



KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL NORTHEAST CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

OCTOBER MINUTES (October 26th, 2024)

Attending:

Tom Egan, Rob Roberts, Jim Hawley, Elgin Gonce, Jared Malone, Jim Catt, George Fulwider, Harry Ennis, Scott Hale

Excused:

Brad Wilson, Jeff Fannon, Jody Mims

Call to Order

Rob opened the meeting at 9:04 AM

Opening Prayer

Jim H. began our meeting in pray

Approval of September 2024 Minutes

Tom previously distributed draft minutes of the September Advisory Council meeting for review. Rob asked if anyone had any issues with these draft minutes. No issues were raised and Rob then asked for a motion to accept the draft minutes. Jared made a motion to approve, Jim H. Motion passed.

Financial Report

George indicated our financial situation appears to be in good shape. Although the finances and reporting for Kairos 44 is not complete, the numbers we have shown the weekend will result in a positive cash flow for our Council. George deposited \$825 in donations from churches he received. There was \$5,500 received in team donations from the weekend. Food expense from the weekend amounted to \$4,500. Other expenses were recognized but we will have more in receipts than expenses from the weekend. We began the weekend with an estimated cash balance of \$5,500 which will increase..

George indicated we have over \$1,000 left on our \$7,000 draw for Kairos 44.

Jared will complete everything for Kairos 44 the week after the Instructional Reunion. This will allow George time to complete the weekend finances so to meet the one month deadline from KPMI.

Spiritual Director Devotion

Jim C. was attending meeting via phone in his car and could not provide a devotion

Ongoing Ministry (Journey) Report

Jeff is attending his daughter's wedding in North Carolina.

Communications Coordinator

Position open.

Kairos Outside / Emmaus Liaison Scott H

Scott Hall talked with Michael Turley about Michael's church, Alter Fellowship, outside of Elizabethan. They offered financial support and individuals from their praise team to become involved with Kairos. There are 30 individual on their praise team, some of which have been involved with prison and / or jail ministry in some form. They currently write letters to over 1,000 incarcerated individuals as part of a program at their church. This is a great opportunity for Kairos to recruit new team volunteers and members for our Council. Scott indicated that they are also excited about their opportunity to be involved with Kairos. We will definitely pursue this opportunity.

This church believes that revival begins in prison, which is so important and matches our mission.

Jared will ensure we do recruiting for Kairos Outside at the instructional reunion. Harry will make sure there are promotional flyers and applications at the event.

Scott reported that unfortunately the last two KO weekends were cancelled because of the hurricane. The facility where they use for training was not available. It was suggested that they try Camp Placid, where we do our training weekends. Scott said he would let Barber know.

NECX Liaison Report

Jim H. highlighted that we continue to be in good standing with NECX and things are going well. At our next LCRB meeting, he plans to once again ask the Administration at NECX if we can invite individuals from the annex to attend Kairos weekends with the general population.

The practice of taking out food by residents from the gym during Kairos weekends continues to be an ongoing issue. That is why Jim wrote an email to Warden Eller asking for the institution's policy on this practice. Warden Eller indicated that he will handle this but we are unsure what that means and what we need to do. Jim wanted to talk to Chaplin Resy about this but he was not at NECX last Thursday. He will follow up.

Rob emphasized again we need more control over the food during the weekend and there needs to be more structure with our inside server team to control food distribution.

George examined the overall operation of the delivery and preparation of food on K 44 and thought that the inside team did a fairly good job. There were a couple of issues on what came from the Bethany kitchen but overall the food control appeared adequate. They installed procedures to improve the process. They actually now record when each inside server takes his meal.

Our kitchen support lead, Hilda Shepherd indicated that having a set menu for all Kairos weekends would be a help. She is working on this, which will provide for better portion size and food distribution. Everyone thought this was a good idea and noted that the food she and her team served on K 44 was great. The chicken salad lunch was a real hit as well as the theme night dinners of Italian lasagna and Thanksgiving turkey which were enjoyed by everyone.

We also need to develop a Kitchen manual so we can provide instructions and guidelines for kitchen teams on future weekends.

Kairos 44 Overview and initial recap – Jared

Jared continued on the discussion of food from the weekend and indicated that the food for the weekend was well received. Dean, our observing leader, periodically examined each tables and tried to identify any individual who may have been sneaking food to be back to their house. He also examined the plates of food and how much was eaten. This is important for his leading K 45 to identify what worked so he can implement on his weekend. Again, Jared noted that our themed dinners worked great and a meal plan will help ensure this continues in the future.

Kairos 44 graduated 38 residents. Four left the weekend for various reasons, sickness, issues with prison staff, visitation and personal decision. The response from first time volunteers on the weekend was very positive. Kairos 44 changed the minds and hearts of many as witnessed by our closing ceremony sharing and the fact that 90 residents attended the prayer and share the Tuesday after the weekend. This was more than double our normal turnout and represents the highest number of residents in attendance in a number of years.

Our new sound board and upgraded microphones worked very well and everyone could hear speakers without a lot of echoes. There were some issues with the microphone as the weekend progressed but were not major. After the weekend Scott talked with the sound engineer who got us the system and he indicated there were some simple adjustments in the sound board that we could have done which would have eliminated the issues. Scott said he was told how to make these adjustments but he will also ask the engineer to come out and train us so we know what to do in the future.

Instructional Reunion

Jared is currently preparing for the instructional reunion next Saturday, November 2nd and will work on planning food and everything else that needs to be done.

Ongoing Fundraising for Kairos Weekends

5 Guys Food Trucks

Jodie said all we need to do is to pick a Thursday night at 5 Guys and go for it. After some discussion, we decided to put this off until January or the spring as there is a lot going on through the end of the year.

St. Mary Church “Gourmet” Breakfast

Tom reviewed the upcoming breakfast fundraiser at St. Mary’ Church on Sunday, November 17th from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. He asked for help in attending the breakfast and talking to parishioners, bringing Kairos promotional material, helping direct churchgoers to the breakfast from Mass and answering questions. A number of Council members are planning to attend. Proceeds from the breakfast are a donation to our Kairos NECX Council.

Old Business

Recruiting for Weekends and AC

See recruiting from Kairos Outside / Emmaus section above.

2025 AC Election status

Tom reviewed our 12/31/2024 Advisory Council election status. There are 4 vacancies that need to be filled for our 2025 AC. (Jim Hawley termed out after 9 years on the Council. Jeff Fannon decided not to run for another 3 year term. Scott Stodola resigned from the Council and Brad Wilson moved to North Carolina.)

The Council has been active in identifying candidates to run for seats on our 2025 Council. Tom as also sent out requests for nominees to our actives Kairos Community. From this, 4 individuals have been identified and agreed to serve the 3 year term:

- Dean Yates
- Michael Turley
- Greg Watlington
- Brad Denney

Tom asked for a motion that these four candidates be approved by the council and that nominations end. Scott H. made this motion and Jared 2nd. Motion passed without exception. Tom will begin a 7 day election to include our active Kairos volunteers beginning Monday, October 28th. We will assign positions for the 2025 AC at our November 16th AC meeting.

After our meeting, a 5th candidate was identified, Cory Paul. An email was sent to the Council and a majority on Council members voted to amend our motion to include Cory in our election. Therefore there will now be 5 nominees for our 4 open positions on our 2025 Council.

Bethany and First Christian support for Kairos 45

Rob has been texting with David South of Bethany Baptist Church in Mountain City. David has offered to “champion” a recruiting effort in Johnson County and is hoping to attract about 10 individuals to serve in our ministry.

Although we welcome David’s support to recruit for Kairos volunteers in Mountain City, we are not sure how someone else in charge of this effort, other than a Kairos AC member would look, especially when that person has not even been to a closing ceremony, let alone a weekend. The Council felt we need a presence in a number of churches in the Mountain City area and sponsorship from each. We welcome help from David on this but we need to be “championing” the effort.

If we do this right, we should be able to provide Dean and future leaders a roster of volunteers to choose from for their weekend.

We have a wonderful relationship with Bethany and they have been a great partner on our Kairos weekends for over 25 years. Since Pastor Gayle left Bethany however, we didn’t know if that would continue. During our K44 weekend, we did continue to receive great support from Bethany and a strong indication that they want to continue to support future weekends.

Multiple churches involved with food preparation on future weekends would help if there was a problem that our primary church may not be able to support us in the future, but it could also create a logistic problem in coordinating food support from multiple locations, especially when other locations are a longer distance from NECX. We know we need to expand support in Mountain City, and not continue to have “all of our eggs in one basket”, but maintaining a single location where all food would be directed and controlled before going into NECX may be a good idea.

There are pluses and minuses on any option we choose for Kairos 45 and beyond. Having more churches means a better chance to recruit more volunteers for our weekends. It is also something that provides greater flexibility in serving food, just like ordering from multiple stores provides more options.

One main item discussed is the role of our Advisory Council over food for the weekends. Rob feels we need individuals, approved by the AC, to do the kitchen support for our weekends. It was suggested that the kitchen team be a separate from those ordering the food for the weekend.

Hilda Shepherd feels that Bethany really wants us to stay at their facility and she is comfortable with the support she and her team received from the Church. Feedback from her is that is not all about the physical kitchen, it is about the relationships that make the kitchen support team successful.

Everything thought it was a lot easier and better to bring food into NECX in bulk and then allow the inside team to portion it out on individual plates at the gym.

David South also requested help from Kairos in providing music support for an event they are doing at the Church on November 6th. Tom will extract a list of Kairos musicians from Kairos Messenger to give to Rob who will forward to David.

George brought up an issue about the cookie bags we use to bring cookies into NECX. They are not clear, which is a requirement for anything coming into the prison. George was looking at replacing these bags with clear hard plastic containers which have a handle on one side and wheels on the other. They would hold multiple bags of cookies and be brought directly to the individual units in the prison. This may or may not work but we need to address the distribution of cookies and make sure it meets security standards at NECX.

George has one of these hard plastic containers and will bring it to the instructional reunion. We can look at it. Rob feels we should look just replace the current cookie bags with the same type of bag but with clear plastic. We would then continue to use the same rolling carts to transport cookies to the various units.

George has not been able to find clear plastic bags that will hold up. He has been looking and Jim H. and Rob have offered to help in this search and will bring back some options so we can discuss at our November AC meeting.

NECX Christmas Party

Jim C. has been working on this and will have an update for our November.

Kairos State meeting in November

Scott H. will coordinate those who wish to attend this event in Nashville.

New Business:

Budget for 2025.

We prepare our annual budget by December 1st. Harry has not done this before and will check with Brad on how he did it last year.

Prayer Requests

- Scott ask for prayers for wisdom on how we handle the situation with supporting our Kairos weekends in Mountain City in the future and also that Christ provide the individuals for our Council and weekend leadership to help us continue to do His work at NECX.
- Jared asked us to pray for his mother, Jackie Malone and the Malone family. Jackie is transferring from living by herself to now live with her daughter and also give up her driving privileges.
- Jim H's. 2 year old nephew has breathing issues and is currently hospitalized. They do not know what is causing this medical problem at this time and it has been understandably difficult on everyone. Pray that Christ heals this small child.

- Rob asked for continues prayers for our country and the divide in our society and help end the things we are doing that are against God's will.

November AC Meeting

We decided to hold our November 16th AC meeting in person. We are planning a breakfast meeting at Crossroads Methodist Church. Scott is going to see if we can get food provided or we can do a potluck.

Closing Prayer

Tom closed our meeting in prayer highlighting prayer requests.

Meeting Ended

Rob closed the meeting at 10:57 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Tom Egan, Secretary

Tom