

Meadowlands Fellowship CRC
Pastoral Elders Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2022, 7:00-9:15pm

Present: Ed Van Beilen (co-chair), Tammy De Gelder, Greg Luth, Judy Cook (scribe), Carolyn Kelly, Everett Vander Horst

Absent with notice: Wilma van der Woerd (co-chair), Len Tigchelaar, Tim/Jolene Veenstra

1. Devotions: Ed opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. For devotions he read a chapter from the book *How the Bible Actually Works*, written by Peter Enns, Part of Chapter 1, "God is not a helicopter parent." He then prayed for the meeting.
2. From 7-8pm, the Deacons joined us for a discussion led by Everett on the emerging new Care Ministry Structure, a new approach to delivering pastoral care for the congregation. (Note the handout, attached, which begins: "Visioning Plan Care Objective").
 - 2.1 Instead of *Pastorates* being the only avenue for pastoral care, a hybrid model will include *Households* or *Districts*, which comprises all the regular attendees and church members who are not presently involved with Pastorates.
 - 2.2 How will the plan be explored further? An Ad Hoc committee of PE's & Deacons was appointed, to include Everett (pastor), Tammy (PE), Ed (PE) and Caell (Deacon) to write up the new "Care Ministry Plan." The aim is to have this new plan ready for initial presentation at the Council meeting scheduled on **September 29**.
 - 2.3 The ad hoc committee will meet at the church on Thursday, September 8 at 7:30pm.
 - 2.4 Questions: Should elder and deacon teams meet together before each separate PE & Deacon meeting? How would that work with this new model? At present there are two "visiting elders," (Len & Judy), but no "visiting deacons." It was agreed that all deacons are "visiting deacons" already.
 - 2.5 HSR and MFCRC: Where are we at, next steps? Everett responded to questions on the various responses that Council members, as well as members of the congregation, could choose to take after Synod's acceptance of the report. Dissent by council members and congregants include the option to express disagreement via a "Gravamen." ACTION: Everett will send some samples of "Gravamina" to help the rest of us understand the concept. Gravamina are confidential and will not be shared with the congregation or the classis. They also do not need to be more than a simple paragraph. If confused – call Everett for clarification.
 - 2.6 Also, part of "next steps" is a Survey that will be filled out by members of the congregation of all ages. Next steps might also include new type of "Listening Circle" called "Challenging Conversations" similar to those already conducted.
 - 2.7 At this time, at about 8:15, the elders and deacons continued their meetings separately.
3. Roundtable Pastorate Sharing: No pastoral concerns noted. Ed shared the happy news of Karina's marriage.
4. Elder's handbook: It was decided our devotions for the year would be based on this handbook. Wilma will "set the tone" for the next meeting (September 22nd).
5. The Service Elder List was reviewed. Ed will update the list.

6. No Matters Arising from the Minutes
7. Membership matters: None
8. Preaching request by John B.: ACTION: The Sermon Evaluation Team (Wilma van der Woerd, Ray Hendriks, Nicole VanderWindt) will contact John and oversee the process of approving the sermon manuscript. Wilma will be the point person to contact John. John's sermon delivery will tentatively be scheduled for November.
9. Should Co-chair of PEs attend future Board meetings? It was decided that might be advisable, at least for the next few years, since there is also a Deacon rep. on the board. It was noted that Everett, as an employee, does not have a vote.

Motion to request of the Board that Ed Van Beilen become a voting member of the governing board as Pastoral Elder, for the duration of our church's deliberations around HSR concerns.

10. Roll-out of Pastoral Care Model: See **2.2**
11. What are the next steps for us, with respect to HSR and MFCRC? Should we do Listening Circles once again using the new "Challenging Conversations" format recently released by Pastoral Church Resources? What should be the next steps after the Survey? It was noted that Sean Baker, of Pastoral Church Resources might be able to advise. ACTION: Ed will get in touch with Sean to get more information of what is available for the next steps.
12. Next meeting date: September 22 @ 7:00pm
13. Future Agenda Items: Deferred
14. Tammy closed the meeting with prayer.