

April 2019 Council of Elders Meeting Summary

Elder chair Suzanne Lieuwen opened with Scripture, reflection and prayer.

Elder committees were established - membership, benevolence, finance.

Treasurer Marc Kole presented his report:

- Total unrestricted gifts ("general or operating fund") for March 2019 is approximately \$114,500, or \$6,000 above budgeted levels, and almost \$19,000 greater than 2018. March has historically been one of the higher months for receipts, and this year there were five Sundays during the month. Total unrestricted giving for the first three months of 2019 is \$331,500, or \$32,500 above budget and \$49,000 greater than what was realized in 2018. As you recall, total unrestricted giving for the first three months of 2018 was very low.
- Operating expenses for the first three months of the year totaled \$270,000, or \$50,000 less than budget, with most spend categories having a positive variance for the period. Student Ministry spend is over budget due to the summer trips deposits. International Missions is over budget due to the reclassification of \$3,750 to Langham Partnership, as approved by the board during March.
- Cash available for operating purposes stands at \$262,000 as of March 31, an increase of \$12,000 since the end of February, and \$82,000 from the end of 2018, due to the strong financial results for the first quarter and the collection of gifts receivable which had been outstanding at the end of December.
- Cash available for operating purposes was \$134,000 as of March 31, 2018. Gifts restricted for the building project totaled \$43,700 for the month, and \$3,350,000 campaign-to-date. Costs related to the building project were approx. \$824,000 during January through March, with total costs of the project of approx. \$3,875,000. Total building project cash is \$108,000 as of March 31, which does not include \$47,500 held at NCP. The construction loan has a balance of \$310,000 as of month end.
- Attendance during March averaged 540 per Sunday, a decline of 5.3% from January - February (570 average) and a decrease of 16% from March 2018 (642). Giving Units for the first three months of 2019 declined 3% from January-March 2018, and 14.5% from the first quarter of 2017. Amount contributed per Giving Unit increased significantly over 2018 as a result of the amounts received during January-March combined with the decline in Giving Units.

Properties Committee chair Ron Wassenaar presented pricing for replacing the large parking lot sections that are not included in the construction project. After a lengthy discussion, with input from a recent Finance Committee discussion, elders appointed a work group to investigate what could be done in the near future and report back in May.

Elders approved a revised facility use policy after discussion last month, additional research, and legal review. This policy supports the Community Center and our hopes that we will see increased use of our facility.

Elders had a discussion about small groups. Our pastors see small groups as a key way for disciples to grow together. There are many in our church in small groups and many who are not. How can we inform, encourage and invite people to be in some form of community centered on Christ?