

Summary of the Council of Elders Meeting – March 2022

The Council of Elders met two times this month and welcomed Brian LeCleir to the board along with electing the following officers: Patty Dekker (Chair), Josh Traughber (Vice Chair) and Gail Mortenson (Secretary).

A significant amount of time at both of the meetings this month was spent listening to, providing feedback, discerning and eventually affirming a draft of the Visionary Plan from the Vision Team. Jim Smith reported from the Teaching Pastor Search Team of the progress thus far with Vanderbloemen Group and Doug Josephson reported on the work of the Worship Staffing Work Group. A brainstorming conversation also occurred surrounding how the elders can connect with congregants and support the staff.

February Treasurer Report

- Total unrestricted gifts ("general or operating fund") for February 2022 was \$66,900 or \$7,100 below budget. Total unrestricted giving for the first two months of 2022 was \$177,200 or \$17,200 above budget but \$26,300 less than a year ago.
- Operating expenses for the first two months of the year are slightly over budget, however there are several items that were recorded against budgeted expenses that should be taken from the Capital Reserve account (will be corrected next month). Expenses would otherwise be under budget.
- Our YTD Operating Deficit (i.e. expenses exceeding revenue) is running at a \$33,952 deficit, roughly on plan for the year-to-date.
- Cash available for operating purposes stands at \$400,580 as of February 28, an increase of about \$26,400 since the beginning of the year. The YTD operating deficit is more than offset by the collection of gifts receivable that were outstanding at the end of December.
- Building gifts restricted for the building/mortgage totaled \$2,345 through February. Total building restricted assets of \$34,655 includes \$10,760 cash and the escrow held by NCP of \$23,895. The mortgage has a balance of \$814,864 as of February 28, 2022 compared to \$993,500 when initiated in early 2020.
- Monies spent from the Capital Reserve will be tracked and reported here starting next month (we need to reclassify in March some expenditures that were booked against budgeted expenses but should have been against the reserve).
- Giving Units through February 2022 declined 6% from 2021, and 18% from 2020. The amount contributed to the General Fund per Giving Unit declined by 8% from 2021 but increased 7% from 2020. There were no new givers in February however there have been 5 new givers for the year-to-date.

Both meetings were ended with prayers of thankfulness to God for His faithfulness to Thornapple and a request for His continued guidance, presence and wisdom.