

Background for Proposed 2011 bylaws revision

APRIL 6, 1972 - ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FILED WITH STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHINATOWN (UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA)
INITIAL SIGNERS INCLUDED SHAR HALL, CINDY JOE, MAY HO, LINDA LEE, JEAN LOW
ORGANIZED AS SESSION, WITH 15 ELDERS. (LATER INCREASED TO 21).
DELEGATED WORK TO STANDING COMMITTEES: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION,
PROCLAMATION, RECONCILIATION, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
DEPENDENT ON ALL LANGUAGE GROUPS WORKING TOGETHER

NOVEMBER 4, 1984 - ADOPTED REVISED BYLAWS AT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING -
AS A CHURCH OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
ORGANIZED AS A SESSION WITH 27 ELDERS ELECTED FROM CONGREGATION.
ELDERS/TRUSTEES AND TREASURER NOMINATED BY A NOMINATING COMMITTEE
WITHOUT REGARD FOR "EQUAL" REPRESENTATION OF THE LANGUAGE GROUPS.
NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTED FROM CONGREGATION AS A WHOLE ALSO.
BUDGET PLANNING COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF CHURCH BUDGET - WITH MEMBERS
APPOINTED FROM ENGLISH AM & PM, MANDARIN, AND CANTONESE.
NO MENTION OF BOARD OF DEACONS.

MID TO LATE 1980'S - CHURCH IN TURMOIL WITH LANGUAGE GROUPS IN
DISAGREEMENT OVER MISSION, SPENDING OF MONEY, CHURCH BUILDING
FUNDS, ETC. CHURCH UNDER CARE OF PRESBYTERY ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMISSION. ALLOWED A PART OF THE CANTONESE CONGREGATION TO SPLIT
FROM THE CHURCH AND TAKE WITH IT SOME MONIES FROM THE NEW CHURCH
BUILDING FUND.
A PLAN WAS DEVELOPED (DOCUMENT TITLED RE-DEFINING OUR UNITY) TO
REORGANIZE THE CHURCH TO RECOGNIZE THE DIVERSITY OF ITS THREE
LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES, TRANSFERRING MOST OF THE DECISION
MAKING AUTHORITY TO THREE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS WHOSE
DECISIONS WOULD BE RATIFIED BY THE SESSION AND THE CONGREGATION AS
APPROPRIATE, (INCLUDING DECISIONS ON WHO TO NOMINATE TO SESSION, PNC
MAKE-UP, PASTOR SELECTION AND SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS). EACH
COMMISSION TO HAVE ITS OWN BUDGET, BUT CONTRIBUTE TO A COMMON
SESSION BUDGET TO COVER EXPENSES TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE
CHURCH PREMISES.
SESSION WOULD ALSO HAVE A BUILDING OVERSIGHT AND LIASON COMMITTEE,
AND A COMMITTEE TO SUPERVISE THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING FUND.

THIS NEW PLAN OF ORGANIZATION WAS PUT INTO PLACE AND HAS BEEN OPERATING AS
SUCH SINCE THE LATE 1980'S. HOWEVER, THE BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH AND
CORPORATION WERE NEVER REVISED TO REFLECT THE REORGANIZATION. IT IS TIME TO
FORMALLY REVISE THE BYLAWS ..

----- WINCHELL QUOCK,
ELDER, ENGLISH COMMISSION