



Belvedere Family Church Council Newsletter

February 2017

Council Vision Statement (2015-2017) ~ Our vision is for the Belvedere Family Church Council to be an effective and authentic team that represents the Belvedere community, and for the Council members to feel energized, joyful, and honored to be on the Council.

Update on Dr. Kone's Naval Involvement

by Chris Perkins

About a year and a half ago there was some nervousness about hiring this tall, dark and handsome man from the Ivory Coast as our pastor. But it didn't take long for us to realize that he is not only a scholar and a committed husband and father but also a man of deep faith who demonstrates his faith with his life choices.

Quite frankly I am reminded of certain other historical figures who made what seemed to those around them to be startling and sudden life changing decisions, some of which had significant impact on God's providence.

If you know something of Dr. Kone's course since coming to Belvedere you may guess that I am referring to his interactions with the US Navy's Chaplain's department. This article is to serve as an update on that situation and allow us to pray more effectively for him and his family.

After his initial 2011 application to become a Navy Chaplain and subsequent rejection while at UTS,

the Navy recontacted him shortly after his arrival at Belvedere asking him to renew his application. Then after some serious prayer, reflection and further discussion with the Council, he accepted their offer but only for a Reserve commitment. His primary reason for not going for a full time position was so that he could continue to serve as our Pastor. Dr. Kone has discussed this with the Council and has agreed to serve the remainder (and hopefully more!) of his 3-year term until September 2018.

He recently heard from the Navy that at present they mostly need to fill full-time positions and confirmation of his acceptance into the Reserve program is now pending.

I believe that we are extremely fortunate to have a great Pastor who is willing to do whatever it takes to follow God's calling. I hope that his example encourages you, as it does me, that God is close at hand and ready to support whatever initiative we undertake in the building of Cheon Il Guk.

Successful Survey Completed

A very large thank you to Peter Reiner, Jessica Sattinger and Chiaki Hagiwara for all the work and technical savvy they put into creating a comprehensive annual BFC survey. As the Council is serious in improving our community on all levels it is essential that we have our finger on the pulse of our community, that is, each of you. Thank you for those that participated. For those that did not fill out the survey, please know we need your feedback. We look forward to an even bigger response next year. A summary of the survey results will be published in our upcoming "Community Voice Newsletter" and at Sunday Service.

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Kester Wilkening
Chairperson



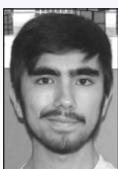
Jessica Sattinger
Vice Chairperson



Chris Perkins
Vice Chairperson



Lynn Walsh
Communications



Yuki Jones
Treasurer



Sun-Ae Patterson
Scribe



Peter Reiner
Administrator



Akiko Morris
Councilor

The Belvedere Family Church Council
welcomes your input!

Please email your comments,
questions or suggestions to
bfc-council@googlegroups.com

Strategic Team

Dr. Kone has initiated inquiry into our bigger goals as a movement that would appeal to our younger generation as well as reach a broader span of people, leading to new growth. He is asking how can we improve our branding and approach. Discussion has begun by creating a Strategic Team composed of Dr. Kone, Denthew Learey, Jessica Sattinger, Noah Ross, Jack LaValley and Lynn Walsh. The results of the survey will be useful for our strategy brainstorming.

Marriage and Family

Chris Perkins, chair of the Marriage and Family Committee, has been supporting the recent marriage enrichment workshop, " Marriage Matters" on February 18 given by Debby Gallery. Many who attended commented that the content was very helpful and brought new freshness into their marriage. It must be said how lucky we are to have such a genuine, experienced and dynamic speaker eager to share her knowledge with our community and guests. Thank you Debby, for your continued effort to make all of our relationships even better!



Community Enrichment Committee

Right now this committee's focus, headed by Lynn Walsh, is mainly on small groups. Committee members gained insight about effective group facilitation from Hilde Weiman's training webinar. Last fall's new small group launch was quite successful. In fact, the members of the young adult group were inspired enough to create a brief video for Sunday service about their positive experience. Coming to you soon! In March we will begin a sign up for those interested in joining a small group. Please consider trying out this effective group dynamic for spiritual growth and community building.



Upcoming Council Meeting

Our next Council business meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, March 19th**, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm, at the White House.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR VISITORS: Visitors are very welcome - but please be aware that our agenda is usually very full. If visitors would like to suggest an issue to be discussed or to be given time to express an opinion, they should contact the council (any council member) at least one week before the meeting.