



November 2023 COE Report

When our Council of Elders met at the end of November, it was another of those "shortened" meetings because we had Northview's Annual General Meeting in the middle of it.

Before I go any further, if you call Northview your church home, you owe it to yourself to attend one of our bi-annual Congregational Meetings, held in June and November. After meeting in the worship centre for the last few years, we moved it back into Center Court, and the atmosphere was electric. Andrew, our Worship Pastor, drew together the worship leaders from all of our campuses and it was simply fantastic! We are so blessed! Questions were asked and answered (in most cases); explanations were given; Jim Bird, one of our newest elders, led us in devotions. We were updated and challenged. It was great! And Center Court was packed, which means about 300 people. Join us next time! I don't know where you'll sit, but be there!

Our COE meetings always begin with a meal, reconnecting with one another, and prayer for the church, along with anyone who has come specifically to be prayed for by the elders, according to James 5:14.

We then had the privilege of meeting Keith Hanson, who was there from Praxis in Kelowna, one of our campuses. He was accompanied by their pastor, Josh Dool. As Northview operates under the Society's Act of BC, our elders are the directors for the organization, and that includes distant campuses. Keith and Josh were with us as we were discerning Keith to be a future Praxis Church Director. We approved him for that future position, expecting that one day, Praxis will become an independent church, and Keith will be affirmed by the Praxis membership.

Those who attended the recent Evangelical Theological Society conference in San Antonio, Texas, reported to the COE. It was a very interesting and challenging time together, under the theme "Theological Anthropology." The big question was, "What does it mean to be a human created in God's image (male and female)?" There were eight of us who made the trip, including 4 pastors, 1 Immerse student, and 3 elders.

The Development Committee has been busy, as always. Their discussions include the possible ways we can deal with estate and property donations, our ongoing project to build a new worship centre, and the investigation of using geoexchange on Downes Rd. Short and long-term plans for construction and improvements to the Mission campus are also being considered.

Finally, Stewardship updated us on income and expenses for this fiscal year (July-June). Giving remains strong, with our annual income expected to be in the range of \$9.4M. That's less than budget, but workable. Your generosity is appreciated!

May the Lord bless you and yours as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, and welcome in a New Year!

Phil Routly

