

Elder Council Meeting  
October 21, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Members present: Kevin Weaver, Jon Knopp, Randy Beach, Mike Evans, Ross Phillips. Administrative Assistant: Bob Sievert.

Mike Evans opened the meeting in Prayer.

Mike led the study of Romans 1:16-17. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." Jon Knopp will lead the study at the next Elder Council meeting looking at Romans 1:18-32.

The minutes of the October 7<sup>th</sup> Elder Council meeting were approved as edited, and will be posted on the FCC web site: [www.Homeforever.org](http://www.Homeforever.org)

The Elder Council met with Jeff Johnson and Randy Beach to discuss and process the August 2009 mission trip to Guatemala. The mission trip had a significant spiritual impact on those who were a part of the team. Much work was accomplished in area of construction. The team was able to participate in four corporate gatherings with Pastor Antonio's church. In looking forward to future short-term mission trips to Guatemala, the following should be taken into consideration:

- Agenda Harmony for the trip should be established early on in the planning of the trip. What is the purpose of the trip? What gifts are needed to accomplish the purpose?
- It is important for the leader of the team to be trained with a job description and expectations of what is required of the leader.
- It is vital to build the team in purpose and relationships prior to departure. This includes full participation in team meetings and fund raising exercises.
- After the construction process has been completed in Guatemala, there needs to be a determination of how much synchronization exists between the vision and needs of Pastor Antonio's church and Faith Community, before assuming there will be a long-term relationship.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Financial Update through Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>: Bob gave a financial update reflecting the close of the first quarter (12 weeks) of the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Of concern is the fact that giving is down approximately \$30,000 of the level needed to sustain the existing budget if spending were 100%. Projected over a twelve-month period there could be a negative cash flow approaching \$100,000

unless steps are taken early on to reverse the negative cash flow. The Elder Council discussed the following action steps:

- Effective October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 - implement a freeze on expenditures that are not absolutely necessary at this time, or that can be delayed until later in the fiscal year. Approach all spending with frugality, but with minimal negative impact to ministry.
- Prepare a first draft letter explaining the financial challenges we are facing, prior to the next Elder Council meeting of November 4<sup>th</sup>. This letter will be sent out immediately after Thanksgiving.
- Meet with Management Team on October 27<sup>th</sup> to advise and discuss the reality of the challenges we are facing. Discuss additional feasible steps of meeting these challenges.
- Implement a weekly time of fasting and prayer, including the Elder Council members, Management Team members, and others (to be identified).
- If the existing short fall becomes \$50,000 – refinance the mortgage. Possible budget savings of \$30,000 - \$40,000 a year. The down side to such an action is that we will be adding additional years to our mortgage payments.
- If the cash flow problem continues to exist after the refinance of the mortgage note, look at the possibility of salary savings.
- We currently have \$128,000 in reserves. We do not want to spend these reserves down, but realize that we may need to utilize a portion of the reserves this fiscal year. At year's end we will need to take measures to build our reserves back up to the 12.5% of operating budget called for by the Elder Council.

Elder Accountability: This agenda item was tabled until our next meeting.

Constitution Revisions: A copy of the Constitution revisions as completed by the Management Team were given to each elder, along with a copy of the Constitution as earlier edited by the Elder Council. The elders are to take these copies home and study the changes made by the Management Team, for discussion and edit at the next Elder Council meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas Service Projects: The elders approved the sponsoring of an annual "Bell Ringing" team for the Salvation Army fund-raiser at Wal-Mart. An announcement will be placed in the weekly "Update" seeking a volunteer to coordinate this annual Christmas service project. It is expected that Faith Community will participate in this bell-ringing fund raising event on an annual basis until such time as a concern may be raised that would cause the elders to reconsider such an affiliation.

The elders decided not to sponsor the "Love Basket" service project which involves placing a large box in the front of the church lobby for the collection of toys, books, games, etc. Faith Community has committed to "Operation

Christmas Child” on an annual basis, which involves filling shoe boxes with gifts for children in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries.

The elders decided that publicity for “Operation Sandbox Santa” should be placed in the “Want-Ads” of the weekly email communication, rather than in the “Update”, as Faith Community is not a sponsor of “Operation Sandbox Santa.”

Couple in Marital Distress: An update was giving by Ross Phillips about the couple that the Elder Council has been working with in their marital relationship.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Antioch Training Session: Faith Community is considering aligning with the Antioch School “Core BILD” Curriculum for both Life Together Small Groups and Life Together University classes. The curriculum is extensive and can lead to both a Bachelor and Master degree in Ministry. The courses are taught using the “Socratic” method of learner participation. A training session will be conducted in the Team Rooms of our church facility on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Elders, Management Team members, and the LTU and Small Group leadership teams will be encouraged to attend.

Emergency Fund: The elders received a letter from Tricia Pederson who wrote a letter of request, on behalf of Sarah Pfuhl who is in need of reliable transportation. The Elders approved the inclusion of Sarah Pfuhl to the Emergency fund, which provides the opportunity for people to contribute to her need and receive a tax deduction for their gift. The elders encouraged Tricia to first make an attempt to see if any one may have a reliable vehicle they might donate, and if not, to follow that up with an opportunity to make a financial contribution toward a quality used car.

Web Site Update Proposal: Myrna Juhl requested permission to contract with a company to update and maintain our website. The initial cost is \$175, with a monthly maintenance fee that is \$4 higher than what we are currently paying. The elders place a high value on updating our web site, but thought it inappropriate to do so now as there is a freeze on such expenditures. It is hoped that the financial situation will improve and that we can contract with this web site company sometime later this year.

Pastor Continuing Education Request: Joe Sir requested permission to have \$1,200 of his allotted retirement budget allocated to Antioch to pay for tuition as he seeks his master degree. The request was approved.

The elders closed in conversational prayer for the needs of the church family.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Sievert  
Administrative Assistant to the Elder Council