

May 2024 Family Meeting Recap

Thanks to those that were able to attend the family meeting and worship celebration. What a wonderful celebration of God's faithfulness looking back over the past 20 years and anticipating all He has in store for us in the days to come. Here is a recap of the topics that were covered and a summary of what was shared.

Celebration of Pastor Rod and Libby

As a church, we are grateful for the ways they have given their lives to plant and shepherd Crossroads. They both passionately pursue Jesus in their own lives and out of that diligent pursuit, they have kept Crossroads tethered and grounded in the text and to Jesus. It is a joy to celebrate and honor them for their sacrifice and faithfulness to the calling God has for them at Crossroads.

Stocking Ministry Highlight

Bethany shared how God has been so faithful to us over the last ten years of serving the Stocking Elementary community. Even through the sadness of the closing of Stocking, we are hopeful and expectant for God's next invitation as we look to serve our neighbors on the west side.

Elder and Staff Structure and Updates

Our Elder Chairman, Mike Wozniak, shared about the heart, structure, and posture of our elder board. Our elder board is made up of four staff elders and nine lay elders who serve a four year term. The nomination process includes a long process of discussion, interviews, prayer, and ultimately a drawing of the lots for the candidates that remain. The elders meet monthly and begin every meeting with a meal and intentional prayer. The elder board is responsible for the protection and stewardship of our doctrine, finances and care of our church and staff. The elders welcome questions at any time and their contact information is on the church website.

Mike also discussed the staff leadership structure. Both Rod, our Lead Pastor, and Matt Stowell, our Associate Pastor, report directly to the elders. Rod is specifically responsible for the mission, vision, and values of the church, while Matt's focus is the staff and operations. The team leads along with Rod and Matt Stowell form an executive committee who meet weekly for collective input on policies and ministries. All financial decisions and staffing transitions (hiring and letting go) are made in collaboration and unity of the seven team leads along with elder input, discussion, and unified approval.

Matt Stowell shared about our staff which includes twenty full-time and thirteen part-time employees. The current staff is full of amazing, talented, and hardworking people who are sold out for the Kingdom of God. As a church that embraces the priesthood of believers (1 Peter 2:9), our

staff is called to bring support and encouragement to our church body as they serve on their street corners and love one another.

Matt announced two exciting additions to staff. First, Tim Bassett recently accepted the Student Ministries Pastor position. Tim, his wife Shayla, and their three children have been part of the Crossroads family for many years. Tim served as our first ministry resident. We are excited to have him back on staff and serving in a capacity that uses his gifts and experience. Tim will start on July 1st.

Crossroads also hired Jason Botbyl for a new position—Pastor of Teaching and Multiplication. Jason, and his wife Julie, have been serving at Calvary Church in the areas of Men’s and Marriage. Jason was the former chaplain at the Kent County jail and has a heart for the city of Grand Rapids. We look forward to welcoming him to staff on June 17th. Jason will focus on teaching, designing our third service to start in the Fall, and making connections with other leaders and churches in our city.

Several other staff transitions and changes have happened in the last ministry year. Please refer to the Staff Changes document for those.

Student Ministry Highlight

Over this last ministry year, Brent Becker along with Molly Vedders, the Student Administrative Partner, have faithfully and tirelessly served our youth in the midst of a major transition. Brent shared about the fertile hearts and fervent pursuit of Jesus among the students this year. Many students studied God’s word in very intentional ways and even embraced opportunities to teach in small groups. We are thankful for Brent’s leadership over the last year and look forward to having him partner with Tim Bassett in the transition as the Interim leader.

Finance Update

Glori Goodrich, our Operations Director, along with Mark Augstyn, our Treasurer, shared about the faithfulness of God on display through the generosity of the people of Crossroads. We have seen an increase every year for the last five plus years and have ended with a surplus each year. These surpluses have allowed us to build an emergency fund, a building improvement fund, pay for our building renovation with cash, and give away more than we even budget for.

The budget setting process involves each ministry leader requesting the amount they need for the year. The Operations Director builds the budget and submits it to the Elder Board Treasurer. After approval by him, the entire elder board reviews the budget and gives the final approval. The staff is committed to creating a lean, efficient budget relying on our body to give towards what is needed but also providing room for each giver to be generous outside of Crossroads in ways that they feel led.

For more detailed information on giving, the current budget, final building expenses and bank accounts, please refer to the Family Meeting Booklet.

Vision for the Next Ministry Year

As the person entrusted with the vision of our church, Rod shared about two initiatives that our staff and church body will focus on in the upcoming year—multiplication and disciple-making. Many of the questions submitted focused on “what’s next?” or “what about a church plant?” Our leadership resonates with those same exciting questions. Crossroads has always had a heart of planting God’s expression of church He’s called us to be. The recent hire of Jason Botbyl is one step in that direction. In the Fall, we will begin a third gathering that will remain as a Crossroads gathering. However, our desire is for that gathering to have its own personality, its own identity, and its own trajectory. The future hope would be for that gathering to birth into a campus that would plant in its own unique setting within Grand Rapids.

The other focus is disciple-making. As Christ followers, we are commanded to make disciples, but what does that really mean and how is that happening in our midst? We are confident that it is happening—we see the fruit of it. However, we desire to have common language among our ministries and a flexible yet cohesive framework for understanding the journey. The leadership will be partnering with Jeff Vanderstelt, a national leader in the area of disciple-making in both large and small church settings. Jeff has been hired to consult with our leaders over the next several months. For more information on Jeff’s three books, see the Family Meeting Booklet. Consider picking up a copy of one for some summer reading!

Questions?

Our elders and team leads are available for any questions or dialogue. We know that a level of trust is necessary in our church family and our leaders desire for you to ask the questions needed for that trust to remain in a healthy spot. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of them. All contact information can be found on the website.