

September 2023 COE Report

As we entered the fall season at Northview, the Council of Elders actually met twice in September, since we hadn't met since our retreat at the end of June.

At the first meeting on Sept. 5th, we learned that:

- Compared to summer 2022, on average, attendances were up by ~300 per weekend. Amazing!
- Giving during the summer was similar to the previous year.
- We have achieved about 75% of the funding for the new worship centre in cash or pledges.
- God is richly blessing our Praxis campus in Kelowna, while they continue to outgrow their current facilities.

We also had the opportunity to interview a promising candidate for a pastor to seniors. That candidate, Gary Lidstone, has now accepted the position and is slated to start in October.

Our regular meeting took place on September 26th, which began as always with a meal and prayer. It's worth reminding you that whenever we meet, you are invited to come for prayer, as we practice James 5:14, "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord." But our prayer is not limited to illness. We pray for whatever concerns individuals have, as well as the health and growth of our church. Just let Carrie Klassen know you would like to come for prayer - cklassen@northview.org.

We had a couple of guests from the Cyrus Center, including Les Talvio. They reminded us of the history of the relationship between Northview and Cyrus Center, including the fact that our church was able to provide them with the building they currently occupy on Ware Street at no cost to them. As Cyrus Center has continued to expand (from 2 employees to 66 today), they have outgrown their facilities, and expanded greatly. We discussed what our future partnership might look like, as we explore options for the years to come.

Our faith and prayer-based "Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal" (BHAG) is to establish healthy local churches within driving distance of every Canadian. As we continue to consider plans for future church plants and/or campuses throughout the lower mainland, our Senior Leadership Team (Lead Pastor and our two Executive Pastors) is now conducting demographic studies of four local communities, beginning with Chilliwack and Maple Ridge. They plan to report to the COE in October.

COE | COUNCIL OF ELDERS

As you probably know, we have now added a second Saturday evening service at Downes Rd. and encouraged Sunday morning worshippers to make the shift, creating empty seats for visitors and friends to join us at 9am and 11am. The results have been encouraging, as Saturday attendances have jumped by several hundred. In case you don't know, that's why Saturday services were begun many years ago. This is part of our strategy to continue to grow and reach our community while our new worship centre is being built - which will be about 3 years to complete. Please pray for strength for those who preach the Word each week. Four times every weekend is both physically and spiritually demanding!

And speaking of the new worship centre, we had a look at the latest drawings being considered for the overall project, and I'm pretty sure you'll be excited to see them when they're finalized. The goal is to have the building permit in the next couple of months so that construction can begin early next year.

Phil Routly