新年伊始，我們期盼神賜下新的服事方式並且讓我們見證主耶穌基督。上帝是信實的，祂的確給了我們諸多機會，但卻是我們從未想到的。

遭遇 Covid-19，我們不得不重新思考如何能最好地服事教會和社區。為著健康和安全的考量，計劃中的外展和團契都改變了方式。我們取消了所有的實體聚會。主日崇拜、團契聚會和各樣會議都改在網上進行。雖不能實體面對面相聚，但我們仍舊感恩，因為我們依然可以藉著聚會展示我們的信心，並且敬拜主、服事主和見證主。

在 2020 年，我們持續進行著尋求建立基督身體的努力，以下是其中一些事工重点：

- **與新長老姚文棟和徐銘正同工**，彼此服事，也一同服事全教會。感謝聖靈賜下愛、喜樂一和合一在我們當中。
- **呼召并按立 Jacy 成为教会新的青年部事工主任**。我們為她忠心并殷勤地服事主而感到驕傲。（我們仍在繼續尋找新的兒童事工主任，因為 Jacy 事工的重点是带领教会的年轻人）。
- **尋找以及面試中文堂新牧師**。對於第一位候選人，我們盡心竭力收集相關資訊，切切禱告尋求神的心意，最後做出艱難決定，確認這位牧師不適合我們教會。然而我們心存感恩，因為神不久就將目前的候選人，李明牧師，帶到我們中間。在團契中我們一同不斷地尋求上帝在他身上以及我們教會的心意。在兩位候選人的聘牧過程當中，我們經歷了真實的合一以及彼此的扶持。對於這一切，我們知道是聖靈在做工，為此我們感謝和讚美神！
- **與王友平牧師一起，設身處地安排他 2020 年底的退休事宜**，並且深思熟慮地籌劃未來幾年教會領袖團隊的更替計劃。雖然友平牧師退休後不再參與牧長團的服事，但我們讚美主，他仍將作為教會的積極會員留在我們中間，且更多地投入宣教事工。

除此以外，我們也想方設法支援和鼓勵我們的兩位傳道人，Sonia 鍾傳道和田首紅傳道。藉著鍾傳道在栽培同工、傳講神的話語、教導和牧養方面的辛勞，我們看到上帝的手正在粵語堂做工。我們也喜見首紅傳道的領導能力不斷長進，特別是在建立全教會即時轉播技術方面。我們特別感謝他所展示的智慧、教導和對主的愛。



與此同時，牧長們也面臨諸多不確定的問題，以致無法達成我們的願望。其中之一就是我們在帕勞的植堂遇到了挑戰。雖然牧長團與胡文善長老會談，提供更新的異象和健康的領袖團隊建設等建議，並通過文善長老和友平牧師傳達給帕勞教會，然而帕勞教會仍待復興。再者，橡樹播種協會事工（GOCM）沒有像我們所預期的那樣在植堂和社區關懷方面取得進展。作為牧長，我們個人都需要面對自己的弱點，但我們也竭力誠實面對主，也彼此誠實，目的是在代禱中彼此建立。我們唯有謙卑，同時提醒自己，我們要仰賴主。為此，我們尋求上帝賜下智慧，同時也懇請大家為我們禱告。

今年的經歷，確確實實地向我們表明，這個世界充滿了困難、分裂和黑暗。作為祂的教會，我們要成為耶穌的光，照亮周圍的人。上帝用這些實用然而扎心的話來勉勵我們：“凡所行的，都不要發怨言、起爭論，使你們無可指摘，誠實無偽，在這彎曲悖謬的世代做神無瑕疵的兒女。你們顯在這世代中，好像明光照耀，將生命的道表明出來，叫我在基督的日子好誇我沒有空跑，也沒有徒勞。（腓利比書 2：14-14）”我們的心意和目標就是，因着我們活出上帝的生命之道，讓千橡教會無可指責，純潔閃耀如星。

為基督耶穌和祂的國度做僕人的，

江梅生長老  
方智武長老  
姚文棟長老  
徐銘正長老  
王友平牧師  
劉炳南牧師