

November 22, 2015 Elders Report to the congregational meeting

For the past couple of months the Elders have been processing on the recent NCD report. Rob has done several updates about this and has tried to organize a task force to go into more depth on the need based evangelism category. None of this has really moved or stirred people within CG. So, we began to look at it from different angles. How could we address this topic? Or did we really need to change the topic? What was God trying to share with us? We don't have a lot of traditional evangelists in the CG congregation but we do have people who engage with others. What could we do with this? We decided to re-focus the task force to the topic of the general spiritual health of CG. And then God met with us all, as a congregation powerfully, the Sunday Camille spoke what seemed to be a prophetic word. It was definitely a God sighting, all the elders felt that, as did others within the congregation. The next night was our monthly elders meeting so we spent the entire meeting discerning around what had been shared during the service and where we felt God was leading us. In the end it seemed God was changing our direction a bit, to a new path.

During the meeting we prayed together, shared together, and sifted through thoughts that came to each of us. There were certain ideas that rose to the surface. A main idea was the "building of a rope", words that Camille used. That is, the the congregation becomes a rope, it is made of individual strands intertwined together which creates strength. God intertwines us and creates the strength and purpose. How do we become that rope? There are many aspects of this. Some of which include becoming more interconnected with each other, growing deeper in trust with one another, learning more about each other including our areas of spiritual gifting and passions, how do our personal giftings work within a group, and individually knowing the Gospel well enough that we can be comfortable sharing it with others in our day to day lives. Thus, building a rope of mutual strength and respect, as we can then become a dynamic part of the Body of Christ together. The key is to end up with movement, not forced movement by a program, but movement that is created by God. We can't just learn about each other and end there, there has to be action. From this meeting a concluding/summary statement was--"We want to interact as a church body to learn, callout, support, and exercise both our group and individual spiritual gifts. This interconnectedness can deepen our spiritual life and create focus of movement towards God's will". A verse was also brought to mind—Ecclesiastes 4:12b: "A cord of three strands is not quickly broken".

It was decided to re-focus the task force again, to discern together with God more deeply on the above topic and summary statement. That group is Rob Woodard, Arden, Garridan, Toni, Dianne, Rebecca Skinner, and myself. We have already met and from that meeting are praying around three questions to discuss in our next meeting.

How do we build the rope?

How do we stop being apathetic?

How do we push past comfort zones/go deeper/and be vulnerable with each other as a congregation?

You also can pray around these questions and share with us any thoughts that come to you. Please remember to pray for us as a group as well, that we can hear God's purpose and vision for us at CG and the path that He is setting before us.

Prayerfully submitted,
Cathy King
Clerk of Elders