

SLT UPDATE

October 17, 2018

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

The following are highlights from the Senior Leadership Team meeting on October 17, 2018:

1. **Elders:** Rick Bulthuis presented the minutes from their meeting on October 1st. Rick highlighted how Rev. Jeff Klein has been working with the Missions Team including adding rotation of terms of the members among other new ideas. Rick mentioned that the Elders adopted the following paragraph to guide their discussion regarding "Gender and Ordination".

The Elders of Elmhurst CRC are taking up the topic of "Gender and Ordination" (formerly termed "Women in Ecclesiastical Office") as part of our monthly meetings during the course of the coming ministry year. We are consciously leaning on the theological foundation of our denomination which recognizes that "there are two different perspectives and convictions on this issue, both of which honor the Scripture as the infallible Word of God." This means that we will not be having a theological/Biblical debate on this topic. Rather, we will be seeking to discern - with the freedom granted to us by our denomination - what best aligns with the present and future mission, vision and spiritual health of our congregation.

2. **Deacons:** Barb Bulthuis presented the minutes from their meeting on September 17th. She noted that the Deacons also just met on October 15th. The Deacons have completed the Thanksgiving offering list and they have also started working on their list of Deacon nominations.
3. **Executive Director:** Jack Lanenga presented his report for information. Jack noted that our church has been accepted by the Board of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)*. Jack mentioned that they are working on removing the black stains from some of the concrete walls. Jack also mentioned that Sheri VanSpronsen Leppink is proposing we put up a new ECRC sign visible from Brush Hill Road and it was agreed that Jack should look into the different options and what limitations the church might have. Jack also provided an update on security plans and implementation strategies. Lastly, Jack mentioned a conversation he had with John Bolt, Director of the Finance & Operations of the Christian Reformed Church NA, on the evaluation of and possible revision to the current denominational Ministry Shares** system.
4. **Lead Pastor:** Pastor Gregg DeMey's report was presented for information. Because Pastor Gregg and Jeff Klein were in California at the Explore God event, Ken Vos highlighted from Pastor Gregg's report that nearly 600 Chicago area churches have signed on for the Explore God project. Ken also mentioned that the SLT Executive Committee met in early October to come up with a strategy to help make the congregation aware of our financial position. At the November SLT meeting Pastor Gregg will lead a review of Chapter 5 in, "*The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversation*."

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Dave DeGroot presented and reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income Statement as of September 30th, 2018. Dave also added that our Cash Flow Report projects us to be \$180,000 behind budget at the end of the year.
6. **Personnel Committee:** The minutes from their meeting on October 10th were presented for information. Ken Vos noted that interviews for the Executive Director position will be occurring October 22nd.
7. **Christian Education Committee:** Mimi Stanton presented the minutes from their meeting on October 9th. The committee has come up with some new ideas to implement in the 2019-2020 Christian Education Plan (CEP) roll-out.
8. **Audit Committee:** Kevin Van Solkema noted that the committee will be meeting October 23rd to review the four Audit proposals. He also noted that they will discuss adding new members to the committee.
9. **Ten Talents Team:** The minutes from their meeting on September 20th were presented for information. Rick Bulthuis gave an overview of the Stewardship Roadmap^{***} and showed the introductory video that the congregation will be viewing in November. It should be noted that the SLT is appreciative of the work done by this team.
10. **Search Committee:** Ken Vos reported that the committee had face to face meetings with three candidates and that some staff members were able to meet with the candidates. Ken believes that the committee will have their recommendation by the next SLT meeting in November.
11. The next SLT meeting will be Tuesday, November 20, 2018.

* *The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability* is an American financial standards association representing evangelical Christian organizations which qualify for tax-exempt, nonprofit status and receive tax-deductible contributions.

** *Read more about Ministry Shares at crcna.org/MinistryShares.*

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