

January 2023 COE Report

After prayer with congregants and with one another, the Council of Elders got down to business. I had to attend via Zoom, and the sound wasn't always great, so a huge "thank you" to Carrie Klassen for her assistance.

As you would expect, much of our conversation was around the proposal that we build a new worship centre, and then renovate our existing worship centre, so the space problems we experience virtually every day of the week can be solved.

By the time you see this, the first Town Hall meeting will have already happened on January 31st. The Elders have tried to answer every possible question and concern that people have, from economic timing to design to debt considerations to the possibility of purchasing other church buildings. Interestingly, there is a church building currently being sold in Abbotsford. If the price of purchase for an acre or so of land with a 200-seat sanctuary was \$6,900,000 (a conservative price), that would mean a cost of \$34,500 per seat, plus renovation costs of \$2-3 million. For comparison, if a new worship centre on Downes Road costs even \$30,000,000, and seats 2,000, that's \$15,000 per seat, all in.

I hope you're taking advantage of the opportunity to discuss, question, and share concerns with the Elders and Pastors whenever possible. That's what "due diligence" is all about.

One of the factors that I'm sure would interest you is that the hope and plan is that when a new building would be completed, there could be a very small mortgage or none at all, so that the ministry that we do would not be affected by budget concerns.

We had the privilege of having several guests for our meeting, including David Atkins who is joining our pastoral staff, and several potential Elder candidates checking us out.

And finally, don't forget that you are always welcome to meet with the Elders for prayer. Email Carrie at cklassen@northview.org and we will arrange a time and location that works best for you.

Phil Routly