

March 2024 COE Report

All of our Council of Elders meetings include four components: Prayer, Reports, Discussion, and Decisions. Oh - and dinner, which is just like most times when people are gathered and there is food: It gives everyone the opportunity to learn and share what's happening in other people's lives.

When we gather, we pray for Northview, one another, and those from our congregation who have come with specific prayer requests. These could be related to health, relationships, personal and family challenges, or important decisions that have to be made, but it's a privilege as an Elder or leader to engage with people, and support them through prayer.

We receive reports and updates. This month, we received a report from Praxis Church in Kelowna, and an update on the terrific way in which God is blessing them and their community, especially since their January move into the Rotary Centre, which is much larger. This allowed them to go from the three Sunday services back to two. However, continued growth has them considering a return to three! Pray for wisdom, and stamina!

SLT (Senior Leadership Team, comprised of Mark, Ezra, and Jonathan) reported that we're not quite ready to make a decision on a Chilliwack Campus, as there are some meetings that still need to take place in the coming weeks.

Our Discernment Committee continues to consider members for various committees and the Council of Elders itself. We have a great many people in our church who have tremendous potential for future governance leadership, and it is the responsibility of this committee to encourage and expose them to the possibilities of future growth and contribution. At each of our meetings, we invite some of these individuals to join us, and learn more about what happens at our COE meetings.

The Development Committee is heavily involved in some changes to the design of the new worship centre and the most efficient use of space, as the final drawings are being prepared to go to the City of Abbotsford for approval. Our hope continues to be for ground-breaking in June. At the same time, they're working on a strategic plan for the Mission campus, and our support for a possible sale and purchase in connection with Cyrus Centre.

Our Stewardship Committee brought their monthly report:

- It is budget season, since our fiscal year ends in June, so we provided some guidance to our staff for the coming year.
- Operations Budget: At the end of February, giving reached \$6.6 million, \$211,000 more than last year at this time. That year over year variance has been dropping since December where it was 5.3% more and now stands at 3.3%. Projections to year end are for a \$9.5 million giving

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value, meaning we expect to miss our target by 5% or \$500,000. Missing the budget will not mean staff or NVCC program curtailments but will impact some of our outside Church Planting opportunities, although under spending in other areas will mean Church Planting will not take the full hit of the missed target.

- Building Fund: Pledges and Contributions, including the estate gift, show that we are at 81% of our target. At the end of February we are encouraged that 27% of pledges, or \$2.25 million has been received and we are at 60% of the goal of \$30 million with cash in hand, several months before ground breaking. We are very grateful to the church in getting behind the goal and are confident of being debt free on completion. God is truly blessing Northview!
- We are working through the redesign and are starting to assemble updated projections. Our \$30 million target included a \$25 million building, a \$2 million contingency, and \$3 million for renovations. Those values were obtained in 2019. Since that time we have experienced significant construction inflation with the All Item CPI for BC from Stats Canada (Feb 2019 to Feb 2024) showing 18%. Our project consultant has indicated that we should be expecting a significant increase from the original \$25 million. In time we will know if the \$2 million contingency was enough.

Thank you for your continued prayer and encouragement for your Elders, for all the Pastors and staff who serve, and the hundreds and hundreds of volunteers who support Northview's reason the Lord has us here: To develop Christ-followers who are deeply rooted in God's Word.

Phil Routly