

## **Senior Leadership Team Update to the Congregation** **June 17, 2010**

Here's a brief digest of the June 16, 2010 meeting of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

- Randy Bakker attended the meeting as newly appointed deacon liaison. Elder Tim Ellens has accepted a position at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan and his elder liaison replacement will be chosen at the July elders meeting.
- The SLT officers have agreed to continue their service for a second year – Terry VanDerAa, President; Rick Bulthuis, Vice-President, Paul Buikema, Secretary; and Rob Petroelje, Treasurer.
- Dr. Sam Hamstra reported as consultant for pastoral succession. The SLT continues to formulate a strategy for succession in view of Pastor DeJong's pending retirement as Senior Pastor in May, 2011.
- With thanks to God, Treasurer Rob Petroelje announced the encouraging response of our congregation to the financial appeal as we close out the fiscal year on June 30. A number of our members responded to the request to increase weekly giving by 20% and others increased their giving as they were able. On June 6 the Elmhurst Ministry Fund receipts were \$75,481 and on June 13, \$85,627. We prayerfully anticipate that receipts of June 20 and 27 will result in a lower shortfall than previously projected. Thanks to all for their wonderful support of the EMF during this last month of the fiscal year.
- The SLT reviewed the results of a year-end survey by Coffee Break attendees. The positive response to this ministry and values it promotes was overwhelming! Hats off to Laura Boot, Kim Hoff and the Coffee Break leaders for a wonderful year.
- A suggestion was made by a group of congregants that the leadership call a prayer meeting to seek God's wisdom in the decision-making process regarding the financial shortages of the past year. The SLT noted that the process of pastoral transition also calls for the concerted prayers of our congregation. A recommendation was made to the elders that such a prayer service be convened in the near future.
- The SLT approved the formation of a Stewardship Team. The purpose of the team is to encourage faith development expressed in generosity and commitment to Christ's work in the church and beyond. This is done by:
  1. Determining where congregants are in terms of their use of time, talent and giving.
  2. Implementing an annual stewardship campaign by which congregants can pledge their contributions of time, talent and giving.
  3. Working alongside existing structures in the church (educational ministries, finance and long-range planning committees, worship teams, etc.) to develop strategies and opportunities to help develop member giving.
  4. Advising the Senior Leadership Team on procedures that will encourage the stewardship of the entire congregation.
  5. Engaging in regular biblical study of stewardship.
  6. Offering regular communications to members, through newsletters and bulletins, that educate and inspire others on their stewardship journey.The stewardship team is not a fundraising committee. As important as it is to raise money for church ministry, the focus of the stewardship team is to encourage Christians to use their God-given gifts in ways that honor God.  
Pastor DeJong will assemble the team with a view to beginning their work in July.
- And finally, SLT continues to move forward with the process of erecting a permanent church sign.