



## **Board of Elders Meeting July 25, 2011**

This meeting is a supplemental Board meeting as the men have been gathering twice monthly. Therefore, normal business such as approval of minutes and financial reports are not on the agenda.

### **Roll Call:**

- Present: Hoy, Culton, Brimer, VanDoren, Sommons, Batten, Capaldi
- Guest attendee Carl Cassell
- Excused absent: Bickings

### **Devotion & Prayer:**

- Jason Hoy led the discussion as the men continued their review of the Articles of Faith. This meeting we reviewed Article #10: Human Ability & Responsibility. (Attachment #1)
- The men shared in a time of thanksgiving and prayer.

### **People Matters:**

- The men discussed two people matters. Future direction and guidance was agreed upon.
- Another matter related to the physical needs of a congregant and possible benevolence requirements. The elders were in agreement with Deacon Joe Meier on how to proceed. Thanks to Joe for his diligent work here.

### **July 31<sup>st</sup> Midyear Congregational Meeting Planning:**

- The men reviewed the agenda which had been distributed to the congregation on July 24, 2011 and agreed upon speaking assignments.
- Final arrangements were also made for the cookout portion of the meeting.

### **Service Times Discussion:**

- Based on the current attendance of the 9:00 service being near capacity and some feedback we've gotten about the second service time being too late, the men entertained a discussion about possibly rearranging the times to allow for a longer buffer between first service and Sunday school.
- Currently, people are having a hard time getting to Sunday school in time. The idea was tossed out to possibly go to an 8:45-9:50 first service, followed by 10:10-11:00 Sunday school and an 11:15-12:20 second service.
- Other options were discussed but no final decisions were made. We will bring this up at the congregational meeting and request input. Ideally, any changes would be made in the fall timeframe.

### **Call Form for Pastor Jason Hoy:**

- We praise God for Jason's passing of the BFC ordination test and achieving his probationer status. As a result, the elders exercised the official call form for Jason as Pastor of Congregational Care.
- This call form, signed by the Elders, could not be exercised prior to his completion of the ordination process step.

**By-Laws Review:**

- The men continue to review and update the By-Laws. At this point the task is more than half completed.
- Our goal is to complete the review in the fall and have the final changes to share with the congregation at the December congregational budget meeting.

**Attendance and Shepherding:**

- The men reviewed recent attendance records with the intent of sharing updates we may have about people who have been missed recently.
- In most cases, the elders knew of the situation and reasons for absences. In some cases we agreed to follow up with the person or family.

**Bible Translation:**

- This discussion was continued from our June 17-18, 2011 meeting in which we are evaluating replacing the pew bibles (NIV) with the English Standard Version. (ESV)
- **Action:** Mark Culton agreed to create a summary that explains the reason for the Elders' recommendation to switch the pew bibles to the ESV which includes the fact that the 1989 NIV is no longer being printed, and our perceived shortcomings with the 2010 NIV.
- **Action:** Mike Capaldi and the other teachers will poll the Adult Electives attendees to see which versions are currently being used.

**Funeral Luncheons:**

- Because of several recent funerals and luncheons at the church, a request was made for the elders to establish a policy for such activities.
- **Action:** Andy Brimer will discuss the matter further with Jason Lee, Deacon.

**Transportation Matter:**

- A recent situation shed light on the policy that all drivers must be on the church's insurance in order to drive the van.
- **Action:** Shawn Sommons will discuss further with the Deacons to ensure this is the best approach knowing that we have limited people who can use the van for church events based on this policy.

**Carl Cassel Assistance:**

- The men shared feedback on Carl's helpfulness while he is on assignment with us.
- We agreed upon some administrative matters with Carl, such as timing for compensation and expenses related to travel to EBFC.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Capaldi', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Capaldi,  
Secretary to the Board of Elders

## Article 10 - Human Ability and Responsibility

**10-1** In his original creation man was endowed with the ability to will and do good or evil and was accountable for his willing and doing.<sup>1</sup> But through the fall of Adam man lost his ability, apart from God's grace,<sup>2</sup> to will and to do those things necessary for a right relationship with God;<sup>3</sup> however, he is still accountable to God for obedience to all of His commands.<sup>4</sup> Man has not lost his ability to make decisions,<sup>5</sup> but left to himself, he acts only in accordance with his fallen, sinful nature.<sup>6</sup>

**10-2** Only by God's infinite grace can man will or do anything necessary to his salvation.<sup>7</sup> By that grace, God saves those men whom He causes to will and to do good;<sup>8</sup> however, He does this without nullifying man's ability to act responsibly.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (Gen.2:16,17).

<sup>2</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath (Eph.2:1-3).

<sup>3</sup> There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God (Rom.3:11). Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God (Rom.8:8).

<sup>4</sup> God "will give to each person according to what he has done." To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile (Rom.2:6-10). In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30).

<sup>5</sup> Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live (Deu.30:11,19).

<sup>6</sup> As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one" (Rom.3:10,12). Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil (Jer.13:23). (See also footnote 2).

<sup>7</sup> It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy (Rom.9:16).

<sup>8</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created (James 1:18). Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God (John 1:12-13).

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose (Phil.2:12,13).