

Elders Board Minutes – April 11, 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
- Directors Board - Elder Representatives Report: Board discussion included exclusion methods (dogs on the hill); interest in purchase of land above Venskies; policy organization discussion; childcare - age of staff

B. Information Items:

- April Action Steps were reviewed
- Elder Flock Contact Report

Year	Quarter	# Family Units	# Family Units Contacted	% Contacted	% Range Contacted	% 2-way contacts	% Range 2-way
2021-2022 Year-Ave		162	155	96%	56%-100%	83%	41%-100%
2022	Oct.-Dec.	160	156	98%	76%-100%	86%	41%-100%
2023	Jan.-Mar.	159	153	96%	88%-100%	84%	28%-100%

- Quarterly Report: John Durkin, Pastor of Family Ministries
 1. First Communion – We have had 7 students and family members complete the training for First Communion. My hope of having the class receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday didn't work out. We discovered that two of the students had not previously been baptized. Three others had family reasons to delay. We hope to see all the students receive their first communion before summer.
 2. Children's Sunday school – I had a meeting with a couple of our teachers and our goal is to begin recruiting more Sunday school helpers to train as aids and to work as greeters to sit by the door during drop off and pick up to increase our security. We hope this gives us a large enough pool to offer an upper grade classroom, a lower grade classroom and a preschool break out like we did this year.
 3. VBS – With approval from our Family Ministry Renovation Team I have committed to join forces with Trinity Lutheran in Oregon City this summer for VBS. It's an evening VBS (at Trinity) and the dates are July 23rd – July 27th from 5:30 – 8:30 pm with dinner included. I am looking to find a preschool coordinator because we will be primarily responsible for that area.
 4. I will be serving at other churches 4/16 Trinity OC, 5/14 and 5/21 at Holy Cross Portland. Pastor Kevin and I believe it is good to help our brothers and sisters that are struggling to fill their pulpits. We hope it leads to strengthened relationships within our Lutheran community and it will be a good experience for me since each church is different.

Prayer Time

C. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Monthly Annual: Elder Nominations - Review candidates; assign next steps

The board heard from each of the current elders with expiring terms as to whether God is calling each to continue as elder. Those responding affirmatively will be part of the Elder Election Process, with elections in August.

The board then reviewed the five other candidates nominated for elder. Finally, the board review the next steps in the Elder Election Process and assigned Election Task Force members for initial contact. After being contacted, each nominee will receive information about the elder role and the election process by email. They will be asked to pray to determine if God is calling them to continue with the election process ending in August.

2. Monthly Annual: Review and comment on draft annual ministry plan

All elders each reported back on their assigned ministry's progress toward a draft of a 2023-24 Ministry Plan, using the following guide.

The board then discussed if we should reestablish the ministry of Missional Living/Community Outreach. It was tentatively decided to show this area of ministry, but without a plan until there is lay leadership to support it; we will also identify other ministry plans into which Missional Living and Community Outreach would be integrated

Finally, it was determined the processes for connecting with visitors belong with Shepherding & Congregational Care, under Enfolded - New Friends component, working with Fellowship & Hospitality and Discipleship Ministries

3. Feb. Topic > Contact with staff assigned to their flock: How is everything going for the staff member?

An elder, who had successfully made contact with one remaining staff member, gave a brief report.

4. Impromptu Items:

- Worship prayers for specific people, etc. Could we add prayers for our country?
Requests for this should be included this on the Connect Card.
- When we have hymns which are not familiar to the congregation, could we have a song leader?
This concern was raised from Maundy Thursday service. Pastor Kevin acknowledged that this occurred due to an oversight when responsibility for hymn selection was given to the guest organist.