



Date: July 10, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We praise God for His mercy and grace upon us. HE set up this church 43 years ago and has continuously placed faithful servants among us to serve Him.

As reported in the last annual General Assembly meeting, our brothers Elder David and Meisheng will finish their 2nd four-year term as active elders of the church at the end of 2022. Even though they can be reconfirmed as elders in accordance with our church's bylaws, however, both of elders David and Meisheng have decided to step down from their active elders' role. Nevertheless, they will continue to serve the Lord, and continue to preach, teach, counsel, and fellowship with our congregation, without actively taking part in the day-to-day management and administration of church affairs.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 says: "The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore, an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church. He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil."

The Pastor Team (PT) have always been actively working on identifying new elders to serve this church based on this teaching. In many diligent prayers and discerning observations and through the feedback from the congregations, we have seen a few potential candidates. We invited them to take part in a 15-month training, focusing on Biblical Eldership, Spiritual Leadership, Bible Interpretation, Preaching and Christian Living. This training process will be on-going as needed.

Among these brothers, PT have recognized and would like to present brother Ji Ma, and brother Wayne Chen as our next elder candidates. The PT have interviewed both brothers Ji and Wayne on their theology and confirmed their calling. Both brothers' wives, Shuping and Dorothy, are willing to answer the call as well. The Executive Board (EB) also have confirmed their eldership candidacy with the unanimous support. Praise the Lord!

We have requested the EB to call this mid-year general assembly meeting. As three PT members are retiring by the end of the year, it is important to get the new elders to come onboard early to the Pastoral Team and to ensure a smooth transition. Hence, we ask you to pray and seek clear guidance from God and to confirm both Ji Ma and brother Wayne Chen as the new active elders of CCCTO.

We are confident in God's provision, as long as we faithfully do our part. We are sure about God's faithfulness and blessing, as long as we follow His Commandment of loving each other. We also believe God will make CCCTO as a blessing to the community, near and far, as long as we obey His Great Commission of preaching Gospel to the world.

Your servants in Jesus Christ,

*Pastors: Ming Li, Curtis Lowe*

*Elders: David Fang, Mitch Hsu, Meisheng Jiang, Steve Yao*



2022 年 7 月 10 日

親愛的兄弟姐妹：

感謝神對我們的憐憫和恩典。43 年前，祂藉著一群有愛心的兄弟姐妹，建立了我們的教會。今天，我們可以聚集在一起敬拜祂，學習祂的話語，服務社區，將福音傳播到遠近。為此我們感謝讚美主。

在去年 12 月的會員大會中，我們宣布了，方智武長老及江梅生長老，在事奉了二個四年任期（8 年），將於今年（2022）底，暫時退下長老一職。教會一切事務的日常管理和行政工作，會由現任的牧長團繼續帶領，他們也會繼續地，參與教會其他方面的事工。

在培養下一代神的僕人過程中，牧長團一直在努力培訓，並發掘新的潛在長老。在為期一年半的培訓裡，包括了屬靈領導、聖經解釋、講道和基督徒生活，同時也根據提摩太前書 3:1-7 的教導，《人若想要得監督的職分、就是羨慕善工。這話是可信的。作監督的、必須無可指責、只作一個婦人的丈夫、有節制、自守、端正、樂意接待遠人、善於教導。不因酒滋事、不打人、只要溫和、不爭競、不貪財。好好管理自己的家、使兒女凡事端莊順服。人若不知道管理自己的家、焉能照管神的教會呢。初入教的不可作監督、恐怕他自高自大、就落在魔鬼所受的刑罰裡。監督也必須在教外有好名聲、恐怕被人毀謗、落在魔鬼的網羅裡。》，仔細地觀察和考量，確認了馬驥弟兄與陳維平弟兄，並且個別面談了他們夫婦二人，得到了牧長團與執委會的一致通過。祈求聖靈繼續保守這些長老候選人的心。

這次臨時的年中會員大會，主要原因是英文部劉牧師的退休，及智武及梅生長老的暫退，為了確保牧長團運作能夠更順利，我們期盼馬驥弟兄與陳維平弟兄，能加入牧長團與我們一起同工，請您祈禱並尋求上帝的明確指導，投下您神聖的一票。

神是信實的，讓我們遵守彼此相愛的誠命，忠實地盡自己的本分，祂會祝福祂自己的教會，會提供我們所需的一切，使千橡城基督教會，成為對社區的祝福。

主的僕人，

牧師：李 明，劉炳南

長老：方智武，徐銘正，江梅生，姚文棟