

Quarterly Elder Report – April 29, 2017

We strive to follow our heavenly Father's direction in all our duties. "Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it." Proverbs 8:32-33

In case you haven't noticed, there is a subtle change in how the elders and rest of the church leaders communicate and collaborate. We are trying to be more intentional about including relevant folks in discussions and routinely keeping the congregation informed as to the goings on of the church's leadership. The recent congregational forum is one example. Following is a summary of the forum held April 29, serving as the quarterly elder report.

First Impressions – Pastor Rollie briefed the congregation on his initial impressions (both affirming and offering suggestions for improvement), from his first few weeks as our pastor. Consider that other first-time guests who worship with us also form their own "first impressions" of SRCC. These are insights from which we can all learn. For more details, contact Pastor Rollie.

Summary of comment cards from annual meeting – The elders reviewed, consolidated, and considered all comments. Strengths: preaching and sound doctrine, welcoming church. Suggestions for improvement: Adjustments needed to Connect hour (subsequently done), improve fellowship, small groups, greeting new people. A welcoming task force has since been formed to review and refine our welcoming ministry.

Elder Retreat – Discussion included congregational vitality process and next steps, a possible Alpha course (SRCC has done this in the past, next steps to be determined); elders are now reading and discussing *Organic Outreach for Churches*, by Kevin Harney.

Leadership Retreat – Communications, primarily how to report ministry team work and how to make the leadership meetings and ministry team work as productive as possible. MTL meetings will now be referred to 'Leadership Meetings', reflecting composition of attendees: church staff, MTLs, elders, and church officers. We had more discussion of the vitality process and outreach plans.

Vitality Process – We will reengage in the Vitality Pathway process. More than two years ago we completed Veritas, the first phase. Some parts of the Vitality Pathway are completed; others will need to be redone. Follow on key phases are EPIC (Empowering People Inspiring Change) and PULSE (a congregational survey process). We are now recruiting participants for the Vitality team. The process could be completed as soon as mid 2019.

Welcoming Task Force – Shawn & Danielle Hanson, Jeanette & Brad Lorang, and Pastor Rollie will review and offer recommendations to revise our welcoming ministry.

Christian Education – Briefly reviewed the nearly completed year of the Connect hour and discussed intentions for next year. Feedback is being solicited from adults who participated and/or who may wish to participate this coming fall.

Pastor Joel Osterlund's Ordination Process – Pastor Joel Osterlund will soon reach a milestone in years long ordination process. On June 23, 7:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Marriot City Center he'll be ordained! Mark your calendars now, and let the church office know if you plan to attend the service.

We are a great family! Current leaders are working hard, focused on living out our faith. Consider joining a ministry team.

If you have suggestions or questions on items mentioned in this report or any matter regarding the church's spiritual leadership, please contact me or another member of the elder team.

In His Service,
Charlie Quigg, chair, on behalf of the elders