

## ELDER'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION OCTOBER 2017

To my sisters and brothers in Christ. Blessings to you all and to your families. I hope you had an enjoyable summer spending time with the family and friends. I am writing to you to keep you updated on the activities of your Elders, who are elected by you to provide governance leadership at New Life. This governance takes the form of praying for the congregation, guarding the vision & mission, advising the staff, creating & setting good policy, interviewing & welcoming new members, and dealing with matters of church conduct and discipline.

Since the AGM in June, we have had regular meetings, and have been busy working on several fronts including the following:

1. Appointing a new Elder in place of Phil Williams. Following our June AGM, Phil Williams let us know that he and Shannon were relocating to Toronto, and that he would not be able to fulfill his final year on the Elder's Board. According to our new Constitution and By-laws, your Elders are required to appoint someone to finish Phil's term, and after prayer and conversation we selected Doug Perkins to the Board. Doug has served on the Elders before and agreed to complete Phil's term, for which we are very thankful.
2. Statement of Faith. A revised Statement of Faith has been completed over the summer months, and is now ready for congregational review and affirmation for our fall Semi-Annual Meeting in November. In preparation for this, we have scheduled meetings to review with the Elders the revised Statement of Faith that has been updated to include a section on biblical marriage. These meetings are scheduled at New Life on Thursday Oct 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, Tuesday Oct 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and Sat Oct.14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon.
3. Legacy Foundation. Over the summer the Elders created a Task Force, under the leadership of Chuck Thompson, to look into the concept of a creating a Foundation that will be able to receive and direct legacy gifts for New Life Church. The Elders are desirous to establish such a Foundation in order to manage long-term bequests from our congregation for ministry, something we cannot do under our present societal status. We will be providing a presentation on this at our semi-annual AGM, and at that time will ask for congregational affirmation to complete this work.
4. Downtown Ministry. The Elders are continuing to prayerfully consider opportunities for some kind of downtown ministry, keeping in mind the recent Downtown Task Force's recommendation that we focus our efforts on meeting systemic needs, not just acute ones.
5. Syrian Refugee Completion. Late in 2015, the Elders identified an opportunity to sponsor a Syrian refugee family, and brought this to the congregation for affirmation. The Almohamed family arrived in June 2016, and were welcomed at the Victoria Airport by our Syrian Task Force and brought that evening to a fully furnished rental accommodation. Some of the areas in which the Task force aided the Almohamed family were: education, housing, health, socialization, and employment. We reached the end of our sponsorship year this June, and in looking back it has been a tremendous joy and success. The Almohamed family has blessed us with their resilience, grace and determination, while the Task Force was made rich by their hospitality, humour, gratitude and love of life. As the Task Force was formally disbanded, many of its members, along with others in our congregation, will continue their relationship with the Almohameds of course, help them in any way they can.

That's all for now. May the Lord richly bless you and keep you in health.

Shalom,

Don Paget - Elder-Chair, New Life Community Baptist Church.