

Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles Annual Meeting

March 6, 2022

Meeting called to order at 11:43 AM.

Opening Prayer – Moderator Mika Walton

Approval of November 2021 Congregational Meeting and December 2021 Resource Plan Meeting minutes

- There were no corrections. Minutes were approved by consensus.

Affirmation of New Board Members

- Vice Moderator Win Lam presented three Diaconate Board nominees. Win described the positions they were nominated for, introduced the candidates, invited the nominees to introduce themselves, and opened the floor for questions and answers with the candidates. Win made the motion to affirm the nomination of each candidate.
 - At-Large – Peter Del Colliano. Angie Fong seconded the motion. The vote results were 69 Yes, 0 No, and 1 Abstain.
 - Church Clerk – Nathan Chan. Marsha Lee seconded the motion. The vote results were 68 Yes, 0 No, and 1 Abstain.
 - Treasurer – Nina Luu. Steve Kawamura seconded the motion. The vote results were 70 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstain.

Financial Report - Pastor Jonathan

- Our general fund income for the year 2021 was \$1,223,773. Our resource plan was for \$1,116,000 and our expenses are about \$50k less, so our surplus for 2021 was about \$145k for the entire year.
- We had 265 individual households who have to our general fund in 2021, which is a little over \$4k per individual, which is extremely significant.
- We averaged 139 giving units per month in 2021. For comparison, in 2020 we averaged 151 giving units per month. Our income overall was higher, so our average contributions per individual were higher in 2021.
- In 2021, we received \$62,031 for Special Offerings, \$16,442 for the Building Fund, and \$1,088 for the Sedaqah Fund. In total, all income for 2021 was \$1,303,334.
- Our end of 2021 fund asset balances were \$906,849 in total. There is \$706,871 in the General Fund (unrestricted), \$100,456 in the General Fund (restricted), \$59,627 in the Building Fund, and \$39,894 in the Sedaqah Fund.

- Sue Muramatsu asked a question regarding end of year giving in 2021. Pastor Jonathan said that around November 2021 our budget was around \$90k in deficit. We received around \$240k in December 2021.

2020 Surplus Allocation - Mika Walton

- We are recommending a 10% tithe calculated from the 2021 surplus amount, but using funds from the 2020 surplus which has not been fully spent yet.
- We recommend donating \$7,500 to the Center for the Pacific Asian Families (CPAF). CPAF was founded to help address domestic violence and sexual assault in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities.
- We recommend donating \$7,500 to Changing Tides. Changing Tides is a program of the Little Tokyo Service Center which provides mental health services to the Asian-American community.
- We are recommending a \$15k allocation to our Rosemead Community Outreach and Food Drive fund.
- We are recommending a \$20k allocation for staff bonuses. This will be distributed at the discretion of Pastor Jason for staff who have gone above and beyond during these challenging times.
- In addition to the tithe, the Diaconate Board also recommends a \$15k Senior Pastor Recognition gift. Pastor Jason did not receive any of the previous \$20k staff bonus and the Board felt that Pastor Jason should receive a bonus for his incredible effort during this challenging time through the pandemic.
- Stan Sun asked if all of these recommendations will be funded from the 2020 surplus and if there are recommendations for the 2021 surplus. Mika confirmed that these are all to be funded from the 2020 surplus. Mika said that we do not have recommendations at this time for the 2021 surplus.
- Jack Sunabe asked if these recommendations will spend the remainder of the 2020 surplus. Mika said there will still be \$10k left in the 2020 surplus.
- Steve Kawamura recalled that Pastor Jonathan had previously mentioned needing refrigeration units for the Rosemead Churches Food Distribution and asked if the surplus funds could be used for that. Pastor Jonathan answered that we can, but have not made a decision on that yet.
- Sue Muramatsu asked if this 10% tithe of the surplus will be continued in the future. Mika answered that we have not decided that yet.
- Kelly Tom motioned to approve the 2020 Surplus Allocation. Jenny Inouye seconded the motion. The vote results were 76 Yes, 0 No, and 2 Abstain.

Senior Pastor Report - Pastor Jason

- Pastor Jason thanked the Diaconate Board for the motion recommending the Senior Pastor Recognition Gift.

- Jason expressed gratitude to the congregation for going through this pandemic as a church family together.
- Jason is planning on taking his sabbatical in June, July, and August. He will be dividing up the sabbatical into three months; the first month to disengage from ministry work, the second month for soul care and receiving from God, and the last month to pray and vision for our church.
- The congregation will take a parallel journey in June, July, and August, mirroring the phases which Pastor Jason will go on.
- Our church is in its 97th year, so we are getting close to our centennial celebration, which is a big milestone for our church.
- With regards to our pandemic safety protocols, we are transitioning our congregation to a new phase of safety protocols and emphasizing coming back to church in person. We encourage everyone to come out to Park in the Church to step back onto our church campus.
- It's been encouraging to see new people come to worship service in person almost every week since we started hybrid services.
- On March 20, we will lift all capacity limits for our in-person worship services.
- Starting in April, we plan on having children's worship service in the chapel, concurrently with our worship service in the sanctuary. We also plan on eliminating the registration process to attend worship service. We will maintain our mask and vaccine requirements.

Pastoral Staff Reports - January, Jonathan, Julie, Ryan, Shirley

- The pastoral staff submitted written reports. The following was highlighted verbally during the meeting.
 - Pastor January: January highlighted the challenges of transitioning to online worship services back to in-person services. She thanked a number of people for helping make the services incredible. She asked the congregation to pray for her. She also encouraged the congregation to volunteer.
 - Pastor Jonathan: Jonathan shared a few words of advice to Pastor Jason for his sabbatical. He highlighted the Rosemead Churches Food Distribution. He will be flying to Arizona to join a pastoral cohort to discuss the role and hope of the church amidst a society that is increasingly socially isolated.
 - Pastor Ryan: Ryan highlighted that the Youth Group has met outdoors through the fall and winter and many youth have participated despite the cold weather. It was discouraging that Youth Retreat had to shift from their original location due to the pandemic surge. Ryan thanked the Open Door leadership team. There is a lot of interest in the Open Door because of the Family Ties series. He thanked the congregation for the Family Ties process. Ryan shared that in 2021 he officiated an LGBTQ wedding for the first time, which was a huge joy for him.

- Pastor Shirley: Shirley shared some of the challenges in having children’s worship online. She is looking forward to returning to in-person children’s worship in April and to seeing up close how the children have grown up. She also encouraged the congregation to volunteer to help Elza and her, especially youth volunteers. Summer VBS will be low-key, probably 1-hour each Sunday for a number of weeks. Shirley announced that she will be retiring at the end of 2022. Pastor Jason offered to re-hire her after that on a part-time basis as Pastor for the Prime Timers ministry. She plans to take a 3-month break after retiring and before returning part-time.

Questions and Answers - Mika Walton

- Mika opened the floor for questions and answers regarding anything on the meeting agenda. None were asked.

Adjournment of the Meeting

- Mika Walton moved to adjourn the meeting. Melanie Mar Chow seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved by consensus.

Closing Prayer – Moderator Mika Walton

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Agenda Item	Action
Motion to affirm the allocation of the 2020 General Fund Surplus Funds	Kelly Tom made the motion. Jenny Inouye seconded the motion. The motion passed.
Motion to affirm the nomination of Peter Del Colliano for Deacon At-Large	Win Lam made the motion. Angie Fong seconded the motion. The motion passed.
Motion to affirm the nomination of Nathan Chan for Church Clerk	Win Lam made the motion. Marsha Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion to affirm the nomination of Nina Luu for Treasurer	Win Lam made the motion. Steve Kawamura seconded the motion. The motion passed.
Motion to adjourn the meeting	Mika Walton made the motion. Melanie Mar Chow seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Submitted by Win Lam and Mika Walton