

Evangelical Chinese Church of South King County

The Evangelical Chinese Church of South King County (ECC-SKC) is a Bible believing church of Jesus Christ. Although members are of various backgrounds, the church is not affiliated with any denomination. We most warmly welcome people to fellowship with us in the Lord, to worship God together, and to proclaim in one accord the salvation of Jesus Christ.

MISSIONAL STATEMENT: *To be a Spirit empowered family of God that exalts Christ.*

HISTORY

Driven by God's vision — *ECC-SKC came from a humble beginning; it started as small Bible study group: Kent-Renton Bible Study Fellowship (KRBSF) in 1989. Later, as Britain scheduled to return Hong Kong to China in 1997, we anticipated there would be an influx of Chinese immigrants to our area. We felt God's calling to plant a Chinese church here to bring the gospel to them. About 1990, led by Pastor Johnny To of ECC of Seattle, our fellowship started to hold monthly outreach at Highlands Community Church (HCC) and a church planting fund was established toward that purpose. At the beginning of each year, we took a vote among fellowship members to see whether we are ready to act. In January 1994, the vote was unanimously yes and I was appointed by the ECC-Seattle church board to prepare a church planting proposal to be submitted for evaluation and approval.*

Walk by faith, not by sight — *The most essential thing in the proposal was the projected schedule for the new church to become financially independent. Since we are a nondenominational church, we wanted to minimize the financially burden to the mother church. Hence, the proposal was such: For the first year, the mother church would fund 60% of our expenses, we would pay the 40%. The second year, 20% paid by the mother church and 80% by us. The third year, we would carry 100%. The proposal was quickly approved. But after the meeting, one of the elder, Elder Sam Wei, stopped me and said, "Hanchi, your plan is too ambitious, what if you cannot meet your needs at the end of the second year? It will be embarrassing to come back and ask for more." I replied, "This is because we don't want to place too much burden on our mother church. I am sure the Lord is very pleased with our intention and your concern and I am confident that He will accomplish this." By the grace of God, we not only met our needs but had surplus at the end of the second year.*

God's work, God provides — *Since then, we established a church police toward year end surplus: Each year our surplus will be funneled into four funds: 1) Mission, 2) Church Building Project, 3) Good Samaritan Fund (benevolence fund), and 4) Leadership Enhancement Fund. They come from church general fund and they are irreversible. Thanks be to the Lord, for twenty-six years now, we never came short. The Lord provides. After our proposal was approved, each Sunday after worship service, we*

would gather in the upper room of the Education Building and got down on our knees to pray for our project. When we were down on our knees, our perspective changed to totally rely on God for His guidance and provision. After our prayers, we would check our progress and identify any action items. This continued until the day we were sent off by the mother church.

A partner with a big heart — Because of our gospel activities at Highlands Community Church, the senior pastor, Pastor Jim Amandus, was very aware of us. So, when Pastor To, Mrs. To and I visited Pastor Jim and two of HCC's elders to brief them about our church planting project and asked for help because our lack of children/youth Sunday school teachers. Pastor Jim, without any hesitation, said, "All our resources belong to God; if you need anything from us just ask." And immediately he welcomed our children/youth to attend HCC's Sunday school. Pastor Jim's only concern was that HCC teachers could not teach in Chinese. We assured him: "Your people will be our people and your God our God. (Ruth 1:16b). We care more about teaching our children to know God and love Him than learning Chinese." Our children/youth enjoyed excellent teaching from HCC for over five until we had enough coworkers. We are very grateful to Pastor Jim and HCC — a partner a big heart.

MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY

Purpose Driven Church — A healthy church is a growing church. In 1998, three of us from ECC-SKC joined HCC leadership team to attend the Purpose Driven Church Seminar at Saddleback Church. Shortly after that both churches adopted the PDC model. The philosophy is: A healthy church is a growing church. And a healthy church will grow naturally. For our church to be healthy, it's five purposes must be equally balanced. Our church offers God's people to live with (Membership), God's principles to live by (Maturity/Discipleship), God's profession to live out (Ministry), God's purpose to live for (Mission/Evangelism), and God's power to live on (Magnification/Worship). Hence, we have 5 Commissions: Membership, Maturity, Ministry, Mission and Magnification.

A church of small groups — ECC-SKC is a church of small group. Currently with Chinese and English ministries we have 11 small groups. Seekers are welcome to each perspective group depending on location and languages (English/Mandarin/Cantonese). Through small group, we mature together with others in God's Word and experience Christ's love through caring for each other. By iron sharpening iron, we discover God's purpose in our lives.

Everyone is a minister — Someone made an observation that for many churches, only 20% of the people are serving while the other 80% are doing nothing. That is not true for ECC-SKC. Our motto is "Everyone is a minister". Yet, we invite people to serve only when they are spiritually ready; and according to their spiritual gifts and commitment. People grow from attendants to members. Members become matured through discipleship. Then they will be invited to serve in different ministries. After they

gain enough experience in serving God's people, they would participate in local and overseas outreach (short-term or long-term mission). ECC-SKC used to have a mission pastor who spent up a quarter of a year in China. We also send short time mission teams to China, Eastern Europe and South America.

Biblical church leadership model — *Shortly after the church was planted, a team was formed to prepare By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation for ECC-SKC. By-Laws of ECC-Seattle and HCC were studied carefully. Pastor Wally Wilson the founding pastor of HCC and Elder Larry York of HCC visited our team to share the background and reasons that HCC's By-Laws were written. The team labored word by word, paragraph by paragraph during the writing of our By-Laws. It took over one year to complete the By-Laws. Then our Articles of Incorporation was reviewed and submitted to the State of Washington by our attorney. ECC-SKC is an elders-rule church. It is important that elders are plural, not singular because this is the Biblical model of church leadership. Multiple leaders are essential for ensuring leadership integrity and guard against corruption. Pastor Wally Wilson had told us the painful past that almost caused HCC to split. Fortunately, the crisis was difused. But it changed HCC from the pastor-rule to elders-rule model. Elders are not rulers, they are just brothers the meet the qualification prescribed in 1 Timothy 3:1-6, Titus 1:6-9 and 1Peter 5:1-4. We submit to the Biblical principle of male leadership. While we hold men and women totally equal in God's family, there is difference in the original birth order in the creation and the different roles God intended for each of us to perform.*

Bless our ladies — *The heart of a mother and the hands that rock a cradle. God ordains the family as well as the church. He designed and assigned specific roles for women at home and in the church. Ladies' love and gentleness are often the closest imitation of Christ. If a home is without a mother, its children will suffer. Similarly, a church without faithful serving sisters, the church family will suffer. ECC-SKC has been richly blessed by the love and unselfish service of godly sisters from the very beginning. This legacy goes on. We praise God for our ladies!*

Pressing On — *ECC-SKC is 26 years old now. Though the original coworkers who started with us are fading away, our vision and mission will not. We are committed to reach out to the new Chinese immigrants through our Chinese ministry, our future is the English ministry which consists of second generation Chinese and people from other ethnic background. For we are in America; English is the major language used. For the similar reason, Paul chose to write his epistles in Greek, not in Hebrew. For that was the most commonly used language in his time. We do not possess great ambition to become a big church, because it is up to our Lord to decide. Our dream is ECC-SKC will be a great church that people love and trust. We share the heart of Paul the Apostle: "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:14)." Amen.*