

COUNCIL OF ELDERS REPORT

November 2021

How unpredictable are the days in which we live!

From Covid-19 to forest fires to a heat dome to record-breaking floods - what a year!

It had never crossed my mind that I would have to miss a COE meeting because Highway 1 would be closed between Chilliwack and Abbotsford due to the return of Sumas Lake. So, some of us couldn't attend in person, and Zoom with one camera and one microphone in the Atrium isn't the best way to participate.

Throughout the year, the only constant we have is the fact that we serve a God who isn't surprised by any of it!

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts. - Isaiah 55:8-9*

Of course, this month some of our regular meeting time involved our Annual General Meeting, where the year-end financials were approved as presented, and reports were circulated from many of our elders and pastors. Hopefully, this is the last time that Zoom is the only option and we'll be able to worship together as we deal with the business of the church! The congregation was updated on the progress of our church planting efforts and God was praised. We prayed together and learned more from Mark about how we will be participating in the recovery effort here in the Fraser Valley as we partner with Samaritan's Purse.

As for the COE meeting itself, we are thankful that we are once again able to meet in person for worship, to offer options for those who aren't comfortable in large gatherings, for the generosity of our people, and for the many opportunities we continue to receive to partner with churches and planting organizations throughout BC, Canada, and in fact around the world.

There is no meeting in December and so by January everything will be back to normal, right?

Together, we keep praying!

Phil Routly