

We elders conducted an exit interview with Marv Friesen for his final meeting on November 1, 2017. Over his years here, he has observed when our congregation has people who are struggling with an issue, we are supportive in our responses. His observation of our challenges are nurturing our children and youth, especially when our youth reach MYF ages, their interest falters. He also raised concerns about church attendance, which he realizes is a concern in all Mennonite churches as well as other Christian churches across North America. He encouraged us to continue to focus on encouraging and nurturing one another. He also offered to return to our congregation to facilitate a funeral / memorial service for a deceased member if a relative requests his participation.

We elders want you to know that any elder is available to you. Some members have been asking if we elders have specific persons. Yes, Marv assigned approximately 15 to 16 people to each elder so that no one is ignored but each one is noticed and acknowledged. You definitely have the freedom to contact the elder who you prefer when you want to share your joys, concerns, questions, or challenges. Because we are a priesthood of believers who are all called to care for each other, we elders might be asking you to assist with pastoral care responsibilities as needed.

We have divided the responsibilities to answer and respond to the office telephone messages on a daily basis.

At our future elder meeting we will discuss:

- whether UMC continues Marv's practice of holding worship services at Foxdale about 3 to 4 times a year on Sunday afternoons.
- assign a task force to develop a procedure to nurture our children and youth from birth to young adulthood.
- develop a method to acknowledge visitors beyond the Sunday morning greeting

We ask you to pray regularly for each other during this time of transition. We ask you to volunteer for the many tasks that we are committed to. May God bless us with patience, understanding, forbearance, kindness, gentleness with one another as we wait for new leadership for our congregation.

Gloria Horst Rosenberger

Jim Pierce

Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Joel Weidner