

Elder Board Report
2022 Annual Meeting
Kevin Hofer, Elder Chairman

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. The elders have struggled in our efforts to fully restore unity within our body and implement a vision moving forward. We often find ourselves “putting out fires” that hinder our ability to spiritually shepherd and lead our church. Sometimes fires are due to our lack of attention, sometimes they come from miscommunication, and sometimes they pop up unexpectedly from nowhere. My experience from being on both elder and deacon boards for a number of years has taught me that things move slowly. We would like to be able to immediately respond yes or no, and we have in some instances. But there are times that more information needs to be gathered and factored into the decision, which delays action. We continue to work on improving our communication and relational shepherding of the congregation.

Last December, the membership approved contracting with Crossroads Resolution Group to assist us in attempting to resolve the conflicts occurring at CBC. Paul Cornwell and his team conducted training sessions for the congregation in January. He presented tools and techniques to biblically recognize and address conflict. Paul discussed the subject of desires becoming demands that reveal idols within our heart James 4:1-3. He taught from Matthew 7:1-5 and our need to focus on self, and remove the log from our own eye. From Hebrews 12:14, he urged us to pursue peace with everyone, as God is peaceful. Paul spoke on being slow to anger and quick to overlook an offense Proverbs 19:11. The Crossroads team also interviewed a number of individuals in confidential sessions. The elders continue to discuss Crossroad’s assessment and seek God’s will for next steps in the reconciliation process. The elders have resolved to apply Jesus’ teaching from Matthew 18:15-17 in addressing conflict among our members.

We just completed focus group survey discussions in the past month. We received a lot of valuable feedback from the congregation. The elders will be sharing these ideas with the congregation and discussing ways to implement them in the coming months.

We have gone over a year without the assistance of an associate pastor. There are a number of people to commend for the roles that were filled after Pastor Jesse’s pastoral call to Iowa. Pastor Chance has faithfully filled the pulpit full time and serves as our congregation’s only pastoral staff. Thank you to Virginia, Jenn, and Roxanne for learning the tasks and technical knowledge that Jesse used to oversee. We also want to thank the entire worship team for their voluntary time and dedication in offering a God-glorifying service of praise and worship every Sunday.

The elders are tasked with finding and examining the members of both the deacon and elder boards. It has become a full time endeavor attempting to fill vacant positions. We would like to thank Tim Brown, Paul Hertel and Colin Ogan for joining the deacon team in the last year. I am also grateful for new elders Kim Kahler, John Zimmerman, and Rick Vallery who have stepped forward to shepherd our body of believers. Please continue to pray that God will call more men to consider filling leadership positions.

The elders would like to recognize Rick Bauer, who is leaving the elder board. Rick has served in a CBC leadership role for 30 consecutive years, with 26 years as elder. In addition to leadership, Rick, Julie, Jess and Thad served our body for years providing children's church and teaching toddler Sunday school. Rick has also filled the pulpit when needed. Thank you for serving the church of Jesus Christ – For His Glory!

It was difficult to come up with the words for this report. After praying for God's help and scribbling down notes for an hour or so, "But God" came to mind. What about "But God"? I went to the church website and found Pam Scarborough's baptism testimony. *Ephesians 2:4,5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.* Pam eloquently shared from Ephesians and other passages that we are saved by grace, and that God is sovereign. The church is to be the holy, unblemished bride of Christ. Pam committed to be one of the parts of our church body, to help grow our body - built up in love, and bring glory to God in Pierre, SD. That is inspiring, and I am going to use Pam's testimony as a go to reminder that God is in full control and to pursue my purpose as a follower of Christ here at CBC.

Thank you all at Community Bible Church, for your participation in ministry, missions, prayer, and fellowship.

To God be the Glory,

Kevin Hofer, Elder