

Senior Leadership Team Update to the Congregation February 16, 2010

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) held its regular meeting this past Tuesday evening. The following agenda items are highlighted for your information:

- Tara Tameling presented a written report as a co-director of Children's Ministries. Tara's responsibilities include Children's Worship during both worship services, Gems and Awareness. On a typical Sunday morning 20 children are involved in Children's Worship at 8:55 am. At 11:05 the number jumps to nearly 100. Tara is responsible for the staffing and supervision of 20 teachers and 30 student helpers for this ministry. GEMS/ Awareness involves 109 girls in grades 1-8. This year has seen a complete revision of the ministry under the capable leadership of four volunteers – Beth Terpstra, Julie Schaafsma, Nancy Van Hout, and Rachel Klooster.
- All ECRC staff members have just completed a quarterly review with their supervisors. Each staff member is required to submit quarterly goals in four areas: personal growth, operational excellence, staff development and ministry development.
- Treasurer Rob Petroelje reviewed recent offering receipts as well as expenditures. If current giving patterns continue, we estimate that we will end our fiscal year with a \$160,000 projected deficit. Discussions continue as to how this deficit will be met.
- The SLT is considering whether or not it makes sense for the church fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year. The change seems to make sense from a year end giving perspective and also allows for more effective budget planning. Elders and deacons could still be elected and installed in office in June to coincide with the ministry year. The staff, elders and deacons will each have opportunity to discuss the idea before any decision is made. The SLT is also studying the wisdom of using an annual congregational pledge system to aid in the formation of the Elmhurst Ministry Fund budget. An indication of the anticipated financial receipts could be very helpful in formulating a budget. The finance committee will continue to study the matter. Once again, the elders, deacons and ministry staff will discuss the concept prior to any decision being made.
- The next meeting of the SLT is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10. The agenda will be to consider the vision of our congregation for the next chapter of ministry. The team will discuss how and when such a visioning process might take place and those who should be included on a vision team.
- The SLT was presented with the results of the Finance Survey taken in January. The results will be shared with Elders and Deacons at their March meetings. Our thanks to the more than 200 families that responded, giving us a good picture of the thoughts of our congregation on financial matters.

You are always welcome to appear at the beginning of an SLT meeting to offer a suggestion or raise a question. Please schedule your visit with a SLT member and prepare your thoughts to fit a five minute time frame.

Want to talk to an SLT member? You can contact Bert DeJong, Paul Buikema, David Zeilstra, Tim Ellens, Arnie Koldenhoven, Ken Hoving, Rob Petroelje, Rick Bulthuis, or Terry VanDerAa.