

Welcome Canby Alliance Church to our first Elder Newsletter! This is definitely a work in progress and over time, we hope this will evolve and develop into something that will allow people to share stories of personal spiritual growth, in addition to being a tool to help with updates on the pastor search.

As a starting point, we want to remember what the elders shared at our January 22nd Sunday service:

PAST: *The past reminds us that God has always been and will continue to be faithful to us.*

PRESENT: *The present is our time to draw closer to God and closer to each other as we begin to walk through this transition process.*

FUTURE: *The future reminds us that God has a special work for us for the future. We just have to prepare our hearts and ears to listen and hear and, most importantly, obey.*

I have recently discovered an English Anglican Pastor, Nicky Gumbel, who shared his thoughts of the importance of the Word of God in transforming us and bringing spiritual growth. He bases this on Psalms 19:7-14. He lists these life changing effects of reading the Bible:

1. It revives our souls (v. 7a).
2. It brings us wisdom (v. 7b).
3. It gives joy to our hearts (v. 8a).
4. It gives light to our eyes (v. 8b).
5. It warns us of danger (v. 11a).
6. It brings us great reward (v. 11b).

We've always heard that the Bible is one of God's primary means of getting to know God more intimately and God communicating to us. In the PRESENT, I am learning (once again, for the millionth time) how the Word of God does wonders at drawing me closer to God and, secondarily, drawing me closer to my brothers and sisters. Wouldn't it be great to have these things in our armamentarium for searching for a new lead pastor?

We want to encourage all of us to do everything it takes to draw closer to God and closer to one another. As our passion for God grows, our hearts become more sensitized to hearing God speak to us. God only knows how much we need to hear from him at this time! Really, not just now but at all times!

We have decided that the best course of action is for us to look for an interim pastor (IP). We believe this will give a healthy period of time between Pastor Tim's retirement date and when the new lead pastor starts. It will help us to prepare spiritually for the process (PRESENT). It will give us time to hear from God for what special work He has for us in the FUTURE. Practically, it will also help us not to have to rush through the process of searching for a new lead pastor

Steve Fowler will be contacting Interim Pastor Ministries (IPM) which is a ministry that specializes in hiring Interim Pastors (IP). He will give them all the information needed so they understand who the C&MA is and what our needs are. Once he contacts IPM, he will get back to us. Typically, IPs are on site 18-20 days per month and they conduct other meetings via Zoom. Here is something to be thinking and praying about: if anyone has an extra room or apartment where an IP can stay when he is in town, that would financially help us.

Every C&MA church that goes through a pastoral change is required to go through a coaching process called PEAK. PEAK has been developed by our own C&MA and is a great tool to help our church prepare for the pastor search process. It will help us to understand what we need in a pastor and help us in developing a pastor profile. PEAK does not cost us anything. It is a benefit of being a part of the bigger C&MA denomination.

As we start PEAK, we will develop a pastor search team to help in the process of developing a pastor profile. Steve Fowler will be working with church leadership to develop our Pastor Profile. Once we have our Pastor Profile, the position will be placed on the Alliance Northwest District website where potential candidates can submit their resumes for consideration.

Lastly, for those of you who enjoy reading, there is a book, SOARING BETWEEN PASTORS, that you may be interested in reading just for your own personal growth. The leadership team will be reading through this book to help us in our pastor search process.

Thank you for allowing us to share with you and for joining us in the journey. We are in this together. May God continue to wrap his arms around you each day.

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