

Annual Meeting 2019 – Summary Notes

- Introduction to members of the Steering Committee (SC)
- Brief reflections on our 2018 thematic goal, “Listening,” acknowledging the challenging season we’ve come through as a church while turning our eyes forward with hope
- Reminder of our commitment to focus on the core of our faith, “responding to God’s activity in our lives and re-centering ourselves in the story of Jesus”
- SC currently working on a statement to describe our posture; members will be invited to speak into the document before it is finalized
- Acknowledgment of the impact that people’s departures have had on ministry teams and on the budget and the need for everyone to help fill in gaps, drawing on our Key Value of Shared Responsibility, which in part reads:
 - *We support Elevation and its mission by participating in the life of the community and taking ownership for the corporate aspects of the church. The entire body benefits as we give generously of our time, abilities and finances, putting the needs of others before ourselves.*
- Overview of financials included in the Annual Report package, which can be found at elevationwaterloo.org/documents
 - Note: 2018 giving ended up meeting budget, however this included a significant one-time gift that will not repeat in 2019, which is why we are budgeting for a decrease in giving this year.
- Brief ministry highlights were shared by members of the Staff team: Helen (Human Beans), Graham (Youth, Mid-Week Groups, Scripture Studies), Melissa (Pastoral Care, Worship), Sharon via Brandon (Sticky Fingers, Summer Day Camp, Kids’ Quest)
- Mel Martin shared an update on the Mission Team’s re-visioning process, including a new purpose statement:
 - Develop deep relationships with a small group of local, national, and international partners and support initiatives that Elevation members are passionate about and personally involved in.
- Acknowledgement of staff transitions during 2018: Graham moving into full-time role, George’s resignation, Melissa Burke’s arrival

- Introduction to Paul Sandusky, who has committed to serving the Elevation community in a volunteer capacity alongside the Staff team over the next six months, primarily in the roles of organizational coach and strategic mentor
- Discussion of the end of our formal partnerships with PAOC and Vision Ministries as a result of our posture on same-sex attraction and the SC's desire to be connected to a broader body; beginning a search for new affiliation and looking for participants to join a team (contact Sue Winter at suethewinter@gmail.com) to get involved with this process
- Overview of formal membership with Elevation and explanation of the process, which can be found at elevationwaterloo.org/membership
- Formal members approved 2018 Financial Statements and appointed the same firm for 2019
- Q&A time...some of the questions and responses were:
 - Can you say more about what Paul Sandusky is doing?
 - Primary focus is currently on helping Mission and Finance teams
 - Moving forward, will focus on helping Staff/SC with evaluating processes and articulating vision for our future together
 - How are things going with the new Trillium congregation?
 - The three congregations are still getting to know each other, and our Staff team has developed very positive relationships with new Trillium staff
 - In thinking about our Building Fund, is anyone looking for other facility options?
 - While our hope and preference is to remain at 22 Willow for the long term, we do have a small team who look into occasional opportunities as they arise
- Close in prayer