

COUNCIL OF ELDERS REPORT

January 2022

The Council of Elders first meeting of 2022 began with Ezra reminding us of Paul's words, "Be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18) in all circumstances and situations, and asking the questions, "What would Spirit-filled Ezra look like? What would Spirit-filled Graham look like? What would Spirit-filled Stuart look like?" It's a very good question, and while some of the elders met with a couple for prayer, most gathered in 3's and 4's to pray that we would be a Spirit-filled church and Spirit-filled elders.

We moved quickly through the notes from the most recent Administration, and into discussion around several opportunities to resource church plants, ministries and camps in our BC Conference. How do we determine what we ought to be investing in? As you would expect, Northview gets requests all the time to "share the wealth." Knowing that all we have belongs to the Lord, it's our responsibility to be the very best stewards we can be. For example, Central Community Church in Chilliwack is replanting the MB church in Harrison, under the leadership of Jeremy Isaak, a former intern at Northview Community Church. And David Hildebrand, one of our Pastoral Interns in the Immerse program, is planting a new church in Dawson Creek along with North Peace MB Church in Fort St. John.

Our discussion then moved into clarifying guidelines through our Governance Committee for how we get the largest spiritual return on the time, talent, and treasure we invest into our church planting plans. We have been blessed in so many ways, including the many gifted young leaders we have, while so many ministries are severely lacking in leadership and resources.

Covid continues to be a great disruptor in the life of the church, as it is throughout society. We've been surprised to see how our Saturday night and Sunday 11:00am services have been impacted. While 9:00am is at the 50% threshold, the other services at Downes Rd. have plenty of room. Central Abby has continued to welcome the community, with a 4:30pm meal, 5:30pm service, and 6:45pm dessert together, and over 100 in attendance every week. At last, East Abby is reopening this weekend - 98(!) weeks since their last gathering!

And speaking of Covid, we continue to pray for unity and love among those of our

congregation (and beyond) as polarized perspectives are still there. Once this is all over, we will still be brothers and sisters in Christ, and we need to respect and love one another.

The Lord has continued to bless us financially, with this year's giving tracking very closely to last year's, meaning we could be short on our giving target by upwards of \$600,000. Even so we are expecting to balance this year due to some expenses/investments that have not materialized as anticipated.

As we are now entering this season of creating the budget for 2022-23, we are grateful for each one who contributes financially (and in every other way).

It's been several years since we had a Membership Affirmation process, so you can look for that in the coming months.

And our leaders will be involved in a Natural Church Development process that helps us better understand the health of the church, measuring eight vital signs:

1. How empowering is the leadership?
2. How gift-oriented is our ministry?
3. How passionate is our spirituality?
4. How functional are our structures
5. How inspiring is our worship?
6. How holistic are our small groups?
7. How need-oriented is our evangelism?
8. How loving are our relationships?

Lastly, we are in the final stages of releasing our Tri-city Church plant in Port Coquitlam to become an independent MB congregation. Pray for their pastor, Matt Glezos, leadership team, and congregation as they spread their wings.

In fact, pray for all of us - Elders, Staff, and Pastors, that we may glorify God in all we do.

Phil Routly