

COUNCIL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 11, 2018

Council meetings are generally held once per month to prayerfully deliberate the business of our church. Sometimes there is little to discuss and at other times there can be difficult issues to deal with. The goal of these meetings is to determine with the help of the Holy Spirit what is best for the congregation. At the recent congregational meeting some items were discussed and other concerns were expressed. These were dealt with at this week's council meeting and this report is a summary of that discussion. If you have concerns or wish to know more, please contact one of the deacons or elders.

Many members of council and of the congregation were disappointed when Pastor Josh Tuininga did not accept the call to our congregation. Some members questioned whether our congregation was ready to call a new pastor. It is the opinion of council that our congregation is ready and eager to have a new pastor. Many members of the congregation attended the pot luck which was an opportunity to meet Pastor Josh and his family. The Search Committee has resumed its task and is confident that in God's timing we will have a new pastor. In the meantime, Pastor Bernie has graciously agreed to continue his ministry in our congregation until the end of June with a few weeks vacation in March to visit family members. If you wish to have a visit with Pastor Bernie, do not hesitate to tell him.

Attached to the recent agenda for the congregational meeting was a report dealing with the process of choosing new office bearers. Council has read and studied this report which describes Synod's position and also lists how some churches in our classis choose their new elders and deacons. The first page of this report explains why council is studying this process and council will deal with this report again at their regular meeting on January 8. If you wish to have input on this discussion, do not hesitate to talk to one of the deacons or elders or write down your thoughts and give them to the clerk. Any major changes would require approval by the congregation.

Since the resignation of our pastor, council has spent considerable time discussing how to minister to those of the congregation who are hurting and how to move forward as one body even though we may have differing opinions. Council has studied the reports from Synod and has sought advice from our church counsellor and from other CRC leaders. All the decisions that council has made have been done prayerfully and we believe with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. At the January meeting council will again address the issue of how to minister with grace, love and truth and at the same time enable healing.

Council is encouraged by all the active ministries of our congregation, by all the members who faithfully meet every Sunday morning to worship our loving and gracious God and by the testimonies shared even when members face crises in their lives. However, being a member of council can also be discouraging at times, such as when members neglect coming together for worship or when members leave our church family. At the meeting this week council acquiesced with the request from the family of John and Jana Westervelt and children Noah and Victoria and the family of Pam Westervelt, including Kimberly, Jillian and Larissa to transfer their memberships to Community CRC in Dixon's Corners. Council thanks them for their involvement in our church for many years and prays that they will be blessed and be a blessing in their new church.

Please continue to pray for council and the members of our congregation and pray that we may follow God's Word so that we can be a shining light in this community and be servants to each other, to our community and to the world.