

CALVARY COURIER

September 2021

Council News

Council Chair, Steve Ver Meer led devotions on the Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness. Scripture: Philippians 4:4 and I Corinthians 13:4-5. Excerpts taken from a weekly publication of Grand Canyon University: A common misconception is that gentleness is weakness or passivity. True gentleness, however, is just the opposite. It requires great strength and self-control. Gentleness comes from a state of humility. In order to be gentle, we must not view ourselves as better than someone else. A gentle heart comes from having love for others. God wants us to be gentle to others, even as he is gentle with us despite our sinful nature. Through prayer, we can ask God to reveal ways we can show gentleness to others that we may reflect God's character.

- Pastor Brad reviewed a series of Healthy Church questions for discussion, centering on Intentional Disciple Making.
- Do we measure effectiveness by how members' attitudes and behavior mirror Christ?
- Do we have a clear picture of the disciple making process and is that built into the fabric of our church?
- Are we committed to seeing each member use their spiritual gift(s) in context of the church?

The Council vetted the list of nominations for elder and deacon and determined a slate of nominees and a list of alternates. Nominees are contacted by letter and a follow up call by phone. If anyone is unable or refuses to serve, the Administrative elders will proceed down the list of alternates. The goal is to present a double slate of candidates to the congregation for selection at the annual meeting in November. The final selection will be determined by casting lots.

As related by Bryan Bandstra:

Recently a gentleman came to The Well and shared a story. About 2-3 years ago he lived south of Ottumwa. He was not a Christian. He had a major turn of events in his life and was very depressed. He was on his way to Des Moines, where he had considered the place to take his life. His knife was in the front seat next to him. He doesn't know why, but he took the Pella exit and stopped at the Wayside Chapel. He took his knife with him and sat down in the front bench of the chapel. After sitting there contemplating, he decided to take his life. He tried to cut himself, but the knife would not penetrate the skin of his wrist. This scared him because he felt something was going on and couldn't explain why. He got into his car and drove back home. A few months later, considering this episode and other things happening in his life, he gave his life to Jesus.

Give thanks to God for the ministry of Calvary Church's Wayside Chapel.

The request of Josie Te Grotenhuis was approved to transfer the record of her membership to First Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center, Iowa.

Ivan Mulder, Clerk of Council

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Thank YOU!

Thank you, Calvary family, for the birthday cards, calls and well wishes for my 90th birthday. It was the best birthday I've ever had!

-LeNora Van Weelden

Congratulations to David and Haley Van Hal



July 9, 2021 was a perfect day at Harpors Vineyard in New Virginia, Iowa for the wedding ceremony of David Ross Van Hal and Haley Ann Wilting. The ceremony took place in a beautiful outdoor setting with just the bride and groom's families present. The chosen wedding colors were dusty rose, cream, navy blue and sage. After the ceremony, the couple honeymooned in Key West, Florida, where they enjoyed the beach, swam, biked and kayaked.

David Van Hal grew up near Leighton, Iowa. David is the son of Roger and Lanai Van Hal and the grandson of Cornie and Marinella Van Hal, all who attend Calvary Church. Haley is the daughter of Hans and Julie Wilting. Haley is from Meadowbank, Prince Edward Island in Canada. She is a member of Charlottetown Christian Reformed Church on Prince Edward Island. David and Haley met while attending Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa.

David and Haley make their home in St. Robert, Missouri. Haley is a registered nurse at Phelps Health Center in Rolla, Missouri. Haley enjoys cooking, eating ice cream, and hanging out with friends. David is an engineering officer in the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. David enjoys fishing and sports. Together the couple enjoys exercising, playing games, and going on hikes.

Due to Covid restrictions on travel, David and Haley were unable to invite extended family and friends to the intimate ceremony; however, they are looking forward to a celebration next summer with these special people on Prince Edward Island.

Calvary Church wishes you many blessings as you begin your life together.

Hope Ministry, Des Moines Iowa

An excerpt taken from Hope Ministry's Newsletter, find the Vicki's entire story at: <https://www.hopeiowa.org/stories-of-hope/newsletter/>

"If I had found this place the first time I was looking for treatment, I probably wouldn't have needed another treatment," she says. "It's everything I needed. **Hope Ministries has helped me spiritually, mentally, emotionally—and in my drug addiction. I don't even look at it as treatment. Right now, it's home.**"

"I'm the daughter of a minister and I lived for so long on borrowed faith. Being here, I've rededicated my life to Christ and my faith has increased tenfold," she says.

This spring, Vikki completed CORE, which is the first stage of our life recovery program. As she continues on in her recovery at Hope Center, she's also beginning an accelerated RN program.





June 18, 2021

Friends,

Dordt University's Board of Trustees met yesterday for our regular June meeting. On our agenda were matters pertaining to human sexuality, which have been a topic of conversation for our campus community over the past year. On those agenda items, the Board not only reaffirmed the current policy, but also directed and supported the administration in the application of that policy.

Dordt's mission statement has been a continual guide for all the activities of this university: **"As an institution of higher education committed to the Reformed Christian perspective, Dordt equips students, alumni, and the broader community to work for Christ-centered renewal in all aspects of contemporary life."**

As we work together to live out the institution's mission, we aim to have unity, clarity, and consistency about these matters. We cannot have conflicting beliefs about our understanding and interpretation of Scriptural truths—particularly among our faculty and staff charged with mentoring our students toward Christ-centered renewal.

Dordt University believes, based on its understanding and interpretation of the Bible, that God's creational design is for two sexes, male and female; and that the only appropriate and permissible context in which sexual intimacy may be expressed as overt sexual interaction is in the marriage partnership between a man and a woman. Dordt University is committed to being a Christian community where its employees and students live according to God's creational structure and abide by these Biblical injunctions for marriage and sexual activity. The university expects all students, faculty, and staff to live in accord with this understanding of sexual interaction as long as they are members of the university community.

As we carry out our work in this area of contemporary life, we must speak these truths in love. Finding ways to wholeheartedly and simultaneously live out both grace and truth within our world today is no easy task. Yet, God has called us to this work, and God will equip us to carry it out. We will not speak truth effectively with hearts hardened to a world broken by sin. As we live in relationship with those struggling through such brokenness in their lives, we strive to do so in love.

The Board of Trustees and administration recognize that Christians in the broader community may differ on these beliefs. It is not our desire to create a culture of fear, worry, or concern among Dordt faculty and staff as we work together. Instead, we aim to maintain our unity and consistency as a unique and specific Christian institution, in order that we can be bold in our application of grace and truth in these important cultural matters.

While we hold students, faculty, and staff to certain beliefs and behaviors, we also understand that beliefs can change for people over the course of time. We expect that faculty and staff who do not share our beliefs on these matters may not be able to sustain an employment relationship with this community.

Some may wonder how Dordt's actions on these matters relate to academic freedom. Here, we point to Dordt's statement on academic freedom from the Educational Task, which ends with these words: *Dordt faculty are called to explore, tend, and develop God's world by asking probing questions, formulating insights, wrestling with ideas, freely dialoguing with differing perspectives, and living obediently, all while prophetically working toward shalom. This involves submitting to God's Word as revealed in creation, embodied in the person of Jesus, expounded in the Scriptures, and applied through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit and his Church. In doing so, faculty participate in the Reformational tradition of Semper Reformanda – Reformed and always being Reformed, according to the Word of God.*




We believe that a careful reading of the Educational Task illuminates not only the freedom, but also the responsibility of Dordt's faculty and staff to teach and mentor our students Christianly on many challenging contemporary topics, including human sexuality.

The hope of the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Cabinet is that this note provides a helpful blend of assurance, clarity, and comfort following a season of campus conversations on these matters. If questions or concerns persist, please feel invited to speak with Vice President for Academic Affairs Leah Zuidema or President Erik Hoekstra in the days to come.

Signed, Debra Broek, Chair Erik Hoekstra, President



September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Andrew Sytsma	2 Alaina Herdegen	3 Barb Van Gorp	4 Angela Vande Zande
5 Logan Gallaher Gerry Harms* Josh Pommer Lucy Stravers*	6 Jim A. Van Zee	7 	8 Nellie Vander Schel	9	10 Eric Vande Zande Austin Vermeer	11 Amy Bandstra Krista Van Gelder Noah Numnikhoven
12 	13 Molly Bolt Tim Roose Mark Vos	14 Gavin Ulferts Derek Vander Ark	15 Mary Eisloo*	16 	17	18 Geneva Jansen* Bernice Vermeer*
19 Brooks De Vries	20	21 Carol Vander Ploeg*	22 Peter Bierma Eric Van Wyngarden Geneva Van Zanten*	23	24 Teresa Ulferts Steve Van Wyk Alek Vink Steve Theune	25 Jo-Ann Blom* Lois Branderhorst Reagan Rus
26 Emily Dockter	27 Alex Sandbulte	28 Levi Jungling Bernie Spoelstra* Lois Van Houwelingen Jo Vermeer	29	30 