

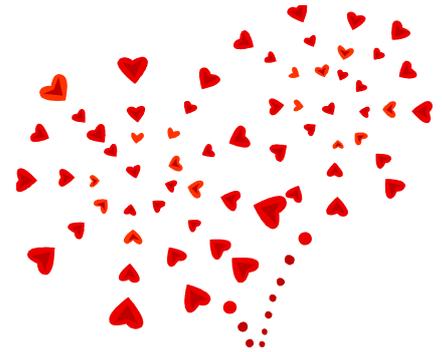
Pastor's Sharing — Caring about the Future

Development of the Church

Rev. Almon Li (1/6/2014)

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the HCAC to be held today reminds us that we are members of the HCAC. I trust that it is God who leads us to the HCAC, with the aim that we are united in one heart to build His church.

Ephesians 4:11 – 12 reminds us that God has given us different spiritual gifts, talents and abilities so that we can serve Him in different posts and build up the body of Christ. Apart from using our gifts, talents and abilities in the church ministries, brothers and sisters should care about the needs and future development of the Church.



At today's AGM, the deacons for the term of 2014-16 will be elected. You may have the question that why there are only 6 candidates willing to accept nominations in this election. Does it mean that the church leadership is not stable? There were in fact another 20 members eligible for nomination as deacons but they refused to be nominated for different, but positive, reasons. Some members felt that they were not yet up to the standard; some wanted to have a rest before taking up again in the next term; some due to personal or family reason. The church ministries will not be adversely affected by their absence in the Deacon Board because they will continue to serve diligently in other positions.

Under the constitutional structure of the Christian Alliance Church, the reverend in charge is the ex-officio chairman and leader of the Deacon Board, which comprises all deacons and pastors. The pastors, being official members of the Deacon Board, have voting right in the Board. As such, the leadership of the HCAC has been more stable under this structure.

Thank God that the leadership in the Deacon Board shall include: Rev. Almon Li, Pastor Freddie Li, Pastor Kenneth Leung, Mrs. Marianna LI (Reverend's Assistant), Assistant Pastor Paul Chan, Assistant Pastor Don Huang, and the deacons elected. There will be a total of 13 members in the Board if the 6 candidates are elected successfully. We believe that the church leadership in this size should be alright to lead the Church, not to mention that the Lord Jesus is the commander of our church. With the constant prayers in unity by brothers and sisters, we believe that our church will be growing stronger in God's grace in the years to come.

I take the opportunity to let you know the future development of the Church so that you can pray for the church. We expect that the Church will have the following developments and expansions:

1. **Mandarin Congregation:** There will be a rapid expansion because there are so many Mandarin-speaking non-believers in Sydney and more new Mandarin-speaking immigrant are coming to Australia. We believe that brothers and sisters of the Mandarin Congregation will grasp the opportunity to spread gospel. To prepare well for the anticipated expansion, the Mandarin Congregation will move to the Hall of the Pennant Hills Community Centre as from June 8.

2. **English Congregation:** There are a lot of opportunities to spread gospel to English-speaking people in this English-speaking country. We anticipate that there will be a growth of 10 – 20% in the coming 5 years. The estimated size of the English Congregation in 2017 will be more than 100 people. To tie in with the future development of the English Congregation, we have to plan for expanding the existing accommodation. Furthermore, we are actively searching a full time pastor for the English Congregation. We have notified all bible seminaries in Australia for their assistance in recruiting the English pastor. The National Council has also paid attention to this matter. Brothers and sisters are invited to pray for this eagerly.

3. **Cantonese Congregation:** It was said that the growth of Cantonese-speaking population seemed to be stagnant. We believe that the gospel can still reach the non-believers through our active evangelism. Hence, we expect that there will be a growth of 5 – 10% per annum. The size of the Cantonese Congregation will increase from 130 at present to 170 people in 3 years' time. Based on our study, the renovated Main Hall can accommodate up to 180 people after the demolition of the wall between the Main Hall and 1/F of the Church Building. However, the church growth principle is that, if a church's congregation reaches 70% of the designed capacity of its accommodation, the church should find a larger accommodation; otherwise its growth will be hindered. Therefore, the church leadership has decided that the Cantonese Congregation shall continue to use the Hall of Pennant Hills Community Centre, instead of moving to the Church Building.

4. **Future Developments:** The Church has planned to demolish the wall between the Main Hall and **Ground floor** of the Church Building in order to :
 - i. prepare for the future expansion of the English Congregation;
 - ii. prepare for the 2nd service of the Cantonese Congregation, if needed;
 - iii. hold larger-scale church events, such as evangelical gatherings, Christmas/Good Friday services; and
 - iv. hold larger-scale outreach events .

The building expansion/renovation works can only be carried out subject to funding availability. We therefore sincerely appeal to brothers and sisters for your prayer and offerings for the church's future development.