



## **KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL NORTHEAST CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX**

### **AUGUST MINUTES (August 24th, 2024)**

#### **Attending:**

Tom Egan, George Fulwider, Rob Roberts, Jody Mims, Jim Hawley, Elgin Gonce, Jared Malone, Scott Hale, Jim Catt, Harry Ennis, Brad Wilson, Jeff Fannon,

#### **Excused:**

Scott Stodola

#### **Call to Order**

Rob opened the meeting at 9:11 AM

#### **Opening Prayer**

Jim H. opened the meeting with a pray to honor our brother Ron Stukey who was taken to the Lord yesterday. Jim was with Ron at his passing and did a funeral service for him.

#### **Approval of July 2024 Minutes**

Tom previously distributed draft minutes of the July Advisory Council meeting for review. Rob asked if anyone had any issues with these draft minutes. No issues were raised and Jim H. made a motion to accept the draft minutes. Jim C. 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed.

#### **Financial Report**

Harry continues to get up to speed as Donor Coordinator and what Christi gives sends him to reconcile our financial balances for our Council. He has been receiving different levels of financial detail from her. Some months, donations we deposit are itemized, other months they are not. He will continue to work to get this resolved and reconcile with the State. At this time, with the internal records he maintains, Harry is comfortable reporting that our Council has approximately \$4,800 in available cash. George's records show our available cash balance with the State is \$4,721.57 and is very comfortable on what Harry is reporting. This balance includes a \$1,500 donation that was made for sound equipment and it must be used for that purpose. Therefore we have approximately \$3,300 available for our upcoming weekend in October. George also received two checks from Scott S. totaling \$325 which is a donation Scott received from Jared's and his visit to Heights Baptist Church in Kingsport where they talked about Kairos.

The good news is that this leaves us in a better financial position than we were in the spring, going into Kairos 43. Coupled with increasing the suggested donation for team members to \$250, we are in a position to cover our expenses for the Kairos 44 weekend.

### **Spiritual Director Devotion**

Jim C. provided a devotional from the Book of Acts. Jim highlighted challenges Paul and the disciples faced in their building the Church and demonstrated that no matter what the obstacle, they were focused on God and how important it was to be in step with what God wanted. Our work in the prison is the same and our hearts need to be dedicated in the same manner to what God wants. We need to continue to follow the Spirit's direction in our ministry.

### **Review of Action Items**

The only action item was to secure funding for the sound equipment for NECX. This was completed and we have deposited the funds for this purpose. The item has been removed and there are no additional items being tracked at this time.

### **Ongoing Ministry (Journey) Report**

Jeff reported that there were 50 residents who attended the one day retreat in the NECX gym on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August. He also noted that we had a good turnout of 55 men at the prayer and share last Tuesday, August 20th. 10 of the attendees on Tuesday also attended the retreat. This truly is a good indicator that the retreat was a real success. Jim H. also noted that he was told by the Chaplin's office that there was not enough time to get all of the passes out to the men attending the retreat for prayer and share on Tuesday, so this number could even be higher in the coming weeks.

### **Communications Coordinator**

Scott S. was not at the meeting and did not provide an update for communications.

### **Kairos Outside / Emmaus Liaison Scott H**

Scott H. highlighted that there is a need to recruit women for Kairos Outside and asked for our help and mention KO to anyone we know who may be interested.

Scott met with Mike, who is leading the next Emmaus walk, to recruit for Kairos. We already have 3 new volunteers from Emmaus Walks on Kairos 44. Jody and Scott H. indicated they are still talking with Emmaus volunteers, who are interested in Kairos, but won't count them until they sign up.

Tom said that we need to highlight Kairos Outside (KO) on all of the events we do at NECX. We definitely do this during weekends but should have also done it at the retreat. We need to also do it periodically at our Tuesday meetings. Scott H said he would have KO materials available and ensure that they contain local contact information. Brad noted that there are KO materials available on the website for download. Jared also has KO material. On their Kairos website two KO sites are listed for Tennessee, one in Mountain City and the other in Knoxville. There is a 3<sup>rd</sup> KO ministry in western Tennessee. Wherever a resident needs support for a

loved one to use KO, it will be provided. Only one Kairos Torch facility is located in Tennessee, it is in western part of the state in Summerville. Jim C. will check to make sure the information on the Kairos website is current.

### **NECX Liaison Report Jim**

Jim H. reported that all is going well with NECX administration and Kairos. He meets with the Chaplin and Administrative Staff on a regular basis. Jim reported that the current staff in the Chaplin's office; Joe Rizner, Zoe and Little "T" are doing a great job and should be complimented. They are a real asset in supporting Kairos activities at the prison. There was a LCRB meeting the previous week which Rob and Jim C. attended. Although the Warden and the security staff could not attend, Chaplin Resy provided us with positive feedback on our ministry.

Tom asked about the new process for volunteers to obtain access into the prison and how it was working. Jared noted that it is working well and at this time he does not see a problem for Kairos 44. The new process begins when the applicant completes a request form from the TDOC website, which goes to Nashville. The applicant receives an emailed and schedules an appointment online to complete training. Once that is done, Resy is notified and schedules an orientation with that individual and gets them a badge and clearance. If necessary, it can be expedited to handle the exception.

### **Kairos 44 – Jared**

The question was asked on volunteers who may now need to be recertified at NECX prior to Kairos 44. Volunteers are recertified every 2 or 3 years but this has not been happening as Jim H., George and others have been granted access for a much longer time period without being asked to recertify. Jared does not want to have this be an issue on his weekend. Jim H. said he did not think that would occur and that gate clearance would not be revoked for recertification before our weekend. He will check with Resy on timing on recertification to ensure this is the case.

Jared has distributed his introduction email for Kairos 44. It details the time and location for team formation meetings and information about the weekend. The suggested donation recommendation amount for a volunteer has been increased to \$250. This is not only necessary to cover the cost of the weekend but also the cost of providing AKT training and the cost of our Christmas dinner with our Kairos graduates.

He is also working on finalizing the number of cookies that each volunteer will be asked to provide for the weekend. We have been asking for 100 Dozen but had a surplus on the previous weekend. Unfortunately, this surplus turned out to be mostly crumbs because of packaging and was unusable when they were donated to a Kairos weekend at Red Onion prison in Virginia. Packing instructions for cookies will need to be updated and reinforced.

Hilda Shepherd is the Kitchen lead for the weekend. Bill is also on the team. Jared and Hilda have discussed the menu and there will be no pizza for Sunday lunch. This is being replaced

with a roast beef sandwich. Rob's salad lunch will also be part of the menu and Jared thanked Rob for taking HIS lunch idea and using it on the retreat. (With humor.)

Bill Shepherd and Andy Warner are doing music on the worship team. Greg Watlington is doing Agape and is now receiving weekend posters. They will visit our Mountain Storage facility to determine what additional items need to be purchased for the weekend. Harry has 3 boxes of supplies for the weekend and 50 crosses. Jared also has 10 crosses so we are fine on crosses for the weekend. Jody asked that he be given a list of what items need to be purchased for the weekend as his Church could definitely provide financial support for these items, if they knew what they were. Other Churches may do the same, so the team will let us know what is needed so we can ask our churches for donations.

Jared has 36 team member signed up for the weekend. There are also 7 on the list for the outside team in the kitchen. There are 8 clergy for the tables, Rob, supporting the kitchen and Andy doing music on the worship team.

Chick-fil-A is sponsoring one of the lunches for the team training weekend in September.

Jared is reviewing lodging for the weekend to ensure space is available.

Brad offered Jared for help with Ezra. Jared mentioned that he is meeting with Bill Donoho and they will ensure that Jared has entered everything correctly into Ezra. He will let Brad know if he needs any additional assistance.

Jim C. highlighted that Jared is on top of the many items he needs to be handling for his weekend, and is doing a great job.

Rob wanted to ensure that everyone knew the great benefit the training weekend was on Kairos 43 as it really bonded the team and was like a gift for them to spend the time together planning the weekend as a team.

Brad noted that we need to do prayer circle training during team formation. Kairos 43 got dinged on their EI report for not having that on their agenda. It should be part of the weekend but it can get lengthy and get out of control. The prayer circle training needs to highlight that prayers should be short words of encouragement for the men and not lengthy sermons. We also need to include prayer circles on certain Tuesday prayer and share meetings. Rob noted that we did include a prayer circle on Tuesday in the past, but did not go well. With shortened prayers it should work better and Jim suggested we incorporate it on the "last" Tuesday of each month.

### **Ongoing Fundraising for Kairos Weekends**

### **5 Guys**

Jody mentioned that the 5 Guy fundraiser is simple and all we need to do is basically just pick a date, advertise and then we go and eat at the restaurant that evening. We need to tell them that we are with Kairos when we order and they will then make a donation to Kairos, depending on how many show up and how much we spend. This is only from 5 to 9 PM on the day we choose. We will need to have someone from Kairos coordinate at the restaurant during those hours.

Scott H. noted that KO does a similar fundraiser at Freddy's. He has supported it in the past.

Jody will get us some dates available so we can schedule a date.

### **Food Trucks**

Jody is trying to contact the guy who needs to set this up. Jody's church has been doing this for awhile. It started out strong last April but over time the number of trucks and revenue have gone down. This is more complicated and requires more planning. We also need to guarantee a minimum for the food trucks to participate, so there is some risk. Jared would like to put this fundraising option on hold at this time as there is enough happening already with the upcoming weekend only a couple of months away.

Tom mentioned that due to a scheduling conflict at St. Mary's Church, the breakfast fundraiser dedicated to Kairos on September 22<sup>nd</sup> needed to move to November 17<sup>th</sup>. Tom will keep us updated as he feels this is a good recruiting opportunity in addition to a fundraiser. He is hoping that as many of us as possible can support.

Jim H. mentioned that one of the breakout sessions at the KPMI Convention discussed a Belk fundraising opportunity. Other Councils are doing this and are making a lot of money. We will talk to Scott S. about this as he attended that breakout session and has additional details.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Recruiting for the Advisory Council:**

Scott H. is continuing to recruit for the Council. He indicated that one of the criteria he is looking at is whether the individual has been active in attending our Tuesday meetings at NECX.

Brad indicated to the Council that he is willing to help the Council in any way he can, but if we identify someone locally to do the Data Coordinator role, he is willing to step down.

Rob and Scott went to our storage facility in Mountain City and reviewed what was available to provide an additional microphone setup for our weekend. Scott H. determined we have most of what we need and may only need a few hundred dollars to make this happen.

### **New Business**

### **Recap of one day retreat, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

George provided a recap of the retreat on the 17<sup>th</sup> which was all positive. The event went smooth with 50 of the 62 residents invited attending. Talks were good and the inside server team did a great job. The lunch of salad and chicken strips, which was coordinated by Rob was a real hit. Table sharing was good but one-on-one praying with the residents pairing off dropped off after the first couple of talks on some tables. Jim H. used a format where each table family member prayed at his table. This seemed to work much better. Prayer is needed and welcomed as part of each talk but needs to be flexible to allow the prayer time to provide the maximum benefit to the individual and the table.

George received input from the volunteers working the retreat and will write up recommendations from that feedback. One item was discussed that detracted from the retreat was that the speaker's voices could not be heard clearly at some tables. In the future we will be using our new Bose sound equipment in the NECX gym, which will definitely help. It was not available for our retreat. However, we also need to educate our speakers on how to make sure they were using their microphones effectively. A few of the speakers like Jim H. and Hugh's voices were fine, but other speaker's could not be heard as well because they did not speak directly into their microphone.

Rob thanked George and Jeff for stepping up and doing a great job on this important event. We will do again.

George asked someone to coordinate our Kairos Christmas party at NECX. He can't do it.

### **Bethany and first Christian**

Although the Bethany Baptist Church is still active, the congregation at that church has changed dramatically since Pastor Gayle was asked to leave earlier this year. Not many of the people who volunteered for Kairos at that Church remain. The majority of our supporters and volunteers have relocated to other churches in the Mountain City area.

Changes at Bethany have been noticeable and we are concerned about our ongoing relationship with this Church, even though we have been told that Kairos is still very welcomed and the remaining congregation is very open to supporting future weekends. We have noticed that projects at the Church, where we have offered to help, like the new kitchen cabinets, have been left undone with no follow-up from the Church. We also are aware that outside organizations, who would like to use the under-utilized facility at Bethany, have been just turned away. Bethany has also closed their food pantry. All of this makes us very uncertain of the direction of the Church and their viability to support Kairos, even at the current time.

At the same time, we have developed a very positive relationship with the leadership at First Christian Church in Mountain City, which is 4 miles from NECX. Jared, Jim H. and Dean Yates met with the church pastor and key members of the congregation and feel very comfortable that they would be wonderful partners with us for our weekends. It is a much

larger church with more than adequate facilities to support our weekends and has a much larger and committed congregation. Although it is further from NECX, we feel we can accommodate the logistics of the additional time it will take to get to and from NECX, without an issue.

Our discussion focused on what we need to do at this time to make sure we have the level of support we need to conduct our weekends at NECX.

After some discussion, George made the following motion:

**Jared will contact the pastor at First Christian Church in Mountain City and confirm whether his church can commit to providing kitchen support for our Kairos 44 weekend, October 17<sup>th</sup> through October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If they can and Jared is comfortable with the level of support they can provide, we move the kitchen support from Bethany Baptist to First Christian for Kairos 44.**

Jared 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Motion passed without exception.

If we move our support to First Christian, we will need to recover the items we have stored at Bethany and move them.

Jeff does not want us to close the door with Bethany and do whatever we can to not cut ties with an organization that we received so much support from in the past. It is not our intention and we will do what we can try maintain our existing relationship as much as possible. It was noted that David South told us in the past that we should start looking at other churches for support. We owe a lot to Bethany Baptist, as they have been a strong supporter of Kairos over the years, and are saddened to have to make this change.

*(After the meeting, we were notified by Jared that he contacted First Christian and verified that they can accommodate our needs for our weekend in October and therefore, we will move kitchen support from Bethany Baptist to First Christian for Kairos 44.)*

### **KPMI Annual Convention Review**

Jim H. and Scott S. attended the KPMI 2024 Annual Convention in Lexington, Kentucky in July.

Jim was excited about the convention and indicated that it is important for more of our Kairos Community to attend future conventions. The overall convention was positive and uplifting for our ministry. The general and breakout sessions were informative and provided an opportunity to meet as many of the 530 volunteers in attendance as possible. These individuals came from around the country and around the world. Just seeing all of the people involved in Kairos was exciting to Jim and Scott. Jim noted that it was a shot in the

arm for them and would be for us in this Council if more of us could attend a convention in the future. He asked that the Advisory Council encourage attendance to future conventions as much as possible. There is no limit on how many of our members can attend, they just need to signup. Jim also mentioned that Christie did a great job preaching at the event.

Jim was disappointed there were technical glitches with the virtual meeting of the convention so others could not see what was happening at the general sessions. Tom mentioned he did try to attend virtually but after about an hour, the video died and never came back.

Jim said that between him and Scott S., they tried to attend as many of the breakout sessions as possible. He felt bad that Scott S. was not at our meeting today to share his enthusiasm and feedback for the conference and what he was able to learn and experience.

Jim is going to follow up with KPMI to see if there is any way for us to get a copy of any video of the meeting.

Thanks Jim and Scott for attending.

### **Prayer Requests**

- Christ provide direction to moving our kitchen support from Bethany to First Christian
- Christ to receive our brother Ron Stukey into his eternal reward and be with his family at this difficult time.
- Healing for Bill Donoho's wife and Hugh's girlfriend Phyllis, who are battling medical issues
- Healing for Richard Beets and a swift and full recovery from a recent heart attack
- Healing from recently diagnosed cancer for Robert Frederickson
- One of our brothers inside, Tank (Jamey), got sent to another prison. We think it may be to facilitate his court case to be released from his life sentence. Pray he be granted this release after many years.

### **Closing Prayer**

Tom closed our meeting in prayer highlighting prayer requests.

### **Meeting Ended**

Rob closed the meeting at 11:25 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Tom Egan, Secretary

*Tom*