

SLT UPDATE

November 20, 2018

Attendees: Barb Bulthuis (Deacon Representative.), Rick Bulthuis (Elder Representative), Dave DeGroot, Jack Lanenga, Steve Loerop, Rob Petroelje, Mimi Stanton, Kevin Van Solkema, and Ken Vos

The following are highlights from the Senior Leadership Team meeting on November 20, 2018:

1. **Elders:** Rick Bulthuis presented the minutes from the Elder's meeting on November 12th.
2. **Deacons:** Barb Bulthuis presented the minutes from the Deacon's meeting on October 19th. She added that the Deacons just met on November 19th. Barb noted that the Senior Breakfast hosted by the Deacons will be December 8. She also added that Love Inc. raised \$15,000 at their concert hosted by ECRC, and Jack thanked the many Deacons who showed up. Barb shared that the Deacons have distributed funds from their Diaconal Fund account including funding for Loop Christian Reformed Church in their support of a refugee family. Lastly, Barb mentioned that their widow and widower visits are being scheduled for December.
3. **Executive Director:** Jack Lanenga presented his report for information. Jack reported that Phil Sikkenga (new Executive Director) has been shadowing Jack and starts full time December 1. Lastly, Jack noted that Rick Noorlag's last day at ECRC is November 30: Rick has accepted a full-time position at Christ Church of Oakbrook.
4. **Lead Pastor:** Pastor Gregg DeMey's report was presented for information. Pastor Gregg highlighted his appreciation for the extra efforts put forth by Rob Petroelje and Ken Vos over the past few months. Pastor Gregg reported that Andy Pasek (Student Ministries Coordinator) has been approved to preach by Calvin Seminary (where he is currently a student) and that he will be preaching on November 25. Pastor Gregg also shared that at the Elders' meeting in November a considerable amount of time was spent on the topic of Gender and Ordination where Gregg presented them with five questions. Pastor Gregg also briefly discussed a memo where the last four pastors of ECRC gave their opinions on whether now was the correct time for women to serve as Elders. Gregg then led a discussion on Chapter 5, from The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversation book, *The Art of Listening*. He highlighted a couple challenges: "*Quick to listen and slow to speak*" and "*Listening can be interpreted as love*" and "*...a difference between hearing and listening can be questions.*" At the December SLT meeting Pastor Gregg will lead a review from that book on Chapter 6, *The Art of Asking Questions*.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Dave DeGroot presented and reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income Statement as of October 31, 2018. Dave noted that as of the end of October we were \$201,000 under budgeted receipts; Jack Lanenga is projecting our expenses to come in \$100,000 under budget; and as of the October 31 we have received \$50,000 more than last year to date. He added that our Cash Flow Report showed our cash position has improved at the end of October. There was no finance meeting this month; however there will be a meeting in December to review the proposed 2019 budget.

6. **Personnel Committee:** No meeting this month. Rob Petroelje commented that the feedback from staff regarding Phil Sikkenga as the Executive Director has been positive and that he is fitting in well.
7. **Audit Committee:** Kevin Van Solkema presented the minutes from their meeting on October 23. Kevin reviewed the committee's work in evaluating Audit and Review proposals from four different firms. The SLT approved the engagement of Capin Crouse in an Audit of the 2018 financials. Kevin commended the work of Todd Buikema in gathering and evaluating the proposals. Additionally, the Audit Committee will need to replace Dawn Feenstra next year as her term has ended; the committee is looking for recommendations.
8. **Ten Talents Team:** Rob Petroelje presented the minutes from the team's meeting on October 31st. Rob noted that the committee broke into sub-teams to lead their part of the Stewardship Roadmap.*
9. **Pastor Search Committee:** Ken Vos reported that the committee has made an offer to Derek Elmi-Buursma for the Director of Discipleship position. Ken then led a discussion on recommending Rev. Jeff Klein to full-time ministry at ECRC. The SLT approved the recommendation that Council extend a call to Jeff Klein to become a full-time minister at ECRC.
10. The next SLT meeting will be Tuesday, December 19, 2018

* Find more about The Stewardship Roadmap at elmhurstcrc.org/stories.