

April 17, 2016 NCD Task Force Report/Elders to the congregational meeting

In November I brought a report from Elders to the body as to the formation of a task force to focus around the statement “We want to interact as a church body to learn, call-out, support, and exercise both our group and individual spiritual gifts. This inter-connectedness can deepen our spiritual life and create focus of movement towards God's will”. This originally came out of the NCD process.

Today I am going to give you a summary and recommendation from this group. Just so we all remember, this group is comprised of Rob and Toni Woodard, Arden, Garridan, Dianne, Rebecca Skinner, and myself. We have met 4 times since November and through our discussions have began to call our group “Lively Schemers” around the concept of the Spirit's lively scheming and our desire to do this with Him and urge the congregation towards joining in.

We began our discussions around an image that was given to the congregation during a time of open worship—to “build a rope”. It seems as if we are individual strands that aren't engaged closely enough together to be strong. We do not feel we are broken but there is a sense that we could do and be more than we are. Some in the congregation feel there is apathy present while others just feel we are comfortable with one another and where we are; although there does seem to be a lack of energy or weariness that rears its head in some conversations. Our group had a definite sense that, while we as a congregation, like each other and love being around each other, some of us have concern or even fear, of going deeper with each other.

From this we began to focus around three major concepts—How do we encourage? How do we equip? And How do we disciple? As we wrestled around these three areas a sense of “seasons” came to us and this is how we feel we should proceed. We will be journeying into a season of encouragement, starting to engage with each other. This will be followed with a season of equipping and then into discipling. We have no specific times on the lengths of these seasons but feel the Spirit will continue to lead us in this process and it will become clear when we are to move to the next season. So, in the next weeks to months expect to see some changes from the pulpit and from what is offered in terms of small groups, and service opportunities. This will be to create space for encouraging one another to engage further, or newly, in the life of Cherry Grove.

We want to thank you for being a part of this process. Through the past few months, those of us on the team have actually quietly polled you for ideas and opinions on where you thought Cherry Grove was. We have also appreciated your prayers and encouragement in this process for our group. We, as a team, would like to further the work already begun and support Arden and the Elders in moving forward through further spiritual “seasons”. We make ourselves available in however it is felt we can be of assistance in the continued process.

Prayerfully submitted,
Cathy King