

Elders Board Minutes – May 10, 2022

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

Growth Session: Pastor Kevin led an introductory discussion on What do we as Elders Believe. The topic was Saving Faith - What does it mean to believe in Jesus and how does it happen?

A. Regular Business Items

- Approve minutes for last month: Approved via email
- Directors Board Elder Representatives: Mike shared briefly on a few items: Financial report - we are on track; Trustees - 90% complete in doing a video library of church property; cost of the NW District Convention will be from the elders’ budget; Congregational Meeting, June 5; budgets for Ministry Plans will be due July 3; August 21 - Congregational Meeting

B. Information or Consent Agenda Items:

- Approved by Consent: Both passed unanimously.
 - **Affirm LCMS Position:** Deny request to allow Masonic Rites within Christian funeral
 - **Elder for Funerals/Memorial Services:** In the future our goal will be to have an elder present and available to assist at any funeral or memorial service. If the deceased had an elder, that elder would be contacted first. If that elder is not available, a volunteer would be sought from the other elders. If the deceased was not a member, an open request for an elder volunteer would be made.
- **Information:**
 - Elder to Elder Assignments - Every elder and Pastor Kevin have now been assigned to another elder’s flock.
 - Drifted Members - Be prepared for follow up next month: This month, make quality contact with each “Drifted” member; be prepared to update the board on status and recommended action. Also, anyone who is not worshipping with us, make quality shepherding contact to minister to them as well as to assess whether to change status.
 - Elder Policy Taskforce - Update: Went through guest speakers policy, but discovered that the Directors Board has a guest speaker policy already; Protecting the Ministry will go to Directors Board, because of legal ramifications; Membership policy will come up next month.
 - Constitution Review Team: Jonathan is part of this team; Michelle will call a meeting soon.
 - Ministry Budgets - Due July 3 (Ministries to develop in June) - Let your assigned ministry leader know about the deadline; Michelle will send out budget/expenditure report on the current year.
 - Elder Contact Log Report, January through March

Year	Quarter	# Family Units	# Family Units Contacted	% Contacted	% Range Contacted	% 2-way contacts	% Range 2-way
2019-2020 Year-Ave		183	174	95%	80%-100%	71%	11%-100%
2020-2021 Year-Ave		183	174	95%	85%-100%	71%	0%-100%
2021	Oct.-Dec.	159	155	97%	88%-100%	82%	63%-100%
2022	Jan.-Mar.	162	154	95%	71%-100%	83%	59%-100%

- DFM report - John Durkin: (See page 2)

Prayer Time

C. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Monthly Topic: Annual Elder Election Process – Nomination Acceptance, Assign mentors

David Lane accepted the nomination; all other nominees declined. Elders with expiring terms continuing: Bob, Chuck, and Mike. Mentors were assigned to the candidates.

Instructions for mentoring will be developed and will be shared following the congregational examination period.

2. Monthly Topic: Finalize next annual ministry plan

After discussion and some minor modifications, the board **unanimously approved** the draft Ministry Plan for submission to the congregation. (Pending decision on moving an item in Missional Living to Missions, along with

3. Expand Elder Qualification Requirements to include Lutheran Doctrine (per Constitution)

The board agreed that a review of distinctive Lutheran doctrine would be included in the mentoring process and be part of affirming an elder candidate moving forward in the process.

Some of the items to include would be the sacraments (Infant Baptism, Communion), Luther's Solas (*grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, as revealed by Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone*), etc.

4. Review Elder Meeting structure

Pastor Kevin proposed reinstating the two-meeting structure, one being only a Business Meeting (up to 2 hours, limit) and the other being a Growth Meeting, shorter (up to an hour) and without business items (unless needed on occasion).

The board members present supported the concept, with follow up at the next meeting to confirm, and if agreed, to determine logistics for implementing.

Next Monthly Topic: Lead pastor's review of staff (with growth goals); Review of lead pastor

Possible Additional Topics: Discipleship Pathway - Vine Project; Follow up with members who have drifted - determine next steps

Director of Family Ministry Report

Young Adults – Beginning in June, Jonathan and I plan to connect with Young Adults that we reached out to in January. We will check in regarding prayers and discuss their interest in a rafting trip planned for the end of July. We also have a connection with a Lutheran Church in Vancouver that has a Young Adult Ministry we can partner with.

Youth ministry - We have had about 8-10 regular attenders and another 4-5 friends that attend about once a month or so. We have a plan to continue involvement with Trinity Lutheran in OC, and we have a plan for an invite a friend night at Powell Valley Covenant Church in Gresham on the last Wed. of May.

Children's ministry on Sunday morning has been dwindling since February. Some of that has been caused by travel plans for families, and some caused by our low numbers to begin with. We don't believe this is a curriculum problem, or a teacher issue, it seems to be a result of not having a "critical mass" of students in the age group that are friends outside of class. We are working to recruit current Sunday School families to help in leadership to develop more investment and regularity for the Fall. We plan to take a break this summer from our normal schedule and curriculum. We may offer some education opportunities over the summer for teens and families, but that is still TBD.

The next phase of our Family Ministry program is to recruit new team members to serve on an 18-month renovation team. Initial recruiting contacts have been made. We have recruited both the Jones parents, both the Nick and Terri O., and Erika M and Olivia M. to serve on our renovation team that will begin meeting in the end of May!

First Communion classes had 5 students and parents/grandparents in attendance. We have had positive feedback from household! We have had three of the five households complete their discussion with Pastor Kevin and John, and the other two families are planning to receive first communion very soon.

Confirmation service was held on May 1st and was well received by all that attended. We had six confirmands this year and we will plan to evaluate a need for instruction in August based on the number of students that have not yet been confirmed.

We are also looking into a hybrid type of VBS program that may be held as a one-night event in a park or neighborhood to reach out to our community.