

Pastoral Elder Meeting Minutes
MFCRC Youth Room
Thursday, June 23, 2022 - 7:00pm

Attending: Rob Brouwer (co-chair), Wilma van der Woerd (co-chair), Connie Bijl (scribe), Ed Van Beilen, Carolyn Kelly, Greg Luth, Tim Veenstra, Len Tigchelaar, Everett Vander Horst

Regrets: Tammy de Gelder, Sarah & Justin de Moor, Judy Cook, Harry Boer

1. Opening: Due to communications mix up, we didn't meet with deacons, or have devotions. Wilma sent around a communion schedule for us to review and Rob opened in prayer.
2. Roundtable Sharing: We shared how our pastorates are doing with in-person gatherings and spent time in pastoral prayer.
3. Matters Arising:
 - 3.1. Elder handbooks: There is a lot of information for elders on our church website. Also, there is a CRC Elder handbook in each elder's mailbox. Everett proposes that the topics be used for discussion or devotional each meeting.
 - 3.2. Pastoral Elder Training: Tim, Wilma, & Connie are still willing to organize a session, perhaps best now for September. Could there be opportunities for elder mentoring? Perhaps could be organized within elder teams: each elder is paired with another elder who acts as their family's elder.
 - 3.3. In addition to the exit interview reported in last minutes for Ian & Grace Wigboldus, Connie also interviewed them. As well as building their family community in Brantford with church and school, they also agree with the more conservative views of Hope CRC.
4. Visioning Team:

Work continues on the final report, and they hope to present it to Council in September. A large piece is pastorate groups and how to improve them.
5. Elder Roles:

Co-Chairs: Wilma van der Woerd & Ed Van Beilen
Scribe/Clerk: Judy Cook
Care Group Elder: Judy Cook (to attend 2 meetings per year)
6. Pastorate Allocations: Pastorate 6 (Connie) & 9 (Harry) are now vacant. We have Judy as a visiting elder who can float in between for pastoral concerns. Can we ask for nominations for elders from people who declined in the past because they didn't want to be pastorate organizers, but would be a visiting elder? Pastorates could have a social coordinator in-stead. Connie & Harry are asked to request such volunteers within their pastorates.
7. Discussion about Synod's adoption of HSR. Everett reported on 5 options that office bear-ers currently have. He also offered advice (6 membership options) for us to share with our pastorate members He will send the documents to us.

We wonder about the climate in the congregation, especially in light of the conversation held this past Tuesday. It would be wise to calm the emotional responses and offer choices that help keep options open for the long term.

We agree that the elders will hold an information meeting after the Sunday service on July 17 to present options of membership as a follow up to the Synod decision.

6. Closing: Everett led us in prayer of thanksgiving for our work as elders and encouragement.

Next Meeting: July 28 at Ed Van Beilen's home (if needed). For Fall, be sure to connect with deacons to co-ordinate a meeting with them in groups to three, generally the 30 minutes before our meeting.