

## July 2018 Council of Elders Summary

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Suzanne Lieuwen opened with a devotion on peace, the third fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5.

Treasurer Marc Kole presented his monthly report.

- Total unrestricted gifts ("general or operating fund") for the first half of 2018 is approximately \$602,000, or \$83,500 below budgeted levels. Total giving for 2018 is now \$76,000 behind amounts received for the same period of 2017, and \$87,000 behind the first half of 2016. June receipts of \$93,000 were almost \$25,000 below budget for the month. June has historically been a relatively high month for unrestricted receipts, ranging from \$127,000 in 2013 and 2014 to \$111,000 in 2017. June's receipts total is the second lowest month in 2018, trailing only February. Current forecast of total unrestricted gift for 2018 shows a projected shortfall of approximately \$195,000 from the approved annual budget.
- Operating expenses are \$98,000 less than budget through the first six months, with a \$29,000 variance generated in June. The operating deficit through June is being driven by the giving shortfall, and is consistent with 2016 when we experienced cash flow problems in late Fall.
- Gifts restricted for the building project have totaled \$427,000 for the first six months, with \$62,000 received during June. Costs related to the building project of \$260,000 have started to increase, consistent with the project beginning in earnest in June.
- Cash available for operating purposes stands at \$137,000 as of June 30, a decline of \$57,000 from the end of the year, and an increase of \$5,000 from the end of May, primarily due to the lower expense spend during June.

Scott Bolinder, Marc Kole, and Pastor Andrew introduced a discussion and time of discernment about the financial future of our church for the next few years. It began by recalling our mission as a church, the Always Making Room initiative and corollary building project, congregational vitality efforts (organic outreach, people to people ministry, and intergenerational ministry), the I Am A Church Member summer reading & reflection invitation, and a growing sense that God seems to be inviting our church to greater vulnerability as we offer and receive ourselves in humility and love. The elders are wrestling with all the implications of our current reality that we are a smaller church compared to our peak years. We remain committed to being faithful stewards of all that has been entrusted to us as we continue our constant pursuit of faithfulness to God and his mission for his world.

Elders made a motion to conclude the budget and staffing of the NSM ministry area.

Elders welcomed Bruce & Kay Stewart and Karel Kenyon into membership. They will be welcomed in worship in the coming weeks.

Roger and Judy Faber requested their membership from Thornapple be transferred to Calvin CRC after healthy communication with elder leadership. Elders gave thanks for their time among this local congregation and their way of leaving.

Mike Smith reported the building project is on schedule and on budget. Some of the construction contingency has been used during the demo/discovery phase, which is the phase that carries the greatest unknown factor.