

## **Joanne Gui – Secretary and Treasurer**

### **Building Community**

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)*

We were not made to worship alone but rather, together with God's people. The disciples lived together, learned together (and from each other), and experienced Jesus together. Likewise, as a fellowship united through God, we strive to build purposeful kingdom relationships.

We are a community of brothers and sisters in Christ, and these words carry a lot more weight than we often realise. To treat each other as brothers and sisters would be to love each other unconditionally, to see the value in every person, and to build each other up so that we can grow, learn, serve and ultimately, be better equipped to be used for His Kingdom.

*“...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.” (1 John 1:3)*

It is because He first extended an invitation to us that we can have living, loving relationships with one another. When we feel a sense of belonging in our fellowship, our desire for others to be a part of the community grows and when we have fellowship with the Father, we experience a fullness of joy that we want to share.

It's a cycle of love and encouragement that keeps on extending to everyone who wants to be a part of it. With Christ at the centre, there is no fear or judgement. There exists only love and reassurance.

Community is brothers and sisters stirring up one another to love, encouraging each other to grow. Community is pushing each other to overcome our struggles, lay down our hurts and anxieties, and rise above it with joy.

Community is powerful because of the sense of comfort it can provide in giving us a safe space to realise our potential, our identities in Christ and elevating our confidence in Him.

It is in this community of UTCCF that I have been reassured of my worth, encouraged to grow and through this comfort, learned to step out and consider a larger picture.

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### **So, what can we do to continue to build community?**

1. Firstly, there is the administrative aspect. Foundations must be laid down so that people are physically able to experience community, and so that technical details do not become obstacles.
2. Then there is the relational aspect, and this is my vision: to see a space where everyone feels comfort and a sense of belonging.

How I see this playing out, for myself, is not to stop with administration but to be intentional about fostering fellowship that is engaged, intentional, and aware, and by making an effort to journey with others as we learn how to be the body of Christ.

Because when a body of God's people come together, united in their faith and strengthened by each other, God is among them, and he will do great things through them.