

The Pastors Connection

June 2012

Stewarding New Visions

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old members will dream dreams, your young members will see visions.” Joel 2:28 (adapted)

It is an honor to welcome new members by believer’s baptism and by reconnection to the Body of Christ. Truly our May 20 service was a memorable morning as eleven persons became partners with us!

At the rate our young adults are marrying and choosing CMC as their church home my successor may have the rich blessing of baptizing a group of CMC children as numerous as my baptismal class forty plus years ago. That is a worthy “old members dream!”

I also pray that between now and that future dreamed of day; and beyond; God will continue blessing us with new members who display the richness of background, ages, and testimony of those who joined our mission May 20. Surely such diverse richness is evidence of God’s Spirit being “poured out on all people” as the prophet envisioned.

New members add gifts to fulfilling existing mission and ministry. They also bring fresh perspectives and new passion. Praise God!! This is what keeps us relevant to “God’s redemptive activity in our generation” (wording from our eighth Guiding Value).

The introduction to our CMC Constitution recognizes that “Members who share in this ministry need an organized way to coordinate and empower, and to be accountable. They also need flexibility to act as the Spirit leads.” In Section four we address how we will discern new visions; with the commitment that “New ministries will receive an automatic ‘Yes’ by the Pastoral Team when they assess that:

- a. The envisioned ministry contributes to our vision
- b. There is evidence of adequate resources (finances, personnel, etc)
- c. The life of the person envisioning the new ministry has integrity for leading it.”

Two new visions are currently being pursued with joy. Pastoral Team recently approved Lois Boyer as Administrator to work with the highly effective Hope Within Medical Clinic in exploring a satellite in our Ministry Center. We invite your prayers, counsel and support as this dream is pursued towards reality.

We are also dreaming with Sam and Jill Waters beginning “Still Waters Counseling”. Pastoral Team is in awe of God’s generosity to us as we discern how to best partner together in this kingdom work.

Although social ministries dare not displace a church’s fulfillment of spiritual needs; research shows that the most effective evangelism is “needs based”. When we imitate Christ’s example of addressing physical needs people more easily respond to gospel. As

example; many of my recent witness opportunities began as Food Pantry connections. Imagine the expanded commitments to Christ as Still Waters Counseling and Hope Within Medical Clinic help us be Good Samaritans to our neighbors.

Five years ago a prophetic word began turning me towards home at Conestoga. It envisioned Conestoga wagons again going out from this place filled with supplies to enlarge Christ's kingdom. May God continue to favor us with members who "dream new dreams" so "His kingdom will come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Amen and Amen, Pastor Bob Petersheim