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# The Cantonese Congregation of Chinese Evangelical Church of San Diego

The Chinese Evangelical Church (CEC) of San Diego is a trilingual Chinese-heritage church in San Diego with weekly Sunday attendance of around 450, including approximately 50 children aged from nursery to 5th grade. CEC has three congregations, English, Cantonese and Mandarin covering all age and vocational groups. CEC is a Gospel-centered church committed to the inerrant authority of the Bible with strong focus in missions and community outreach. Under the authority of the Elder Council (EC), the Senior Pastor supervises the pastoral staffs to shepherd the congregants to fulfill the Great Commission, and he also oversees the administrative staffs to manage the church operation. Currently, there are six full-time pastoral and three administrative staff members. Seven Deacons support the EC to oversee the administration of missions, finance, facility, building, membership, human resources and technology.

The Cantonese congregation has about 130 weekly adult attendance composed of all age groups with a shifting tilt toward the aging demographics. Reporting to the Senior Pastor, the Cantonese Pastor oversees the Cantonese congregation and supervises the Cantonese Minister. Led by the Cantonese Pastor with the assistance of the Cantonese Minister, the Cantonese Ministry Team (CMT) carries out all aspects of ministries of the Cantonese congregation, including worship services, Sunday school, fellowships/small groups, evangelistic outreach, caring and training with the support of many volunteer coworkers. About 40% of the Cantonese congregation is actively serving in various departments. The Cantonese Pastor also leads the CMT to network with the other congregations to support all church-wide activities to preserve the unity of CEC.

CEC values expository, Gospel-centered preaching of the Bible, supplemented by topical series to meet various needs. Guided by the Cantonese Pastor, the Cantonese congregation places strong emphasis on Bible teaching as implemented through the Sunday school curricula and small group Bible studies. The Sunday school has a three-track structure covering (1) the seekers/beginners track, (2) the core track of basic doctrines, OT/NT survey and redemptive

history, and (3) the elective track for in-depth topical and Biblical studies. A system is in place to train inductive Bible study leaders with support from the Cantonese Pastor and Minister in guiding pre-studies, correcting homework and providing post-study feedbacks. The Cantonese Pastor and Minister also assist the fellowships and small groups in choosing study passages and materials.

The Cantonese congregation is strongly committed to evangelism, as seen in the ongoing outreach effort to the Chula Vista and National City communities where many restaurant workers reside. In addition, there are regular short-term mission efforts to the Chinese communities in Tijuana and Ensenada in Mexico. With a growing population of seniors, the need for pastoral care and visitation is significant, and there is a caring team supporting the Cantonese Pastor in this effort. The Cantonese Pastor and Cantonese Minister also provide pastoral counseling to those in need, including pre-marital counseling, family issues and other personal spiritual matters.

Located in the desirable greater San Diego metropolitan area, there is strong potential for growth of the Cantonese congregation. The sustainment of growth depends strongly on the training of new leaders and outreach to the younger population and families, including new immigrants from Hong Kong and other areas. CEC has a well-established English congregation with strong youth and children ministries that are valuable resources for reaching out to families desiring good children and youth programs. The Cantonese Pastor needs to support the Cantonese congregation to network and help with the youth and children ministries to reach out to new Cantonese families, building on the long-successful family ministry of CEC. A strong and growing church is built on strong and growing Christian families. Furthermore, being part of an English-Cantonese-Mandarin, trilingual church, there are unique benefits for embracing and reaching out to multi-cultural families. Taking our diversity as a blessing, CEC is strongly committed to the unity of the Body of Christ through the bond of the Spirit as all congregations take intentional efforts to support church-wide ministries and activities, such as short-term missions, community service, joint services on Good Friday, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas special event celebrations.