

# Congregational Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 7:00 pm  
Center Court, Downes Road Campus

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## CALL TO ORDER

**Worship** - Frank Sawatsky, Worship Pastor

**Devotional / Prayer** - Phil Routly, Elder

## BUSINESS

**Minutes / Procedure** - Darryl Kropp, Moderator

**MOTION 1:**     **That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on November 28, 2023, be accepted as written.**  
MOTION PASSED

Brief overview of the agenda for the evening.

### **Moderator Report** - Darryl Kropp

This meeting marks the end of a term for three of our Elders who have made big contributions over the years::

- 1) Phil Routly has been an Elder for 13 years. He most recently led our Governance Committee and had been writing our monthly COE Reports. He will continue to be on some of our Committees.
- 2) Sean Allison is currently in Africa with Wycliffe. Sean has been an Elder for 3 years with a focus on Missions and leadership of our Discernment Committee.
- 3) Marv Klassen is wrapping up his second tour as a Northview Elder for a total of 20 years. Marv has played an important role as our resident historian, a policy expert, and most recently was leading the Governance Committee. We continue to pray for Marv and his family as they walk the challenging path of his cancer diagnosis.

Each will be greatly missed. Jeff Gamache, our Discernment Committee Chair, is actively working to identify Elder candidates.

### **Lead Pastor Report** - Mark Burch

Looking back:

- 15% growth in all of our sites and services. We thank God for the many people who have entered through our doors who have never been to church in their life.
- Budget giving has remained strong even throughout our building campaign
- We are pressing forward on the development of a new building

We can have all of these things and actually not be a church. Great crowds do not make us a church. How do you measure life change? We can look at the intangibles, we can measure

numbers, how many people are attending bible studies and community groups. We can see the increase in people joining the Membership of the church and that 133 people have been baptized since last July 1, 2023. Life transformation is harder to measure. Are we exhibiting more of the fruit of the spirit this year? Are we more faithful in prayer, Bible reading and sharing our faith? Are we more generous with our time and money? Our pastoral team is continually evaluating and asking ourselves how we can turn up the dial on evangelism, prayer, discipleship and missions.

Three areas we are working on as we look forward:

- New Building Challenges
  - Praying that we can move into the new building debt free.
  - How will we fill it? Who are the people that will come to fill those seats?
  - Moving into a room that has lots of space, feels different. How do we prepare for that?
  - The financial realities of donor fatigue coming out of the building campaign as we will want to increase our ministries. How do we anticipate that and pray into that?
- Cultural Challenge of Churches Closing
  - How many can they be revitalized before they close? How many can be planted? How do we capture those buildings?
  - We are currently in the formation stage of putting together a group of individuals / platform to capture church buildings before they are torn down.
- Recommitment to continue to the training and development of partnerships for new churches - multiplication partnerships, church planting across Canada, and our Leadership Development track - MAP, Immerse Program, and a new partnership for credit granting with CBC.
  - Ezra is moving sideways from Executive Pastor of Ministry Development to the Executive Pastor for Multiplication role.
  - BCMB partnering with City to City Canada - sending leaders to be part of the training for revitalizing churches that are struggling.

Please join us in continuing to ask God to call out young leaders to pastor and to plant and for sending teams to move with them.

**Discernment Committee Report** - Jeff Gamache, Chair

Discerning Elders that will represent all of our sites and campuses. Discernment process - names from the pastors and Elders, contact individuals to see if they are interested. Fill out a Theological Questionnaire. Give them books to read on Eldership and one on Governance. Have them start working on a Committee. Provide mentorship, take a theological class.

Graham Nickel reviewed the reaffirmation process.

**MOTION 2: Reaffirmation of Darryl Kropp as Elder of Northview Community Church.**  
MOTION PASSED

**MOTION 3: Reaffirmation of Bruce Belsher as Elder of Northview Community Church.**

MOTION PASSED

**Theology Committee Report** - Graham Nickel

The Theology Committee does not meet all the time, but is called on at times to tackle the tough issues.

Graham gave a brief recap of the report:

- Went through the Grace and Truth course
  - Thaleia Sawatzky led the Elders and Pastors through the entirety of the course. Thankful for Thaleia's leadership with this.
- We field a lot of questions about this issue. We are paying very close attention and know how delicate this issue can be. The Theology Committee in the last few months have put together a paper that they are still taking feedback on that will be an inhouse guide for pastors and leaders. There will be an opportunity to read that in the coming months.

**Development Committee Report** - Bruce Styles & Dan Burslem, Chair / Co-Chair

**Mission Campus** - Many new faces, however the church facilities are old and we are having space issues. The Strategic Planning Commission did a study that showed of the 45,000 people in mission there are only 2000 people who are going to church. The harvest is huge. How do we think about and plan for this huge opportunity. The Commission has done a feasibility study on our property and building and a strategic plan was presented to the COE in April and received unanimous support. We are starting to move toward how we are implementing some of the recommendations that were part of our strategic plan.. Please continue to pray for us.

**Downes Road Campus** - 40 years ago a smaller congregation met to review and approve a site for a building that we are in today. We prayed tonight with the founding pastor of this church. They asked God for an audacious ask as they walked around this property. We are grateful for the commitment of that team of people when they looked at this property and at what God would do. They considered a long term investment to support the growth of a gospel centered church here and committed to construction that would benefit us as part of the next generation and beyond. We are grateful for their sacrifice and vision that they embraced at that time. We are here today to commit to a new strategic plan investing for the future of the gospel in Abbotsford, the growing Fraser Valley.

In 2019 we committed to a plan and approved a budget to complete in February of 2022. We are thankful for that pause. What we are presenting to you now is much better. Our presentation is a result of careful planning and many discussions with the design team, the facilities staff, management, architects, and consultants to bring to you today what we believe is a much superior facility with some great long term benefits. We also feel there has been a real improvement in the overall appearance of the inside and the outside compared to our original concept back in 2020. Key points highlighted:

- The sanctuary building has been integrated into the ministry center to function as one building.
- The sanctuary seating capacity has been increased to 2100 seats.

- Expanded a Quiet Room on the main floor and additional space on the mezzanine floor with extra rooms.
- We lost the shop because of the footprint of the building. We've gained a 3000 sq ft shop and mechanical building in the basement with minimal costs. Overall 9000 sq ft above subgrade.
- Sanctuary access to the second level ministry center.
- Main entrance to the sanctuary will be on the south side of the building. Most parking around the rear of the property. East side and front parking as well.
- The large foyer space will look like you are entering one building.
- It will cost more money unfortunately.

Break for voting

### **Stewardship Committee Report** - Bruce Belsher, Chair

Thankful for Ruth Ross, Finance Director, as well as Chrissy Fehr, Contributions Bookkeeper Coordinator, and Delayne Nickel, Purchase and Travel Coordinator. The work that they do is monumental.

### **Five Big Ideas:**

1. Psalm 127:1a - If God doesn't build the house, you build a shack.
2. Good news - We are going to be balanced. Bad news - we missed the giving target by \$500,000. There were vacancies and some things we budgeted for were not needed, we also cut back on some church planting initiatives. General giving was up 2.4% over last year. Overall giving is 27% higher.
3. Since the April 2023 approval meeting, we are at 81% of the \$30,000,000 - cash and pledges we have \$24,300,000. As of May we are 62% of cash on hand. We have \$11,000,000 more to go.
4. How did we get to that \$30,000,000 target - 2019 values, \$25,000,000 for the building, \$2,000,000 contingency, \$3,000,000 for renovations. Since that time, we have had 4 years of inflation - at least 18%. We will have a much firmer estimate in the Fall.

### **Budget-** Jonathan Giesbrecht, Executive Pastor of Administration

Page 35 in the package. Last year we created a stretch budget of about \$10,000,000. As Bruce highlighted we were short of that by about a half a million. Looking at a target for next year we did the same thing - a budget that is about \$200,000 / \$250,00 ahead of what our target is. Is a stretch but we don't feel it is an unreasonable stretch. It is about 5% or 6%. We have seen our capacity to give. The campaign doesn't mean that all ministries pause.

Overview of the budget changes:

- Page 33 shows the high overview changes in personnel. About \$250,000 higher. Biggest change is added staff. We run a very lean staffing team. Most churches have 70% of their budget going to personnel.
- Not a lot of other substantial changes - insurance premiums went up, ministry increases such as Children's Ministry, Kitchen costs for Saturday night meals..
- Note that it looks like we are cutting Mission Campus' budget by \$2,000 but that is not a cash consideration. Amortization is coming down by \$20,000. Their operational expenses are going up by about \$18,000.
- Multiplication has come down to accommodate some of these increases we have seen.

**Motions** - Darryl Kropp

**Q&A** - Questions were brought forward and answered.

**MOTION 4:**    **That the Membership approve a revenue and expenditure budget of \$10.25 million for Northview Church.**  
MOTION PASSED

**MOTION 5:**    **That the Membership approve a revenue and expenditure budget of \$900,000 for Praxis.**  
MOTION PASSED

**Close** - Darryl Kropp

Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm