

UTCCF 2013 Vision and Personal Statements

In the document below you will find vision statements for each of the executive committee nominees for the 2013 – 2014 year.

In addition to their vision statement, each candidate has provided answers to four personal evaluation questions below:

- Name 2 weaknesses that you possess, and please indicate if and how you are addressing each weakness.
- Name 2 strengths that you possess, and please indicate how you believe it will benefit the CCF family.
- Critically evaluate your ability to work alongside others and provide an example.
- Critically evaluate your openness towards receiving criticism and provide an example.

Please take the time to read each of the nominees' statements to understand who they are and what they see in the life of the community of CCF and in themselves as they prepare for the upcoming year.

We suggest that you also ask these questions of yourselves as you read these statements, for this is a community in which we live, and whose leaders need support from every one of us.

Remember to be in prayer for each candidate and the fellowship at large as we once again pause to reflect on who we are, why we are, and how we are to live in our individual and corporate walks with God, to whom all Glory and Praise belong.

Coram Deo,

Elections Committee, 2013

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Name: Elliott Jun

Position: Chairperson

Years at CCF: 3

Years as Christian: 1-3

Current Church: People's Church

Home Church: People's Church

Vision Statement

Vision: Eternity is Now

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. – John 5:24

A common trope that we find ourselves in is that the promise of Eternal life is something that one experiences after death. However, is that really what our time on Earth comes down to, simply waiting until our bodies wither away into nothing so we can receive this promised life? Is this really the life that God has promised us?

In the Gospels, Jesus is constantly affirming that Eternal life begins with believing in Him and everything He represents and has to offer. Mary and Martha in light of Lazarus' death believed that Jesus would raise him on the last day, to which he replies, *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* – John 11:25-26. Jesus wasn't speaking of a time to come, but right then and now as He raised Lazarus from the grave.

Eternal Life is not a Post Mortem experience. Eternal Life is now. It is my hope that CCF would journey with me to discover how Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are the answer to this as we come to learn how the Gospel is personal and real to us.

It's Personal.

Then Jesus declared, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. – John 6:35*

As we've journeyed through the Gospel of John this year, in many chapters Jesus has issued an invitation to us personally to believe in Him. There are many times where Jesus begins to reveal more aspects of who He is to us as characters ask Him who he is; the son of God, bread of life, living water, the Word, Messiah, Savior. We have been exploring all of these themes, but do we really believe these to be true for ourselves? By going through scripture together as a community as well as in solitude with God and deeply reflecting upon our inner voices. I hope CCF can come to see what the promises and the Gospel means to each of personally us as we learn more of our identity through coming to know Christ and

being personal with each other.

Make it Real.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
– 2 Corinthians 5:17

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

– Romans 6:8-11

Simply knowing how the Gospel is personal to us and speaks to our fears and desires doesn't have much meaning if we do not act upon it. Just as Jesus was the embodied Word of God who became Flesh, so too must the Word come alive in us. By embracing and living Eternal life, we can be real with our current struggles of where we have yet to let go and also make real the same grace and love God has extended to us to others. As we come to take hold of the life that Jesus has offered us, may others who have yet to know the Gospel see it through our lives as testimony.

Practical

- Implementing Discipleship Groups as well as encouraging discipleship for mutual accountability and greater strides to be more personal across different years within CCF
- Reintroduce Mentorship to CCF and gauge the possibility of long term effectiveness
- Invite challenging and related alumni and speakers for workshops to gain different perspectives
- Provide support for Bible Study groups and other disciplines of His Word
- Actively look for opportunities for CCF to practice their faith in the Campus, allowing for greater exposure to God's work and the work that we're called to.

Personal Evaluation

1. Name 2 weaknesses that you possess, and please indicate if and how you are addressing each weakness.

The weaknesses that arise the most in my participation within community are trust and isolation. The two are intricately woven together as it's due to my lack of trust in people, whether it's confidentiality or insecurity that prevents me from finding people in my times of need. Due to betrayed trust in the past I fear that it will happen again so I shut myself from people and I tend to isolate myself as a way of coping with the circumstances I'm facing rather than having faith in my fellow brothers and sisters. While solitude with God is something that Jesus has demonstrated, isolation due to insecurity and fear is not. Through the past years despite my stubbornness (which is both a good and bad quality of mine), God has been showing me the bitterness I hold in my withholding of trust and the many opportunities I have missed of letting myself being loved and supported by the community around me as an extension of His love for me. Although, I have failed

many times to rely and to trust upon CCF, God's grace has enabled me to begin taking steps in faith to trust in the community God has blessed me with.

2. Name 2 strengths that you possess, and please indicate how you believe it will benefit the CCF family.

As I've mentioned in my weaknesses, a trait I attribute as a strength would be stubbornness although, it could also be called perseverance. Despite the rather turbulent nature of University and the self discovery that happens around it, I don't give up and I'll often harm myself to finish what I've started. Of course, I've learned some moderation over the years but the same persistence to keep pressing on (sometimes for the worse) is something I hope God will use to drive whatever He wishes me to do and spur the fellowship towards him.

I'd like to think I'm a thoughtful person, although others may disagree. Albeit, there are times when emotions do get the best of me, I put a lot of thought into my actions before I take them, often wondering the impacts of my actions and the resulting pros and cons of said actions. In any place in the community, one's actions are not in isolation but effect others and it is through being mindful of the possible repercussions and influence of doing something that I can be more aware of how God is working within the fellowship and how I am to respond.

3. Critically evaluate your ability to work alongside others and provide an example.

I feel as if I've summarized this in listing my strengths and weaknesses as these have come out in working with Committee this year. I did struggle to trust committee with a lot of my personal struggles and isolated myself from them as a result, which aren't my only weaknesses but the most salient to my mind. However, we also worked well together as we helped to encourage each other, handle tasks, share the load, and live out the Gospel to each other as circumstance unfolded. There's been a lot of creative problem solving, not only for CCF logistics but also in terms of approaching people and their struggles. Listening and talking are also skills I've had to relearn as listening to other's and their struggles is crucial when working with people, and discovering the correct times to speak and listen seems to be a lifelong endeavour.

4. Critically evaluate your openness towards receiving criticism and provide an example.

Nobody loves to be criticized, but I've found the difference to be in how one receives it and what does a person do with it to be the more important questions. There are times when I can be quite defensive towards criticism often to the point of offence, when emotions are brought into the fray, however as I've been constantly humbled by the humility and grace God continues to heap onto me, I've come to see that bickering about a past wrong isn't productive to either person, the fellowship nor God. Listening to their concerns and validating their opinion and looking at what God is

speaking for me to do in responding out of love has been a discipline that I've been trying to adapt out of that grace God has given me and have simply accepted that criticism will always be there. Hopefully, I will be asking how I can use this criticism for the glory of God rather than how can I protect myself as God continues to lead me to further humility.

I find praise is a bit awkward as I struggle to receive it. Whether it's due to my own high standards or the fact that I don't believe I'm the one who deserves the praise almost to the point of self depreciation. The praise should be God's and it is where I will redirect it as He is the source of the blessing that come out of me. Rather than deny the praise altogether, I would rather accept that this person finds something praiseworthy and redirect it to the source. To deny praise altogether is to deny an opportunity to redirect praise to God.

Name: Agnes Lin

Position: Vice Chair

Years at CCF: 3

Years as Christian: 7-9

Current Church: Logos Baptist Church

Home Church: Logos Baptist Church

Vision Statement

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” –Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

This is a verse that we are all too familiar with. It is a verse that we turn to when we are feeling hopeless. It is a verse that we pass on to our peers when they are in need of comfort. This verse is befitting to our lives because we live in a life full of doubts. Yet, God promises that He has perfect plans for all of us. He promises to “prosper you and not to harm you”. He promises to “give you hope and a future”. There’s just one thing that we seem to overstep every time we read this verse though: that there is a prerequisite to this promise. The prerequisite can be summed into two simple words – these two words being the very core of my vision for this next school year: let go.

We are called to let go of our own plans, our insecurities, our pain, and the list goes on. In John 17:14 and 17:16, Jesus says that we are not of this world anymore. This means that in following Him, we decide to let go and divorce ourselves from the things of this world. This is a decision to die to ourselves – to let go of the things that we want and let ourselves be transformed from the product that the world has made us into. Only when we let go of the things of this world can we move forward towards the Promised Land.

This need for letting go is a vision that we should all have individually. It is also something that we could all relate to in one another. Every single one of us has some sort of struggle that is bounding us to this world. This need is great in our walks with God especially because only through letting go can we really learn to love (to love yourself, to love others, and to be loved) and only through letting go of this world can we really encounter God in our lives.

Last year, when I ran for large group coordinator, the vision that God gave me for this fellowship was this: being united as one body in Christ. This year, I would like to take this vision one step further by implementing a system of support in the fellowship. As we are struggling with the need to let go, there is a great need for support. We need to take advantage of the support that is available here in the fellowship. God, Himself, says that we need one another as we encounter our struggles. There is a strong need for the support of our brothers and sisters in order to free ourselves from the chains of this

world. As we are moving forward to the Promised Land, we need the company and support of one another in order to remain strong.

As your vice-chair, I would like to make support available to all members of the fellowship. Even more, I want us all to learn what it means to support one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Here at CCF, we are a family. As a family, it is our responsibility to support one another. This includes supporting our leaders in all the hard work that they do to help make this fellowship possible. Even more, this includes supporting all the members of the fellowship in their personal struggles. There is a great need in our fellowship for investment in one another. As we struggle as a family, we will come to understand what it really means to let go, which, in turn, will give us a greater understanding of what it really means to leave this world and not be of it. Here at CCF, we should be moving towards the Promised Land together.

The vision here is to let go so that we could move forward. It is a call to abandon this world because God says that we are no longer of it. In this vision, we will be able to taste the kingdom of God. When we let go, we really learn what it means to walk in faith. We are called to abandon our own plans because He has greater plans for us. This can only be achieved with the support of one another. The vision here is to walk towards the Promised Land hand in hand as brothers and sisters. When we encounter one another's lives, we will encounter God. When we stop living according to our own plans, we start walking in His. When we learn to let go, we will discover love.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching." –Hebrews 10:25

Personal Evaluation

1. Name 2 weaknesses that you possess, and please indicate if and how you are addressing each weakness.

A large struggle of mine has always been my inability to allow myself be supported by others. When I am given a responsibility, I am the type of person to take complete ownership over it and not ask for help even though I may need it. This weakness is an issue of my pride because I do not want to feel unable when performing a task. This usually leads me to biting more than I can chew and falling under pressure of responsibility. However, through serving on committee this past year, I have been learning the value of letting myself be supported. With that, I have consulted this issue with some close friends who are keeping me in check with my workload and supporting me emotionally through my work. Even more, I have been learning to trust work upon others. In this, I'm teaching myself to be a supporter rather than always a leader.

A second weakness of mine is my own discouragement. I often struggle with feelings of discouragement especially when an audience is being unresponsive or disengaged. The mindset is a stems from the fact that people's hard work is going unacknowledged and unappreciated. In this discouragement, I struggle with moving forward. However, I have been learning to let go of order and perfection and been trying to replace it with trust in God that He will move.

2. Name 2 strengths that you possess, and please indicate how you believe it will benefit the CCF family.

A strength of mine has always been my communication skills. As I am a very social person, I am able to engage with many different people throughout the fellowship. This works to an advantage because I am willing to put myself out there in order to hear people out. With my openness in socializing, I am able to communicate with different members of the fellowship and given opportunities to hear their questions and concerns. Communication is an important tool for the community because with constant communication, there are less misunderstandings amongst one another.

A follow-up strength to my former one would be my enthusiasm for problem solving. I am the type of person that will not only hear out questions and concerns, but also address it. This is important for our community because it shows that the committee is not only present to help lead the fellowship, but it is also present to support the fellowship in all capacities. I am passionate about addressing problems rather than sweeping it under the rug. With that being said, I believe this strength would help me and the committee better support the community in its entirety.

3. Critically evaluate your ability to work alongside others and provide an example.

I have always enjoyed working with others because I am given a great sense of other people's leadership styles and work habits. Working in groups gives me a sense of joy because I am able to discover more about certain individuals. However, there is no doubt that working with the same group of people for a full year can become very problematic. Yet, after being on committee this past year, I am given a great sense of what I would be facing if I were to be elected again this next year. Two things in which I believe are important while working with groups is communication and confrontation. These two are characteristics in which I believe I am well-versed in. With that being said, I have very little reservations in working with others. If anything, I am excited to see the way in which we will challenge one another if I am to be elected.

4. Critically evaluate your openness towards receiving criticism and provide an example.

I have always struggled with praise because every time I receive it, I am confronted with the challenge of remaining humble. Yet, I do find a sense of comfort from praise because I am reminded that I am supported in the works I have been given.

In being confronted with criticism, I am able to take it well as long as it is constructive. In constructive criticism, there is less tension between me and the person I am speaking with. This reduction in tension enables me to really take into consideration what is being said of me and to me. On the other hand, any criticism synonymous to condemnation is more difficult for me to handle. When I feel as though I am being attacked, my defense mechanisms and emotions automatically come into play. This inhibits me from comprehending what is being criticized of me because my mind is too preoccupied with defending myself. With that being said, as long as the criticism is constructive, I take it very well. If not, it will register, but at a slower pace due to my emotional defenses.

Name: Jak Li

Position: Male Devotional Leader

Years at CCF: 2

Years as Christian: 1-3

Current Church: New City Church

Home Church: New City Church

Vision Statement

I began my walk with God two years ago, here at CCF. At that time, my purpose for coming was to somehow understand this Christian God. I thought I could do it myself as I do most things myself, but after many failures from struggling to read the Bible, to trying to overcome sins through pure discipline, to refusing the love that God shows through community, I find myself having a little better understanding of what the Christian God is about. My vision statement is Journey with God, which means simply to open my life up to my brothers and sisters as we pursue God together.

Repentance

"From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"
Matthew 4:17 (RSV)

Repentance is a big word. The dictionary definition is: "to feel sorry, self-reproachful, or contrite for past conduct; regret or be conscience-stricken about a past action, attitude, etc". This means that we need to be sorry for something. Okay, so we can feel sorry about a lot of things that we do from day to day life, but let's take it one step further and look at why we should repent. "For the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Hmm...this sounds vague pretty impersonal. What does the kingdom of heaven mean for you and me? It means a lot actually and it is through the continual pursuit of understanding what this kingdom really means that we can truly understand why we should feel sorry for something we do.

Community

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

How do we repent? Feeling truly sorry and wanting to say sorry to God is difficult to do and sometimes, it takes alone time to introspect and figure out the heart's deepest desires and sorrows. As my walk continues, I'm beginning to appreciate the true values of community and I believe this is one aspect of the kingdom of heaven as we are a "royal priesthood" 1 Peter 2:9. In a safe community, a person can have the freedom of being open and sincere, knowing that the community is there to love. One of the most difficult things to do is to allow the community to be a part of your life. It means vulnerability, and letting someone "speak with Christ-like authority" over you. This means letting go of control and trusting people around you, even if you haven't known them for a very long time...sounds impossible.

Gospel

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (RSV)

Nothing is impossible! Not with God around anyway. This is a verse of special significance to me...first and only one I remember! (Hopefully that will change). The impossibility of letting people close and making ourselves vulnerable is shattered by Jesus' death on the cross. The Gospel allows us to receive criticism without being crushed because we know that our identity and self-worth has been assured by he who knew no sin, so even if it hurts, we won't be devastated. On the other hand, the Gospel also allows us to give criticism without crushing because we all needed God to become sin for our sake. In this, the Gospel slowly becomes real and we can let it permeate through our desire for repentance and community; I hope to walk in this journey with you all.

So that's it...that's my vision for CCF next year. To be a part of community where we can discover the true conditions of our hearts, realize the pain that these conditions puts on the people we love and repent it to God as well as our loved ones, allow the Gospel to work in our everyday lives and understand the realness of the Christian God.

Personal Evaluation

1. Name 2 weaknesses that you possess, and please indicate if and how you are addressing each weakness.

The first weakness that I have is my tendency to make things more serious than they might be. Often times, I might read more into something than there is and play things out in my head in ways that only exist in my head. I'm working on this weakness by first being more aware of my reactions to certain situations. Furthermore, I'm learning how to approach those involved in a non-threatening way to clear up certain situations.

The second weakness I have is my constant self-criticism. Although on the surface it might come out as humble, in the depth of my heart, I know I have a lot of self-worth issues, which is in itself a very selfish thing. I am working on this weakness by reminding myself of my identity in Christ and that he is perfect and God loved him so, but because he suffered my death, when God looks at me, he is happy with me. Furthermore, I am learning to accept the love God is showing me through community.

2. Name 2 strengths that you possess, and please indicate how you believe it will benefit the CCF family.

One strength I have is empathizing with people. I tend to put myself in other people's shoes often and perhaps show love through encouragement or being there. I think this can benefit the CCF family because everyone needs some comfort once in a while. Perhaps my words may be comforting

to some.

Another strength I have is being honest. Although it is hard to be honest sometimes, I think being honest is the easiest way to resolve any issue. Perhaps the CCF family can find my honesty encouraging in knowing that even though we struggle with many things in life, because God loves us all, we can be honest with each other even if it's difficult.

3. Critically evaluate your ability to work alongside others and provide an example.

I've always enjoyed working with others and being in Engineering, I've had a lot of opportunity to work in teams. The process of bouncing ideas off one another and integrating the different ideas is very fun. I made it through AER201 without hating my teammates so I think that was a great blessing on its own.

It will be the first time I'll be working with a slightly larger group very closely, so I expect there to be many challenges ahead to work alongside many different personalities. However, I believe that by having a servant heart, we can work out our differences. One of the most beautiful things of the Christian Faith is the reconciliation between people who would never in any other case invest in each other and I think when these things happen, it definitely a reflection of God's perfect relationship within the Trinity and with us personally.

4. Critically evaluate your openness towards receiving criticism and provide an example.

I am pretty open towards receiving criticism. Part of my vision for next year is allowing my brothers and sisters to have Christ-like authority over me and that means to hear out the criticisms and really think about them. I believe the best way to grow is accepting criticism, but at the same time, I'm pretty hard on myself as is, so a nice balance between criticism and affirmation would be most gracious :).

Name: Simeon Wong

Position: Secretary & Treasurer

Years at CCF: 2

Years as Christian: 7-9

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Methodist Church

Home Church: Toronto Chinese Methodist Church

Vision Statement

Unity

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."

1 Cor 12:12-13 (ESV)

As followers of Christ, we are called to be in unity with one another, not just among ourselves and within UTCCF, but among all our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all members of one body, together. Typically this verse is interpreted on an individual level. You have your place in the body, an encouraging brother or sister, an IG group leader or an alarm clock perhaps, and I have my place in the body, and we're all unified as one under the body of Christ, working together to make UTCCF the tight-knit family it is. Yet that's not enough, it's all too easy to forget that Paul was talking about every single fellow Christian when he wrote this analogy in his letter to the Corinthians. When interpreting this analogy, it's all too easy to forget about the big picture: UTCCF is itself, called to be a part of the larger body of Christ, the part that we too often focus solely on: being a community within UofT.

As a fellowship and a ministry we are called to be in unity with the other ministries and organizations around and similar to us. This can take on many forms, from working with them on an event or program, to exchanging resources like expertise and maybe even equipment. In the role of a secretary/treasurer, this would mainly take the form of sharing ideas and methodologies. As a webmaster for the Chinese Christian Softball Association and my home church Toronto Chinese Methodist Church, my vision is to take ideas we try at CCSA and TCMC and trying to bring what works well to UTCCF, and take what works well at UTCCF and bringing it back to CCSA and TCMC. This also includes talking to other fellowships and drawing from their ideas.

Integrity

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Matt 20:14-16 (ESV)

Often backstage jobs like AV, secretary and treasurer positions do not get much public recognition, and it's easy to believe that it's not our job to witness directly in our positions. But we're being watched, and judged.

A Christian club in an academic environment is a vulnerable light on a hill. Everything we do as a fellowship is automatically associated with God, in that we are representatives and ambassadors of Christ. Our every action has the potential to positively reflect Christ, or to negatively affect others' perceptions of Him. By maintaining integrity, openness and transparency in managing the finances of the fellowship, we can be Christ's light in the UofT community.

Stewardship

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'"

Matt 25:21 (ESV)

UTCCF has been blessed with much, has been given many talents. It is our duty to be faithful stewards of what we have been given. In the parable of talents, the servants given much worked hard to make the most of what they have been given. Similarly, we must make the most of what we are given. One way to do this is through iterative optimization of our current processes, borrowing ideas that work from others. But most importantly, it is to not be complacent. Even though what we have works, it can always be iteratively improved.

The position of secretary and treasurer is an ideal role in which to serve God by being a good steward of His blessings, through unity with other ministries while witnessing directly through integrity.

- Through constantly optimizing our budgets and spending by exchanging ideas and methodologies with others, we can iteratively improve our use of our resources.
 - By remembering our place within the larger Body of Christ
 - By leveraging resources in other organizations
 - By learning from what works best and sharing what works for us
 - By working with them in their ministries
- Through witnessing in the position through clear and transparent financial statements, and to be held accountable for our budgets and spending
 - And reflecting Christ directly from the position of secretary and treasurer

Personal Evaluation

1. Name 2 weaknesses that you possess, and please indicate if and how you are addressing each weakness.

Two of my biggest weaknesses is being easily distracted and focusing on aesthetics.

Often I am forgetful of tasks that need to be done. I will make mental notes of lists of things I need to do such as when I get downtown, get home or even in the next hour. But I get carried away by what i'm currently doing or by something or another. However recently, I have gotten into the habit of writing lists down onto my phone and setting reminders such that I am constantly reminded of things I need to get done.

When I produce a document or any printed or digital material, I need it to look good. Margins must be balanced. The layout and typesetting must be beautiful, fitting and functional. Sometimes, I put as much effort into tweaking the aesthetics of the document as I do on the content. Although this results in work that I can be proud of, it also wastes time that may be better spent on other things, such as the content itself. With new projects, I try to outline each individual component by priority and its expected time requirement and allocate time accordingly.

2. Name 2 strengths that you possess, and please indicate how you believe it will benefit the CCF family.

Two of my strengths include a constant search for the most optimal solution and organization.

With any problem, I constantly try to find the most optimal, efficient and elegant solution, not just any solution that might work. Ideally, that solution would be scalable for the foreseeable future and flexible to accommodate new features or requirements. In the context of a role as secretary/treasurer, a scalable and flexible website or spreadsheet for example, will make transitions between committees easier and allow delegation of work to others, where the products can simply be plugged into the master document.

Along with my search for optimal solutions, I also need to be very organized with files and documents, especially digitally. All my lecture notes are scanned, tagged by topic and sorted by date and course (and fully searchable). My school documents are arranged by course and categories. Receipts are scanned and searchable. Whenever me or others need to refer to a past document, it's easy to locate and reference. In the context of secretary/treasurer for UTCCF, it means that any accounting documents, meeting minutes and other misc. documents can be easily located, saving valuable time and effort.

3. Critically evaluate your ability to work alongside others and provide an example.

As part of my school work, I frequently am required to work in groups, whether required by the assignment or simply due to the nature of the work. Through these many experiences, I find that I love group work. By working in a group each individual can focus on tasks which suit their particular strengths while delegating away those better performed by others. In this way, milestones are achieved much more efficiently. All members of the group can also draw upon the experience of other members in their respective strengths to improve their own mastery of those fields.

In the many groups and teams I have been a member of, I typically perform the group's secretarial or accounting duties while acting as a leader as well. As such, I occasionally suggest or insist on things being done my way, sometimes to the detriment of the team. However, I am learning to

relinquish control of projects and act as a more collaborative group member, and allow those more experienced to take the leadership role in their areas.

4. Critically evaluate your openness towards receiving criticism and provide an example.

When confronted with criticism, my reactions depend largely on my perceived intentions of the one providing the criticism. If the criticism is well-supported with specific evidence and is useful to determine corrective action, then I would appreciate it and take steps to remedy the situation. However if the criticism is general, undirected or misdirected and not well-meant, then I would react defensively, especially if it's about something I spent a lot of time and effort on.

It feels good to receive praise and be noticed for behind the scenes work typical of secretary/treasurer duties. But even with AV, the work I do is not because I want to be noticed or to receive praise or recognition for my work. Usually this ends up being awkwardly saying "thanks" and nodding.

Name: Arnold Lan

Position: Social Coordinator

Years at CCF: 3

Years as Christian: 4-6

Current Church: Toronto Chinese Methodist Church

Home Church: Toronto Chinese Methodist Church

Vision Statement

I have never loved CCF as a whole, as an institution or structure, but I have definitely loved the people in CCF. My passion is for people and establishing intentional relationships with other people. I hope that through social events I will be able to encourage intentional and meaningful relationships with one another first by being loved by God and then loving God. Over these past three years I have taken so much out of CCF and given back so little. I went and left as I pleased as I had truly taken CCF for granted. Although I always knew serving at CCF was a lot of hard work, I truly witnessed a glimpse of how difficult it was when I had the privilege of mentoring Kevin Dam at Winter Retreat. The amount of hours and prayer we dedicated into preparing Bible Study made me realize how much work my IG leaders Lawrence Sham and Hannah Wong put into Bible study every single week and how lightly I took serving at CCF. Though I was convicted of my poor attitude towards CCF, at the same time I realized that sometimes manuscript Bible study style just was not for everyone every week. I do not deny at all the power of the Living Word as I got to experience with Kevin during our prep sessions as well as at retreat, but I do recognize that perhaps people's attitudes towards the Word will change if they could enjoy the learning style. God's Word is living whether we want it to be or not and it simply depends on our own attitude towards the Scriptures, yet I recognize that manuscript study is not for everybody. I have two visions, and one of them stems from what I just explained. With manuscript study style weekly large group meetings, the structure becomes "Fridays are for the believers and seekers who are genuinely interested in learning the Word, but social events are for everyone else!" I know that is not the intention at all, but it just seems a little bit that way due to the turnout. I want all of us to encounter God through everything, and instead of having a distinction between "regular" CCF where we come together to learn about God's word and then "special" CCF where we have some form of event that is fun for everyone, I want every part of CCF to be about God. I want to change the way social events function, in the sense that I don't want to call our events a "Christian event" simply through inserting prayer and a set of worship songs. I realize that some events are for introductory purposes such as Frosh BBQ, but instead of the frosh coming to meet us, I want them to come to meet God through us. For Grad Dinner, instead of a dinner just to send off the grads, I want to create an environment where they can encounter God through the family they've blessed (not to say these events have not been that way, but I just want to switch the focus). The second part of my vision is an extension of the first part, in which I want to make CCF a family for those who feel lonely, unwelcomed, unloved, and/or have a general disdain towards CCF. By changing the focus of social events as just one part of CCF to focus on encountering God rather

than plainly having fun, I hope that those who find it harder to fit in can fit in because all of our focus will be on God rather than on ourselves and having fun with one another.

Personal Evaluation

1. Name 2 weaknesses that you possess, and please indicate if and how you are addressing each weakness.

- One of my biggest weaknesses is my pride. God is helping me address my pride by constantly humbling me for it says that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. And whenever I depend upon my own strength, God humbles me in various creative ways and show me that I am very incompetent on my own. Whenever I get credit for anything I know I am undeserving so I redirect it to God instead.
- Another weakness of mine is administration. My administration skills are weak as I am disorganized and lack priorities at times. I am addressing this weakness through humbling myself to ask others for help. Often in the past when it's hard for me to organize something I still try to carry the weight on my own refusing to ask for help due to my own pride, but now as I have learned about the importance of carrying one another burdens, I am able to ask others for help.

2. Name 2 strengths that you possess, and please indicate how you believe it will benefit the CCF family.

- I am passionate, especially for people. The social coordinator is responsible for facilitating an environment where fellowship is more interactive and enjoyable and I believe I can definitely facilitate intentional relationships through example. I absolutely love intentional relationships and I put a lot of myself into my friendships. I feel that intentional and meaningful relationships that are centered around Christ will make this family a comfortable place for everyone, not just those who are active or "well known".
- I am extremely outgoing and I can talk to just about anybody. As long as people are willing to have a conversation with me, I can talk to them for hours. God can use me to expand His kingdom even through the smallest conversations because it makes people feel welcomed and it can also establish long term relationships and build people up in the fellowship. God can also use me to encourage people in their daily walks.

3. Critically evaluate your ability to work alongside others and provide an example.

I absolutely love working with others and I definitely prefer group work over individual work. I believe that as a group of broken sinners, we have many flaws and in a team we are able to pick each other up as well as support one another in the areas that we are weak in while encouraging each other to grow in areas that need work. I can work well with others because I am easygoing and although I have ideas I will never overstep my boundaries or enforce my ideas.

4. Critically evaluate your openness towards receiving criticism and provide an example.

When I receive praise I always give it to God because that's what I was taught to do. People always give praise regarding performances, but I know that these gifts and talents are not mine so the glory is never mine. Criticism is a different story as it's hard for me to receive criticism due to my pride, but it is something I'm working on. Especially during nomination time I received a lot of criticism and even though it was hard for me to hear I know they were true. Recently taking criticism has been easier because I learnt to live according to God's word rather than my feelings, and that lesson has helped me a lot.

Name: Richard Kwan

Position: Social Coordinator

Years at CCF: 3

Years as Christian: 10-12

Current Church: Mississauga Carmel Mandarin Alliance Church

Home Church: Mississauga Carmel Mandarin Alliance Church

Vision Statement

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, *“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”* - John 7:37

David wrote in Psalm 42:1-2, *“As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?”* He compares the dehydrated deer to a sinful being that is longing for the Holy Spirit.

Earlier this year, I was feeling frustrated and confused in my relationship with God. I felt like I wasted a huge period of my life because I thought that I had gained nothing from what, in my opinion, were God-pleasing activities. What I came to realize was that it was all God’s work, ending my earthly romances, giving me more room and time to devote to the Word and with Him. In short, He drew attention to how ‘thirsty’ I really was for God.

When I was in first year, I have experienced huge fluxes of God’s grace poured into me through all of the events that CCF hosted. Each one of them spoke to me as a way of God placing a new brick on what He will eventually call the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Building the temple taller is analogous to God filling me up with the Living Water one drop at a time.

“For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” – Revelation 7:17

I envision myself as a crowd gatherer. When I picture the fellowship in my head, I imagine a tight body of Christ followers, encouraging one another and building each other up. If CCF events are meant to speak out or instill a change in us, I want to make sure that they will witness God’s love and works, just as I did. My goal in the future events is to direct people to the fountain of the Living Water.

I want to be the catalyst that pushes their relationship with God to triumph over their barriers and obstacles. I want to use the events, which God will help me create for CCF, to be the eye-opener for people, to open their eyes to the spiritual drought they need to quench.

I do not plan on executing my vision by myself, nor do I believe that the committee can do it. I want to make sure that all of the works we are planning are not out of our own efforts, but of the Lord, our Father's. I believe that it was God's blessing to me that I can share this with you. So it will also be his blessing that events such as the Coffee House, Thanksgiving dinner, Winter Retreat, and Summer Retreat will be successful.

Just as Christ explained to the people of Jerusalem, if anyone thirsts for His grace, follow me and we will drink from the fountain together.

Personal Evaluation

1. Name 2 weaknesses that you possess, and please indicate if and how you are addressing each weakness.

1. My punctuality, my unorganized schedule causes me to be late on some deadlines from time to time. I have the mindset that I can memorize every errand that I need to run and the approximate time that I need to complete it by is flexible. I understand that my attendance and my punctuality show the relative importance the meeting/event/people are to me. I believe that under this role, since I am setting an example for the rest of the fellowship to follow, it will discipline me more to be on time and ready to work. Since I am potentially going on PEY next year, I will have more time to set up a calendar to complete errands and duties systematically.
2. My tunnel vision, I have the tendency to have tunnel vision for my goals and not think of the effects onto others. I will sometimes do everything in my power to convince the other party to agree on my own opinions or decisions. This is because I trust my gut feeling rather than other people and it would lead me to ignore the repercussions on others. I have learned to humble myself as a leader, giving everyone the chance to speak up and voice their own insights on anything. I have also learned to keep my mouth shut at times so that I would not always be the one lecturing or arguing with others. In a team of seven other individuals, I believe that we will keep each other accountable for our faults and mistakes as a committee member of CCF. Honesty will be a key component of keeping the committee together.

2. Name 2 strengths that you possess, and please indicate how you believe it will benefit the CCF family.

1. Enthusiasm, I am an extrovert. I thrive at the sight of people participating in any event. My enthusiasm will also help me plan for CCF events that will be an improvement from the previous years. I also enjoy making presentations and speeches in front of people. I have served as a host of the CCF banquet last year and it was my duty to keep the audience entertained. I want to continue using my gift to make everyone's time at the events I make worthwhile. I feel that my loud voice can really conduct order in any messy environment and it will help me speak over any noise from the background.
2. Tenacity, I have a never-give-up spirit. Some people can perceive this as stubbornness. But I like to draw attention to the effect of never giving up. As an athlete, I like to use Hebrews

12:1 as a supporting verse in getting me through any tough times. I am learning to push aside hindrances and distractions, persevering towards Christ. Any hardships I face, I know that it is for the sake of being closer to God. If Jesus can pray to endure the punishment on the cross, I can certainly pray to endure anything that stands in my way with Him.

3. Critically evaluate your ability to work alongside others and provide an example.

I am cooperative in a group environment. I enjoy the combining ideas and thoughts together in order to provide for the fellowship. I like to listen to other people's contributions to ideas, just as much as I would love to hear other people listen to mine. Since I have been told that I talk too much sometimes, I have been learning to hold back my contribution to discussions in order to allow everyone to get an equal chance to voice their own opinions on topics and plans. I believe that I can learn a lot better as a committee member when I hear everyone's insights.

When I was organizing the speeches being made for Grad dinner in 2012, I was working alongside with co-emcee that sometimes did not resonate with the ideas I had. Even though I had faith that there was no harm in including all of my ideas, I needed to incorporate things that she was comfortable doing. Upon doing so, I learned to humble myself with my partner in order to work as an effective team.

4. Critically evaluate your openness towards receiving criticism and provide an example.

I would like to take in everyone's truthful opinions and constructive criticisms. I am not afraid to be told that I am wrong and that my ideas are flawed. As long as I put my trust in that the rest of the committee are only rebuking out of love, I can be content with accepting my faults. I believe God has been molding me to be more humble in everything that I do. Even though I may not enjoy criticism all the time, I can still learn something from everyone. I would like to learn from my mistakes and improve for the future.

In Sports Ministry, I have been encouraged and supported, by my co-leader, through my faults as a team captain. It was helpful that he drew attention to my 'bad' attitude as a Christ follower. He took the time to pray with me as I reflected on my experiences in disappointment. Because I knew that his intention was for my well-being with God, I felt very appreciative of his rebuke and trustworthiness.

Name: Yuqi Ma

Position: Large Group Coordinator

Years at CCF: 2

Years as Christian: 7-9

Current Church: East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement

Growing Up in Christ

For the longest time, I have always considered myself an infant compared to other brothers and sisters in Christ. When I arrived at CCF in first year, this perception of myself made me feel right at home. Every Friday I would happily return into the loving arms of older brothers and sisters who are further in their spiritual walks with God and willing to point me in the right direction.

However, something that I have come to grasp about growing up in God's love is that you start off receiving, and continue to RECEIVE until one day you begin to PERCEIVE the fact that hey God Really Loves You. From that moment onwards, you begin to wonder whether it's time to RECIPROCATE.

My hope for large group this year is for all of us to "Grow Up" together in Christ. I want to see everyone fully engaged in these continuous cycles of receiving, perceiving, and reciprocating.

The cool thing to realize about CCF large group is how short those 4 hours are compared to the remaining 164 hours of the week. Yet during this time that we share every Friday, we have the opportunity to reconnect with each other and with God through sharing, prayer, bible study and worship. This brief point of intersection helps us to realign with the rest of the body of Christ and initiates for each of us new cycles of receiving, perceiving and reciprocating God's love.

When Jesus asks Peter: Do you love me? He repeats the same question three times. As children of God, how do we respond to this question? How willing are we to grow up today? Tomorrow? The day after tomorrow...?

Personal Evaluation

1. Name 2 weaknesses that you possess, and please indicate if and how you are addressing each weakness.

One of my weaknesses is that I tend to act like a ""Martha"" in many situations. I like to have everything planned out and know with certainty the direction in which to proceed. To answer the second part of this question, it's more accurate to say that God has been patiently addressing this particular weakness in me. Many times over the past three years, I have found myself stressing out over uncertainties about future plans and decisions. Each time, God would make things happen in such a way that showed me how much better His plan is than what I wanted for myself. A lot of these experiences I understood only in retrospect but I know much greater blessings come from surrendering myself to His will BEFORE I take each step.

Another weakness that I have always struggled with is in how much I cared about other people's view of me. This is my slave master in the sense that growing up, I never felt the freedom to fully be myself. To add to the complexity of this problem, I also discovered that I didn't particularly like some of the thoughts and actions that resulted from me being myself. So, as you can see, I was pretty stuck in this limbo of wanting to be myself yet not wanting to. Thankfully, I discovered that God provided the unique solution to my problem. All I have to do is remember my identity as a daughter of God and His amazing love for me. In His love and grace, those old chains are slowly removed as I begin to feel the freedom in choosing to love Him back in all that I do.

2. Name 2 strengths that you possess, and please indicate how you believe it will benefit the CCF family.

Something that comes quite naturally for me is the ability to approach people with the desire to make them feel included. This is especially true in a setting like CCF where I feel most at home and where we are blessed with the opportunity to project an image of God's love; reaching out and embracing all those who enter into His arms.

Something else that I really enjoy is drawing the connections between things we learn from bible study and stuff that happened in the week. To me, sharing about how God works in each of our lives is one of the best parts about walking on this journey together with so many brothers and sisters. What's most amazing is that each of our paths is unique, yet all of them lead to God.

3. Critically evaluate your ability to work alongside others and provide an example.

In a group setting, I tend to take on the role of the cheerleader. I find great satisfaction in getting people pumped about what lies ahead and providing encouragement through the hard time. On the other hand, the Martha in me sometimes gets in the way when I feel compelled to be in control of

the situation. Thankfully, God has been pruning me continuously in this aspect through many of my group projects. Even though I had to learn it the hard way, God has already shown me that trusting in Him requires me to let go of the steering wheel.

4. Critically evaluate your openness towards receiving criticism and provide an example.

Hmmm, when I receive a criticism, my first instinct is to defend myself by coming up with multiple arguments to justify my actions. If that fails, my second line of defense is to think that the person really doesn't understand me and woe is me for being misunderstood. It really wasn't until recently, while reading a book about humility that I made the connection of how both of those instincts are sure signs of pride. I find it funny that because I have been brought up to be self-critical, the pride that I took in being self-critical has made me less receptive of criticism from others. Similarly, the feeling of self entitlement that accumulates as I receive praises from others also quietly adds to the problem. I think C.S. Lewis describes it best,

“Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one--the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts...”

The devil is devious indeed! However, now that I have identified the enemy from within, I know that God offers me the most powerful weapon of combat: humility.

Name: Lawrence Sham

Position: Outreach Coordinator

Years at CCF: 4

Years as Christian: 7-9

Current Church: Richmond Hill Chinese Baptist Church

Home Church: Richmond Hill Chinese Baptist Church

Vision Statement

“Reach Up, Reach Out”

For a moment, think about the communities that you are a part of. Here are a few that are common to us all:

- CCF – We see other CCFers every Friday and on other days as well
- Local communities – We see people in school and around the city.
- Global communities – We hear stories on the news of people every day.

These communities are listed in an order such that they gradually grow larger in scale. At the heart of CCF is God. Starting with God at the focal point, we begin to branch out to those in CCF and then furthermore beyond CCF. To sum up this theme in one phrase, it would be “Reach Up, Reach Out”.

Reach Up

Begin with our relationship with God. God is always reaching out to us with His unconditional love. 1 John 4:19 says “We love because he first loved us”. Having a good relationship with God is correlated to having a good relationship with other people. If we make ourselves readily open to God’s love, it creates a trickledown effect where God’s love is so overflowing. It can’t help but pour out of us and into the lives of others.

How do we do this?

In loving and caring for other people, we must not forget our spiritual walk. Through the Scripture, we can equip and prepare ourselves for the interactions that we have with other people. We must remember that our actions stem from the Gospel. Application from Bible study is often easily overlooked, yet it is so essential to outreach. Through prayer can we open our ears to God and hear what He has to say. We can also lay down our burdens to Him. Communication is important in any relationship including with God.

Reach out

Reach out to those around us. Outreach is more than just holding large events. It exists on a smaller scale with the people close to us. When we reach out, we can start with those in CCF and in church.

Barriers created to hide ourselves from fellow Christians would be broken. Beyond the walls of CCF is an entire city and campus waiting for us to evangelize to them.

How do we do this?

Remember God's grace that He has so generously given to us. 1 John 4:21 says "And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother". Therefore, let us work towards building phileo love with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We can do this by creating an environment that is supportive and loving to others in the fellowship. Additionally, plenty of opportunities abound for us to evangelize outside of CCF. Many organizations on campus and around the city exist to reach out to those in need and to preach the Gospel. Even something as simple as a conversation with our non-Christian friends is an opportunity that should not be overlooked.

We all have a different calling from God. Some are called to be missionaries while others are called to serve in the communities that they have grown up in. Wherever God is leading you, I invite you to explore this pursuit of how God wants us to do His works and impact our communities.

Personal Evaluation

1. Name 2 weaknesses that you possess, and please indicate if and how you are addressing each weakness.

I am naturally a quiet person. It is not inherently bad to be quiet. However, my expressiveness in a large group setting. This would make living out my vision more difficult. This can be difficult for someone whose personality is introverted. Regardless, this is something that I am trying to break out of. I would like to reach out as much as I can to the community in CCF and outside of CCF. I need to learn to speak up when it is necessary.

Placing unnecessary expectations on myself. When I fail to accomplish something or perceive that I have failed to accomplish something, I easily get down on myself. Failure can push me to improve beyond my limits. This helps me to grow. However, if I see a failure solely as incompetence in myself, then I fall into the danger of self worthlessness. To avoid this trap, it is important that I remind myself that I am not serving to satisfy other people's expectations or to satisfy my own pride, but rather that I am striving to God's expectations to satisfy Him.

2. Name 2 strengths that you possess, and please indicate how you believe it will benefit the CCF family.

I am the type of person who likes to listen. In most of my conversations, I listen more than I speak. I think this is because I like to hear what other people have to say and to understand the perspective of where other people are coming from. Hearing what other people have to say allows me to better understand other people, their perspectives, how they feel and their approach to things. This is

beneficial in my one on one and small group interactions with other people as it allows me to develop deeper relationships with individuals. I'd love to invest my time into CCF by getting to know the members more deeply. Additionally, listening makes doing group work much easier.

I am driven to improve myself. If I can identify a weakness in myself or a mistake that I have made in the past, I always try to correct it. I always try to improve myself in the things that I do. This ranges from everything in my life such as work, school, athletics and most importantly my walk with God. With this constant pursuit and desire to improve, I hope that it will encourage others to push hard in their pursuit of God.

3. Critically evaluate your ability to work alongside others and provide an example.

I love to work in teams for the obvious benefits it brings. It is refreshing to bounce new perspectives and ideas off of each other. We all have our strengths and weaknesses. By being a part of a group, our weaknesses are made up for by the other members of the group. This uniqueness among individuals is something that I value. A lot more can be accomplished by a group compared to an individual. However, there are occasional times when conflicts arise among group members. Whether I am part of the conflict or not, I'd listen to the other person and try to understand their reasoning. Then we can discuss the matter to see if a compromise can be reached. In any case, I want to avoid conflict and firstly try to find a solution that would make everyone happy. As mentioned in another section, I like to listen to others and I think that this helps when I work with other people.

4. Critically evaluate your openness towards receiving criticism and provide an example.

I try to take criticism as receptively as possible. When criticism comes my way, I reflect back on the situation and think about it from the other person's perspective. Then I think about it from my perspective. This usually consists of thinking of ways that I can make improvements and if possible, whether there is anything that I need to change so that I can please God. Regardless of whether I take the advice or not, there is always room for me to improve and I see criticism as a stepping stone to do this. That is not to say that I am perfect in taking criticism. Sometimes I am held back by my own pride. If I perceive the criticism to be delivered harshly or in the form of a personal attack, I might not react as receptively as I'd like to react. It takes a discernment to recognize when someone wants to help you and humility to accept this help. I think that it is an ongoing process where God is slowly building me up in these two traits.