

April 15, 2015

Dear New Hoper,



Over the past three months New Hope Church has been engaging a lot of change. As church leaders we thought it would be good to provide a status update on our ongoing discussions with Hillside Church, the new facility search and church finances.

Joining with Hillside Community Church - As many of you know, for the past few months we have been dialoging with Hillside about the possibility of joining forces. They are a small church (40-50 people) who are part of our denomination and have a vision that is in many ways complementary to ours. To date dialogue has occurred between lead pastors and leadership teams. Our hope is to now include more of you in the conversation. On April 12 our churches engaged in a pastor swap (to test the waters further). Here's a link to the message Pastor Rich preached at NHC - <https://vimeo.com/124885814>

We'd like to hear your thoughts on this sermon. Would our community benefit from Rich's preaching/message? Does Hillside's vision bring something we need? Please contact a staff member or leader and let us know what you're thinking and stay tuned for further information about upcoming congregational meetings.

We're having this conversation with hope that, together, we can accomplish more of the work of the church in Calgary. Our dream is that 1 + 1 will equal 3.

This matter will, of course, be brought to the congregation for final approval (hopefully before the summer).

A New Facility - The search for a new facility is ongoing. Financially viable potential locations in NW Calgary are few and far between. While we've explored many options (and continue to do so weekly), two are on the front burner; Rocky Mountain College (at Crowchild Tr. and Brisbois Dr.) and, believe it or not, staying where we are and sub-leasing *back* some second floor classroom space from the new tenant who took over our former space (a sub-letting decision that they, at present, can't make). Ideally we hope to move to a location that is at least as permanent as what we used to have here at WHCC.

As leaders, we're beginning to wonder if our location needs won't be resolved until we make a final decision on the Hillside matter. If we choose to join, then our search will be for a facility that meets the needs of the combined community. Our current location at WHCC would be sufficient for now. Regardless, we continue to search for new facilities.

Please note that while our current arrangements at WHCC are less than ideal, we are *not* being pushed out of our main floor rental situation any time soon. As far as WHCC has communicated, we can quite easily stay for another 12-18 months (or longer).

But we're praying for something more ideal to come together soon.

NHC finances - Giving for the current fiscal year is significantly below budget. We are aware of the problem, but other factors help offset the shortfall. While giving is, of course, critical to the ongoing health and operation of NHC, savings due to the loss of our second floor office space and worship leader staffing have resulted in reductions to our projected expenses for the year. If giving stays solid for the balance of the year, we do not foresee a shortfall. Having said that, once we make the move into a new location, facility costs will return. As church leaders we're trusting that budgeted financial support will as well! New Hope has gone through these kinds of financial ups and downs before and has always managed to meet budget obligations.

Going Forward in Faith - It's been a stressful time for many of us. Staff and children's ministries have felt the strain. Circumstances have stretched our faith and the waiting has certainly been patience inducing, but as the Apostle Paul writes,

"Waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy." Romans 8:25, MSG

It's in this expectancy that we actively, frustratingly and faithfully wait on God. We know that he holds his church.

So thank you for persevering and praying with us. We're excited to see how our future unfolds.

Your New Hope Leadership Team,

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Donald Jantz,
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