

Altamont Family Meeting Notes: April 27, 2025

- **Parking Lot:** We now have access to the parking lot. There are 77 spaces available; some are taken up by trucks parked there. Chain will be taken down before service starts and locked before noon. If you park there and the chain is in place, DON'T PANIC. Simply drive out the back of the lot.

- **Completed Documents**

- **What We Believe document:** Many eyes have helped with this document including the Altamont Leadership team, VBC elders, VBC staff. It has been released as a common document for both campuses. It can be found in the VBC website: <https://vbc.online/who-we-are>

The Crossing mission statement is above the What We Believe statement and, while this is a good mission statement, I still am pursuing a separate mission statement for the Altamont campus that captures the mission for our church family.

The document has two main sections. Our What We Believe doctrine above represents the foundations of the Christian faith. The distinctives within Altamont Bible Church may distinguish us from other churches who would affirm our belief statements above. These distinctives shape the way that Altamont Bible Church is led and the direction the church is headed.

- **Deacon document:** Document has been completed and is ready for use. We are not in a hurry to roll out new deacons other than the roll of deacons is to offload tasks from the elders.
- **Church name:** We need a name for our church family. This is needed for our non-profit filing as well as a number of our guiding documents, including the What We believe document. We've narrowed down to two options. Please give your thoughts at vbc.online/altamontprg
 - Altamont Bible Church: *Clearly communicates the type of gathering to the general public.*
 - Altamont Bible Fellowship: *Communicates the relational reality of life together in Christ*
- **Independence working groups:** Up to this point my focus has been on making sure that the trains are running on time. We have an amazing group of servants here at the Altamont who have stepped up to allow us to continue functioning week in and week out in spite of the disruptions to leadership here at the Altamont. I have been working to improve the avenues of communication across the various teams to make this easier so we all can focus on ministry rather than scrambling to tie up loose ends. I am now

starting to transition to addressing those tactical things that are needed for us to operate independently. Nathan and I met with Shawn to brainstorm the various things needed to create a non-profit, to function as a business, and to operate as a healthy church. This formed the basis for the “WHAT” that needs to be done in order for us to launch as an independent church family.

We need help on HOW to best address these in the areas of **Legal** (non-profit paperwork creation and filing), **Technology**, **Administrative**, and **Finance/Bookkeeping**. If you have expertise in any of these areas and desire to help please send me an email with your name, phone number, and area of expertise and I will find a time for us to meet and talk through how you can help.

altamont_elders@vbc.online

- **CERP (Cardiac Emergency Response Plan):** A member of the VBC family works for the American Heart Association and has offered to help us put a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan in place. Our hope and prayer is that we will never need to make use of this, however, seconds count. The point of putting this plan together is that we will have a team of folks that are standing at the ready and know what to do should we have a cardiac event. A draft of this plan is in place and we will be hosting a CPR training session mid-June to equip folks. Contact Jim to join the team: altamont_elders@vbc.online
- **Giving Update:** A couple of weeks ago Shawn sent out a video update to the Crossing community. Most of the update was Crossing specific so it was not sent to the Altamont family. One area that is in common is giving, so I wanted to give an update. Giving at both campuses and overall had been tracking to last year's giving at this point in the year. It dropped off a bit after the announcements regarding tariffs were made and the markets went wonky. We are currently running about 19% under our weekly need. I am not sharing this to make you feel guilty in any way, but just to make you aware of where we stand. 2 Corinthians 9:7, *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*
- **Overview of Nathan's role as Connection Pastor**
The Connections role has three main aspects: 1) connecting the Altamont leadership as we serve the Altamont community, 2) connecting the Altamont church members and visitors to the life of the community and its ministries, and 3) connecting to the Livermore community through service projects, community engagement and church partnerships.

Nathan is positioned to help those who need help getting connected to the life of the church (ministry, small groups, questions, help from the community) as well as anyone who has ideas for ways to expand our love within the Altamont community or Livermore more broadly: Nathan@vbc.online
- **Our next Family meeting is scheduled for May 25th**

Questions asked during the meeting

- **Are we able to extend our existing lease of the building?** Our landlord is willing to extend our lease and possibly give us additional space. We are in the process of negotiating that. We also continue to look for alternate spaces.
- **Are we at a point where we can open a banking account to manage our giving and expenses?** Before being able to open an account, we need to complete and file our incorporation paperwork and file for our non-profit status.

Answers to these questions are posted on the main page:

vbc.online/altamontprg