

Elders Board Minutes – August 11, 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 Kevin

Growth Session: Pastor Kevin led a discussion on the elder roles and how we function within them.

A. Regular Business Items

- Approve minutes for last month: Approved via email
- Directors Board Elder Representatives: Representative shared on the following items: Financial report - offerings holding steady, favorable; Live stream worship review; pastoral call update; planned August Congregational Meeting; year-end budget prep; recruitment of Directors Board positions

B. Information or Consent Agenda Items:

- Approved by Consent:
 - None.
- Information:
 - Preschool Start-up: Applying for Emergency Childcare Status (a COVID-19 provision), with plans to reopen on schedule.
 - DFM Search Committee Update: Twelve candidates narrowed to six, two of whom are open to a call. The committee will conduct interviews with these two candidates within the next two weeks.
 - Worship Committee Requests: Elders for Welcome & Opening Prayer. Interested elders should let Mike know by the end of the week; preparation is essential for those who volunteer. Pastor Kevin has volunteered to record the prayer and benediction for worship; the intent is to try it out on August 23 and see how it flows.
 - Onboarding Liaison, Elders Board/Pastor Kevin – Chuck, appointed by President, Michelle Kurzhals

Prayer Time

C. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Review membership changes considered in March (6-month check-up):

Membership Changes - The board approved the following changes as recommended by elders:

- One member – From COV: Temp Away to COV: Regular Worshipper
- One member – From COV: Regular Worshipper to NA: Former COV
- Two members – From COV: Drifted to NA: Former COV.

This served as the 6-month review of several members who had previously been designated as COV: Drifted. Given our transition to a new pastor and the pandemic, the decision was to keep all others as COV: Drifted at this time. Elders will continue to provide shepherding contact to these drifted members, with another review in six months.

Flock Redistribution: With Gary leaving the Elders Board, his flock will be redistributed to remaining elders. Elders are each to mark interest in serving as the elder for these members in the redistribution tab in the Elder Contact Log; Brad will then make these assignments, utilizing that input.

2. Evangelism Planning:

A contingent of elders (Hugh, Mike, Lee, Pastor Kevin), along with Tom Hester, will have an initial meeting on August 19, along with Tom Hester, for initial planning/brainstorming for formation of an Evangelism Committee.

3. Pastor Kevin Installation:

The board considered various options for Pastor Kevin's installation from having a private installation soon, to live streaming the installation, to holding a live outside event in September. A motion was made and passed unanimously to wait until restrictions are lifted (in-person worship) and Pastor Kevin is onsite (*hopefully by the beginning of January*). This is Pastor Kevin's preference.

4. Assign Elder as Authorization Agent for EB Expenditures:

A second signer is needed for expenditures in addition to Patti. Although Pastor Kevin could serve as this second signer, he thought it would be best if the agent were a non-staff person. Bobby volunteered and was unanimously appointed to be this agent.

5. August Topic: Appoint Elders Board Facilitator for 2020-21:

The board unanimously appointed Mike Sheets to this position.

6. Meeting Structure Proposal:

Bobby proposed we consider going back to two meetings per month, given the breadth of items we have had to deal with. Another option would be to continue with one meeting per month, and hold a second special meeting as needed. Bobby agreed along with the board to that option.

Next Monthly Topics: Review of membership & confirmation processes. Suggested: Decide how to determine who leads new ministries or a ministry when a new leader is needed.

ELDERS BOARD MINISTRY PLAN – 2020-21

Leaders/Team Members: Elders (Bobby Merritt, Brad Owens, Hugh Bennett, John Rondema, Lee Lugibihl, Chuck Tomac, Bob Hinze, Mike Sheets, Rolf Christensen); Pastor Kevin

Purpose:

- Oversee the spiritual affairs and general welfare of the congregation, through the provision of strong pastoral support, caring shepherding of the flock, ongoing support of ministry leaders, and encouragement for the body to live out the BSLC vision, with a focus upon prayer

Priorities/Goals:

- Continue to provide support to assigned ministry areas, checking in with lay leadership throughout the year
- Continue to shepherd assigned flock members, examining ways of strengthening our strategies for effectiveness
- Intentionally support the new pastor and the pastoral role, establishing a process for ongoing review of the efficacy of that support (as defined by the new pastor)
- Foster the living out of the adopted Mission, Vision, Values (Up, In, Out) throughout the ministries
- Accept responsibility as the Evangelism Leadership Group, with the goal of establishing and supporting a member team as the Evangelism Leadership Group by the 2021-22 ministry year.
- Support Prayer as a priority of the congregation: (Elder leader: John Rondema)

As one key function of the “Up” portion of the BSLC vision, encourage and challenge BSLC members to be people of prayer (as Jesus taught and made prayer a priority for himself and his disciples), as follows:

Weekly: Lead pre-worship prayer gathering; distribute prayers from the Sunday Connect cards to member prayer partners; communicate urgent prayer requests through prayer chain, maintain prayer room volunteers for personal prayer during Sunday worship

Monthly: Promote the use of Mission Committee’s prayer calendar for mission partners; purchase and promote use of Portals of Prayer daily devotional booklets

Annually: Sponsor congregation-wide prayer experiences; purchase and promote at least one additional prayer resource; promote the National Day of Prayer

BSLC Bylaws

Section Four: Board of Elders

The primary function of the Board of Elders is to oversee the spiritual affairs and general welfare of the congregation. The Board of Elders shall:

- a) Protect the overall congregational mission and vision.
- b) Annually work to guide the direction and plan of ministry.
- c) Oversee the overall ministry plan on behalf of the congregation to enable it to live out its purpose.
- d) Provide leadership for worship, sacraments, and church discipline.
- e) Monitor the doctrine and the life of the office of the Pastor(s) and ministry staff.
- f) Guard our theology and its practice. As a means to that end, the Pastor/Elders will conduct periodic training for ministry staff and Elders to increase their knowledge of the various teachings within the Bible and the Book of Concord and use those documents to review and affirm the doctrines of the Lutheran church.
- g) Oversee matters related to church membership.
- h) Oversee and be collectively involved in the spiritual nurture of the congregation.

All Elders and called Pastoral Staff shall constitute the voting members of the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders will prayerfully place each Elder in his area(s) of giftedness in the role in which he is equipped by God as to best provide for the leading, feeding and protection of God’s people, and the furtherance of the Kingdom of Christ (1 Corinthians 12.28). The Board of Elders shall meet at a designated time and place at least monthly.

**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 - Done
Utilize <u>The Reluctant Witness</u> for Elder Growth Sessions	Pastor Mark, Elders	Begin, January	Completed
Pastor Mark to preach on evangelism/ witnessing (Elders Board request)	Pastor Mark	Between February	"Prime the pump" with the congregation - Completed
Sunday morning Bible class on witnessing	Pastor Mark	March Restart after reopening	On track; began in March - Began (then COVID)
Elders share their experiences with spiritual conversations	Elders - Volunteers	March Bible Classes Restart after reopening	On track; at least one elder each week - Began (then COVID)
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. Navigators, <u>Assurance of Salvation</u> (John recommends)
Sunday morning Bible study on reaching out (small groups?)			

Incorporate the new pastor and DFM candidates into this key priority, including our mission outreach (to the world)			
?? Pastor Kevin - Meet with Tom Hester, maybe around <u>The Reluctant Witness</u> , and other resources, bringing Tom up to speed			

Evangelism Committee	Pastor Kevin, Tom	Aug. 19	
Develop this, not as a “program” but as a presence in the community			

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 conversations

6/9/20 - John shared their experience in their neighborhood - They put a prayer box in front of their home for submitting prayers; a few people submitted prayers, including their Muslim neighbor. John followed up with him during Ramadan, sharing the forgiveness that comes from Jesus and setting the stage for meeting with him in the future to study the Bible together.