



May 2022 COE Report

Well, we may have set a record for shortest Council of Elders meetings ever. Either we were very efficient with our time, or there was an Oilers-Flames game on TV.

Anyway, after eating together, it was good for some of us to pray with a member of our congregation and their family for health and other concerns, while the rest prayed for the discernment of the Council on a couple of specific matters. It was good to have Jacki Graham, now on the Discernment Committee, join us for prayer and the bulk of the meeting.

There are a few changes coming to our pastoral staff, with Vinh Doan taking on responsibility for Church Multiplication (which had been part of Mark Burch's role prior to last June), and Fredy Orozco taking on Young Adults. This opens up a Community Group Pastor position, as well as the need to fill Vic Schellenberg's role as Pastor to Seniors, since he's retiring after decades of service. No one seems to be really sure how long he's been on staff, but rumor has it he may have replaced Methuselah. Please pray that the Lord will guide us in the right direction to discern pastors for these positions.

The Emergency Support Services of Abbotsford have asked Northview to partner in providing care if disaster strikes in our community. For example, with the apartment fire recently, over 100 people were displaced from their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs and pets in their hands. We were able to provide a place for people to gather, have a coffee, a warm place to stay, and some care as the victims prepare for their next steps. This seems to be a very natural thing for us to do, so we're ironing out some of the details. We're excited to be known in our community as a church that is eager and able to help our community when there is a felt need.

With our Congregational Meeting coming up on June 21st, we reviewed the Stewardship report which will be included, along with the proposed budget for 2022-23. God continues to bless us!

We are editing our Personnel Policies to be clear on Whistleblower Policy, and replacing Sickness with a Wellness Policy which puts more focus on supporting both mental and physical health for all staff. After a brief discussion, and a request for more input when Elders have had the chance to review it, the policy manual goes back to the Personnel Committee for further refinement.



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Our Campus report this month was from Mission. We are so thankful to have them as part of our Northview family, and to see how the Lord is working through them. It will be exciting to see how He continues to express His love and His gospel in Mission.

An update from the Development Committee brought information on the remodeling that is taking place at our primary entrance, which we anticipate will be finished by the end of August. And we briefly discussed the process for decisions around our building plans. For those who may not know, on Tuesday, March 10th, 2020, our membership voted 95.7% to proceed with the building of additional facilities, including a new Worship Centre. Two days later, the world shut down due to Covid, and we hit pause on the project. Now, we need to decide where we go from here.

As you can imagine, there are a lot of details that are being discussed, a lot of viewpoints, and there will be a lot of discernment necessary if we are to continue our mission of making more and better disciples. We will continue with our discussions, and be providing the congregation with an update at the June 21st meeting.

And that's about it. We were informed that the Flames were bouncing back, the game was now 3-2 in favour of the Oilers at the end of the second period, so we headed home.

Please continue to pray for all those in leadership at Northview.

Phil Routly

