

Dear Church Family,

First off, thanks SO much to everyone who was able to make it to the Semi-Annual General Meeting (SAGM) Tuesday night; we had a terrific attendance of nearly 100 members showing up! For those of you who couldn't make it, we're providing this brief information update so you can stay informed of all the exciting things we have developing at New Life.

SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY

To start with, it was certainly exciting to get the news (and a photo!) in the middle of our meeting that the Syrian family we're sponsoring arrived safely at the Victoria Airport right on time.

A big thank you to the Refugee Task Force who have worked hard attending to the countless details and getting everything into place.

NEW LIFE CHURCH VISION

Pastor Ken reviewed the findings from the 2016 Cottage Meetings and presented the vision that your Elders believe God is calling us to. This is a long term plan that includes a local priority, a Downtown Ministry Centre, and a global priority, a Partnership in Central America with Food for the Hungry Canada. This vision is God sized and will require an all in commitment by everybody who calls New Life their church.

This ambitious and exciting vision was affirmed at the SAGM with the understanding that lots of work and details need to be worked out and we will move forward step by step.

The next step for the Downtown Ministry Centre will be for the Elders to put together a Task Force to do a needs assessment and report back with their recommendations. This will allow us to determine what type and size of space is needed and allow for better planning for the 2017 budget. This information will be shared with the congregation and will be included in the budget to be presented at the AGM.

The next step for the Food for the Hungry Partnership will be a Poverty Bootcamp, a one-day workshop that will challenge us to reconsider our definition of what poverty is, what causes it and how we can be a part of changing it. Stay tuned for more details.

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

Pastor Ken presented a Staffing Update and as you are aware we currently have a Worship Pastor Search Committee, looking for a Worship Pastor and Pastor Ken with a group of others looking for a Youth and Young Adult Pastor. With the resignation of Pastor Jordan, it allowed us to take a step back and identify other areas needing support, which are discipleship (including Life Groups) and general associate pastoral help which includes preaching. This gives us five boxes, so to speak, that need to be filled, youth, young adults, worship, discipleship and general associate pastoral work.

The Worship PSC has been working hard this year, under the leadership of Michelle Friesen, to find a Worship Pastor, but no suitable candidate has yet been found, which, honestly, has been a bit surprising to us.

We are also well aware that Pastor Ken's workload as the solo pastor of a church our size is not sustainable and he is getting tired.



During the process of looking for a Youth and Young Adult Pastor an individual strong in the areas of Young Adults, discipleship and general associate pastoral help came across our path, checking off three of the five boxes identified. The Elders have met on two separate occasions with this individual and his wife, Jen, for the purpose of determining if he would be the right fit for our church's needs and expectations as well as following up with many references. We were thrilled to conclude that he does!

We are excited to announce the Elders unanimous recommendation of Andrew McDonald as an Associate Pastor Candidate for New Life Community Baptist Church. Andrew has been working at Camp Qwanoes for the past five years leading the Kaleo program and the summer CIT/LIT program. Andrew finished his time at Camp Qwanoes earlier this spring and is currently on a cross Canada adventure in a fifth wheel trailer with Jen and their three children under 5 years of age. We are aiming to bring Andrew and his wife Jenn to our church for a candidate weekend June 24-26.



This will be followed by a congregational meeting on Tuesday, June 28 for a vote on calling Andrew MacDonald to be our associate pastor.

Bringing Andrew on as an Associate Pastor leaves the areas of youth and worship still needing to be filled. However, having a strong Associate Pastor does change the skill set requirements of those we would be looking to fill these positions as there would no longer be a need for them to take on some of these other roles.

GOVERNANCE UPDATE

A draft version of the new Constitution and Bylaws was presented and the significant changes highlighted. An opportunity for congregational input will be provided in the near future. We will be adopting the new Constitution and By-Laws at our Annual General Meeting this November.

As always, we invite your feedback and welcome your comments and questions regarding all of these matters. We know that we all share a common heart and a passion for all we do in order to serve God effectively in how He's created each us in His image. This is an exciting season for New Life, and we are thrilled to be on this journey with you all.

Allan Kinnee (Chairperson) on behalf of your Elders