

Elders Board Minutes – April 7, 2020

Elders present (Absent): Bob Hinze, Bobby Merritt, Brad Owens, Chuck Tomac, Gary Watkins, John Rondema, Hugh Bennett, Lee Lugibihl, Mike Sheets, Rolf Christensen; Pastor Mark

Growth Session: Led by Pastor Mark, “Mutual Consolation of the Brethren” (Martin Luther) – Through Zoom, elders went to two breakout rooms to care for each other through small group discussion on the following questions on how the past few weeks have been affect their lives:

- > Has it challenged your faith?
- > How has it impacted relationships? Homelife?
- > Are you sensing growing fears/anxieties?
- > What is something that we, your fellow Elders can pray about for you tonight?

Prayer time took place during these sessions.

A. Regular Business Items

- Approve minutes for last month: Approved via email
- Directors Board Elder Representatives: Brief sharing

B. Information or Consent Agenda Items:

- Approved by Consent:
 - Membership change recommendations by elders: Approved change of members who have moved from COV: Regular Worshipper to NA:Former COV.
 - During this crisis, Shirley Lundquist will mail weekly summaries of congregational activity/emails for members who do not receive BLSC emails (don’t have internet access). Approved this for all members on the list.

- **Information:**

- Elder Contact Report – 2020, 1st quarter (with 2019)

Year	Quarter	# Family Units	# FU Contacted	% Contacted	% Range	Total Contacts
2019	Jan.-March	201	161	81%	50%-100%	496
2019	April-June	196	122	88%	70%-100%	505
2019	July-Sept.	185	162	88%	60%-100%	463
2019	Oct.-Dec.	185	179	97%	90%-100%	582
2020	Jan.-March	180	172	96%	89%-100%	595

It was noted that contact #s and %s have remained very strong, about the same as last quarter.

C. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Review and comment on draft annual ministry plan

No ministries have a draft ready; stalled by the current crisis. We now have May and June to finalize a draft for the congregation meeting, likely last Sunday in June. Hold work on Elders plan until next month. During this month, elders make contact with assigned ministry to develop draft to share by May’s EB meeting.

2. Worship/Streaming – Brief dialog & feedback

Great job and hugs to the team who has made it possible. Some are worshipping with us who have not for a while. What about ending the service with a clear message of who/where we are and how to connect with BSLC. Hopes were shared for continuing this after the crisis; that is the plan

3. Communion Plan – Brief dialog/questions

Kits are delayed, so schedule will begin on Friday and Saturday, with 13 family units signed up. Scheduling is done by direct contact/email.

4. Evangelism Leadership Planning

See planning table, page 3

5. Worship Committee Proposal – Hymnals

The Music Committee Proposal is seek approval from the congregation to transfer hymnals from the pews to another accessible location (Connect Center), making room for new Bibles. After in-depth discussion, the Elders Board unanimously approved taking the proposal to the congregation, with elder endorsement. We will work with the Directors Board for the correct timing for this at a congregational meeting, maybe the June meeting. (see detailed proposal, page 4

6. Elder Nominations Process

The Elders Board reviewed and affirmed the only candidate nominated by the congregation, Tom Hester, for continuation in the election process. All elders with terms ending this year, stated their intent to proceed toward re-election: Bob, Chuck, Gary, Lee, Mike, Rolf. Pastor Mark will assign mentors to each of them from the Election Task Force (Bobby, Brad, Hugh, John) for mentoring which runs during the period from May 17-July 13.

7. Selection of Elder for DFM Search Committee

Three elders were nominated for one elder position on the search committee. Those three left the virtual meeting room while the rest of the board made the selection of one elder for this role, Chuck Tomac.

Next Monthly Topic: Review and comment on draft annual ministry plan

Elders Board Evangelism Leadership Planning

At the November Elders Board meeting, the board unanimously approved that the Elders Board would become the BSLC Evangelism Leadership Group, accepting that responsibility as one of the board's key roles.

Task/Actions to implement this leadership role	Person responsible (Who)	When	Other Info/Status
Elders read <u>The Reluctant Witness</u> , by Don Everts	All Elders	Begin, January	John to get books
Utilize <u>The Reluctant Witness</u> for Elder Growth Sessions	Pastor Mark, Elders	Begin, January	
Pastor Mark to preach on evangelism/witnessing (Elders Board request)	Pastor Mark	Between February	"Prime the pump" with the congregation
Sunday morning Bible class on witnessing	Pastor Mark	March	On track; began in March
Elders share their experiences with spiritual conversations	Elders - Volunteers	March Bible Classes	On track; at least one elder each week
Become familiar with "Shema Statements" with the intention to use them as a means of starting Spiritual Conversations (Goal of 4), with a portion of those possibly being pre-believers	Elders	This month; share back at April EB meeting	Several shared great Spiritual Conversations they've had this past month. Could we write these up? (Good way to remember what opened the door for them; could inspire us and others.)
Elders purpose to have at least SC each week over the next month.	Elders	April > May EB meeting – Share again	
Consider a church-wide small group study next fall on sharing the Gospel through Spiritual Conversations	Small Groups Leadership Team	Fall	Elders Board supports this.

Discussion on topic:

Three-prong approach: Sermons, Bible Class, Book – Study Guide

Overall: Elders Disciple their flocks

Accountability is important – as in EE, ELIC > Report back as to what God is doing

When we plan, incorporate "congregational voice", in the planning itself.

Need to plan how we will measure

3/10/20 – John handed out a tool for starting Spiritual Conversations with one of 43 Shema Statements. Shema Statements are **statements** in our conversations with the people we meet each day that naturally lead to spiritual

Music Committee Proposal – Take to congregation for approval...

Transfer hymnals from the pews to another accessible location (Connect Center), making room for new Bibles.

Rationale:

- Provide space for more (new) Bibles, including both regular and large print editions as well as Children's Bibles.
- The hymnals are very rarely used, even when hymns are sung.
When hymns are sung, the lyrics are projected. Only once in the past year was the congregation asked to open the hymnals. Over the last 5-10 years, they have been used only a few other times.
- The hymns played by the organists are rarely from the hymnals we currently have in church. They play from a variety of more current hymnals that have more current verbiage and slightly different musical composition.

Continued use of hymns and availability of hymnals:

- Hymns will be included in worship a couple of times per month.
Accompaniment will be by either a praise team or piano/organ.
- Will have a song leader for hymns (otherwise it devalues the hymns)
When a praise team is on, even if the organist or pianist is accompanying the hymn, they should be the song leaders and their mic should remain on (Its been noticed when they have sung to the hymns, we cannot hear them well; they tend to stand back from their mic...much different than "eating the mic" like they do when they are leading praise songs.
- A few dozen hymnals will be readily accessible at the Connect Center.
When we are singing a hymn, with the original lyrics and arrangement, the bulletin would state that hymnals are available in the Connect Center for those who desire to use one. The hymnals would be out and available at the center on those Sundays. This would provide a hymnal for those who read music and want to use a hymnal to do so. (Recommended: Do not dispose of the remaining hymnals; store them for at least a year.)

Four Options for EB to Consider:

- A. Disapprove the proposal; don't take it to the congregation.
- B. Approve the proposal without taking it to the congregation.
- C. Approve taking the proposal to the congregation, with elder endorsement.
- D. Approve taking the proposal to the congregation, without elder endorsement (neutral).