

**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**

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#### **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**

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**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.