

Elders Board Minutes – October 10, 2023

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

A. Regular Business Items

- Approve minutes for last month: Approved through email and posted
- Directors Board Elder Representatives Report: David and Bob reported that Pete Sturdivan provided a financial review and shared that the 70th anniversary celebration cost considerably less than budgeted. Trustees report included the cost of replacing the hot water tank. The board then discussed aspects of the Sexual Misconduct Policy that is under development by the board. Finally, it was shared that there was a complaint about worship sound being too loud; the sound level varies throughout the sanctuary, an issue which is currently being addressed.

B. Information or Consent Agenda Items:

- Approved by Consent:
 - None
- Information:
 - Shift in worship order - 2-in-2 was moved to 8:55am (began October 8) *Still working on placement of offering*
 - Recently deceased members have been removed from CCB. *(They have also been removed from the new contact log; this will occur automatically in the future and will not require Elders Board action.)*
 - A link to the Sermon Series & Preaching Calendar will now be an ongoing information item.
 - New Elder Assignments are now active along with the Updated Elder Flock Contact Log.
Elders were asked to review their flocks and let Chuck know if they find any errors.
 - New Elder Mentors- Brian > Steve; David > Tom
 - Elder Flock Contact - Quarterly 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%
2023	Apr.-June	159	152	96%	88%-100%	79%	31%-100%
2023	July-Sept	158	155	98%	90%-100%	84%	50%-100%
2022-2023 Year-Ave		159	154	97%	76%-100%	83%	31%-100%

• Pastor of Family Ministries - Quarterly Report:

1. Pastor's Conference – Pastor Kevin and I attended the NOW district pastors conference the last week of September. The theme was adult faith formation particularly how it relates to our new member process and discipleship. Kevin and I also took time to plan our Christmas and Advent sermon series themed "The Clothing of the King".
2. Sunday School – Preschool and Youth age groups have increased in attendance this year from 3-4 students in each to 7-9 students in each. We have also added a check-in person, and we are closing and locking the doors while class is in session so no one can just come walking in. The doorbell seems to be working well, but we will need to recruit more check-in people and another teacher or two.
3. I continue to work with local student ministries and with other children's ministries in our area to build excitement for our own events. For example, on 10/22 our student ministry will head to Trinity OC for a Halloween party, and on 10/28 we will get together for a Trunk or Treat with Milwaukie covenant church.
4. In August I began supervision and mentoring work with Alyxis. We have developed goals, seen an increase in enrollment, increase use of grant funds for lower income students, and Alyxis lead a children's message in church. I am thankful for this opportunity. We are working well together.
5. In the last week of October, I will go to California for Ministry Applied Practice - MAP is a 2 year program offered by the three Westcoast districts of the LCMS designed to help new pastors to stay in the district long term. It includes education, mentoring, and accountability. Also, it's almost completely funded by district dollars.

Prayer Time

C. Discussion/Action Items:

1. **October Topic: Doctrinal “check-up” – Areas needing strengthening? Living It out as a body**

Elders were asked to submit areas for review to Pastor Kevin. No comments came formally from elders.

Informally, as we encourage people to share Jesus, we want to make sure we encourage a personal connection with and growth in Jesus.

Comments: We are fortunate that our pastors encourage us to continue growing, no matter what our age.

2. **Initial Review: Role of elders in the Critical Care Procedures (in part, hospital visits - communication)**

Elders had been assigned to read and review the Draft Critical Care Procedures and be prepared to ask questions/make suggestions. Several comments, questions, and suggestions were raised and discussed.

Unanimous Approved: Pastor Kevin will make the revisions and email to elders for approval when it is complete.

3. **POTENTIAL Annual Elder-sponsored Event**

In September Pastor Kevin asked elders to start considering the potential of an Elder-sponsored event annually. It could be a means for elders to personally invite flock members to participate, to gather with their flock members, and to foster fellowship between flock members. At this meeting, the board offered several follow-up ideas for implementing. Elders affirmed support for continuing to move ahead on a food-based event.

Upon Pastor Kevin's request a Volunteer Planning Team was begun: Pastor Kevin, Bob Hinze, Brian Salvey; Pastor is hoping for one more volunteer (pending)

4. **Staff absences - Calendar, pre-planned with notification as possible**

Pastor Kevin will develop a shared document that shows planned staff absences; elders will be able to view this at any time. Upcoming staff absences will now be an ongoing information item (when applicable).

5. **Christmas Eve Service Proposal**

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday. Pastor Kevin proposed we have the morning service at 9:00am as usual and one evening service.

The proposal was unanimously approved; the evening service time will be 4:00pm.

7. **Impromptu Items: (5 min)**

Lead App - Available for elders to use with our system; see Kathy for training if needed/desired

Tabled Items:

- Shepherding techniques/ideas for two-way contact

Next Monthly Topic: Assessment of spiritual care of the congregation (small groups/shepherding: review, update, how to best support and encourage)

Possible Additional Topics: Shepherding techniques/ideas for two-way contact (tabled from October); Benevolence Fund revised guidelines/procedures; Online Ministry Task Force: Members not worshipping live, but virtually - How to encourage returning to in-person worship; Support for Trinity OC