

Salutations! I don't think I will ever forget this word from my elementary days when my teacher read us the book Charlotte's Web. I'm not sure where I was going with that? I guess I just like the word!

I wanted to give you an update this week but I realized in the next 2 weeks, there will be a lot more information so I think we will need to have an Elder's Newsletter 6.2 in about 2 weeks.

The General Council 2023 team had an awesome time at Council and we are looking forward to sharing with all of you at the 6/25/2023 Sunday Service. I could write an entire newsletter on that experience alone but I will restrain myself and you'll just have to wait until the 25th! Council for me was a genuine encounter with God. I will leave it at that until 6/25! I hope as we share about it, you will also encounter God through our words, stories and videos.

Over the last couple of months, I've been wanting God to show me that He is still in complete control even with so much uncertainty around us. I wanted to share some personal observations. I'm not sure how to explain it, probably because I can't scientifically and logically explain it but that does not make it any less real.

I have a sense that God is really moving in our church! Have you sensed this, too?

I am seeing people more willing to get involved and more people willing to do the work of the church. It has been very encouraging to the elders and pastoral staff to see this. I am noticing more new faces in church and that has been super exciting! We had a good number of people attend the new members class this past Sunday. Amazingly, all of this has happened in a pastorless church! What does that say about us?

I believe it says that we have a greater understanding that we are the church and we are a family ready and willing to step in when needed. I believe it says God is doing something in our hearts. Our church family is spending more time with God and seeking him more than ever. It has been exciting to hear the stories of God at work through what has been shared from the pulpit. I am seeing a greater sense of expectancy and people are excited to seek God with open hands and an expectant heart.

I wanted to thank each of you for encouraging my heart. I want to encourage all of us to continue spending quality time and quantity of time sitting at the Lord's feet, seeking Him. I know God wants to do something great with Canby Alliance Church and He wants our hearts to break for our community. May God continue to touch our lives so that we can touch the lives of the people we come into contact with each day!

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**PEAK UPDATE:** We have completed our PEAK Surveys!! Yippee! I don't have the final numbers but from our last count, we had completed 105 surveys (36%) and I am sure we got more surveys completed this last weekend. Thank you very much for participating and completing the surveys. This will give the NW District PEAK people lots of very helpful information. The next step is forming a PEAK Team. The purpose of this team is to meet monthly to go through all the survey results and then start the comprehensive PEAK process. I explained this in our Elder Newsletter 4.2 but I will give you a broad summary.

**Session #1: MORE SESSION:** In this session we try to dream about what we feel Jesus wants to do in our church. What do we feel Jesus wants to do more of or less of in CAC? This is a time where we sit with God and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us about what He wants in the new season of ministry for CAC.

**Session #2: PEAK REPORT:** This is the session where we look at the PEAK report generated by the PEAK Surveys.

**Session #3: COMPASS**—In this session we connect the PEAK report to the compass of our C&MA cardinal directions in the church as it relates to leadership, discipleship and mission.

**Session #4: CRITICAL GOSPEL IMPACT**—This session allows us to evaluate our local church and the community we serve and we try to determine how we impact our community, our region and our world. What kind of an impact can we have in reaching out to our community? How do we achieve the biggest impact on our community?

**Session #5: STORY**—In this session we look at the historical circumstances we have experienced that have shaped who we are. We will look at pain points, pressure points, pivotal points and determine what needs to be repeated, redeemed or restored. By doing this, we hope to discover our fingerprint or our DNA and we hope it will help us to see patterns in our church.

**Session #6: MINISTRY ACTION PLANS (MAP)**—This is the session where we bring everything together (themes, compass, our story from the beginning, our community, etc) and develop a MAP to move forward.

**INTERIM PASTOR UPDATE:** The Elders and pastoral staff have had 3 meetings with Pastor Dennis Beatty, our Interim Pastor candidate. He will be preaching at CAC this Sunday 6/18/2023 and we will have an informal reception “doughnuts with Dennis” after that for people to meet and greet Pastor Dennis and his wife Gwynn. We are hoping to have a decision made the following week.

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