

Elders Board Minutes – November 26, 2019

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)

Directors Board Rep: N/A

A. Regular Business Items

- Approve minutes for last month: Approved via email
- Directors Board Elder Representatives: Hugh shared briefly, most on the sound system issue.

B. Information or Consent Agenda Items:

- Approved by Consent:
 - Extend Pastor Mark's call to end of April, 2020
 - Hold no EB business meeting in December (Christmas Eve)
 - Adult baptism for member, along with his children, prior to completion of membership class

Prayer Time

C. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Monthly Topic: Assessment of spiritual care of the congregation

The board identified Indicators of Spiritual Care in two Categories: Congregation At Large and Leadership, as follows. Chuck will confer with a couple of other elders for next steps in conducting this assessment, utilizing these ideas contributed by the group.

Congregation At Large

- Prayer life
- Witnessing
- Work of God
- Growth in members
- Member growth in small groups
- Personal contract amongst the body

Leadership

- Preaching/Sermons
- Elder Flocks – Contact/Shepherding
- Prayer Chains
- Small Groups
- Bible Study Groups
- Bible Classes
- Communion
- Leading with like-mindedness (plurality) – Phil. 2:2
- Leaders teach Bible classes
- Follow up with visitors
- Outreach
- Enfolding

2. Witnessing – Report & Discussion

John introduced this topic, with the recommendation (fielded by Pastor Mark) that the elders board take on the leadership of BLSC evangelism (community outreach). That is, not taking on all the work, but leading the way by organizing and emphasizing it.

Recommended and Approved – All unanimously:

- Elders read The Reluctant Witness, Discovering the Delight of Spiritual Conversations, by Don Everts. (*John will follow up on getting the books.*)
- Request Pastor Mark preach on evangelism/witnessing during window of January through April
- Sunday morning Bible class on witnessing (incorporating the Barna research as possible)
- Elders Board become the evangelism leadership group – it would become one of our key roles

3. Consider one monthly meeting vs. two

Hugh shared that at one time we had one meeting per month (in the distant past). His recommendation is that we go to one meeting. Other items could be dealt with by email, gathering before and after church, etc.) Then if it

Proposal: Shift to one meeting per month, second Tuesday of the month, 6:30-9:00pm, starting with 30 minutes of growth time. Request that Pastor Mark take leadership on this; as needed, individual elders could provide the growth time. As necessary, a special meeting could be called. This would be evaluated after three months. This trial would begin January 14.

Approved – Unanimously

4. Initiate Prayer Room Hosts for Pre-service Prayer time

John encouraged us to be people of prayer. He shared that in the year since instituting the prayer time ahead of worship, it began with 17 participants and has decreased to an average of 4 (sometimes as few as 2).

Question 1: Are we committed to continuing the pre-service prayer time? **Yes, Unanimous.**

Understood (stated) that we will think of ways to encourage broader congregational participation.

Question 2: Do we want to initiate Prayer Room Hosts? John suggested dropping this question; leave it as it is.

5. Review/approve guest pamphlet for use

Proposal: Add in a welcoming tag line to the cover page, provide clarification on “KC Sunday,” add in Saints Alive; authorize Bobby to work with Kathy tomorrow to revise the pamphlet and approve it for use immediately. Further revisions may be made in the future.

Approved, Unanimously

Next Monthly Topic: Staff Accountability Update (written report if no meeting); January meeting: BSLC Marriage Policy, BSLC Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

Pending elder meeting topics in proposed priority order: (agreed upon, Oct. 22, 2019)

- Protecting BSLC’s Ministry – Continue the review of policy/procedure documents
- Guest Speakers Policy (DB Request)
- Complete written procedure(s) for 'Member Care'
- Elder Board Policies - Cataloging, Accessibility, Overview, Review Plan
- Biblical Eldership (How do we want to function? Called/elect?)
- Mass mailings for special services

New Pending:

- Follow-up to Oct. EB Meeting Discussion: Ways and means to bring young families into our congregation