

March 2023 COE Report with Special Update

The Council of Elders met on the last Tuesday of March, largely in preparation for the Special General Meeting of our congregation, when we will be voting on a new building. Thanks to everyone who has participated in the surveys that have been conducted, giving us a lot of confidence in our ability to respond to the need for enlarged and improved facilities. (See the Special Update at the bottom of this report.)

But of course, that wasn't the only thing on the agenda.

As always, we began with prayer with members of the congregation, and among ourselves for our church. One of our great privileges of being on the Council of Elders, is when we are able to respond to James' invitation, "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14). If you or someone you know could use some encouraging prayer, please contact us at cklassen@northview.org.

The BC Mennonite Brethren Conference Convention will be hosted at our Mission Campus at the end of April, and there are some important recommendations that are being considered. Graham Nickel, from COE, is on the BCMB Board, and several of our pastoral staff also serve there. Lorne Welwood served Northview for many years as an elder, and is now on the BCMB Board, so we invited him to join us as we talked through several issues that could make a long-lasting impact on our conference. I'm sure you'll be hearing more in the weeks to come.

With inflation costs rising, we spent some time considering the appropriate level for the 2023-24 budget. It's been a while since our operating budget increased, and it's always a question around priorities, needs, and responsibilities when it comes to how we can best steward all that the Lord has given us.

April 4th Update: With 469 people voting, the congregation on April 4th passed the motion which follows with 92% approval:

Preamble: The cost of the new Worship Centre building and existing building renovation is estimated to be \$30 million. This value includes a reasonable contingency that hopefully will not be needed. Our goal for fundraising is to raise the entire value over the coming years through a large scale ongoing capital campaign. Construction will only begin when the combined total of the internal allocations and pledges toward the new Worship Centre reaches \$20 million. Of that \$20 million target, we have already received or internally allocated \$15 million as of March 2023.



Motion: The Council of Elders is authorized to begin construction of the Worship Centre based on the current estimate and parameters described in the Preamble.

Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we enter into this capital campaign in the weeks to come, and the construction projects that will follow over the next three years.

Phil Routly, Elder