

EAM Consultation 2005

Seattle WA

EAM Chinese Convocation

30 JUN 2005 1400 meeting (1st session)

(Meeting began: 1412, opening prayer by Fr. Kwan)

(Introduction by Fr. Kwan, general plan for the two convocation sessions)

General Plan

- Roll call
- Welcome the New Congregation (St. Thomas Taiwanese, Los Angeles)
- Agenda
- Minutes
- Where have we been in the past year
- Congregation update
- Mission Fund
- LFF
- Other business

Roll Call

15 “units” here at this moment (see minutes)

Boston Chinese Ministry (Boston), Our Savior NYC, Holy Spirit (Brooklyn), St. George (Flushing NY), Diocese of Newark, Diocese of KY, St. Thomas (LA), St. Gabriel (Monterey Park CA), St. James (Monterey), Our Savior (Oakland CA), Incarnation (SF), St. James (SF), True Sunshine (SF), Holy Apostles (Seattle), St. Peter’s (Honolulu)

Welcome the New Congregation

- St. Thomas (Los Angeles), the merging

Agenda

(welcoming input)

- Issue of homosexuality

Minutes

Corrections (see green marks)

Carol Jan Lee moved to adopt, Fran Toy seconded, minutes adopted (with corrections)

Progress (or lack there of)

(open forum)

Youth Program/Ministry developments

- Fr. Kwan: worry about the “graying” of church population (majority of parishioners are seniors); inviting younger people to take leadership position (one became clerk of the vestry, which is important position)
- Fr. Peter Lam: in NYC now, young adults recruiting college students and have more formalized and organized activities (nothing “established” previously); 14 AUG 2005 first meeting, planned to be twice of month, after service, some bible studies; other activities are less structured (food, fun, etc.)
- Fr. Philip Wong: same problem in Holy Apostles, asked if EAM youth can have a forum on the issue (Fr. Kwan: planning a youth EAM Youth conference next year)
- Ada Nagata: many young people joined from the Taiwanese church (older speak Taiwanese, younger speak Mandarin); LA Diocese’s program of younger people of color reached out activity (“I Am Called”)
- Pamela Tang (Our Savior NYC): kids of church goers not coming to church, but summer camp will at least get those kids to be on church ground; this year, every Monday will have thirty minutes for pastor to talk to the kids; also Sunday school problem (no curriculum), a parishioner (nun) has volunteered to teach Sunday school, bring in more organized curriculum
- Fr. Kwan’s comment: True Sunshine has summer school, opportunity to train young adults to become the teachers, turns out to be very good training opportunity for them (more confidence in other church works), this year about 10 of such young adults, more growth expected
- Fr. Gordon Lau: Our Savior has practically no youth ministry, but is trying very hard to establish one; good idea to sent young adults to diocesan activities, but tough to send young adults (organizational issues); attracting children from other church related activities to church services is a problem in itself; no problem with curriculum, however; teacher shortage; and overall leadership problem within the church
- Peter Lam: Sunday school program at Holy Spirit (Brooklyn) is working, too
- Jonathan Lam: spoke with some Sunday school teachers from various congregation, a support network (meet regularly) needs to be established between Sunday school teachers, meeting and sharing ideas, seek out potential candidates
- Fr. Kwan: should use resources from 815 for training, etc.
- Tim Wong (Newark): popular curriculum (“Godly Play”) is very effective and highly recommended; problems with teacher shortage as well, alternating teachers between weeks
- Fr. Lau: ask the convocation to compile a list of resources
- Carol Jan Lee: rename Sunday school as “club” may help
- Keane Akao: know Sunday school curriculum very well, put down cost, personnel and more information (“Godly Play” is costly)
- Tim Wang: “I Am Called” (www.diomass.org, under ministry)
- Tang: convocation web-site
- Akao: work with big church to make EAM more visible on web-site
- Tang: personnel/time issue

Ministry Education

- several within the Chinese Convocation were just ordained or are on the track of being ordained

Church Planning in other dioceses

- Fr. Kwan: diocese push to train ethnic clergy, but diocese has no career plan for them after they finish schooling; challenge issued to establish a related item in diocesan budget, but nothing is done as of this meeting; Diocese gives no support to Incarnation (David Liu), funding will end at end of DEC 2005; many openings in the US, but not in CA (lose-lose situation), absolutely waste of effort and resources; all in all, diocese have no long term plan for ethnic ministry (20/20 won't work without taking care of ethnic ministries)
- Fr. Wilkinson: Dio of KY has generous funding for ethnic ministry, but problems with schooling (transferring credit from Asia, etc.), see if findings can be transferred from such dioceses to other diocese in need, question: how do we do that?
- Fr. Kwan: there are scholarship available, but job after schooling still remains a problem
- Fr. Lau: can't make promises in terms of employment, training and career are two different things
- Akao: training for congregation building is built into seminary programs, but have no tools to congregational development; also, pay, as of now, is not attractive to new clergy
- Fr. Wilkinson: Bishop of KY believes in job opportunities, so make sure credential of ethnic clergy is competitive with white clergy
- Eugenia: diocese not ready to call Chinese Rector
- Fr. Kwan: Charlie Chan is an example, also other examples
- Eugenia: practically complicated to make originally white congregations to become more ethnic, difficult case to preach to the higher ups

(Young adults excused for younger adult convocation)

(5 minutes break at 15:29)

(resume at 15:41)

Check in

Our Savior (NYC)

(presented by Tang)

- Very active
- NY EAM active
- Three year in Charlie Chan's tenure

- Tsunami relieve effort (raised \$2000 and gave to Episcopal Relieve)
- Hosted a women fun day (UN thing CSW), dinner was fun
- Hosted diocesan dinner dance, many united supportive
- May: joint service with Holy Spirit, celebrated by Shimpsky of ECR
- Relationship with St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center, published a bi-lingual newsletter, also sponsored health screening at church, more than 2000 participate
- Jubilee Youth Chorale father day's fund raiser, about \$6K, preparing a 3 week concert tour
- Mission Graphics: two exciting projects in the past year (Graph Works, response to the Windsor Report)
- Future: health fair, free concerts, special services
- NY EAM: works well with Michael Kendall, very supportive of Asian Ministry

(Peter Ng will present the Mission Fund items NOW)

Mission Fund

- Chinese Congregational Endowment Fund
- Tried very hard to move the fund from the National Church past few years
- Not that complicated: make copy of resolution, give it to the missionary (recommendation: ask Fr. Fred Vegara to transfer fund to EAM council, so EAM council can help Chinese Convocation to distribute the fund)

Check in (continue)

Holy Spirit (Brooklyn)

- Material submitted (1a)
- Attendance slight increase (average 90)
- Bi-lingual services (Chinese/English)
- Fund raising for new organ (\$15K)
- More baptism, 11 confirmed this year
- Two Sunday schools
- Women's fellowship most active
- New alter guild committee
- New young adult ministry for college students and new graduates
- Vivian Lam
- Jubilee Center: ESL program, piano classes, family counseling, etc.

St. George (Flushing NY)

- Wednesday Eucharist, Sunday services
- Wednesday bible studies
- 15 in youth group, regular activities (bible studies or others)
- Chinese fellowship every Sunday afternoon
- Bishop Shimpky became the bishop-in-residence in St. George
- 6 baptism, 12 confirmed
- English class (more than 100 participated)

- Every Sunday four to five average new comers (lots of new Chinese immigrant in the Flushing area), keeping them is a problem

Diocese of KY

(Fr. Wilkinson presented)

- Chinese population in the Louisville area
- Bible class established in a Chinese restaurant on Saturday mornings
- Fr. Wilkinson learning some Chinese
- Baptist pastor (Chinese) invited to bible study
- Moving slowly, but steadily

St Thomas (LA)

(Ada Nagata presented)

- Material submitted (see 1b)
- Welcomed Taiwanese congregation
- Pastor Huang licensed to officiate
- New member's retreat
- SEP: ESL meeting (25 students)
- Introducing the Taiwanese congregation to Episcopal church
- JAN: first joint annual meeting
- The rest: see report

(Closing remarks by Fr. Kwan)

(Prayer by Fr. Lau)

(Meeting adjourned at 16:20)