ELDER NEWSLETTER 8.2

AUGUST 8, 2023

Hi CAC Family!

So, this is my attempt to bring you along with us through the PEAK team process without having to attend a 2½ hour meeting! Hopefully, you had some time to answer these questions on your own to see how it resonates with what the PEAK Team felt.

I don't know if there is any easy way to inform but not overwhelm you with too much information!

- 1. <u>**RIGHT**</u>: Go back in time when you first walked into CAC, what kept you coming back and wanting to be a part of this church? Reflect on this. These are the things we are doing RIGHT. Here are the answers we discussed:
 - The church was a good mixture of grace and truth.
 - I liked their statement of faith and doctrine.
 - I liked the Biblical teaching. Rich biblical truth.
 - We have family here.
 - This church embraced us in time of deep pain.
 - This church welcomed us, cared for us and we got invited to dinner.
 - The personal welcome.
 - We were greeted by so many.
 - This was a safe place (people wore masks during COVID).
 - The exposure to the church during a fun youth game in the community.
 - We felt like we were truly a part of a family.
 - Supportive and encouraging, especially during a very difficult personal time.
 - Non-judgmental.
 - Pastor's authenticity and being so real and honest.
- 2. <u>CELEBRATE</u>: What things are you celebrating at CAC? What do you see us doing at CAC that is worth celebrating in your eyes?
 - There were 13 new members during a time of pastoral transition!
 - We want to celebrate the movement of God in the church.
 - We are hopeful in this season of the church,
 - Our emphasis on prayer.
 - Non-staff people are stepping in to do the work of the church and working together.
 - People are asking, "how can I help?"
 - We like the great communication and being kept in the loop.
 - Caring for others in hard times.
 - There are lots of healthy mature believers.
 - Post COVID people are "leaning in."
 - Elder and governing board function well together
 - Respectful staff

- We are seeing a broader base of leadership.
- We see exponential improvement and we are getting better.
- Having different people preaching and sharing from up front.
- We are becoming the "church" during this time.
- 3. **CHALLENGE**: What kind of challenges have you seen at CAC since you have been attending CAC? What challenges have you noticed in the last few months or the last few years?
 - We are now a church in 2 locations: online and in person.
 - Challenges in connecting.
 - We need more volunteers (for example, in children's ministry, youth ministry and tech team).
 - The church is "older" people.
 - Exodus of younger families.
 - Not enough engagement in the services.
 - Finances have gotten tighter.
 - Having the church body engage more in the community.
 - There is a challenge of integrating youth into the church.
 - We don't look like our community-we are not a diverse community.
 - Reputation and perception of the community of our church.
 - We need more passion for the lost.
 - We are no longer "Sunday-centric."
- 4. MORE: What do you want to see more of at CAC?
 - Be better listeners: listening to the Holy Spirit, listening to our community and others. Developing tender hearts, ears for the Spirit and ears for our community.
 - Prayers prompted by listening.
 - Revelation 7:9 worship–culturally, socioeconomically
 - Reaching and knowing ALL generations.
 - Engaging and becoming more responsive to the younger generations.
 - More responsiveness to community challenges.
 - Creating "front porches" for our unchurched neighbors.

Lots of really good stuff here!

Here are the remaining sessions:

September 5 – Report Session–Survey results, understanding where we are now before we can know how to move forward.

October 3 – Compass Session–What aligns us? Determining the cardinal directions in Leadership, Missions and Discipleship.

November 7 – Impact Session part 1–What is our "Critical Gospel Impact"?

Understanding how this intersects in the context which God has placed us.

December 5 – Impact Session part 2

January 9 – Story Session–what do we need to know about our church so we can repeat what is good, redeem what needs to be accounted for and restore wounds we have inflicted or received.

January 30 – Map Session–How will we know we are on track? MAP provides a framework to ensure we stay on track with our cardinal directions, CGI and what our story revealed to us. March 5 – Remember Session–what do we need to remember from our PEAK journey?

Your faithful servants,

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