

Happy New Year, church!

This has been a whirlwind of a Christmas season. Scattered among these holiday weeks, we have had a couple of meetings and we wanted to keep you up to speed regarding the topics of our discussions and any decisions that have been made.

1. December 3rd, 2019 Meeting

- a. Joint Governance & Transition Team Meeting - The first part of our regularly scheduled meeting was conducted as a joint meeting with the Governance Team around the topic of women elders. Every member present for both teams had the opportunity to share their biblical view on this matter. The purpose was for the Governance Team to hear from Transition Team members and vice versa as the Governance Team looks to write the qualifications for an elder in our church into the new bylaws. The desire of all is to maintain a solid biblical approach to these qualifications. Once this discussion was over, members of the Governance Team exited the meeting.
- b. OneLife - the topic of our youth took up the remainder of the night. With Nicole stepping down, the Transition Team recognizes the need for stability and predictability for our youth. Two proposals were presented for consideration.
 - i. Danielle Elliott proposed that she and her husband Chris could step in and lead the youth. She stated she has a passion for seeing the youth ministry grow and thrive and would like to be compensated for one day a week to dedicate to that instead of doing her massage business that day.
 - ii. Pastor Greg and Pastor Tom proposed the idea of combining our youth ministry with the youth ministry of Hilltop Celebration Church - under the direction of Dallas Rostad. Pastor Greg and Pastor Tom simply asked for permission to continue to be prayerful about it and to discuss this possibility with Pastor Dallas and Pastor Jeremy.
 - iii. Danielle exited to allow for discussion among other board members regarding her proposal as well as Pastor Tom and Pastor Greg's proposal. A motion to proceed with discussion with Hilltop was made, seconded, and unanimously carried (with Nicole abstaining from the vote due to conflict of interest and Pastor Tom as the interim pastor remaining a non-voting participant meeting regularly with the Transition Team).
- c. Staff Christmas Bonuses
 - i. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to give all staff, pastors and their wives Christmas bonuses ranging from \$100-\$300 each (Pastor Greg and Pastor Tom exited for this discussion and vote as staff members and Amber was not at the meeting).
- d. Giving
 - i. The following items were unanimously voted on for giving:
 1. Salvation Army - \$1,000
 2. Pacific Garden Mission - \$1,000
 3. \$1,000 to two different families in our church with significant medical needs

2. December 17th, 2019 Meeting

- a. OneLife
 - i. More discussion regarding the topic of our youth - after more time and prayer, and input from several parents in the congregation, Pastor Tom and Pastor Greg felt like moving toward a merger with Hilltop Celebration Church's youth ministry would introduce too

much unsettledness and uncertainty into the ministry and the church that at this time needs stability.

- ii. Pastor Tom communicated he and Greg had been talking and that in an effort to bring “calm” to our youth ministry, Pastor Greg would like to step in and help oversee the leaders and reevaluate the direction over the next six months or so.
 - iii. There was a lot more discussion around the topic of Danielle and Chris taking it over as well. Pastor Greg also shared that two other members of the congregation had put forth their names for consideration as potential leaders of OneLife. It was clear from multiple members of the group that the youth do need someone who is dedicated to pouring their life into the ministry and expressed concern that Pastor Greg is more than likely not going to have the capacity to do that.
 - iv. A motion was made and carried to have Pastor Greg step in for the month of January in order to give the team more time to think and pray. More discussion is planned for this coming week’s meeting. Please join us as we prayerfully consider what God has for our youth in this interim.
- b. Budget
- i. Pastor Greg and Pastor Tom submitted a draft budget for the review of the team. More discussion will be had on this in the coming weeks.
- c. Farmland Rent
- i. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to rent the farmland owned by the church to Wayne Preston again (Wayne abstained from the vote due to conflict of interest). The rate is comparable to other farmland rented in the area.
- d. Teaching on Women in Leadership
- i. Further discussion is being had regarding women as elders and/or women in leadership within our church.
 - ii. A motion was made, seconded, and carried by a 7-2 vote to bring Rick Wadholm (who happens to be Amber Gerstmann’s brother in-law) in to teach both sides of the “women as elders” conversation in the month of January in order to bring biblical understanding on this matter to everyone in our fellowship.
- e. Bookkeeping Proposal
- i. Pamela Schurmann, our current bookkeeper, submitted a proposal to move our bookkeeping processes to the cloud and update the software being used for tracking revenue and expenditures as well as running payroll. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to have her move forward with the adjustments as of the new year.
- f. Hilltop Sexuality Seminar
- i. Pastor Jeremy from Hilltop Celebration Church has reached out to multiple churches in Fergus Falls to team up to do a seminar for the leaders in area churches to learn how to better reach and minister to individuals who struggle with their sexuality. More discussion will be had regarding this, but a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to host one of the days of the seminar in our gathering space. This will take place in March and there is strong support from other churches. We are looking forward to teaming up with the churches in our area to discuss this very important topic.
- g. Bylaw Voting Process
- i. We discussed the process briefly and will be working toward solidifying this process during our first meeting in 2020, which will be January 7th
- h. Giving: It was unanimously voted to support the following ministries and/or people:
- i. Jail Inc - \$500
 - ii. YWAM for Caleb Stillwell - \$1,000
 - iii. Inspiration Point Flood Relief - \$2,000

Please subscribe and check back for ongoing updates in the coming weeks and months.

We love you, Church!

-The Transition Team

Doug Newby
Dave Lindgren
Amber Gerstmann
Wayne Preston
Greg Permann
Nicole Rostad
Mary Robertson
Danielle Elliott
Joyce Monk
Tom Stuart

PRAYER FOCUS

1. For the Governance Team as they write the draft of the bylaws
2. For OneLife and wisdom for Transition Team regarding this.
3. Our community