



September 2022 COE Report

As usual with our Council of Elders meetings, our discussions are many and varied.

Aaron Goulet, who stepped in to lead Real Life Church a few years ago when their planting pastor passed away due to cancer, attended our meeting for the last time. Aaron and his wife, Melissa, gave it all they could while balancing a demanding occupation and family life far beyond their original commitment of 6 months. They came under Northview's umbrella during Covid, with heavy involvement from Pastor Ezra but the fact that we were not able to locate a church pastor whose calling could be confirmed by our leadership team, we were left with no other choice than to close the church. The church owes Aaron and Melissa a huge thank you for doing the best that could be done.

This situation draws our attention to many issues around the need for future leaders. There are fewer and fewer young people responding to the call for pastoral ministry. Enrollment at Bible Colleges and Seminaries is down. Local churches everywhere are having more and more difficulties recruiting volunteers for all positions, whether it's for leaders, Sunday School teachers, or coffee servers. And that includes Northview. Jesus said, "Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:38). We need to be doing just that - praying for volunteers and students to directors and pastors - and encouraging those where we see promise. Most of today's pastors had somebody say to them when they were young, "I can see you as a leader in the church!"

As you would expect, a significant portion of the evening focused on plans for a new worship center. We hope to bring a recommendation at the November Annual General Meeting but there are still a number of questions that need to be answered. Those include an updated cost estimate, rising interest and construction costs, options for more campuses in Abbotsford, and how we should structure and lead a fundraising campaign. Please keep us in your prayers!

Almost every time we meet, we spend time praying for the church and a few specifics that are brought to our attention while some of us meet with individuals who meet with us at the church. It's always a privilege. If you would like prayer by the Elders, but coming to see us on the last Tuesday of the month doesn't work for you, please email us at requestprayer@northview.org, and we'll be sure to pray specifically for you and your needs. We're also discussing other ways for this essential ministry of our church to be enhanced.

God bless you.

Submitted by Phil Routly

