



June 2023 COE Report

The end of June was a busy time for Northview's Council of Elders (COE). It began with our meeting on the evening of June 27th, which included our Congregational Meeting, and concluded with 3 days of retreat with pastors and families at Rockridge Canyon.

After a meal together with numerous pastors and guests, we met with some congregants for prayer. If you or someone you know would benefit from prayer with the Elders, you are welcome to contact Carrie, cklassen@northview.org, and we can make it happen.

During the Congregational Meeting, we approved budgets for Northview of \$10 million, and for our Praxis Church Plant in Kelowna of \$638,000. We also affirmed two new members of our Council of Elders team, Jim Bird and Dan Burslem. It's a privilege to get to know them, and to welcome them on board!

Following the Congregational Meeting, the COE reviewed worship centre building plans and application process, as our building permit is getting close to being submitted for approval by the city. It was also noted that demolition of the bubble has begun.

On Thursday afternoon, we traveled to Rockridge Canyon to meet up with the pastors, who had arrived earlier in the day, with our first COE meeting taking place on Friday morning.

Topics discussed included:

- A rewrite of Northview's Drug and Alcohol Policy if an attendee is found on site with drugs or alcohol, in light of recent changes in the application of drug laws throughout BC.

- A review and clarification of our Operating Guidelines, which is to take place annually.
- Discussion around consistency of language when we talk about our various venues, sites, campuses, and church plants, as well as the use of the word "Elder" as it relates to church plants.
- A revised policy for our care department, again to provide clarity.
- Updating our organizational chart to reflect the current reality and future plans
- Josh Dool, pastor at Praxis in Kelowna, brought us up to date on the incredible growth they've experienced since day one, as well as the challenges on space, staff, and oversight.

Mark Burch brought an update on the Grace and Truth classes. The plan is to have pastors and elders spend time this fall reviewing and making recommendations for the class materials so that they align with our confession of faith and practice.

A significant portion of our discussion arose from the recent visit of Kevin Peters and Ezra Okoti to Uganda, where they shared in several day-long training sessions with pastors, through Word of Life. There is great work going on there, and we want to be as supportive as possible. As a result, we decided to use \$150,000 of the excess funds from the India training centre to invest in a pastoral training center in the district of Kayunga, Uganda.

In addition, we decided to use a further \$20,000 from the India training center excess to invest in the STEP training center in Odisha, India. God has blessed us, and it is a privilege to bless others that they may fulfill God's vision in their communities and beyond.

Finally, we discussed our one and three year goals, and how they will help us achieve the vision God has given us to impact Canada in coming years. It was decided that we also incorporate seven year goals which would include our vision for 2030, when Northview will celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

Please continue to pray for your leaders, as we slow down a little for the summer, prepared to dive in again at the end of August, and into the new season at Northview.

Phil Routly