

SLT UPDATE

August 18, 2021

Attendees: Rev. Gregg DeMey, Mimi Stanton, Rob Petroelje, Kevin Van Solkema, Ken Schaafsma, Aaron Ozinga, Ken Vander Wal (Elder Representative), Jennifer Stolzenbach (Deacon Representative)

The following are highlights of the August 18 Senior Leadership Team meeting:

- 1. Elders:** Ken Vander Wal presented the minutes from the monthly Elders' meeting on August 10. At that meeting, a motion was made to adopt a single Sunday worship service to experience God, in unity, through Bible-based and Spirit-filled worship. The Elders unanimously supported the motion and endorsed the formation of a single worship service, with a continued development of the worship style. The Elders will verbally affirm this decision in each worship service for the next month and cast vision describing the anticipated benefits of worshipping all together.
- 2. Deacons:** Jennifer Stolzenbach presented the minutes from the Deacons' meeting on June 21 and reported from the August 16 meeting. She reported that the Deacons have been prayerfully discerning God's vision for financial stewardship in the 21st century and reviewing our approach to offering. Along with a shift to digital expressions of worship, people have transitioned to online tithing and giving. Deacons want to foster this virtual stewardship, by encouraging congregants, both virtually and in-person, to make regular tithes. The traditional baskets will still be circulated during the Family worship service each month and free-standing collection boxes will be available at the sanctuary doors for those who give by check, cash, and other material tithes. Deacons have printed materials to familiarize members with digital giving and how to make an electronic fund transfer for financial offerings. Jennifer also reported that Ron Becvar has moved to Indiana, leaving a vacancy on the Deacon team. Jennifer has agreed with the Deacons' request that she stay on for an additional year to finish Ron's term.
- 3. Executive Director:** Mimi Stanton presented her report for information. She reported that the new website is in the final stages of development. Mimi recognized Kyle Olson and Sheri VanSpronsen-Leppink for their combined vision in creating an innovative website that responds to the need for digital engagement and represents ECRC's standard of excellence. Mimi also reported that the Regather Committee will meet to discuss whether Covid protocols are recommended for indoor worship. She also reported that in the coming weeks the rooftop HVAC units will be serviced, the Little Lambs areas will be repainted, and the east parking lot will be seal-coated and restriped.
- 4. Lead Pastor:** Gregg presented his report for information. He reported that he met with more than 120 members, (primarily from PrimeTime, two installments of the choir and worship planners) to listen and reflect on the conversations the Elders have had regarding the worship experience at Elmhurst CRC. Elders were present at each session, adding wisdom, heart, and eloquence. Gregg expressed deep gratitude to the Elders for their decision regarding worship and for shepherding us forward. Gregg reported that the staff had an on-site retreat to focus on the "vine work" of our fall ministries. He noted that indoor worship begins on September 5, but a formal ministry kick-off and celebration service will occur on September 12.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Ken Schaafsma reviewed the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, and liquidity levels as of July 31, 2021. He reported that we are under budgeted expenses. He also reported that year-to-date giving is at \$1.53MM against expectations of \$1.76MM. Ken reported that Cedarstone is finalizing our PPP loan forgiveness application.
6. **Audit Committee:** Kevin Van Solkema reported that the 2020 audit is complete and there were no major concerns regarding our financial health and operations. The committee reviewed the church insurance policy and coverages. They also reviewed the Safe Church Handbook and Employee Handbook and proposed changes to reflect the new Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) guidelines for mandated reporters.
7. **Christian Education Committee:** Gary Van Prooyen provided an update on the Covenant Education Program (CEP). Gary reported that 205 Elmhurst CRC students are participating in the 2021-22 Covenant Education Program. Elmhurst CRC's commitment to Christian education is reflected in our generosity and financial gifts to the CEP. One of our core values is children; and by God's blessings through the CEP, we continue to raise up generations of children who glorify God, by supporting an academic foundation in Christ. Gary also reported that with Lisa Zylstra's retirement, Karen Helmkamp is our new liaison in the Timothy business office.
8. **Finance Committee:** No meeting.
9. **Personnel Committee:** Kevin Van Solkema reported that the Personnel Committee will begin reviewing and updating the Personnel Committee Operating Guidelines. He reported that while staff continues to develop a vision and structure to revitalize our teen and young adult program, it is necessary to fill the open position in the Youth Ministries department. He reported that Kyle Groters has accepted the role of Youth Ministries Coordinator. Kyle has previously been on staff as an assistant with the Elmhurst CRC Youth Ministries team. He has experience with the Profession of Faith process and understands the issues teens encounter in the current culture. Kyle has a vision for our Youth Ministries program, and together with their families, he wants students to discover who they are in Christ. The SLT approved the decision to offer Kyle a full-time position as Elmhurst CRC's Youth Ministries Coordinator and appreciates his enthusiasm and leadership.