

Fraser Lands Church Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sunday, April 27, 2025

1. Introduction

At 11:27 am, Senior Pastor Abe Chan called the meeting to order.

We had about 250-260 people registered to attend the AGM online or in-person.

Meeting agenda was reviewed.

The recording secretary Vivienne Soo was appointed.

Galatians 5:5-6 was read.

P. Abe prayed to start the meeting.

2. Election of Elders & of Nominating Committee, Appointment of Independent CPA

Election of Elders: Four Elders have been nominated for a two-year term starting in May 2025: Berlinda Chan, Justin Chan, Joyce Chen, and Nicholas Lai.

Elders Remaining (2024-2026) with 1 year remaining in their term: Dominic Fung, Ken Lo, Hanson So, and Albert Tam.

Elders Exiting (2023-2025): Janson Ho, Lachmi Ma

Election of Members to the Nominating Committee: Helen Mar and Catherine Seto (serving along with 2 appointed Elders and the Senior Pastor).

Appointment of Independent CPA: A vote will also be conducted to appoint WL & Company to be our Independent CPA auditor for 2025.

All registered church members casted their vote online.

Video of the year in review was shown, 9 minutes in length.

Voting was closed after adequate time and the video shown; total of 11 minutes provided to submit ballots.

3. Senior Pastor's Report

This is the 5th year since the pandemic had started. Almost everything has resumed in our

church ministries.

P. Abe expressed gratitude for all those in our church who have served the Lord the past year.

We welcomed new staff in April 2024 – Deene Trazona, as Facilities Assistant, and credited the Facilities Committee for their continual support in facilities-related matters of the church.

We welcomed many new members to our church: 11 through baptism, 21 through membership transfer. We held several Newcomers Welcome Luncheons for the different congregations.

One focus of our church has been to live out *'The Spiritual Practices of Church Renewal (Deeper Life).'* We engaged in this thru Hearing God Seminars, Prayer Summits, Set Free Weekends, and a Praying Parent Luncheon focused on prayer, encouraging parents to pray into their children.

Another area of focus is *'Being a Loving Presence of Christ in Our Neighbourhoods (Mission).'* We become loving neighbours & "BLESS" others around us by **B**eginning with Prayer, through **L**istening, **E**ating together, **S**erving, and **S**haring our stories. We have been blessed by God so we can bless those around us. We had a sermon series on "God's Mission and You", Missions Sunday June 9, "Beyond My Church: Across the Street and Around the City", highlighting local missionaries & missional efforts around the world, Cambodia & Guatemala mission teams, etc.

We welcomed and supported the community through various events including Community Day, children's and teens' summer camps, VBS, Alpha, FunFest, rental by Canadian Blood Services for a blood donation event, clothing drive, Help for Lytton, Edupavi Craft Fair, and a new event called "Christmas Wonder", inviting guests to enjoy photo sessions with our festive decorations.

P. Richard Raya joined us for a weekend of prayer and shared his vision from God to plant 5 Arabic speaking churches in BC. We continue to pray for the Lord's affirmation and clarity in order *'To be a church of all nations transformed through Faith & Love in Christ (Vision).'*

P. Joseph provided us an update of his family through a letter, photos & video. He thanked us for our support & generosity over the years. The New Venture agreement between the different partners has ended after 5 years. They are now attending and volunteering at a local church.

4. Missions Report

Nicholas Lai, Chair of the Missions Committee, presented the Missions Report. He thanked the Missions Committee Members for their work and explained their role: to assist the Elders Board on matters relating to missions.

A chart comparing 2017-2025 Missions Fund Budget and Offering was shown. The Missions budget has gradually increased since 2017 from \$170K to almost \$231K in 2024, an increase of 36% in 7 years. In 2024, the Missions budget was \$230,940 and actual Missions donations received was \$223,096.18. Although this is 3% less than budget, we were able to fulfill support to missionaries and the GAF as we did not spend on Arabic speaking ministries.

A chart of 2024 Missions Fund Distribution was shown. It listed the actual contributions to all missionaries in the fund. There was an error in the printed total amount in the Annual Report; correct total is \$223,090. Part of Pastor Joseph Luamba's support is from the New Venture Montreal Account and not from the Missions Fund. We were able to provide a 3% cost of living increase to our missionaries. 54% was donated to the Global Advance Fund (GAF).

A chart of the New Venture Financial Support to P. Joseph was shown and explained. Since this ministry did not become a developing church, the agreement was terminated in 2024. However, we have budgeted to help him transition in 2025.

A slide of the 2024 Missions Initiatives listed our short term (Cambodia, Guatemala, Congo, Martinique, Central Asia/Middle East, China) and local missions (Lytton, clothing donation). It was encouraged for our church to consider missions, both short term missions and local.

This year's Missions Sunday, on June 22, 2025, was promoted. It will be a combined worship service with Pastor Sam Owusu as the guest speaker, and a lunch program following.

Nicholas shared John 16:33 and Romans 10:15 and expressed appreciation for the congregation's partnership in missions.

5. Financial Report

As the church Treasurer, Lachmi Ma presented the 2024 Financial Report with Financial Statements audited by WL & Company and approved by the Board of Elders. Lachmi expressed appreciation on behalf of our church for Jacklyn's diligent service as our staff bookkeeper, for the faithful service of those fulfilling the accounting role for our church (George Lai from the startup of FLC to June 2024, Jared Chow from July to Sept. 2024, and Berlinda Chan from Oct. 2024 to date), and for the entire Audit & Financial Review Committee for using their experience, skillset, time & energy to support the church's financial stewardship.

She reminded church members of the need to care about church finance as we want to be faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to our church (1 Cor. 4:7 and Matt. 25:14-28).

She reviewed the basics of Fund Accounting and the 4 groups of funds our church tracks: General Operating, Capital, Missions, and Other Designated Funds.

A walk through of the Statement of Financial Position and how the Church's Assets and Liabilities are allocated reveals:

- Missions Fund accounts for 0.5% of our assets, restricted to support missions approved by the Board.
- Other Designated Funds accounts for 1% of our assets. Restricted funds include C&MA donated fund for Lytton Relief, Benevolence Fund, Scholarship Fund, and Bursary Fund; no donations are accepted for these other designated funds.

- Capital Fund accounts for 91% of assets & 99% of liabilities. Its use is restricted for property & equipment. At year end, the District Loan balance was \$471K at 5.8% interest rate and 17 members provided interest free loans totaling \$643K.
- General Operating Fund is used for administrative & program activities costs and is the only non-restricted fund. It accounted for 7.5% of assets at year end. With the 2023 GOF surplus, the Elders Board decided to retain a \$400K balance and moved the remainder to Capital Fund to pay down the District Loan.

Lachmi walked us through the Statement of Operations and explained that the deficits since 2022 were being driven by amortization of our new building, not actual spending. She reviewed the deficit & surplus of all the different funds. (Missions Fund operates on a balanced basis so surplus/deficits are typically due to timing differences. Other Designated Funds had deficits given we are no longer collecting offering for these funds but it is not a concern because we have more than sufficient balance to cover the expenditures. Capital Fund had significant deficits in 2023 & 2024 partly because more people are now donating to General Fund, but mostly because the deficits are driven by amortization of the new building so it is not a particular concern. General Fund ended 2024 with a surplus of almost \$335K given higher offering and stable expenses.)

Report of current General Fund balance and performance for the first three months in 2025: With the \$335K surplus for the year, General Fund balance at YE 2024 has now grown to almost \$735K. However, offering for the first three months in 2025 is definitely lower than that of the same period last year, leading to overall lower revenues. Overall expenses have also increased as we are now trying to fill our staff complement. As a result, we have a much greater deficit in the General Fund for the first three months in 2025 when compared to how we did in the previous year.

Lachmi reminded us of God's faithful provision to our church, including our healthy GOF surplus for 2024, continued paydown of the District Loan from \$1.2M in YE2022 to \$0.5M in YE2024, and interest-free member loans now totaling \$0.6M. A portion of the 2024 GOF surplus will be used to pay down the District loan, with timing and amount to be determined by the Elders Board who will also be mindful of economic uncertainty in 2025 which may potentially lead to lower offering and/or requests to repay member loans.

She reminded us that our response to this financial report should include praising God for His continued goodness to our church, giving joyfully in obedience & trust, and trusting in His never-ending faithfulness.

Lachmi gave thanks for the opportunity to serve in this role as she will be leaving her role as Treasurer (after 3 consecutive 2-year terms) and ended with a prayer of thanksgiving to God.

6. Thanksgiving Sharing and Q&A

Sylvia Zhou – Q: What is other income? A: Includes rental income & expense

recovery items such as camp fees, etc.

Alison Stack – Expressed thanksgiving for the Elders. Q: Is our church vision the same every year? A: Since we became independent of VCAC in October 2014, our vision from God that was implemented in early 2016, *'To be a church of all nations transformed through Faith & Love in Christ'* remains constant, but our emphasis and focus may change from time to time.

7. Election Results

Elder Election:

Total ballots cast: 226

Simple majority required to be elected: 114

Berlinda Chan: 205

Justin Chan: 205

Joyce Chen: 208

Nicholas Lai: 216

Nominating Committee:

Total ballots cast: 226

Simple majority required to be elected: 114

Helen Mar: 212

Catherine Seto: 214

Appointment of CPA:

Total ballots: 226

Simple majority required: 114

Yes: 225

No: 0

8. Closing Prayer

P. Abe concluded by thanking the church community for their faithfulness to God and for loving the body of Christ. He then ended in prayer praising the Lord for all that He has done in 2024.

The Annual General Meeting concluded at 12:58 pm.