# Vancouver Chinese Presbyterian Church



Psalm 127:1-5

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# **2024 A.G.M. AGENDA**

Date:	Sunday, April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Page
Time:	10:45am	
Place:	C.P.C. Sanctuary	
Moderator:	Rev. Rebecca Simpson	
Interpreter:	Rev. Morgan Wong	
2. Busines	ne, Opening Prayer & Hymn ss: ection of recording secretary for A.G.M.	
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# **2023 A.G.M. MINUTES**

Date: Sunday, March 26th, 2023

Time: 2:00 pm Place: Virtual

Moderator: Rev. Morgan Wong

Interpreter: Nelson Chan

1. Welcome, Opening Prayer & Scripture – Rev. Wong (Psalm 103:1-2)

#### 2. Business:

### A. Election of recording secretary for A.G.M.

MOTION: Adrian Wong be appointed.

MOVED by: Sue Mar, SECONDED by: Billy Lo, CARRIED.

### B. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: to accept Agenda

MOVED by: Ada Con, SECONDED by: John Con, CARRIED.

### C. Adoption of 2022 A.G.M. minutes

MOTION: to accept Minutes as printed.

MOVED by: Sue Mar, SECONDED by: Remy Fu Tam, CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: Nil** 

# D. Financial Report:

- 2022 Treasurer's Report (included BoM Report)

MOTION: to receive report as printed.

MOVED by: John Con, SECONDED by: Holly Siu, CARRIED

- 2022 Financial Statements (unaudited)

MOTION: to receive the report.

MOVED by: Elizabeth Wan, SECONDED by: Victor Ling, CARRIED

- 2023 Proposed Budget

MOTION: to receive & adopt Budget

MOVED by: John Con, SECONDED by: Victor Ling, CARRIED

Replies to certain questions from congregation:

-How much is currently in the church's Reserve Development Fund? Approx.: \$1.3M -What is the difference between church's Building Fund vs. Development Fund? Building Fund are funds from the sale of the two duplexes that are held in escrow by

Presbytery to be used for the building project subject to their approval; the Development Funds are the cumulative and on-going donations & fund raising to date from member/adherents (including the funds from the sale of manse) also available for use towards the development of the new church facilities and rental building. We have approx. a total of \$27 Million available for development at this time.

### E. Election of new members to Board of Managers

MOTION: that Linda Sze, Andrew Wong, David Tsang, Daniel Lai, be appointed to the Board.

MOVED by: Athena Chu, SECONDED by: Diana Wong CARRIED

### F. Appointment of Church Treasurer

MOTION: Linda Sze be appointed Treasurer

MOVED by: Sue Mar, SECONDED by: Elizabeth Wan, CARRIED

### G. Property Development Task Force Presentation

Update of development presented by George Sze.)

- 5 min video on the ongoing church construction.

# H. Election of VCPC Trustees and VCPCDL Trustees (5)

MOTION: that the 5 VCPC Trustees be Nelson Chan, Garland Chow, Victor Ling, Duncan Shuen and Diana Wong

MOVED by: J. Con, SECONDED by: Athena Chu. CARRIED

(\*Notation: Duncan Shuen due to personal reasons resigned, and was subsequently

replaced by Elizabeth Wan.)

MOTION: that the 6 VCPCDL Trustees be George Sze, Linda Sze, Derek Dewald, Kiat Chang, Allison Eng and Adrian Wong

MOVED by: J. Con, SECONDED by: Athena Chu. CARRIED

# I. Presbytery: "Land Owner Transparency Registry"

MOTION: N/A MOVED by: N/A

# MOVED that Reports 3-6 be accepted/as amended as one motion, by V. Ling,

### **SECONDED by: E. Wan, CARRIED:**

## 3. Report from Rev. Morgan Wong - God's Compass

MOTION: report from Rev Morgan Wong accepted a printed.

# 4. Report from Pastor Sam Andri - Youth Ministry Sam Andri

MOTION: report from Pastor Sam Andri accepted a printed. Carried.

### 5. Report from the Clerk of Session (Statistical Report)

MOTION: Statistical report received as amended. Carried.

### 6. Report from Departments & Fellowship:

MOTION: Move to receive and adopt the following reports, from 6.A to 6.K in one motion.

CARRIED.

- A. Board of Educations
- B. Board of Managers (see Treasurer's Report)
- C. Chinese Adult Sunday School
- D. Chinese Bible Study (see Chinese Edition)
- E. Chinese Choir
- F. Chinese Prayer Meeting (see Chinese Edition)
- G. Circle of Joy Fellowship
- H. Ladies' Bible Study
- I. Share & Prayer
- J. Sunday School
- K. VCPC Development Limited

# 7. Other Business, Announcements, & Acknowledgments:

-Our appreciation and thanks to George Sze and Linda Sze for their faithful work and service

during these past years in the church and in particular towards the development of our new

church facilities.

- -All who have volunteered to serve in the past year, and those willing to serve in the new year.
  - -All those who have contributed and made submissions to our Annual Report.
  - -To Rev. Wong for moderating the AGM and to Elder Nelson Chan for interpreting.

# 9. Closing Prayer & Benediction - by Rev. Morgan Wong.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

We are blessed that we were able to start worshipping and operating in our new church space this past year.

For your information, Session has approved the 2024 Budget. Hedden Chong LLP has reviewed and approved the 2023 Financial Statements.

Thank-you to all those who volunteer on Sundays to count, process and deposit the offerings.

In His Service

Linda Sze

# $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{NON-CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS} \\ \textbf{(UNAUDITED)} \end{array}$

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

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HEDDEN CHONG LLP

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

A PARTNED SHIP OF INCORPOR ATER PROFESSIONAL SI

#104 - 3989 HENNING DRIVE BURNABY, BC V5C 6P8 TELEPHONE: 604-320-5850 FACSIMILE: 604-291-1601

#### INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

#### To The Members of Chinese Presbyterian Church

We have reviewed the accompanying non-consolidated financial statements of Chinese Presbyterian Church that comprise the non-consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023 and the non-consolidated statements of changes in fund balances, operations, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these non-consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying non-consolidated financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these non-consolidated financial statements.

#### Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these non-consolidated financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Chinese Presbyterian Church as at December 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

February 26, 2024 104 - 3989 Henning Drive, Burnaby, BC

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Hedden bling SKP

### NON-CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023

## (UNAUDITED)

	Unrestricted Funds	Invested		Restricte	ed Funds		2023	2022
	Congregation \$	Capital Assets \$	Church Building \$	Church Development \$	Endowment \$	Others \$	Total S	Total \$
CURRENT ASSETS								
Cash	130,052					12,354	142,406	320,136
Short-term investments	384,693				257,000	1,428,599	2,070,292	9,065,425
GST receivable	6,803						6,803	526
	521,548			7-	257,000	1,440,953	2,219,501	9,386,087
INVESTMENT (Note 5)	5						5	5
RESTRICTED INVESTMENT (Note 6)	237,128						237,128	235,412
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 6)		83,064		-	-		83,064	
	758,681	83,064		-	257,000	1,440,953	2,539,698	9,621,504

(The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements) - 2 -

# NON-CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023

## (UNAUDITED)

	Unrestricted Funds	Invested		Restrict	ed Funds	2023		2022
	Congregation \$	Capital Assets	Church Building \$	Church Development \$	Endowment \$	Others §	Total	Total
CURRENT LIABILITIES								
Accounts payable and accrued							6.000	1.501
liabilities	6,000			•		-	6,000	1,701
Unearned fees	20,235						20,235	-
	26,235				-	-	26,235	1,701
FUND BALANCES								
Restricted			_		257,000	1,440,953	1,697,953	8,806,733
Invested in capital assets		83,064	-		-		83,064	-
Unrestricted	732,446			-		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	732,446	813,070
	732,446	83,064	-		257,000	1,440,953	2,513,463	9,619,803
	758,681	83,064		-	257,000	1,440,953	2,539,698	9,621,504

APPROVED BY:	11. 11
CLERK OF SESSION:	Ulim h Ly
TREASURER:	L 134

(The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements) - 3 -

### NON-CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

# (UNAUDITED)

	Unrestricted Fund	Invested	Restricted Funds				2023	2022
	Congregation §	Capital Assets	Church Building \$	Church Development \$	Endowment \$	Others §	Total \$	Total \$
BALANCE, beginning of the year	813,070		4,018,713	3,211,314	257,000	1,319,706	9,619,803	14,091,844
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(91,931)	(11,592)	27,481	97,893	6,298	196,705	224,854	357,959
Vancouver CPC Development Trust contribution	(7,331,194)	×					(7,331,194)	(4,830,000)
Interfund transfers	7,342,501	94,656	(4,046,194)	(3,309,207)	(6,298)	(75,458)		•
BALANCE, end of the year	732,446	83,064	•	•	257,000	1,440,953	2,513,463	9,619,803

(The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements) - 4 -

### NON-CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

## (UNAUDITED)

	<u>Unrestricted</u> Fund	Invested		Restricte	ed Funds	2023	2022	
	Congregation \$	Capital Assets \$	Church Building \$	Church Development §		Others \$	Total S	Total \$
REVENUE								
General receipts	231,572						231,572	182,590
Designated receipts	-			-		134,684	134,684	182,909
Grant receipts	2,620					2,075	4,695	8,706
Program receipts (Note 8)	95						95	-
Dividend income				196		82	278	50
Interest income	31,683		27,500	91,417	2,711	57,990	211,301	193,115
	265,970	-	27,500	91,613	2,711	194,831	582,625	567,370
EXPENSES								
Building, grounds & others	172,655	11,592	-				184,247	29,441
Church programs	5,899					*	5,899	4,024
Minister's office expenses	157,056		-	1.5	-		157,056	134,609
Missions	22,291	•	+	-		•	22,291	21,937
Miscellaneous expense			19	38		5,018	5,075	50
	357,901	11,592	19	38	-	5,018	374,568	190,061
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER								
ITEMS	(91,931)	(11,592)	27,481	91,575	2,711	189,813	208,057	377,309
OTHER ITEMS								
Loss on disposal of investments		v	2	(1,520)			(1,520)	
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments				7,838	3,587	6,892	18,317	(19,350)
	-	-	-	6,318	3,587	6,892	16,797	(19,350)
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF								
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(91,931)	(11,592)	27,481	97,893	6,298	196,705	224,854	357,959

(The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements) -5 -

### NON-CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

### (UNAUDITED)

	<u>Unrestricted</u> Fund	Invested		Restrict	ed Funds		2023	2022
	Tuno	Capital	Church	Church	vu i unus		2020	2022
	Congregation \$	Assets \$	Building \$	Development \$	Endowment \$	Others \$	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATI	NG ACTIVITIES							
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(91,931)	(11,592)	27,481	97,893	6,298	196,705	224,854	357,959
NON CASH ITEMS								
Amortization		11,592					11,592	
	(91,931)		27,481	97,893	6,298	196,705	236,446	357,959
CHANGES IN NON-CASH WOR	KING CAPITAL							
Short-term investments	(85,629)		3,978,342	3,211,314	>=	(108,893)	6,995,135	3,943,250
Accounts receivable	•		-					39,814
GST receivable	(6,277)				•	8	(6,277)	(111
Prepaid expenses	•							118
Accounts payable and accrued								
liabilities	4,298						4,298	(1,270
Unearned fees	20,235						20,235	-
	(159,304)		4,005,823	3,309,207	6,298	87,812	7,249,837	4,339,760
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCIA	NG ACTIVITIES							
Vancouver CPC Development								
Trust contribution	(7,331,194)						(7,331,194)	(4,830,000)
Interfund transfers	7,342,501	94,656	(4,046,194)	(3,309,207)	(6,298)	(75,458)		
	11,307	94,656	(4,046,194)	(3,309,207)	(6,298)	(75,458)	(7,331,194)	(4,830,000)

(The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements)  $\mbox{-} \mbox{ } 6\mbox{ -}$ 

# NON-CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

### (UNAUDITED)

	<u>Unrestricted</u> Fund	Invested		Restrict	ed Funds		2023	2022
	Congregation §	Capital Assets	Church Building \$	Church Development \$		Others \$	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTI	NG ACTIVITIES							
Restricted investment	(1,717)		<u>~</u>			-	(1,717)	2,451
Acquisition of capital assets		(94,656)		-		-	(94,656)	-
	(1,717)	(94,656)	-			-	(96,373)	2,451
DECREASE IN CASH	(149,714)		(40,372)			12,354	(177,730)	(487,789)
CASH, beginning of year	279,764	-	40,372				320,136	807,925
CASH, end of year	130,050	-	-		-	12,354	142,406	320,136

(The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements)

# NOTES TO THE NON-CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### (UNAUDITED)

#### 1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Chinese Presbyterian Church (Church) is a member of the Presbyterian Church of Canada established in Canada in 1875. The Church operates under the rules and regulations contained in The Book of Forms of the Presbyterian Church in Canada as amended from time to time. The purpose of the Church is to provide a place to hold worship services, and to provide ministries for women, men, youth and children, preschool and pastoral care to those in need.

The Church is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act (Canada). As such, it may issue tax deductible receipts for qualifying charitable donations. The Church is exempted from income taxes.

#### 2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organization.

#### 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Church follows accounting principles generally accepted in Canada in preparing its financial statements. The significant accounting policies used are as follows:

#### FUND METHOD ACCOUNTING

The Church follows the restricted fund method of accounting to comply with the limitations and restrictions placed on the Church's resources. Accordingly, resources are classified for accounting and financial reporting purposes into funds. These funds are maintained in accordance with either the objectives specified by donors or with directives issued of board of directors. Certain interfund transfers may be necessary to ensure the appropriate allocation of respective funds. Transfers among funds are recorded in changes in fund balances.

For financial reporting purposes, the accounts have been classified into the following funds:

#### **Unrestricted Fund**

The unrestricted fund is the Congregation Fund which accounts for funds that have come to the Church through donations, bequests. It also reports the operating activities of the Church.

#### **Restricted Funds**

The Restricted Funds include funds that are externally or internally restricted. The board exercises discretionary control over the investments of these funds through external investment fund managers.

Church Building Fund accounts for the net proceed from sale of the land and premises located at 6435 and 6459 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B.C.. This fund is designated to build a new church.

Church Development Fund accounts for the funds that have contributed to the church through donations and specified by donors for building a new church.

The Endowment Fund accounts for donations and bequests reserved for specific purposes. The unexpended income may be allocated to the Congregation Fund.

# NOTES TO NON-CONSOLIDATED THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### (UNAUDITED)

#### 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### Restricted Funds (continued)

Other Internally Restricted Funds include Church Reserve Fund, Chinese Language School Fund (CLS Fund), Mission Fund, Church Operation Fund and Special Project Fund. These funds are maintained for special purposes specified by donors or board of directors.

#### FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

#### MEASUREMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Church initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value.

The Church subsequently measures all its financial assets and liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in net income.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and accounts receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

The Church's financial assets measured at fair value include short-term investments.

#### **IMPAIRMENT**

Financial assets measured at cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. The amount of the write-down is recognized in net income. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in net income.

#### TRANSACTION COSTS

The Church recognizes its transaction costs in net income in the period incurred. However, financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value are adjusted by the transaction costs that are directly attributable to their origination, issuance or assumption.

#### SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

Short-term investments, consisting of short term notes, fixed income funds, money market funds and public traded shares, are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in net income in the period incurred.

#### INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

The Church accounts for its investments in subsidiary companies on the cost basis as these financial statements are prepared for income tax and internal corporate purposes only. This is not in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles which require the investment to be accounted for on the equity basis.

# NOTES TO NON-CONSOLIDATED THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### (UNAUDITED)

#### 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital Assets are recorded at cost with depreciation and amortization provided as follows:

	Kate	Method
Artwork	20 %	Diminishing balance
Furniture and equipment	20 %	Diminishing balance
Office equipment	30 %	Diminishing balance

The above rates have been utilized to reflect the anticipated life expectancy.

#### REVENUE RECOGNITION

Revenue from contributions, donations, sales and service transactions are recognized as revenue in Restricted or Unrestricted Funds when they are received or receivable and the requirements as to performance are satisfied, provided that at the time of performance ultimate collection is reasonably assured. Interest income is recognized on a time proportion basis.

#### INTERFUND TRANSFERS

Interfund transfers include amounts transferred as directed by fund advisers, or as approved by the board and or Presbytery.

#### MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY

The preparation of financial statements, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. These estimates are reviewed periodically and as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in earnings in the period in which they became known.

#### 4. INVESTMENT

The Church invests in a wholly owned subsidiary Vancouver CPC Development Limited (Limited), Trustee of Vancouver CPC Development Trust. The Limited is inactive and has no operating activity of its own.

#### 5. RESTRICTED INVESTMENT

The restricted investment is cash held in a savings account which is restricted and pledged by the Church against an irrevocable letter of credit issued to City of Vancouver. The letter of credit is required prior to the issuance of Development permit for building a new church.

# NOTES TO NON-CONSOLIDATED THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### (UNAUDITED)

#### 6. CAPITAL ASSETS

	COST			VALUE <b>2022</b>	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Artwork	17,140	1,714	15,426	-	
Furniture and equipment	34,995	3,500	31,495	-	
Office equipment	42,521	6,378	36,143	-	
	94,656	11,592	83,064	-	

#### 7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT RISKS AND CONCENTRATION OF RISK

The Church may expose risks through its financial instruments. The following provides analysis on the Church's risk exposure and concentration at the reporting date:

#### Credit risk:

Credit risk is the risk that a third party to a financial instrument might fail to meet its obligations under the terms of the financial instrument. The Church had no accounts receivable or the accounts receivable are insignificant throughout the year. It is the management's opinion that the Church does not expose to significant credit risk.

#### Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Church will encounter difficulty in meeting financial obligations as they come due. As at the balance sheet date, the Church has sufficient cash to settle its current liabilities. Hence, the Church does not face liquidity risk.

#### Currency risk:

Currency risk results from exchange rate fluctuations and the volatility of these rates. All the Church's transactions are denominated in home currency and hence it does not expose to any currency risk.

#### Interest rate risk:

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate die to change in market interest rates. Fixed interest rate investments are subject to fair value risks. The Church is exposed to this risk in relation to investments with fixed interest rates held by income investment funds.

# NOTES TO NON-CONSOLIDATED THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	ITE	

8. PR	ROGRAM RECEIPTS		
Th	e Church is involved in education and with receipts and expenses as follows	:	
		2023	2022
		\$	\$
Pro	ogram receipts	26,410	-
Pro	ogram expenses net of \$5,018 transferred from CLS Fund	26,315	-
		95	-

#### CHINESE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2024 BUDGET

		2024 B	UDGET	2023 ACTUAL COSTS	20	23 BUDGET
DONATIONS AND FUNDS	-					
General Offerings		\$	220,000.00	\$ 231,572.25	5	200,000.00
Church Reserve Funds		\$	445,746.00	\$ 230,040.40	5	498,358.00
Total Donations and Funds	_	\$	665,746.00	\$ 461,612.65	\$	698,358.00
EXPENDITURES						
MINISTRIES						
Advertising		\$	1,000.00	\$ 680.00	\$	800.00
Alpha		\$	10,000.00	\$ -	5	
Bible Study Resources		\$	300.00	\$ -	\$	
Chinese Congregational programs		\$	18,800.00	\$ -	\$	22,000.00
Chinese Evangelical Ministerial Fellowship		\$	3,000.00	\$ -	\$	1,000.00
Chinese Language School		\$	8,000.00	\$ 4,922.68	5	(14,500.00)
Chinese Summer Conference		\$	10,000.00	s -	S	2,500.00
Christian Education (SS, VBS)		\$	4,500.00		5	4,000.00
ELL Interim Moderator		s s	1,800.00	\$ - \$ -	5	-
Mandarin Ministry		S	5,000.00	\$ .	Š	
Minister		Š	40,000.00	\$ 89,933.31		91,600.00
Minister Study Leave		s		\$ -	s	3,000.00
Missions		5	6,000.00	\$ 7,632.99	5	
Music Ministry		\$	5,300.00	\$ 927.36	5	12,100.00
Pastor of Outreach		\$	-	\$ 1,572.65	\$	-
Pastoral care and Outreach		\$	46,300.00	\$ 24,408.62	\$	44,500.00
Pulpit Supplies		\$	20,600.00	\$ 8,244.40		36,300.00
Social Media Manager (OCM)		S	10,500.00	s -	S	-
Website Manager (OCM)		S	15,000.00	\$ -	5	700.00
Contingency Total Ministry Costs	_	s		5 -	5	700.00
Total Ministry Costs	_	•	209,900.00	\$ 139,598.88	•	204,000.00
CHURCH OPERATIONS						
Advertising		\$		\$ 155.00	\$	-
Bank Charges & Interest		\$	800.00	\$ 1,183.88	5	800.00
Congregational Life (Picnic, Volunteer Lunch, Open House, Retirement)		\$		\$ 2,223.14		4,000.00
Congregation Assessment and Benefits Plan Costs		\$	6,200.00		S	•
Flowers		\$	2,500.00	\$ 1,471.55	\$	500.00
GST		\$	-,	\$ 6,802.63 \$ 7.088.00		10.000.00
Insurance		S	8,000.00 8,000.00		_	10,000.00 8,000.00
Legal & Accounting Minister and Study Leave		5	15,000.00			14,400.00
Office Administrator		Š	40,000.00			20,000.00
Office Supplies & Services		s	8,000.00			5,800.00
Presbytery Dues		5	4,346.00			4,658.00
Presbyterian Sharing		\$	10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	5	10,000.00
Repairs & Maintenance		\$	15,000.00	\$ 5,387.91	\$	-
Special Resource Material		\$	500.00	\$ 326.09	5	500.00
Telephone		\$	2,500.00	\$ 3,638.76	-	1,500.00
Utilities		\$		\$ -	S	10,000.00
Youth Minister	_	\$	•	\$ 4,099.03		4,200.00
Total Church Operations Costs		\$	130,846.00	\$ 92,152.03	\$	94,358.00
START UP						
Start Up Operating Supplies		\$		\$ -	\$	25,000.00
Furniture and Office Equipment		\$		\$ 77,515.92	\$	50,000.00
Total Start Up Costs	_	\$	-	\$ 77,515.92	\$	75,000.00
Total Building Operations Costs	3	\$	325,000.00	\$ 152,345.82	\$	325,000.00
Total Expenditures		s	665,746.00	\$ 461,612.65	\$	698,358.00
	=					

# **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

~ Ps. 127:1, NIV

God's grace and mercy flow like a river, His lovingkindness lasts forever. Like the psalmist says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain" (Ps. 127:.1). God grants us the ability to work, blesses with wonderful families and provides for our daily needs. He even gave us the opportunity to rebuild our church. What a blessing! God is faithful. We want to thank Him! Praise Him! His name is great.



This year, COVID was slowly managed and many of the restrictions were lifted. The new redevelopment was nearly completed in spring. The excitement from the members were hard to describe. I would like to thank George and Linda Sze for their contribution and commitment in this project.

The idea of rebuilding our church started in 2011. We had gone through a long and slow process of prayers, conducted a feasibility study, forming the Rebuilding Task Force and Transitioning Committee (convened by Andrew Wong who was also chair of the Board of Managers), fund raising (thank you Victor Ling and Grace Ng-Wong as the co-convenors of the Fund Raising Committee) and meeting all the requirements from our National Church Office, Presbytery and the municipal government. Success did not come easy!

The Pandemic shut down many in-person activities, and we could only reluctantly stay home to learn and work. It created "A New Normal" phenomenon. On January 25, 2021, the old church building was demolished for reconstruction. As a result, we spent more than three years worshiping the Lord and running other activities by zoom. I would like to



thank Elder Billy Lo for setting up and teaching many of us how to use zoom for worship, fellowships and other meetings. He and his wife hardly missed any meetings!

Praise the Lord! We held our inaugural worship on Father's Day of June 18th, 2023. This was the first time where brothers and sister were able to meet in-person again. What a delightful moment! And on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 8th, Presbytery held our Dedicated Service at 3:00 pm. It was such a solemn excitement of the day and was deeply imprinted in my memory. Oh God! We sincerely and earnestly dedicated our church to You.



As the Bible says, "Christ is the head of the Church... and we are His Body" (Eph. 5:23, 30). As believers, not only should we be connected intimately, we should not divide the Lord.

With the new building, our church also needs new staff. By His providence, God provided us Priscilla Ho as our church secretary, and Jacqueline Cleland as the Pastoral Care & Outreach Coordinator, to serve the Lord together. God also sent us Fred Ting, our new Chinese Adult Choir director who not only could direct, but he could play piano and has a good voice to sing. These are blessings from God. Thank you, Cecilia Chan, as the convenor for the Chinese Choir for so many years. May God richly bless you as you also involved in our visitation ministry with Frances Ng to our members. Giving comfort to those who are lonely.

By God's grace, two new Christians, Ivy Cai and Andrew Wan, after completing the Membership Classes were baptized and their names were added to the Roll of our church on Thanksgiving Sunday of October 8th, 2023. May they grow spiritually every day and be faithful to Christ.





Sunday School resumed in September. Linda Con had served as the Sunday School superintendent for several decades and was retired in June. Lela Ling replaced this role and became the new Sunday School superintendent. May God bless her and through this ministry to bless our community.

The Chinese Language School was busy preparing to restart the school in May. Under the leadership of the convenor of the Board of Education, elder Remy Fu, and the support of the Principal, Karen Loo, as well as the administrator, Lawrence Wu, and with the help of the teachers, they resolved many hurdles. The Chinese Language School was officially reopened in September. With faith we gaze upon God, His wonderful grace would shower upon us. Through this ministry, we spread the Good News.

As we moved into the new church building, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, a new Canaan Fellowship was created in the Chinese congregation. This name reflects that the Israelites who left Egypt and wandering the wilderness for forty years before entering into the Promised Land. Today, we also waited upon the Lord for the past three years and now we entered into the Promised Land, which is our new church building. Canaan Fellowship meets monthly on the second Sunday after the Chinese worship service. We had lunch and recreation. Many thanks to Eliza Lo who took the role of the Fellowship leader. With enthusiasm, she also invited a few brothers and sisters to plan for each fellowship meeting. The average attendance was between 45 - 55 people.

Personally, due to the fact of my stroke on September 25, 2022, God saved my life as though I walked through the valley of death. Since this incident, I felt fatigue easily and thought that it was time for my retirement. After many prayers, I submitted my resignation letter to Session in November and that my last day to serve this church be at the end of June, 2024. As for my future, God will look after me and His abundant mercy will follow after me.

I would like to thank all the elders and Board of Managers who served with me in this church for the past 28 years. I am very touched by your support and love. Thank you, elder Adrian Wong, who served faithfully as the clerk of Session and with the support of your family who often served from behind the scenes. During this time of pastorage, there were laughter, tears, excitement as well as mourning. But I learned in whatever the circumstances, there must have the will of God and His grace will follow. These experiences had taught me humility, gentleness, and forgiveness which I must take to heart. I treasure your genuine friendship, mutual caring and prayers which were too few to name.

At last, thank you for all the brothers and sisters of your concerns and caring, I will treasure them in my heart. May God bless you with joy and peace. Our Heavenly Father will take care of you!

His servant, Morgan Wong

# **OAKRIDGE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

2023 was a year of transition for OCM. We had weathered 3 years of Covid-enforced social distancing and have gotten comfortable worshipping on Sundays via zoom with about 30 members in attendance. We were excited that in 2023 we would be moving into the new church building, although we did know how many members would be attending. Also, our regular preaching pastor, Dr. Jason Byassee from the Vancouver School of Theology (VST), had left in the fall of 2022 for a new position in Toronto. In the face of these uncertainties, we stepped out in faith armed with principles affirmed in visioning exercises of discernment conducted with Dr. Dale Woods.

These principles include desiring to be: a learning congregation—willing to learn from experiments; a church known for its warm and inviting hospitality, where people are accepted for who they are and where they are in their journey of faith; a place that is grounded in God, the gospel of Christ, and the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit; and a place that offers a home to others through a well-managed facility.

To help us, we hired a Pastoral Care and Outreach Coordinator (PCOC) in July of 2023, Jacqueline Cleland, a Maritimer, a recent graduate of VST as our POCO. The rest of this report document through the eyes of Jacqueline how God, a remarkable constant, had blessed us in the face of uncertainty.

#### Report from Jacqueline (July- February)

During the last six months, we have been so blessed to gather and worship in person, learning from many delightful itinerant preachers ranging from missionaries to masters of the preaching arts. This blessing of God's Word has led to many deep discussions in the fireside lounge after worship. We had a weekly attendance at our worship of about 30 and recently reached 40 regulars!

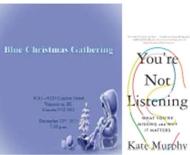


As we work be a Church that supports and celebrates everyone as they are, the church answered the call to Pastoral Care with a wide range of activities. Knowing the pressure the church's leadership is under, Pastor Morgan and Jacqueline led a workshop with the elders on avoiding burnout.

The pastoral care work continued from the Pastoral Care Book study, which read books focused on listening, the challenges of helping others, and how to love everyone regardless of our history. We also had Pastoral Care practice groups, where we looked at topics such as hospitality, listening skills, and biases that impact our daily interactions.



We also met online and worked through the Sanctuary Mental Health course, deepening our understanding of community pastoral care needs. This intentional work culminated in a Blue Christmas gathering, where





we invited the community to come with all the worries and stresses that they have in their lives to be loved and supported just as they were.



We have also worked on being more intentional about seeking and seeing God daily as a Christian

Community. We started a God-sightings board that transitioned to our new Hallelujah moments at each worship service. We recognize that God is active in our lives and our community.

Leaning into the desire to learn and grow through experimentation while being grounded by the Holy Spirit, we explored different ways to see God in Creation. We did that by inviting people into a

relationship with Christ through outreach. We hosted our first Hallows Eve gathering with activities, including a Bible escape room that had people walk in off the street to join us and ask if they could return next year.



We were blessed to partner with the Richmond Presbyterian

Church for musical lessons from Dr. Jannie Burdeti. Most importantly, the partnership started an annual inter-church ultimate frisbee challenge. We have the trophy for this year and will play again on August 24th, 2024!

We also completed a partnership with Janice Lam to offer English Language Lessons in the multipurpose rooms, which got us over 75 views on Eventbrite and helped build a more prominent social awareness of the church as a place of help in the community.

As the church has continued to do great work in spreading God's love, it has been recognized in formal publications, as seen below!



# 'Remarkable Constant' has been faithful, from Chinatown to Oakridge renewal



In a time when the CBC publishes articles with titles such as 19,000 churches and religious spaces will close over next 10 years' and "Majority of Canadians say church to blame for residential school tragedies," it can feel like despair...





Partnering with our Sunday School and knowing how talented and skilled our young people are, we invited them to participate in our outreach efforts. Due to their ingenuity and skills, they blessed us by creating a welcome video to share a small glimmer of all the joys they see when coming to the church.



### Future Plans (2024-2025)

We are blessed to be in a growing community with a new building that can give us new opportunities to engage with God's Word and Creation in new ways. We have new capacity and new abilities to be the place that is a help, support and growing point for our geographical community around us. In the future, we pray and want to work at being a community firm in a foundation of pastoral care where we love and support each other as Christ calls us and the wider world. Part of this wider world of care is to explore and create an online digital ministry presence.

We need your help to build this future together. We invite you all to pray, care, and discern where God calls you to help in our ministry together.

Respectfully submitted by Jacqueline Cleland and Victor Ling on behalf of the OCM Committee

PCOC Prayer for the AGM

Dear Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer,

As we approach the future, we decide together at the AGM, and we look forward to the seed growing that you have called us to plant. Let us take a moment to reflect on the year we experienced.

Let us reflect with gratitude on all we have received as a church community- our new church building, our leaders, our faith, our family, and the community you call us to love and support.

Let us reflect with sadness on those we have lost and those who are struggling.

Let us reflect with gladness on all that is good and beautiful growing in creation.

Let us reflect with hope on the transformational times in which we live – filled with innovation, prayer and endless possibilities as inspired by your Spirit.

As we make these reflections today,

Let us be inspired to look and work for your love in the world.

Let us pray for the health and happiness of our community.

Let us be encouragers for those whose skills and talents differ from ours.

Let us support those with different calls.

Let us pray for support in our mission to be disciples of Christ.

Finally, help us come together into this new year we are building together with a renewed sense of purpose and help. Let us be content with an impact, big or small that impacts one or many, that takes our best or growing skills to treasure and make a positive difference in your world.

We pray this all in Jesus' name, Amen.

# SESSION REPORT(堂議會) - YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

### MODERATOR & SENIOR MINISTER 主任牧堂議會師:

(1996) The Rev. Dr. Morgan Wong, Ba, BTh, MDiv., DMin. (黄鼎盛牧師)

# PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH CO-ORDINATOR 教牧關顧及外展事工:

(2023) Jacqueline Cleland, M.Div, B. Sc (Hon.)

# YOUTH PASTOR 青年事工牧師:

(2021) Samuel Andri \* Samuel Andri left VCPC in 2023

# CLERK 堂會書記:

(2008) Adrian Wong (黄立錚)

# ELDERS 長老:

2018 - Nelson Chan (陳沛江) Billy Lo (盧玉明)

2009 - George Sze (史培鏞)

2004 - Remy Fu-Tam (譚傅秀紅) Diana Wong (黄鍾齊安)

2000 - Victor Ling (林重慶) Adrian Wong (黄立錚)

1993 - Garland Chow (李家麟)

1985 - John Con (簡約翰) Timothy Tam (譚仁德)

# REPRESENTATIVES TO PRESBYTERY: 區議會代表:

Minister - Rev. Dr. Morgan Wong (黄鼎盛牧師)

Representative Elder - John Con (簡約翰)

Alternate Elder - George Sze (史培鏞)

### PRESBYTERY COMMITTEE REPS:

Ministry - Rev. Morgan Wong (黄鼎盛牧師)

Ministry - John Con (簡約翰)

# BOARD OF MANAGERS 堂務委員會:

Andrew Wong (黃永聰)

Daniel Lai (黎永佳)

<sup>\*</sup>Inactive: Ken Shuen (孫國權)

David Tsang (曾立基)

Linda Sze (史黄美意)

Elder Nelson Chan (陳沛江) - Session Liaison Representative

## TREASURER 教會財政:

Linda Sze (史黄美意)

# OFFERING-DATA ENTRY ACCOUNTING TEAM LEADERS (財務小組):

\*This committee would always appreciate more participants. If you can assist in any way please contact our Treasurer.

Glady Kwan (楊關素婷) Marleen Wong (黃李恩恩)

Mandy Chan (陳關寶愛) Nelson Chan (陳沛江)

Billy Lo (盧玉明) Eliza Lo (高偉玲)

Diana Wong (黄鍾齊安) Elizabeth Wan (溫盧以勵)

Sandy Phu (符葉明麗) Francine Shuen (孫梁康怡)

Holly Siu (蕭雷慕娟) Alice Wong

# EDUCATION ADVISORS TO SESSION - 教育顧問:

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Chair - Dr. Remy Fu Tam (譚傅秀紅)

1. SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: Lela Ling

主日學校長:林理祿

2. CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Karen Loo

中文學校長:羅李頌恩

Note: Vacation Bible School was closed during the construction of our new facilities.

Chinese Language School was closed and restarted in September 2023.

CHURCH SECRETARY - 教會秘書: Priscilla Ho (何穎德)

# MEMBERS AND FRIENDS: (會員及會友)

Members on the Roll as of December 31, 2023

(113 + A.+ B.+ C. - D. = 2023 Members)

會員: 2022 年 12 月 31 日 (113 + 3 + 0 + 0 - 5 ) = **TOTAL 111** 

# **Added to Communion Roll since 2022**

### A. By Baptism of Adults - 成人洗禮:(+3)

Andrew Wan (溫錦明)
Ivy Cai (蔡淑霞)
Kwan Tsui (崔群)

Confirmation - 堅信:(0)

- B. By Baptism of Children/Infants 幼兒洗禮:(0)
- C. Transfer In 過會:(0)
- D. Removed from Roll in 2023 會友名冊刪

By action of Session 堂委員的決定 (-0)
By death 去世 (-4)
By transfer out 轉會 (-1)

Deanna Wong (黃麗文)

### IN MEMORIAM 2023 - 悼念:

## MEMBERS - 會友: (-4)

Tony Tsang (曾木興)
Gordon Lowe (劉繼興)
Chui Kam Wong (黃關翠琴)
Kwan Tsui (崔群)

### FRIENDS & ADHERENTS - 朋友/會眾:

Jeffrey Lowe Sok Kook Loh Yew (mother of Lily Yew)

### **ATTENDANCE in 2023:**

From January to June, we continued to have church services virtually via "zoom." We were unable to obtain an exact account of attendees due to many families sharing one screen or one telephone line to listen to the services each week. We estimate a range of 30-50 people for each Sunday English language and each Chinese language services.

On June 18, 2023, we held our first in person services in our new church facilities. The average attendance of the in person English language service was 31 people and the Chinese language service was 53 people.

### **APPRECIATION:**

Our thanks to all, including the many who volunteer and continue to faithfully serve, contribute, and participate to the life of our church, and for the glory of our Heavenly Father with love, patience and humility.

# **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Vancouver Chinese Presbyterian Church has its existence for 120 years and has engaged in operating Chinese Language School for a century. The mission and vision is not only to teach Chinese Language and Culture but also to intentionally introduce the Biblical truths and Christian Gospel to the families with young children of Chinese descent. It is a distinctive enterprise in that the venue has been the church premise in all these years of its operation. The students are gathered into the sanctuary and are exposed to the solemn, awesome church atmosphere as a place of worship. Unfortunately, during the church redevelopment project along with the restriction of the pandemic Covid 19 rules and regulations, the Board of Education made the decision to terminate the CLS for the safety of children until the reopening of the new building at the Cambie site.

Praise the Lord, on September 8, 2023; we witnessed the rebirth of the CPC-CLS at the brand-new building! It is remarkable that the Chinese Language School reopened with enrolment of 72 students for the first semester. The student's performance, coordinated by the teachers and organized by the new Principal Karen Loo and Administrator Lawrence Wu, celebrated this event with unspeakable joy and warmth during the Christmas presentation on December 16, 2023. It was well attended by 120 people, mostly parents, grandparents, guests and donors. We are very thankful for God's wonderful provision of a beautiful church to teach the Chinese Language and Culture as well as to spread the message of God's love to all families with children. Many thanks to all of you who prayed and supported the school with financial giving and care. Many thanks to the returning students and parents who enrolled the students as an expression of trust in the mission and vision of the school. Christian character development and moral values remain to be the key theme and focus of our curriculum in bringing up and training the children for a lifetime of success. Many thanks to the BOE members whose different roles contributed to the success of the CLS operation. Members of the Board are Lela Ling, Billy Lo, Sandy Phu, Grace Ng-Wong and Remy Fu as Chair.

The BOE will continue to give oversight to the CLS operation guided by LWC policy and the insurance abuse policy. Underneath the motto of the CLS activities is the safety of the children with a strong sense of accountability to God and the consequent recognition of our accountability to others. BOE 's work with the CLS has been concerned with the teaching of the Chinese Language Culture not for its own sake alone, but with a view to producing godly Christians. We would appreciate your prayers and support for our school staff as they faithfully serve in the task of teaching young children for His glory and praise.

Remy Fu

Chair of CPC-BOE

# **BOARD OF MANAGERS**

"As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." – Galatians 6:10

The Board of Managers (the Board) meets monthly via Zoom to discuss the temporal and financial affairs of the church.

The Board members include Andrew Wong (Chair), Linda Sze (Treasurer), Daniel Lai (Secretary), David Tsang, and Nelson Chan (Session Liaison). The members were voted in by the congregation at last year's AGM.

The Board met nine times in 2023. The Board addressed the following:

	_
Hired and supervised church secretary.	Purchased copier.
Identified and purchased church supplies.	Managed IT service. *
Managed janitorial service.	Managed keys, key cards, and access. *
Managed Police Criminal Checks.	Resolved building deficiencies. *
Purchased insurance for the church.	Liaised with the Property Management Company.
Adopted the Key and Room Process.	Adopted key agreement.
Adopted laptop agreement.	Managed the church budget.

Managed offering envelopes. \*

The Board thanks the offering counting and deposit team for their weekly support. I sincerely thank the board members for their faithful services and look forward to their continued support. To build a healthy church, we need more volunteers both on the Board and in church operations.

In Christ, Andrew Wong Chair

Managed church facility rental.

<sup>\*</sup> The Board thanks Elder George Sze for his support in many board matters and Elder Diana Wong for managing the church offering envelopes.

# **CANAAN FELLOWSHIP**

In 2023, the Canaan Fellowship emerged as a vibrant expression of community and gratitude within our Chinese Presbyterian Church family. Symbolizing a new beginning as we transitioned to our new church building in June 2023, this fellowship provided a space for us to come together every second Sunday of the month after the Chinese Service.

As the name suggests, Canaan Fellowship reflects our journey to a new land of promise, and we gathered with hearts full of thanksgiving for all that God has provided. Gathering in our Multi-Purpose Room, we shared meals, laughter, and fellowship, celebrating the abundance of blessings bestowed upon us.

While rooted in the Chinese congregation, Canaan Fellowship warmly welcomed all members of our church community, as well as newcomers, to join in the festivities. This inclusive approach allowed for rich exchanges, deepening our understanding of one another and fostering a sense of unity in our shared Christian journey.

Throughout the fellowship gatherings, we enjoyed various types of food, engaging conversations, and moments of joy that enriched our spiritual bonds and strengthened our faith. It was a time of renewal, as relationships were nurtured and faith was deepened through shared experiences and mutual support.

In the midst of laughter and camaraderie, the Canaan Fellowship served as a reminder of the importance of community in our Christian walk. Together, we found encouragement, inspiration, and a renewed sense of purpose as we journeyed together towards the promises of God.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." - Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

Looking ahead to the coming year, we anticipate continued growth and fellowship within the Canaan community, as we embrace the opportunities for connection, service, and spiritual enrichment that lie ahead.

In Christian fellowship,

Eliza Lo

# **CHINESE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Chinese Adult Sunday School used to meet in person on Sundays at 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Recently, to accommodate the Chinese Choir's practice time on Sunday morning, the Chinese Adult Sunday School class has moved to Saturdays from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM via zoom.

During 2023, we finished studying the book of Matthew, and started to study the Book of Revelations in September 2023. We expect to complete this study by the end of 2024.

We pray that God continues to bless every member of the Chinese Adult Sunday School Class. We also pray that we would mature in Christ by applying what we learned to everyday life. Let us follow Jesus' teaching and be the light to the world.

We pray that more people will join this Sunday School class.

In Christ, Andrew Wong

# **CHINESE BIBLE STUDY**

Although our church reopened in June 2023, we decided to continue our activities by using zoom video conferences.

Under Pastor Morgan Wong and his wife Grace's loving guidance and encouragement, we take turn to lead the study. We completed Acts and continue studying 1 Corinthians.

Through group study, not only we gain more understanding of the Bible, learn to be humbler and grateful, and having more confidence to spread the gospel of God.

Despite we are not studying in a group physically, our mutual care and love for each other shows the power and glory of God.

May the spirit of God lead us to continue understanding God's will.

In Christ,

Elizabeth Wan

# **CHINESE CHOIR**

### Ephesians 1:2

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2023 has passed in a blink of an eye--the newly constructed church reopened last June, bringing us to a new chapter under the guidance of the Lord. We hope to bring His light to this community and inspire many others to know Him.

Previous members of the Chinese choir, Elder Tony Tsang and Elder Gordon Lowe, returned to the Lord's embrace in July 2023 and December 2023, respectively. We remember their many years of service and participation in the choir fondly.

The Lord has also brought us Frederick Ting, who has taken up the role of conductor for the choir. Also, Lily Yew continues as our pianist. Under their leadership, we look forward to offering hymns of praise to the Lord. Last year, the choir gained two new members: Mr. Kit Cheung and Mrs. Wendy Cheung.

We pray that the Lord watches over our brothers and sisters, that we look to Him as we spread the gospel through music and become a light for the community. May we give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name.

# Ephesians 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

In Christ,

Cecilia Chan

# **CIRCLE OF JOY**

"Not giving up our meetings, as is the way of some, but keeping one another strong in faith; and all the more because you see the day coming near." – Hebrews 10:25

The Circle of Joy Fellowship is a fellowship created for the Chinese congregation during the Covid period in 2020 to permit the members to have fellowship with one another during the construction of the new church building. It was held online through zoom every Wednesday evening from 7:30PM to approximately 9:00PM, and sometimes it may even go as late as 9:30PM. This fellowship allows the Chinese congregation to continue in mingling with one another and have fellowship together although they cannot be physically together. After the new church building finished its construction and was in operation in June 2023, the fellowship continued to be held online via zoom as requested by many members since it is held in the evening.

There used to be 9 groups leading this fellowship based on the 9 Fruits of the Holy Spirit according to Galatians 5:22-23: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. Started in September 2023, the members were re-grouped to 5 groups with each of the four Chinese Elders leading one group and the Chinese Language School teachers leading the 5<sup>th</sup> group. The four groups that are being led by the Elders are named according to the four Gospel books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

On average, there are approximately 25 to 30 attendees each week including Reverend Morgan Wong and his wife, Grace. This fellowship has helped the Chinese congregation to stay together during the hardship of the Covid period and has helped the attendees grow spiritually from each other's sharing. We pray that God will continue to bless this fellowship. We also pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and lead this fellowship to deepen our faith and to be more Christ-like during the sanctification process from the many trials and tribulations that we encounter each day.

In Christ,

Elder Diana Wong

# **LADIES' BIBLE STUDY**

With Covid-19 still a concern among the participants of this bible study group, we met online via zoom on every second Friday from 9:30 am to 11 am.

From January to June we studied the book of Titus and from September to December we studied Hebrews, chapter 1-7.

The 3 chapters in Titus discusses the roles of Elders, older men and women, younger men and women, Titus, leaders, slaves and how each one of us should respond to each other. In general, Paul's letter to Titus, tells how we are to promote godly living by promoting wholesome teaching. We are also to submit to the government and those in authority, by being gentle and showing true humility. We are to keep in mind to behave in a godly manner as the world is watching us. We are to reflect God's light to others. Always be a good imitator of Christ! Titus 3:14 NIV: Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.

In the first seven chapters of Hebrews we learnt about the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Christ is the superior priesthood compared to Melchizedek and the Levite priesthood. The Old Testament laws were lacking, as the sacrifice of animals did not purify man. Only Jesus, the perfect lamb, can forgive our sins. It is through Jesus death and our accepting Him as our SAVIOUR, our sins are forgiven. We are also taught to be cheerful givers, with all aspects of our life. Our desire should be to give and help others, most importantly to give the best of our life to God! So, glorify God by being good imitators of Christ, seek the Lord, follow Him, repent our sins and honour Him.

I would like to thank Pastor Morgan for leading the ladies bible study for the past 4 years. He has challenged us with interesting studies as we looked in depth into the bible. I wish him a very blessed, restful retirement. Well done, good and faithful servant of the Lord!

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Wong

# **LUK TUNG KUEN**

Too many seniors today are sedentary as they get older.

As I see the aging population of our church I wanted to do something that would help them stay strong as they age. So I proposed to the Session that I would like to start a Luk Tung Kuen (LTK) class.

LTK is a form of Chinese exercise which incorporates many of the martial art styles; like, Kung Fu, Qi Gong and Tai Chi. It is a low impact gentle exercise that works the six parts of the body.

The head, two arms, two feet and the torso. It helps with balance and coordination.

Minimal equipment is required, just a few chairs and an open space. The lobby area was a good place to hold the class. Thank you to Jacqueline Cleland, Priscilla Ho, Rev. Morgan Wong and Adrian Wong for their input to fulfill the requirement of Leading With Care, and to create the waiver and registration forms, with all the forms being translated into Chinese.

The LTK class started in the middle of September. Advertising for the class was strictly through the weekly printed bulletins and a poster placed in the window by the front door and in the foyer by the elevators.

The class started was held on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 and continued until December. We took an early break from Dec. 14/23 to Jan 31/24 because the lobby floors where being refinished.

There was no fee charged for this class because "LTK upholds the objective of a charitable foundation, dedicated to serve the public health, contributing to society". (taken from LTK organization website.) I did suggest on the registration form that a donation could be made to the church.

The class as grown from two to seven. I have received positive feedback from each of the participants and therefore will continue this activity. Anyone is welcomed to attend.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body". 1 Corinthians6:19-20 ESV

May all that I do, do it for the Glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,

Athena Chu

# **MANDARIN MINISTRY**

Praise the Lord for a brand-new church to gather and worship. God has been gracious to CPC. We are also strategically located in a special locality – the Cambie corridor, a site favored by new immigrants from the China Mainland. For the last 3 years or so, we have been studying the Bible with a group of Christians from China and our vision is to form a worship community by the will of God.

Aside from continuing to meet every Friday for Bible study via zoom, small constituent of 6-8 people gathers to pray for the Lord's guidance. The first step is to join the Alpha Ministry initiated by the CPC Mission Committee. Please partner with us through your prayer support and reach out to those who can speak Mandarin to come and see and to taste that the Lord is good.

In Christ,

Timothy Tam

# **MISSION COMMITTEE**

Our mandate for mission whether local or global remains a key focus for the CPC Mission Committee. We have supported teachers in Papua New Guinea for their ministry to the native children for teaching them to read and write and to bring the Gospel of Jesus to the tribal remote villages through the sponsorship of the Mustard Seed International Ministry. The collaborative effort has been rewarding and encouraging.

As directors of both the EMAS and CMDA group, I led a team of doctors and dentists to Bali, Indonesia for a short-term medical and dental mission in July of 2023 for 2 weeks. This was in accordance with God's command to help the poor and the needy with their basic medical and dental care. We did this in joyous obedience and to bring relief to the suffering of the children and adults who live in poverty. The local church workers and pastors are greatly encouraged and engaging in meeting the needs of these local residents who could not afford health care as they are costly. Friendship and fellowship are built as a pathway to plant the seed of faith for many.

For the coming year, the Mission Committee is pleased to launch the Alpha Course Program to our local community. It is our hope and prayer that you as members of this church community will take this opportunity to reach out to your friends and invite them to attend for their own spiritual growth and enjoy a life of blessings and abundance in Christ our Lord!

Timothy Tam

Chair CPC Mission Committee

# MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

Since its inception in 2021, our Monthly Prayer Group has been a steadfast beacon of spiritual support and communal solidarity, particularly during the challenges posed by the pandemic. Under the guidance of Pastor Morgan, this initiative has brought together our brothers and sisters in Christ to uplift one another and intercede for the world, our nation, our church, our members, and our families.

Adhering to the framework of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication, our gatherings have been marked by a deep sense of reverence, humility, gratitude, and petition before our Almighty God.

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply encouraged by the resilience and commitment of our congregation, who have faithfully participated in these monthly prayer sessions despite the changing circumstances. Even with the transition to our new church building and the easing of pandemic restrictions, our prayer group has continued its vital role in nurturing the spiritual life of our community.

Scripture reminds us of the importance of prayer and communal worship:

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." - Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)

In accordance with this divine exhortation, our Monthly Prayer Group remains steadfast in its commitment to intercede for the needs of our congregation and the wider world. We are grateful for the participation of an average of 5 to 10 members each month, whose prayers continue to make a profound impact on our church and beyond.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities for spiritual growth and community engagement that our Monthly Prayer Group will continue to offer in the coming year. We invite all members of our congregation to join us in this sacred endeavor as we seek God's guidance, provision, and blessing for the journey ahead.

In Christ's service, Eliza Lo

# **SHARE & PRAY**

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Every Monday, at 5 p.m., the Share & Pray group gathers via zoom to come before our Lord in prayer. We give thanks to our heavenly Father and seek His will and direction.

Athena Chu, Ada Con, Victor Ling, and Sue Yuen are consistent prayer warriors.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20)

We praise the Lord for his everlasting love and abundant grace. We thank Him for answering prayers.

Please join us on Monday at 5 p.m. for prayer and fellowship. All are welcome.

To join us, please go to the church website: vancpc.ca, and click on 'Share & Pray - Monday 5 p.m.'

Prayer concerns can be emailed to: athenachu2138@gmail.com or to: susieyuen6@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Yuen Mar

# **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6

We praise and thank God for providing us with a beautiful new church for us to resume in-person classes. For the month of June we offered a KidsTime program for our elementary students and an opportunity was offered to our high school students to expand their leadership skills by volunteering in this program. In September, we began an in-person Sunday School program for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students. Our program could not exist without our team of ten highly experienced and dedicated Sunday School volunteer teachers. I am thankful for their willingness to serve, attend planning meetings and for their willingness to try new things as we adapt to our new building while meeting the needs of children with gentleness and love. I am especially thankful for the support and mentorship of our former Sunday School Superintendent, Linda Con, who has continued to be a teacher and leader when I am not available.

We have existed as an online program since 2020 which has had a negative effect on our enrollment. Currently, we have 8-9 students who regularly attend class and most of these students have an adult family member who also attends our weekly services. With the return to in-person classes, we now have the opportunity to grow as our church reaches out to the community. Please continue to pray for our Sunday School that the Lord will bless us with more students and that they will have a desire to learn God's Word and to develop a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our elementary school grades are learning the Word through a Group Ministry curriculum called KidsOwn Worship. This highly interactive program allows us to have all students, Kindergarten to Grade 7 learn in a family-style setting. It also allows us to have only 3 teachers on duty per week while meeting the Leading With Care guidelines. Our teachers appreciate volunteering on a rotation basis as it allows them to attend other programs such as the after service discussion. Our high school students are exploring a program from Sparkhouse called Re:form which dives each week into a meaningful topic. For example, they have just completed a study of the Apostles' Creed by asking questions about the creed such as, 'Does God still create?' and 'Why do we call ourselves part of the catholic church if we are not Catholic?'

Children need to hear the good news of our loving God, which will also help them face their fears and gain wisdom to equip them in this face-moving and uncertain world. They need to know they are loved unconditionally and they are here for a reason. May God continue to bless these children, their families and our teachers.

Respectfully submitted

Lela Ling Sunday School Superintendent



"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain."

~ Psalm 127:1 (NRSVUE)