

Topic: Financial Update: Motion re: a request for Mortgage Principle Payment Relief from the Baptist Foundation: Presentation of a Ministry Opportunity in Labrador City.

- November 23, 2014 at the Allison Campus of The Journey Church
- Attendance: 55

2:30 pm Prayer with the Board members

3:00 pm Board Chair (Dean Hennessey) welcomed congregation members and prayed, followed by offering a timeline summary for the meeting

3:04 pm Financial Update: Neil Rogers and Linda Hisey for Finance Team [FT]

- *Presentation draft showed June 1st to October 31st 2014's total giving was \$224,540 ~Praise God!*
- *NGP (NextGen Pastor) Campaign is finished and no longer part of the revenue stream*
- *Higher expenses in July/August threw finances in a bit of a loop (replacing heat pump, equalized power bill, payment to CABC, etc)*
- *Currently we have no margin*
- *Good News is that giving is trending upwards!*
- *The last 7 weekends of General Fund giving averaged \$10,880*
- *Preauthorized Debit sign up was encouraged*

How do we recover from the 'July/August' reality? How do we create margin without disruption and take care of business?

- *The Christmas offering offers the option to give to "Obstacles and Opportunities"*
- *Another option is to seek Principle Payment Relief for 12 months*
- *Principle Payment Relief on both the Allison Campus and Brentwood Campus loans would save almost \$30,000 over the next 12-month period; this would be replenishing our contingency fund*

Chair: Spoke of our governance model and roles, and indicated that to modify our spending plan, we need congregational input and a vote

Dave: Spoke to wanting to stay within the 3 predetermined goals (staff retention: upgrades to the campuses: maintain movement forward) and that we can better do this by ensuring margin in our current finances with Principle Relief



Congregational Meeting of The Journey Church (Highlights)

Chair: As the Board, we hold Dave accountable to wise management and we believe he is being wise in this. This needs to be approved by a motion and the Baptist Foundation requests that we have a tally of the votes

The Motion: *I move that The Journey Church submits a letter to the Atlantic Baptist Foundation requesting principle payment relief for our two loans for a 12 month period beginning December 2014 or as soon as possible.*

Moved

Seconded

Question?

(Glimpse into some of the questions and comments of discussion)

Member: We agreed to the spending of the contingency fund, but how long did it last?

FT: This started with the July/August problem. It represents approximately one giving week; it's what this equals. It was our hope to pay it back but we were not in a position to do so yet

Member: Interest payments? What are they and how much is left on the mortgage?

FT: The interest payments from both sites combined are \$1583 and there's \$341,537 left on the mortgage

Member: If we don't need the full 12-months, can we start paying it back sooner?

2 Baptist Foundation members were present.

Baptist Foundation member (a): Yes! At any time

Baptist Foundation member (b): And if someone wanted to gift the full amount, we can pay that back sooner too

Member: What will this cost us more?

FT: Estimated \$5,500 over 11 years; insignificant over life of our church

Member: What of the new Vision Plan?

Dave: When the Vision Plan gets implemented, it will be with the new budget as the implementation of the Vision paper should be expressed within the new budget in the new budget year.

- We want to be realistic. This gives us flexibility but the goal is to replenish it as we can

Member: What is our Plan B?

Dave: We have incremental strategies, more drastic as we go if and as required. This is both wise and good stewardship. The goal is not to pay off the mortgage earlier or in 10 or 12 years, the mission is *Leading People to Follow Jesus, Love God, Love Others*

Member: Staff cuts are weighing heavily on me if we don't go forward with this

Dave: Clarified that staff cuts would not be considered unless absolutely required as this is as difficult on him as the rest of us. We, as a congregation, have to take ownership but also to understand the complexity of leadership and ministry. This is not about an automatic vote for this or we lay someone off but we would have to seek out all of our options. Possible staff cuts would be part of that discussion. We want to be realistic but not imply a threat. We want to be hopeful. We value staff immensely

- Reminder: The vote is for Plan A alone, not Plan B

Chair: Mentioned that we value staff and also recognize that it would be counterproductive to let go of staff only to recover in 9 months or so and need the very staff person's qualification but no longer have them

Member: If we proceed, will it be enough?

FT: It will help a great deal and hopefully it will be enough. Variable that could affect this would be snowstorms, increased oil expenses, and snow plow expenses

FT: Fluctuations in the giving is a factor too. Preauthorized debit giving to God first really helps us meet our goals. People give better when they are in church. When there's a snow storm, people give less

Board Chair called for the question Members present: 55

Aye: 53 Nay: 0 Abstentions: 1* (*Baptist Foundation member*)

Motion carried (**the other BF member had left the room*)

4:05 pm Dave introduced Labrador City: an Opportunity for Mission

When Ty and Amanda Dunham launched from TJC, it was lightheartedly entertained that maybe God would place a multisite church in Labrador City. God has been nudging this for them with many young professionals there

- We viewed a quick look video of Labrador City and some demographics
- Labrador City has 12,000 residents; about 2,000 attend church regularly

Where do we go from here? Proposed for consideration...

- Phase One: Journey Group/House Church (currently a Journey Group)
- Phase Two: Teaching Venue
- Phase Three: Regional Site/Campus

- There is no extra cost to us at Phase One. For Phase Two, they have looked into a local inn as a teaching venue. At Phase Three, a full blown site would include cost
- Dave spoke of the timeline projection and shared that CABC has a church planting fund. They want 65 new expressions of church plantings. Let's see where God leads this! We don't know yet if we would even get approval but we are thinking ~let's ask!
- Dave shared of a current member who works in the oil fields out West who shared of inviting men to a common space and viewing the sermon messages together as a mini TJC out in Western Canada. He also spoke of our local Journey Groups and how both of these are just alternate forms of Journey Groups.



Congregational Meeting of The Journey Church (Highlights)

- Can you keep this in prayer? Prayer and support would be our current cost. This is simply a ministry initiative; there is no vote needed. It is just as another Journey Group currently in place
- We would only speak into it at the voting level if it impacted the budget or exploded in growth

4:26 pm **Closing prayer**

On behalf of the Board, as secretary, I prepared this summary of highlights and observations made at the Congregational Meeting of November 23rd, 2014. Please note, as this was not an official Church Business meeting, these do not represent official minutes. (Liette M. Collier)