

# COUNCIL OF ELDERS REPORT

## October 2021

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One of these days, the Covid-19 pandemic will be over, even if remnants of this virus remain. We don't know when or how, but it really will be over! And when it is, there will be a new normal that we will adjust to, because God is in charge. God works through all of our circumstances when we love and serve Him (Romans 8:28).

In the meantime, the Council of Elders and the leadership of Northview continue to meet, to pray, to work, to discuss, and to discern. God continues to bless us in amazing ways, and to place opportunities in front of us that we could never have expected. Every opportunity presents itself as a resource that God is presenting to us, as if he is saying, "let's see what kind of stewards you really are." Since one of our key result areas is to "double the master's money" (Matt. 25:14-30), we see the Lord's hand in all things - even when we don't understand it.

Currently, the "opportunities" we have are to:

- Make the wisest decisions we can around masks, social distancing, and being safe from potential outbreaks, while encouraging as many people as possible to worship the Lord with us, grow in their faith, or begin their faith journey.
- Make the best use of the finances, facilities, pastors, staff, and volunteers so that the effectiveness of our ministries is maximized, without overwhelming everyone.
- Watch for signs that the Lord is calling us to move forward with potential new campuses, relationships with church planting networks, other ministries that are stumbling, and ideas that we haven't thought of before.
- Clarify the Lord's intent for our campuses:
  - Tri-City continues to take steps toward their independence.
  - Praxis in Kelowna is having a tremendous launch, and God is working through all that could distract.
  - Real Life in Surrey is up and running, and praying for a permanent campus pastor.
  - Mission is developing their leadership for the future.
  - Central Abbotsford is moving back into the Mill Lake Church location, with repairs completed to the point where it is safe! And, children's ministry and meals are beginning November 13th.
  - East Abby hopes to move back into Abby Christian School early in the New

Year.

- Downes Road will be discerning triggers for re-launching our building project for a new worship and community centre, while enjoying highly effective mid-week discipleship training events.

I guess when we get right down to it, the most important opportunity we have is to rely on prayer and the Lord to be with us, as we fulfill the mission He has given us - to make disciples, as we go, as we baptize, and as we teach all that Jesus taught us.

I'm sure you already do, but please pray for your church, your leaders, and one another, that we would be the people the Lord is calling us to be.