

Council Notes: August – October

- The Church Property Committee gives thanks for the successful completion of the redecorating project over the summer and appreciates the encouraging comments about the updates.
- Council sent a deacon and pastor delegate to the September Classis (regional group of CRC's) meeting. Nathan Voss, seminarian, attended as an observer as part of his continued preparation for pastoral ministry.
- Council praises the Lord that in addition to Nathan Voss, William Roelofs, also a member of Faith CRC, has recently begun the process of seeking ordination in the Christian Reformed Church. Nathan is currently attending Mid-America Seminary in Dyer, Indiana and is feeling called toward pastoring in a local congregation; William is attending Vanderbilt Divinity School and is sensing a call toward chaplaincy ministry.
- Council has commissioned a Strategic Team made up of some church leaders and members at large. The team will begin meeting in November.
- Council has begun preparations for Elder-Deacon nominations in January of 2019 and election by the congregation on May 5, 2019.
- The Finance Committee is in the process of securing new and better church insurance.
- The Safe Church Team continues to make updates to Faith's Safe Church Policy. So far this update has included background checks on all volunteers who work with those under 18 and new requirements for volunteer training starting this past September. More updates will continue according to our new insurance policy requirements.
- The Deacons report generous giving from the congregation toward our church funds and many ministry partners beyond our congregation.
- The Shalom Committee's mandate has been extended for one year. The Ebenezer CRC partnership they've initiated continues to grow.
- The Church Property Committee is doing a Church Security analysis and plans to begin recommending updates and improvements to Council in the near future.
- Guests from Providence Life Services met with Council in October. They gave thanks for our partnership (currently we have church members at—and a close relationship with—Park Place in Elmhurst as well as Providence West and Saratoga Grove in Downers Grove). They also introduced a new service to help adult children make decisions with their elderly parents about health care, housing, etc.
- Reports from various committees indicate a positive start to this church year's ministries, with active and well-attended small groups, Bible studies, children and student programs, as well as successful one-time events like Fall Fest, the GEMS Spaghetti Dinner and Dr. Berksma's class on reading the Bible.
- Our Elders continue to receive and discuss monthly written reports from the pastors and our Director of Youth Ministries.
- Council is making plans for their annual review of the full-time staff in the new year.