



KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL NORTHEAST CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

JULY MEETING MINUTES (July 15th, 2023)

Attending:

Tom Egan, George Fulwider, Jim Hawley, Brad Wilson, Jeff Fannon, Rob Roberts, Richard Beets, Jared Malone,

Excused:

Theresa Garland, Scott Stodola, Randy Lantz, Scott Combs, Scott Hale

Meeting Opening:

Rob called the meeting to order at 9:02AM.

Opening Prayer and Devotional

Jim opened the meeting with a prayer to bless our meeting and ministry.

Approval of June 2023 Minutes – Tom

Tom previously distributed, via email, draft copies of the June minutes on two separate occasions for the Council to review. Tom asked for a motion to approve the draft June minutes. Richard made the motion to approve and Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed without exception.

Financial Report – Brad / George

Brad reported that since our last financial statement from State, there have only been 3 deposits made to our account totaling \$693.

Spiritual Director Devotion – Rob

Randy was excused from our meeting so Rob provided our devotion with a reading called Stations. It revolved around a train and compared our lives to train travel. We, in life's journey only wait for our train to reach our stations (accomplishments), which does not fill us spiritually in many cases. He read that it is the train ride and the travel that bring us joy, not reaching our stations (what we accomplish). Our regrets and fear revolve around what we did in the past and not our journey and ultimate goal.

Review of Action Items – Rob / Tom

The action item on the physical process of moving between Chapel and Community Room during our weekend was discussed as part of our discussion of the status of K 42.

Regarding the topic of conducting a Kairos weekend for the men in the Annex, Robert Fultz, who was asked to provide the Council with recommendations on how he thought this should be handled, could not attend our meeting. He did provide Jeff with his recommendation that there be a separate Kairos weekend at the Annex once a year which would replace a weekend for the general population. This would continue until the men in the Annex were all provided access to a Kairos weekend.

The Council discussed this and other options, one of which was to include adding up to three tables in the Annex during our regular Kairos weekend for the general population. There would be a split team of volunteers to do the weekend at one time in two locations. Another option is a separate, smaller weekend in the Annex at a different time. Both options present logistical issues and definitely are problematic. The facility in the Annex needed for the weekend is currently used for visitations, which would be a problem as an alternative space would need to be made available for visitations during the Kairos weekend.

After a long discussion on this topic, we determined that the next step in making this weekend a reality in the Annex is to schedule and tour and discussion with Chaplin Resy, where we would determine what options we would have available to us to implement any of our alternatives. Jim will setup this meeting and include Rob, George, and Jared. Resy only works until 4:30PM but Jim will ask if we could schedule later in the evening so those working can also attend.

Ongoing Ministry (Journey) Report – Jeff / Jim

The turnout for our Tuesday reunions and prayer / share is averaging in the mid 30s. This is an increase of 10 men compared to prior to K41.

Communications Coordinator – Scott Stodola

Scott Stodola, our leader of K43 next spring, is attending AKT this weekend and was not at our meeting. He has a new edition of his newsletter ready and will get it out when he completes AKT. Scott has distributed an email to our 130 volunteers asking them to update their personal data for our database. To date, he has only received 26 replies to this request.

Kairos Outside / Emmaus Liaison Discussion

Scott Hale is on a family event and was not on the meeting.

NECX Liaison Report – Team

Jim highlighted an encounter he and Jared had with Captain Lewis the previous Tuesday, when they inquired if our session could be extended past 8PM, since it not begin until 7:20PM. It was not a good exchange. Actually another Correction Officer apologized to Jim for how Captain Lewis acted. Resy knows about this and will talk with the Captain. Besides Captain Lewis, we have a good rapport with staff and in most instances receive additional time for our session when our meeting does not start at 7PM.

Our start time depends on what is happening in the mess hall and how the men are released to the VG. We can be delayed up to 30 minutes on some Tuesdays. This is a security issue created by the reduced staff at NECX, however, more COs are being hired, which should solve the problem.

Storage in Mountain City for Kairos Weekends – Scott Hale

Rob has been looking into storage facilities in Mountain City and will continue to research this option to allow us to transfer and store our weekend equipment from Crossroads Church in Kingsport to Mountain City. We were planning to build a storage facility behind Bethany Church and share part of it with the Church, but Rob feels it would be better option for us to provide our own storage solution and just rent storage space near the prison with KPMI paying for it. He will update the Council on his research and make a recommendation on the best alternative for storing our equipment for our weekends.

Kairos 42 Status – Brad

Brad distributed a seating chart for K42 showing seven tables with volunteer names and their table assignments. Only 3 positions are needed to be filled to complete the tables. He is recruiting to fill these positions.

Brad asked for input on completing the supply order from KPML for K42. After a discussion on quantities of the various items needed during the weekend; crosses, bibles, discussion guides, rice paper, Kairos manuals, Freedom guides, etc. ordering levels were identified and Brad will order.

Brad is aware of the new Penske truck relationship with KPML and felt it was a good deal and one that would benefit the weekend. He will let his team know and will use this truck rental option during the weekend.

He also mentioned that it is difficult to recruit a full team of volunteers from our local Kairos Community and this is an issue. He has been actively recruiting volunteers and his response has not been good. George said that the only way to get folks to sign up to work a team is to call them individually. The Council volunteered to help Brad do this. Jim will divide and distribute our volunteer database to each Council member so that we can call about 20 of our previous volunteers and try to recruit them for K42. During a later discussion, it was suggested that we expand our calls to also obtain feedback as to why many have not been as involved with our ministry in recent years and ask for help in identifying options that would allow them to once more, become involved. We should also ask if they may be interested in working our one day retreat. This data would be good to maintain and allow us to better accommodate volunteers in working weekend and improve staffing future events.

Bethany Church Relationship – Rob / Jim

Kairos participated in the Bethany Church spaghetti dinner fundraiser earlier this month. The fundraiser raised \$6,200 which was collected at the event. In addition, George received two checks for a total of \$150 and sent that amount to Bethany.

Rob received a message from David South on his needs for their upgrade. David wants us to participate in a building day next Wednesday to help with construction. If we had known the items David needed before the fundraiser, we could have asked our Community for specific support. A question the Council discussed was whether Bethany parishioners feel we are responsible for their kitchen upgrade because of the cooking requirements for our weekends and are they expecting us to pay for a large part of it? We have a wonderful relationship with Bethany and Pastor Gale, but we don't know how many of their parishioners truly want their Church to be this involved with prison ministry.

The question was asked whether Bethany is aware it costs us \$6,400 for a Kairos weekend at NECX, as we support five meals during our weekend for up to 100 individuals.

Brad also noted that he does not plan to run for re-election to the Council in 2024. His term will be up as Financial Secretary in January. It is very sad but he has his reasons which he will document.

One day retreat – Jeff

Jeff is planning a one day retreat. It will take place on a Saturday between our regular semi-annual weekends. One of the first things we need to do is set a date for the retreat then talk with Chaplin Resy to discuss and plan the individual activities and how the retreat will be conducted. It was felt it was not possible to hold the retreat prior to K42 in October, but agreed a good time to do the retreat would be Saturday, February 3rd. There is a lot of interest in attendance from the men inside, but we need to

staff it with about ten volunteers, which may be more of an issue. We will also need a cutoff of attendees as there could be as many as 150 signing up.

Again, the question of recruiting volunteers was discussed. This retreat should only entail the one day event plus a team planning meeting. We will also need to provide lunch and snacks.

We felt this retreat is important as our Tuesday attendance is topping off at about 35, but if the retreat is successful, we should see Tuesday's attendance increase.

Volunteers are also getting burned out with all of the meetings to prepare for the weekend. Travel time for many meetings is draining so Rob thought a "camp" approach for team formation would help solve this. It would entail having a meeting for many hours instead of many for a shorter time span that would definitely reduce travel trips and help volunteers in a working family better make a commitment to the weekend.

Brad is definitely trying to accommodate his team by having Thursday meetings and two Saturday meetings.

Scheduling weekends are also making it difficult to attract new volunteers to our ministry. We continue to schedule weekends that conflict with the Road to Emmaus and weekends at the Red Onion prison in Virginia. We are definitely stretched to fill weekends from our current list of past volunteers. It was emphasized we need to do more recruiting at our Churches. Jared and Scott Stodola will be visiting Churches in Mountain City in an effort to develop relationships closer to NECX and recruit Church members to our ministry. Brad said he has sent an invitation to serve K 42 to our volunteer database of 130 and only 5 responded. This is something we definitely need to work on and resolve for this ministry to continue to be successful.

Finally, it was discussed that an issue on our weekends is meal selection and portion size of meals during the weekend. We are wasting a lot of food. We also need to be more creative on our meals. More salads and healthier choices are needed. Richard indicated that this is something he can help and volunteered to meet and work with Hilda, our kitchen coordinator, on a menu for 42 with portion controls. Also, having Scott Stadola's girlfriend Pam on the K42 kitchen team will definitely help as she has culinary training and experience cooking for large groups.

Prayer Requests

Evan Egan has a mass on his leg which is being tested for cancer. He is 16 years old and hopefully his MRI and biopsy will show it is benign

James Crouch and his serious battle with cancer.

Richard's wife Marty injured her back and is having serious issues.

Melanie Austin, Mike's wife, in her continued recovery from brain surgery.

Closing Prayer:

Jim closed our meeting with a prayer that incorporated all of our prayer requests

Meeting ended at 11:37 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Tom

DRAFT

KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS FROM FEBRUARY MEETING (February 18, 2023)

| ACTION ITEM | RESPONSIBILITY | STATUS |
|---|-------------------|---|
| <p><u>K40</u> – After glow. Items discussed from K40 weekend for K41</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate chapel from meeting room –separate gym into thirds with one portion for the Chapel or utilize the bleachers. Bring the pews from the Chapel to the gym? (Inside team and Council for March discussion) <i>Kairos Outside has changed they weekend setup so do not need the PVC piping they have. We can use this and put walls on wheels to make a new Chapel room in the Gym during the weekend. Jared thought this would work well and give us more flexibility. Consensus was that the people would need to physically move from the rollo room to the Chapel for this to work. Final design will need to be done but there is a good process for making this work in place.</i> | <p>Scott Hale</p> | <p>Scott has the material to build the movable partitions and just needs to inventory the parts and build. Scott and Jared are working on the re-design of the community room and chapel in the gym and have ideas on how to easily and effectively make this work and minimize the impact of moving between rooms but ensure it is meaningful. Their idea is to move podium to under the basketball hoop and use the bleachers for the chapel setup. Also table leaders were urged to tell table family members to remain in their chair during talks. Although the new design will minimize the disruption of people going to the bathroom, it is still a disruption. More formal bathroom breaks were recommended. Scott will let Resy and Inside Server team know how this will work on K41. Scott also mentioned there may be extra PVC and curtains which could be used for the prayer rooms.</p> <p>Scott is on top of this and it will be ready for K41.</p> <p>Scott and Jared would now like to use the Kairos Outside dividers as they are currently built. Not bring in pews from the chapel and think</p> |

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| | | <p>they have a solution. They will meet this week to discuss.</p> <p>The transition can be improved so this is still an open item.</p> <p>After discussion at June Council Meeting it was determined to resume discussion at our July meeting.</p> <p>Brad will be working on this wit his team on K42</p> |
| Discuss what we need to do at the Annex for Kairos | Rob | <p>Schedule after K41. Brad will talk with Robert who will document recommendations on how to provide a weekend for the Annex.</p> <p>After July meeting we are scheduling a meeting with Chaplin Resy to discuss options for a weekend in the Annex.</p> |