

Elders Board Minutes – February 15, 2023

Elders present (Absent): Bob Hinze, Bobby Merritt, Brad Owens, Brian Salvey, Chuck Tomac, David Lane, (Hugh Bennett), Jonathan Payne, Mike Sheets; Pastor Kevin, Pastor John

A. Regular Business Items

- Approve minutes for last month: Approved via email and posted
- Directors Board - Elder Representatives Report (Bobby, Brian): (see Safety and Security item below). Also, the directors considered a request for a "Scatter Garden," a designated area for scattering ashes on the church grounds; the board decided not to establish an official area for this purpose.

B. Information Items:

- Reunion/Invitational (Past/Inactive Members) - 70 year anniversary, Sept. 13, 2023
- Next Discovery class: Begins March 5 (New member welcome will be April 30)
- **Status Reports:**
 - Vine Project Team: Report on next steps for the Discipleship Pathway; Purpose of small groups and next steps to connecting - The team is continuing to move forward, working through the Vine Project book. The group is planning carefully in order to have the Vine Project be an ongoing means of discipleship, rather than something that disappears. A Wednesday evening church-wide study, "The Thing Is," will be starting on March 1 as a means of having a small-group opportunity open to all; the study will expose people to some of the terminology of the Vine Project.
 - Safety & Security During Worship - Request to Directors Board (DB) - The elder reps shared some ideas with the board, such as exterior cameras. The main item has been turned over to the trustees to investigate and come back with information/suggestions for DB to consider. The intent is still for the DB to come up with related policy/protocols.
 - Next Quarterly Report, April - Pastor of Family Ministries, John Durkin

Prayer Time

C. Discussion/Action Items:

1. February Annual Topic: Elder sharing > Contact with staff assigned to their flock: How is everything going for the staff member?

Each elder shared the responses of their assigned staff member to questions in the Contact Guide. Pastor Kevin and Pastor John were both able to speak directly to some of the questions. Elders asked some clarifying questions.

2. Elders Policy Committee - Policy on Admission of New and Returning Members

Pastor Kevin shared the draft of the new policy: Admission of New Members, 2023. Elders were invited to review it and give feedback to Pastor Kevin. The final draft will be shared for adoption at a future meeting.

3. Debrief Elder/New Member Luncheon; give input for next event

Elders shared positive comments on the number attending, as well as the number with children. The balance of new members to visitors was approximately 50/50. There was a suggestion to have an activity for the children after the lunch portion. Having a mix of new members and visitors was voiced as a positive, due to the cross-sharing between them. Another suggestion was to have the luncheon after each Discovery Class. A question was raised, "Are we doing enough to connect with visitors?"

4. Flock Shepherding Items

A. This week marks halfway through this quarter - Our goal is 100% two-way contact

B. Shepherding Contacts - Our Standard

A "C" level shepherding contact means the elder has had a two-way conversation with a flock member, allowing time to address prayer needs and to identify any other areas of needed spiritual support.

C. Support for Hugh

Elders are offering support to Hugh in making shepherding contacts with his flock during the time that he is in treatment and focusing upon recovery. These would be temporary assignments, if desired by Hugh.

5. Impromptu Items

- Some early planning is being done for a church picnic.
- The new BSLC sign is up! There were positive comments from elders, who have also heard positive comments