

We had our PEAK Session: The Story Session.

This is the session where, as a group, we looked at the history of Canby Alliance Church from when it started in approximately 1950-1960 (BIRTH) through the time of GROWTH and the times of CRISIS until now, how we are CURRENTLY doing. Through this extensive review of CAC over time, we are looking for three important things:

1. REPEAT: What is it about our church history that we need to keep doing because it worked?
2. REDEEM: What is it about our church history that were great ideas and we should keep doing but perhaps in a different way because the execution in history may not have been the greatest execution.
3. RESTORE: What is it about our church history that we may need to revisit and restore or work through again.

It is very difficult to fully capture all of the discussion in meticulous detail but I will attempt to summarize each section:

BIRTH: CAC was born because some people felt that Canby needed a Christian and Missionary Alliance Church (C&MA) because Canby had the C&MA Campgrounds (Canby Grove). A church was purchased and physically moved to the current CAC address back around 1959-1960s. There were a number of families who were initially a major part of the beginning of CAC. By God's grace, there have been multiple generations of these families who continue to make CAC their home church.

GROWTH: One of the initial areas of growth occurred through a Women's Bible Study led by Mrs. Crone (pastor Crone's wife). Between mid 1960-1985 there were 3 pastors. Pastor Tim was the 4th Lead Pastor for CAC. Between 1970-1998 there was a lot of buildings that happened (Sanctuary, Family Room, connection between old sanctuary and the offices, multiple purpose gym facility, stage extension and children's wing). The fire occurred in 2005 and the church took 2 years to be rebuilt into our current facility.

During our time of growth, there were a lot of young couples and young families being attracted to the church. This is when we started to change worship and did more intentional outreaches. Cafe Cristo was started (a Friday night coffee shop theme). Probably between 1990-2000s was the time of incredible growth where there was more engagement in the community (intentionally doing things in the community like landscaping an elementary school). This was the time of summer clubs, Cafe Cristo and a very active youth ministry. Children's ministry grew because of the families being attracted to CAC and summer clubs helped attract children. CPR groups were started (small group ministry) and were a major part of growth during this time. It was in the late 1990s that we initiated our relationship with the Susu people and Susu Gospel Mission and we began our Miracle Sunday Offering. This is when we were able to pay off our mortgage completely and we used the money that would have gone to mortgage payment for various ministry and community needs. This is when we began trying to impact globally, locally and regionally. This was also a time when we had many different youth/associate pastors.

CRISIS: Many crisis over the years:

- Early on there was a church split over issues of the Holy Spirit. A fraction of the church left and started something in Oregon City that was not sustained.
- There was dysfunctional elder leadership early on that led to a senior pastor being asked to leave and division in the elders.
- There were many youth/associate pastors. Some of the staff issues were not handled optimally leading to some messy staff departures from CAC. This resulted in families leaving the church. There were some pastoral staff issues that involved moral failure, deceptions, incorrect doctrine teaching. Some Pastoral issues were handled well and some were not.
- The Senior Pastor experienced issues with anxiety, depression, mental health issues. Ironically, this was a time of growth for the church as we rallied around our senior pastor and we learned by example what it meant to be open, honest and vulnerable to one another.
- COVID hits resulting in another exodus of members often related to how the pandemic was handled, politics and other disagreements in the minor issues. We lost many families with young children.
- There was a time where people were sensing feelings of oppression in the church.
- There was less emphasis on being engaged in the community.

CURRENT: The current situation have had a number of very positive trends:

- People started stepping up and getting more actively involved and willing to do the work of the church.
- People say yes to serve with great willingness.
- The healthy farewell celebration for PT was when this trend started and church attendees/members outside of staff did the vast majority of the work for this successful event.
- New members started attending and actually becoming members and getting actively involved.
- Attendance is slowly rebounding.
- Elders started becoming more involved and visible during worship services.
- There was a greater transparency of our leadership and our members.
- Congregational members doing the messages and sharing their lives with the congregation encourage a new level of openness and vulnerability.

Out of the above historical review, we summarized the following:

1. REPEAT:
 - a. Generational Continuity: Family members of multiple generations have made CAC their home church.
 - b. Youth and Children: There is something about youth and children that CAC has an apparent legacy of success.
 - c. Generosity: CAC is known for not just financial generosity but attendees seem to be generous with their time.
2. REDEEM:
 - a. Leadership Transitions: There have been leadership transitions that have been done but there have been a number that have not been done well.
 - b. Handling Conflicts: Conflicts are inevitable and they are not necessarily unhealthy. How we deal with conflicts in a healthy manner is important

to allow conflicts to cause personal and spiritual growth.

3. RESTORE:

- a. Youth Pastor (CL) situation: It sounds like there was an unhealthy departure of a youth pastor in the past and attempts have been made to make restoration without success. We may not be able to restore the situation but perhaps there is a moment where we have to process this as a church, agreeing to forgive and bless this youth pastor. There may be a pattern that we need to break. The spiritual realm does not follow the same rules and the natural world so we may need to address this on a spiritual level.

This was an amazing time of reflection and remembering. I wish some of the “old timers” were at this meeting to give us more details of our past.

At our next session, we will finish up our CRITICAL GOSPEL IMPACT (CGI) and we will do a MINISTRY ACTION PLAN (MAP) based on one of our CGI. Our PEAK Leader will bring it all together for us as we develop our Ministry Action Plan. Please continue to pray for the PEAK Team.

Finally, all of this will be tied into the development of our Pastor Next Profile. It should be exciting to see this unfold. Yes, it has been a long process but the length of time was needed to have a healthy period of time between our 37 yr pastor and our potential Pastor Next.

It was also important for your PEAK Team to process all of this and see what God was saying to us.

Lastly, this time has allowed us to develop a greater sense of expectancy! Pray for that expectancy as well!

Once again, the elders sincerely thank each of you for allowing us the privilege and opportunity to serve our church family in this manner.

Let's continue to love one another so that those watching us can know that we are Christ followers and we are new creatures because of the work of Christ in our lives!
AMEN!

Here are the remaining sessions:

February 6 – Finish CGI and 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 19 – Remember Session–what do we need to remember from our PEAK journey?

We are anticipating having our Pastor Next profile by the end of our February meeting. We now have the Pastor Search Committee formed and our first meeting is scheduled for 2/1/2024.

Once again, I want to remind you of who is on the PEAK Team: Brent Beck, Sandi Beck, Nick Charbonnier, Marilyn Greenleaf, Rachel Keen, Lindsey Lessley, Adam

Mower, Marlin Myers, Nancy Pickett, Jeff Reister, Jenny Schuening, Joshua Stager, Jim Trigg, Mel Yamase.

Your faithful servants,

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