

## SLT UPDATE

August 15, 2018

**Attendees:** Barb Bulthuis (Deacon Representative), Dave DeGroot, Rev. Gregg DeMey, Jack Lanenga, Steve Loerop, Rob Petroelje, Kevin Van Solkema, and Ken Vos

The following are highlights from the Senior Leadership Team meeting on August 15, 2018:

1. **Elders:** The elders met on August 13th and Pastor Gregg DeMey reported that it was a productive meeting. He highlighted that the Elders started the process of following up with inactive members.
2. **Deacons:** Barb Bulthuis (Deacon Rep) presented the minutes from the Deacons meeting on June 18, for information and stated that their next meeting is August 20th. Pastor Gregg added that some Deacon representatives met with World Relief in August to see how Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church (ECRC) might be able to help with the refugee crisis.
3. **Executive Director:** Jack Lanenga presented his monthly report for information. Jack opened the discussion on consolidating the Barnabas note into a new mortgage loan. Ken Vos (SLT Chair) presented the rationale and key factors for consolidating the Barnabas note into a new 20-year mortgage note. The motion was supported and passed. Jack also noted that the semi-annual invoice to Park Place for maintenance work will be going out soon. Jack noted that his attendance at the Church Network Conference was a productive time. As a result of attending the conference, Jack will be bringing a proposal to join Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) in the fall. Jack also stated that we have a favorable mortgage rate compared to what was being noted by other church administrators. He highlighted from the conference that out of all of the attendees, ECRC was the only church to have a capital equipment replacement fund.
4. **Lead Pastor:** Pastor Gregg DeMey's report was presented for information. Pastor Gregg noted that the church staff participated in their first ever "Safe Work Place/Harassment Education" session led by Sheri VanSpronsen-Leppink. There was then discussion how this education session should be part of annual staff training. The other sessions would include CPR and Emergency Preparedness. Pastor Gregg then highlighted a discussion the Elders had in regards to Gender and Ordination with the intention of discussing how men and women have served in the roles of Deacon and SLT over the last six years. Later Pastor Gregg led a discussion based on the book, "*The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversation: Walking Alongside People Who Believe Differently*". These "Arts" will form the basis of our fall sermon series as well as being recommended for study and practice by many of our small groups. Pastor Gregg noted that the book takes a common-sense approach to having spiritual conversations. It starts with an effort to be understanding and empathetic and having conversations that are orientated toward making a connection and asking questions versus telling. One suggestion is to start with small acts of love i.e. "A Cup of Cold Water".
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Dave DeGroot presented and reviewed the Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2018. Dave then reviewed the Profit and Loss Statement through July. He noted that

our giving is \$253,000 behind budgeted giving. Dave also reviewed the Cash Flow Report and noted that cash levels are fine, but just not where he would like them to be. Dave mentioned that the Treasurer letter will be going out to the congregation in the next couple weeks.

6. **Ten Talents Team:** Rob There was no July meeting however, Rob Petroelje reported that their next meeting is on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rob noted that Greg Wolterstorf will be the TTT's new Elder representative replacing Rick Bulthuis. Rob also added that Chelsea Bardolph will be joining the team.
7. **Personnel Committee:** There was no July meeting however, Rob Petroelje reported that he, Gregg, Jack and Steve met to confirm that the personnel reviews have been completed. There was a good conversation about the efforts of the staff and how they are feeling empowered to implement new ideas.
8. **Audit Committee:** Kevin Van Solkema noted that there was no July meeting but reported that Todd Buikema has requested Audit and Review proposals from 8 firms.
9. **Christian Education Committee:** There was no July meeting for CEC, however Mimi Stanton reported that the Timothy Christian Schools enrollment numbers continue to change but the numbers appear be similar to last year. She also noted that there have been two requests for additional assistance.
10. **Search Committee:** Ken Vos reported that Sam Hamstra has supplied the committee with a list of candidates. The committee will be meeting August 28<sup>th</sup>. It is the hope of the committee that the new Director of Discipleship will be in place by the end of the year.
11. The next SLT meeting will be Wednesday, September 19, 2018