

## Council of Elders February 2019 Summary

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Scott Bolinder shared devotions, reflecting back on his 3 years as an elder.

Kae Kingma and Brian DeBaets from the auditing committee presented the report for 2018. This is significant in that the reporting is now more timely. The focus of the 2018 review was the building project, processes, the new accounting software and reporting to the congregation. Everything checked out very well. Taren's knowledge of and thoroughness in using the software was noted.

Treasurer Marc Kole presented his report.

- Total unrestricted gifts ("general or operating fund") for January 2019 is approximately \$125,000, or \$29,000 above budgeted levels, and almost \$27,000 greater than 2018. January has historically been one of the lowest months for receipts. This year's total includes approx. \$25,000 of gifts where the donors indicated that the contribution represented the full year 2019 amount.
- Operating expenses for the first month of the year totaled \$84,000, or \$8,500 less than budget, with most spend categories having a positive variance for the period.
- Cash available for operating purposes stands at \$243,000 as of January 31, an increase of \$63,000 from the end of December, due to the strong January financial results and the collection of gifts receivable which had been outstanding at the end of December. Cash available for operating purposes was \$178,000 as of January 31, 2018.
- Gifts restricted for the building project totaled \$74,000 for the month, and \$3,257,000 campaign-to-date. Costs related to the building project were approx. \$346,000 during January, with total costs of the project of approx. \$3.4 million. Total building project cash is \$292,000 as of January 31st, which includes \$285,000 of retainage payable. The construction loan has a balance of \$162,000 as of month end.
- Attendance during January averaged 584 per Sunday, a decline of 10% from January 2018 (651) and 3% from December (602). Giving Units declined 2% from January 2018, while amount contributed per Giving Unit increased significantly over 2018 as a result of the total amount received during the month.

Approximately \$5,700 of memorial funds was designated to finishing the community center (Always Making Room project). This is in accordance with the desires of the surviving family members per our memorial procedures.

Mike Smith gave an update on the building project. In February, the committee had a large final fit and finish meeting to put the last pieces into place before the May 4 Community Open House.

Elders reviewed some observations and feedback from some "mystery guests" who visited Thornapple in worship recently.

Elders shared stories of congregational vitality they are seeing and hearing.