

August 2022 COE Report

This August brought the return of the annual Pastor/Elder/Family Retreat! We've really missed it the last couple of years when we met at Camp Stillwood for an evening and a day only. This year, families could join us from Thursday afternoon until Saturday morning and it was so good to reconnect with those we hadn't seen in a long time, and get to know those who are new to Northview's leadership team.



The pastors met on Thursday afternoon, and the Elders joined them for dinner, some ice-breaker type games, and then Pastor Mark's "State of the Union Address." If you were at the Ministry Leader Training on Sept. 10th, you probably heard some of it. God has blessed us in amazing ways, and we're now talking about a 2030 Vision, when Northview will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. It's sad that many, if not most churches have plateaued and are declining by that time,



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and we are determined not to let it happen to us. There is a lot of confidence that our best days may very well be in front of us.

Friday was a day of discussion as we looked at the challenges we face, as well as the opportunities. I keep thinking of Jesus' words to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matt. 9:37-38). We continue to raise up and identify future leaders for the church and pray that God would help us to know them when we see them. Please join us in that prayer.

Pastor Mark recently talked about the challenges for the church in the Maritimes, and how we might best be involved. We're looking at the right structure and governance to be the best stewards of the Lord's resources as we continue to learn of church planting opportunities. How should we be thinking about being a multi-site church? Should we be planting campuses or churches in our own community? How would they be different? How do we best govern as Elders? How does our pastoral staff best lead and plan? What are our priorities? What have we learned from the last few years, and what do we still have to learn? These are all areas that continue to demand our most creative thinking and again, that requires prayer.

And, of course, we talked about the plan to build a new worship center to allow for future growth. We're on track to bring a recommendation to the congregation at the November 2022 Annual General Meeting, with lots of due-diligence between now and then. If that changes, I'm sure we'll let you know!

And that's about it for now, but I can't close without mentioning how much I appreciate being a part of this incredible leadership team at Northview. I've had the privilege of being an Elder for over 11 years now, and working with these leaders continues to be one of the joys of my life. It's been a year since I began to write these COE reports, and I want to thank each of you who have told me you read them, and for your support and prayers.

God bless you.

Submitted by Phil Routly

