

November 2016 Council Report

The Council Meeting began at 7:00 pm on Nov. 15th. We discussed the CBE program, and the impact it is having on each of us. Kavan noted that it is amazing that we are reading in essentially the same format that the first readers saw (in a translated form of course.) Another thought focused on how much more like real people the authors seem now. Brad offered a couple of thoughts on Biblical translations. Most of the newer versions are thought for thought translations because of the near impossibility of making sense of word for word translations. Also, the newer the version, the more resources the translators have available to them.

We continued with the discussion of what constitutes a “win” for the Council according to the book 7 Practices of Effective Ministry. Brad was unable to schedule a date for the training seminar about seeking spiritual discernment. After engaging in some brainstorming, Brad suggested he meet with 2-3 Council members and draft a “win” statement for consideration at our next meeting. Kavan, Carolyn, and Mark volunteered.

The Consent Agenda and the October Financial Report were accepted, after which we took up the Discussion items. Athele asked for, and received, guidance as to who to consult with regarding making changes to the GO Team’s web file. It was also noted that Paul Cairn’s tenure with the GO Team is nearing its conclusion.

JD reported that he and Carol are training Jen up on what we need in the proposed security manual.

Brad reported that we have signed a contract with Station 19 to prepare a Master Plan for “refreshing” our facilities. Interviews with staff and others should begin in December, and the plan should be ready by February. Pat Simpkins will be our Project Manager.

11 new membership applications were received and approved! Praise God.

In a discussion of our financial situation, it was noted that giving continues to fall below our budgetary needs. For a variety of reasons, expenses are also below projections, so much so that we have a cash surplus right now. The Finance Committee has been asked to investigate where we might be able to park some of this money temporarily, and get a return on it. While this is certainly an enviable position to be in, we must remember that it is a temporary situation. Further, because we are a “senior heavy” congregation, we must remain focused on attracting new and hopefully younger members to our family. So never miss an opportunity to invite someone to visit us; and never miss an opportunity to warmly welcome someone you don’t know. First impressions are critical to return visits.

Ben closed the meeting by reading Ecclesiastes 1:2-11 which helped him put the recent political season into its proper perspective; and Romans 15:5-6 which should be our marching order moving forward.