

Elder's Report to the Congregation – May 2018

To my sisters and brothers in Christ. Blessings to you all and to your families. I hope you had a wonderful Spring and Easter season filled with the love of Jesus.

I am writing to keep you updated on the activities of your elders, who were chosen by you to provide governance leadership at New Life. This governance takes place in the form of praying for the congregation, guarding the vision and mission, advising the staff, creating and setting policies, interviewing and welcoming new members, and dealing with matters of church conduct and discipline.

Since our last report in January 2018, we have had regular meetings and have been busy working on several fronts including the following:

Canada Summer Jobs Program: New Life has applied for funding grants and has been rejected by the Summer Jobs Program. In the past, the Canadian government paid for half of the wages of our Summer Interns. To be eligible, under the new program, New Life would have to attest that both the job and the organizations core mandate respect certain “values” as determined by the Federal government. This change means that to be eligible for the grant, organizations would have to attest that their core mandate affirms the government’s position on abortion, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression. New Life is unwilling to make this declaration because it contravenes our “Statement of Faith”.

Smoking on Church Property: New Life had a policy which did not allow smoking of tobacco products in church buildings. This policy was supported by provincial government rulings. Concern about the legalization of marijuana, and the lack of government guidelines of its use, the Elder Board was asked to develop a policy to avoid potential issues on smoking of anything, anywhere on church property (buildings and grounds). New Life's policy was amended and adopted to this effect.

Nominating Committee report: A report was received from Kathy Benstead re: the three names put forward for consideration. The three candidates were as follows: **Gillian Fowler, Mark Buesink and Adam Kouwenberg**, who were approved after careful consideration and prayer.

Nominating Committee: One of the responsibilities of the elder board is to select a suitable candidate for the nominating committee each year. At the time of writing, the elders have been charged with the responsibility to pray over a list of potential names from the congregation. The name of the individual will be announced after this process has been completed.

As summer approaches, we are invigorated by the warmth and sunlight. During this period, and especially after Easter, as we are mindful that our Lord has risen, and is our King, my prayer is that you will be all renewed in your faith in Jesus. I thank the Lord for our church family.

May the Lord richly bless you and your families and keep you in good health.

Shalom,
Don Paget – Elder Chair, NLCBC