

Elder Council Meeting
May 20th, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Mike Evans, Randy Beach, Jon Knopp. Elder Intern: Ross Phillips. Administrative Assistant: Bob Sievert

Randy Beach opened the meeting in prayer.

Philippians 2: 19-30 Jon Knopp led the discussion/study of Philippians 2:19-30. Randy Beach will lead the Bible study at the June 3rd Elder Council meeting, studying Philippians 3:1-11.

The minutes from the May 6th meeting were approved and will be posted on the FCC web site, www.Homeforever.org

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. FCC Constitution and Doctrinal Statement Revisions: The elders discussed and made minor edits to the doctrinal statement dealing with "The End of Time."

Existing Doctrinal Statement: 12. *"The End of Time" Some day Jesus Christ will make a visible return to the earth to set up his Kingdom. Every person who has ever lived will be brought before God for a final judgment. Those who have not come to faith in Jesus Christ will spend eternity away from the presence of God in Hell, where there is nothing but evil and endless suffering. Those who have experienced spiritual birth will be in the presence of God forever.*

Proposed edits, subject to membership approval: 12. *"Restoring all Things" Some day Jesus Christ will make a glorious visible return to earth and his kingdom will be brought to fulfillment without end. Every person who has ever lived will be brought before God for a final judgment. Those who have not come to faith in the Messiah Jesus Christ will suffer eternal conscious punishment in hell, where there is nothing but evil and endless suffering. Those who have experienced spiritual birth will be in the blessed presence of God forever, where all things are made new.*

The elders spent considerable time discussing the wording in the existing Constitution as it establishes a framework for "membership" and the office of "deacon". Rather than using the term "membership" throughout the Constitution, the elders discussed the use of the terms "Covenant Partnership" or

“Covenant Relationship” to better describe the relationship of those who are the church. The elders also discussed the role of deacon and how that term applies to the support roles that are identified in our organizational chart.

Mike will make additional edits to the Constitution that reflect the discussion of the elders and forward those changes to the elders via email. This item will be placed on the agenda for a future meeting. All changes to the Doctrinal Statement and Constitution will need to be addressed and approved by a majority of the members at a specially called meeting. It is anticipated that this might occur next September.

- b. Recommendation for alignment with “The Gospel Coalition” Mike Evans recommended that we align with “The Gospel Coalition”, much as we do with the “Willow Creek Association”. Information on The Gospel Coalition can be found at www.thegospelcoalition.org The recommendation was approved by the Elder Council.
- c. First National Community Bank Follow-up: Bob Sievert and Nancy Gleason recently met with representatives of the First National Community Bank of New Richmond to discuss the year-end financials, mortgage status, possible refinancing and other items of interest dealing with the financial status of FCC. The meeting with the Bank was very productive. The possibility exists for possible refinancing in the future, with mortgage rates being at a relatively historic low. They also discussed the level of mortgage payments to be made on a monthly basis and the possibility of adjusting these figures if necessary.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Should Baptisms and Child Dedications Lead to an Expectation of Church Membership? The elders discussed this subject in great detail, weighing the advantages and possible disadvantages of expecting those who dedicate their children or become baptized becoming members. This agenda item will again be discussed at the next Elder Council meeting.
- b. Property Insurance: The existing property insurance premium costs approximately \$5,200 a year. The church received a quote from a local insurance competitor that provides the same coverage for approximately \$4,300 a year. Approval was given for Bob and Nancy to explore the possibility of switching insurance companies, saving the operational budget approximately \$900 a year.

The Elder Council closed in conversational prayer for the needs of those in our family of faith.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05

Respectfully Submitted

Bob Sievert
Administrative Assistant to the Elder Council