



KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL NORTHEAST CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

FEBURARY MINUTES (February 15th, 2025)

Attending:

Tom Egan, Rob Roberts, Elgin Gonce, Jared Malone, Jim Catt, George Fulwider, Harry Ennis, Scott Hale, Jody Mims, Greg Watlington, Michael Turley, George Fulwider, Harris Ennis, Ricky Poore

Excused:

Cody Paul, Dean Yates

Call to Order

Scott opened the meeting at 9:04 AM.

Opening Prayer

Michael began our meeting in prayer.

Approval of January 2025 Minutes – Tom

Tom previously distributed draft minutes of the January 2025 Advisory Council meeting for review. Tom asked if anyone had any issues with these draft minutes. No issues were raised and Tom asked for a motion to accept the draft minutes. Michael made the motion and Jared 2nd. Motion passed without exception

Financial Report – Harry / George

Harry provided an update on where he is with reconciling our financial records with the State. He has completed most of our reconciliation and feels fairly confident, (about 70%) that our current cash balance is \$10,505. He is finalizing our end of year 2024 reconciliation to provide us with an accurate 2025 beginning balance. Harry is trying to be as conservative as possible with the State and even if there are differences, we are in good financial position. This does not take into consideration our 5 Guys fundraiser last Monday which Jody reported on later in the meeting. George asked Harry if he has taken into consideration our 17% KPMI fee in his reconciliation. Harry has definitely taken this as part of his reconciliation. George's estimate of our current cash position is around \$8,000 but does not include all of what Harry has or a \$1,200 donation from Colonial Heights Baptist Church.

Spiritual Director Devotion

Michael was moved by the Spirit to provide us with devotion on the term yadah, which is to hold out or extend the hands for praise. This is one of the seven Jewish words in the bible. As Michael

highlighted, this shows caring and reaching out in our ministry with the men in NECX as he was moved by his understanding of the word. Yadah is mentioned 111 times in Hebrews. The men in the Old Testament were so overcome with praise and worship for the Father that they fell to their knees and extended their hands in praise. In the Psalms, Michael indicated that all of the people are unified in their praise of the Father and lifted their hands in praise. We need to ask the Holy Spirit what area of our lives line up with His praise and which do not. We need to ask the Spirit to provide us the insight to know the difference. Michael gave us his witness story that on an Emmaus weekend where the Spirit made him aware that sometime yadah may not be for the right purpose and be over emphasized and misunderstood. Michael encouraged us to make sure we redefine our praise and balance our yadah with our praise in order to provide the correct message to ourselves and others.

The devotion was very powerful and led to a discussion on this topic with what the Lord wants us to do and how He wants us to express our praise

Ongoing Ministry (Journey) Report – Cory

Scott updated us that he and Barbara did a Podcast on Kairos inside and Kairos outside that Cory helped coordinate. It is on YouTube and he will forward the link to everyone. It is intended as a recruiting and fundraising tool to solicit additional support for Kairos.

Communications Coordinator – Jared

Jared continues to work with churches in the Mountain City area to increase support for our weekends. He has contacts at two additional churches in the area and will be exploring opportunities at these facilities. Jared also attended the LCRB last Tuesday with Jim, Rob and Tom.

He will meet with Dean on Kairos 45 when Dean returns from Peru.

Kairos Outside / Emmaus Liaison – Greg

Greg will be meeting with Emmaus leadership and attend their Board meetings to ensure they are aware of Kairos opportunities and be a source to recruit for future weekends.

NECX Liaison Report – Jim

Jim provided a recap of our LCRB meeting last Tuesday at NECX. Chaplin Resy conducted the meeting with both Wardens in attendance. It highlighted what is happening in NECX as well as changes at the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDoC).

A new requirement for all volunteer organizations at NECX is that the prison now requires an annual calendar of all activities, beginning in 2025. We need to list all events that fall outside our normal regularly scheduled events and obtain approval at the State level to conduct these events. The prison needs to know what and when events are being planned to ensure everything is approved. Scheduling non routine events will take 5 or 6 weeks for the State to review and grant approval. This needs to be factored in when we are planning any new event. Jim will ensure our events are submitted so they can be approved and scheduled.

Re-certification of all volunteers into NECX was also discussed. Nashville TDoC is cracking down to ensure that all volunteers complete their required training every 2 years and that their background records are clean.

There was a discussion that TDoC may go to an annual re-certification that would require additional training for all of our volunteers. Nothing is final yet but this will be something we need to be aware of for the future. It change impacts all groups that come into NECX.

Volunteers will be contacted directly by Nashville when they need to go through re-certification. They will be instructed on what they need to do to get re-certified. Volunteers will now also need to visit the prison at least once in a 120 day period or they will be classified as inactive and their clearance revoked. We need to inform our volunteers of this new requirement and get them to attend Tuesday sessions to maintain clearance. Everyone going into the prison will now be entered into a computer system by the CO at check-in, to track and monitor their access.

There was a concern noted that because of this new requirement, volunteers will need to make more frequent visits to the prison and this may overload our Tuesday evening sessions with volunteers. Jim did not think it will be a problem.

Tom asked if Jim could draft a simple statement outlining these new rules and regulations so he can send to all of our volunteers. We would also start to track our volunteers to ensure they get re-certified before they lose their access. We will work with Resy to develop a control to prevent that from happening.

A 5 day unity revival program at NECX is beginning next Wednesday, February 19th. Each day from the 19th through the 23rd from 5 to 8:15 PM there will be session in the VG room and include a snack. Kairos was not asked to participate but Sunday evening's sponsor cancelled and it is available. It was asked whether we would like to do that evening. The only thing we would be asked to do is to show up and provide drinks and food for 110. We decided this did not provide us sufficient time to organize and we could not commit to hosting the event on the 23rd.

Data Coordinator

Rob is working on an inventory of all Kairos items and asked Council members to provide him with a list of Kairos items they currently have in their possession. Only one Council member responded. Rob again indicated that he needs our input for his inventory. He is also working on the inventory we have at Bethany Church.

Kairos 45 update – Dean

Jared mentioned that there are a lot of new volunteers on Kairos 45. We need to make it a priority to get the certification and clearance process started with Resy now for these new people. This has been a bottleneck in the past and could be a problem with this large of a number of new volunteers.

Although Dean is in Peru and could not be at the Council meeting, he provided Scott a written update on his weekend. He has 53 people signed up for the weekend. This does not include Kitchen Support Staff. First Christian Church, who will be providing kitchen support for the weekend, currently has disaster workers from hurricane Helene housed at their facility but those individuals are scheduled to be gone before our April weekend. There is also a cabin at the church that can accommodate 12 that is available as well as the Eisenhower Cabin. We definitely need more volunteers to help in the kitchen. There are 17 first time team volunteers.

Dean now has Ezra and he is working with Jared to input his team into the program. This process has already begun. Jared indicated that we should re-examine the donation per volunteer established on Kairos 44 of \$250 and \$40 for the training weekend. Jared noted that we are in better financial condition at this time and we should consider reducing it on Kairos 45. George agreed.

Jared then made the following motion: The recommended donation for team on Kairos 45 will be \$200 and an additional \$50 to cover the costs of the training weekend. Jody 2nd the motion. Motion passed with one NO vote.

Camp Placid now charges \$10 per guest, per night, regardless of whether the person stays overnight or not.

George wanted to make sure we have an adequate amount of clear plastic containers for K 45. These are now required to get food into NECX. Jared purchased additional containers after his weekend and we should be fine. We also will probably not need to rent any trucks for the weekend as there is adequate storage space at First Christian and there is also a dumpster at First Christian where there was not one at Bethany. George reminded us that we need to make sure there is adequate storage space for our cookies during the weekend.

The issue regarding Kitchen support during Sunday of the weekend was discussed. First Community will need their kitchen back Sunday morning for their congregation and this may create a logistics problem. Scott, along with Greg and Jim Hawley have discussed the kitchen with the Emmaus team and is also working on obtaining help from them during our weekend. The Council will also work with K45 leadership to determine how our Sunday lunch can be prepared beforehand to allow the kitchen to be freed up after breakfast.

Ongoing Fundraising for Kairos Weekends

5 Guys

Jody organized a great fundraiser at 5 Guys in Kingsport on Monday, February 10th, with 70 to 90 attending the event and eating at the restaurant. Jody thought this was a bit small as we have a large population in the Kairos and Emmaus communities who were contacted for this fundraiser. Tom agreed and noted that our distribution list for Kairos alone is over 200 and does not include the individual Churches who were made aware of our fundraiser.

The fundraiser was definitely a low maintenance event and resulted in a \$257.14 donation from 5 Guys which represented 20% of what Kairos supporters purchased at the location that evening. In addition, there were a number of individual contributions received from those who could not attend. The total received from this event for Kairos was \$727.14. Jody said we are invited back and he thinks we should do it again. Everyone agreed and thanked him for a great effort.

Old Business

Kitchen Manual and Weekend meals

As mentioned earlier, Scott is working with the Emmaus organization to get their kitchen manual and modify it to use it for Kairos. He will incorporate it into Kairos 45 weekend planning.

ACT Advisory Council Training

Scott asked again how many of the Council members have attended this training and not many have. He will again send this out again for the Council to sign up for this online training.

New Business

One-day Retreat.

This event will need to be scheduled with NECX as an additional event this year. We will not be able to do this before Kairos 45 but will schedule it between Kairos 45 and Kairos 46.

Revival at NECX

As previously noted at the minutes, we will not be participating in this event, Scott indicated that we need to substitute our providing a meal with our prayers.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers for our weekend leader Dean, who was in Africa and is now in Peru
- For the success of the Kairos 45 weekend.
- For Cory Paul and his family who are going through some difficulties.
- For the kitchen team supporting Kairos 45 and the additional challenge of being at a new facility with a new team.

Closing Prayer

Jim ended our meeting in prayer.

Closing

Scott ended the meeting at 10:58 AM

Respectively submitted,

Tom Egan, Secretary

Tom

DRAFT