

April 2018 Council of Elders Meeting Summary

Pastor Rob read a portion of Philippians 2, shared some reflections, and invited elders into a conversation around the text.

Finance Committee members were affirmed as follows: Marc Kole (treasurer), Dave Hoekstra (financial secretary), Pastor Andrew, Chuck Hahn (elder), Steve Abbott, Andrea DeJong, Amy Clark, Rick Kamminga.

Jen Daly formally transferred her membership to Thornapple from Faith Covenant Church (Manistee, MI).

Treasurer Marc Kole presented his report. Giving through the first three months has been significantly low compared to budgeted levels and to where we were at this point in recent years. Expenses have been close to budgeted levels. This leaves us with a larger than anticipated operating deficit that makes monitoring our cash position a vital task.

Financial Secretary David Hoekstra presented data on contributions and attendance as we try to understand the financial situation and trends over recent years. There is a strong connection between lower attendance numbers and lower contributions. Recent tax law changes and the building campaign are likely affecting unrestricted giving, however, the extent is unknown.

Pastor Rob and Pastor Andrew gave an update on the Nepali speaking ministry and Ram Aryal. Ram will remain employed until July 22 as he works on various tasks and projects. April 1 was his final Sunday leading worship and preaching. Patty and Pastor Andrew held a time of worship and conversation on April 8 that was characterized by a high degree participation and an openness to future...just keep sending the buses!

Mike Smith shared that bids for construction are coming in and are being leveled right now. Final bids will be reviewed on April 23. The \$4.8M budget still carries a construction contingency. Contracts will be start to be issued in late April/early May. Groundbreaking is April 22. Construction will begin in May.

Elders had a discussion about the financial shortfall situation. Both the revenue and expenditures adjustments were explored.

Elders decided it is time to investigate guns on our property.

Pastor Rob gave updates on congregational vitality initiatives - organic outreach, people to people, and intergenerational church.