

SLT UPDATE

January 16, 2019

Attendees: Rick Bulthuis (Elder Representative), Dave DeGroot, Rev. Gregg DeMey, Steve Loerop, Rob Petroelje, Mimi Stanton, Kevin Van Solkema, Ken Vos

The following are highlights from the Senior Leadership Team meeting on January 16, 2019:

- 1. Elders:** Rick Bulthuis noted that the Elders met on January 14th. Their discussions centered on the vote that opened the offices of Elder and Minister of the Word to women. There was also positive feedback from Pastor Gregg's email/letter notifying the congregation of the decision. Lastly, Rick mentioned that they have a full slate of Elder nominees.
- 2. Deacons:** Barb Bulthuis (Deacon Representative) provided a memo detailing the Deacon's activities for the month of December. Their activities included widow/widower visits, completing the deacon nominees, making Deacon Fund disbursements, and handling benevolent cases. Their last meeting was January 14, 2019.
- 3. Executive Director:** Phil Sikkenga presented his report for information. Phil added that he is working with Cedarstone (ECRC's accounting firm) to account for designated gifts in a more efficient manner. He noted that some of the trees on the west side of the property need to be removed, replaced, and treated due to disease. Phil said that they are working on replacing Ashley Slinkman and that Tara Taming is temporarily taking over the children's worship position. Phil is continuing to work on filling the position for Sunday morning security. He also added that some repair work will be needed to keep the organ in good working condition. Phil also had positive things to say about the staff and that he is eager to see how people's lives will be impacted during the new year.
- 4. Lead Pastor:** Pastor Gregg's report was presented for information. Gregg said it was a good day of fasting and prayer with the Elders prior to their meeting on Monday. He also noted that hosting Calvin's January series had been a positive experience. Pastor Gregg informed us that for the first time the installation of Elders and Deacons will occur immediately after the congregational meeting. Gregg discussed the idea of having a high-level annual review at the end of May to highlight our ministries at the end of their ministry year. There was also discussion of tying the end of year report with a giving challenge. The format of this giving challenge is under consideration. He then led a discussion on "The Art of Asking Questions" from Chapter 6 of the book, *The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations*. Gregg noted that having a healthy curiosity is developed by having a desire to know, understand, and connect with someone. He noted that Jesus asked many questions as a role model for us to follow. Pastor Gregg then presented the steps of the "Natural Order of Curiosity": 1. History 2. Transitions 3. Principles 4. Goals. In February we will discuss chapter 7 of The 9 Arts book.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Dave DeGroot presented and reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income Statement as of December 31st, 2018. Dave noted that because of the strong end of year giving we will create a savings account that will earn 2% interest and we will be

able to put \$150,000 in the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund. Dave also noted that our expenses were under budget by \$180,000.

6. **Finance:** Dave DeGroot then reviewed the proposed budget with SLT. He noted that the budgeted receipts reflect a 1.24% increase to \$3,200,000. Dave then detailed the various expense accounts and how they compared to the 2018 budget and actual costs. A couple of the significant increases were due to new staff, i.e. full-time Pastor of Outreach and the new Executive Director.
7. **Christian Education Committee:** Mimi Stanton reported that the committee recently met and picked the following dates for the Christian Education Program (CEP) *Mandatory Parent Meetings*: Sunday, April 7, Wednesday, April 10, and Sunday, April 14. And for the *Income Verification Meetings*: Wednesday, April 17, Wednesday, April 24, and Sunday, April 28. The committee decided to table selecting the Timothy Christian Board Representatives until after the other ECRC leadership positions have been filled. Mimi added that the committee agreed to provide special assistance to a current CEP family.
8. **Audit Committee:** Kevin Van Solkema noted that the committee will meet in February. He added that Tyler VanderBrug has agreed to serve on the committee.
9. **Ten Talents Team:** Rob Petroelje presented the minutes from their meeting on January 9. Rob noted that the team has broken into three teams and that they are making good progress.
10. **Pastor Search Committee:** The Search Committee plans to meet in the near future to say thank-you to the team. There are no plans to re-start the search process at this time.
11. The next SLT meeting will be Wednesday, February 20, 2019