

Notes from Consultancy meeting, August 5 2017

I. beginning of consultancy meeting: feelings on progress the church is making

- generally positive, noting areas of growth
- things we still need to work on:
 1. list of tactical & strategic tasks needs to be shared with the congregation
 2. issues? share them with an elder, their shepherd, or our pastor
 3. we currently lack an elder in the area of building and grounds
 - session needs to promote accomplishment of projects
 - members with related skills, please volunteer to help!
 4. some people still can't hear Jill. what to do about this?

II. NLCC's transformation issues, as define by three groups of members present:

1. how to revive our "dance with the Holy Spirit"?
 - that NLCC has stopped praying/listening/letting the Holy Spirit affect our path
 - selfishness/laziness: as we gained in resources, we started coasting
 - Chris: Godly/Biblical living created the scenario of people with different ideas working together toward **the mission**
2. burnout: the same people doing the same work
(this was written down, but not expanded on)
3. what kind of spiritual leadership do we need from the pastor and session?
 - leadership = helping people align with our mission, challenging them at a rate they can handle
 - NLCC session dysfunction: elders need to stop **doing** and start **leading**
(make disciples and send apostles by involving others, not doing the work themselves)
 - note: we still need to determine NLCC's core values/mission
4. lack of communication causes members to feel devalued
 - need to be more proactive in communicating on all levels. appreciation of Mike's humility noted; we need to follow his example and all take ownership

III. Chris' further recommendations for NLCC

1. continue these important conversations! (do we need to set a next meeting?)
 - feel free to ask hard questions
 - listen and ask clarifying/probing questions before answering!
 - engage stakeholders (members); remain transparent, share info w congregation
2. create focus/core values
 - ... from focus groups, surveys with open-ended questions
 - welcome stories of NLCC: "I remember when ..."
 - gather information, look for themes
 - core values are not to be decided by the whole church
 - core values do not re-articulate our belief system
 - importance of patience as we work through this
3. take next steps
4. commit to God and to each other: accountability
(thinking ahead ... Chris mentioned that there is a retired pastor who might continue to work with us at a rate that is cheaper ...?)