



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

### **JULY MINUTES (July 19th, 2025)**

#### **Attending:**

Tom Egan, Greg Watlington, Jody Mims, Rob Roberts, Jim Catt, Harry Ennis, Scott Hale, Harris Ennis, Elgin Gonce, Michael Turley, Dean Yates,

#### **Excused:**

George Fulwider, Jared Malone, Rickey Poore

#### **Call to Order**

Scott opened the meeting at 9:14 AM.

#### **Opening Prayer**

Michael Turley began our meeting in prayer.

#### **Approval of June 2025 Minutes**

Tom previously distributed draft minutes of the June 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 Rob 2nd. Motion passed without exception.

#### **Financial Report**

Harry highlighted that his records indicate we have a cash balance of \$17,398.30. This does not include miscellaneous items and charges that will only slightly impact this balance. He reminded us that a large percentage of our balance is that team contributions were already received for K 45 before it was cancelled in April. Therefore the majority of the finances in September will be the expense of the weekend.

We also talked about donor thank you cards. Scott passed around three cards which we all signed that will be sent to our Kairos donors. One was for Pastor David from Altar Fellowship Church.

### **Spiritual Director Devotion**

Michael used Matthew: 6 to direct us to what Jesus taught us about the Father. It was the Our Father where the Father lives and reigns. Jesus is bringing us to the Father in the kingdom and Michael asked us, what the Kingdom is. He indicated that not only is it our eternal reward but it is also righteousness, peace and joy that comes through the Spirit now. That is the kingdom. This is what God is doing here on this earth. We can see that in others. When we don't accept these gifts of the Spirit, He passes them onto others as He wants these gifts to be part of our world. Michael asked that we honor these gifts in others and never be critical in expressing these gifts we see in others. We should not hold on to our criticisms of others and we should look for their righteousness, joy and peace. We, as an Advisory Council, need to trust in the Spirit in what we do and trust that what others bring to our ministry is filled with the Spirit and we should just trust in what the Spirit is asking us to do for the men we serve in NECX. Trust Jesus and get the board out of our eye when we see others. Trust Jesus

### **Communications Coordinator**

Jared was excused and did not forward a report for Communications.

### **Kairos Outside**

Scott brought Kairos Outside brochures' to our meeting for our Tuesday meetings. Jim Catt noted that there are changes in what we can bring into NECX. These changes are included in the Institutional Liaison section of the minutes.

The next Kairos Outside weekend is October 10th to 12th. The KO team is asking for help in tearing down on the Sunday of the weekend and the candle ceremony on Saturday evening. They are also in need women who have been impacted by incarceration.

It was felt that this is a good time for our Kairos inside community to take a more active role in coming together with the Kairos Outside community in prayer and fellowship to show our combined support for what they are doing for the women of our men inside. There is healing that is needed and we need to show up to support the KO weekends and interact with them in prayer to support this ministry.

One item discussed was having the KO organization join us during our team training for K45 at Camp Placid as a show of unity.

Michael, who has been involved with KO for some time will reach out to the leader of the next KO weekend in October and organize a combined evening of worship, fellowship and meal with the KO Community.

Jody indicated that there is a local annual Methodist conference and he is working on getting a table for Kairos in their ministry exhibition area. This is a great way of recruiting and letting attendees know who we are and what we do.

### **Emmaus Liaison**

Greg informed us of Emmaus weekends coming up soon where he will try and recruit new Kairos volunteers. He likes the idea of getting a table and will pursue that. He is also trying to get Kairos brochures included in the material Emmaus pilgrims leave with from their weekend.

### **NECX Liaison Report**

Jim reported that our on one-day retreat has been approved and is on the calendar for the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in August. Also, Kairos 45 weekend in September is also approved and on the calendar in September. He will verify that our Christmas dinner is on the calendar and approved for December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There are a number of items that are changing in NECX that will impact Kairos. The warden has not approved bringing prayer slips into the prison on Tuesdays and then taking out prayer requests of the men. We are now not allowed to take anything into the institution that we leave with the men. We can still take in our bibles and papers in our bibles but they must leave with us at the end of our session. They can be shown to the men but not left with them. Basically nothing comes in or goes out with us any more that we leave with the men or they modify before we take out.

Anything coming into the prison now has to be sent to Resy and anything coming out must exit the institution through Resy's office. NECX administration is being directed by TDOC in Nashville and cannot make exceptions to this policy. We must work within these guidelines and understand that the wardens and Chaplin are doing what they can to support us wherever they can. We need to work with them in our understanding and compliance to these new rules.

The good news is that everyone who has been going into the prison on Tuesdays is still approved for gate clearance into the prison. Some of us, however, will need to be recertified and we will be informed when we need to take an online class for this recertification.

It was also noted that it is a good idea to take our driver's license with you when you go inside. When new people are working on clearing us, this could prove helpful. This was noted last Tuesday when a new officer was assigned to the front desk.

Tuesdays are a good night for our sessions at NECX, there is just a lot going on.

The administration is doing all they can to get the men to our Tuesday meetings early and unfortunately this is not always the case. We just have to be patient when there are delays. Jim has spent time with the sergeants on duty and they are doing what they can to help us maximin our time with the residents.

### **Data Coordinator**

Rob is just waiting for a date to organize and inventory the storage facility in Mountain City. Scott has the uprights to support the new structure inside the facility.

Later on in the meeting it was decided that we would meet on Saturday, August 8th at 9AM to do the upgrade and the inventory. We would then schedule a meeting with David South of Bethany Baptist Church to discuss the distinct possibility of returning to the Church for kitchen and meeting space for Kairos 45.

### **Kairos 45 update**

Dean said that he has 30 volunteers for K45 in September. Only 2 volunteers had to cancel being on the weekend.

He is working with Altar Fellowship Church and others to support the kitchen. They are also helping with additional volunteers. Kitchen support is being contacted. We are trying to get new volunteers

Recommend that for our new volunteers on K45, we do not ask for a specific team fee but only tell them donations for the weekend are welcomed. We currently have enough in our treasury to pay for two weekends. We want to get 42 volunteers for K45 and are working toward that goal.

We are still trying to bring in unused cookies from our cancelled weekend in April to our Tuesday night sessions and brought in 132 dozen last week. We should also be looking for alternative ways to donate unused cookies through charitable outlets.

### **Fundraising**

Jody has been focusing fundraising on churches in our area. He is using a more personal approach of having them sponsor a meal for a resident. What we have been doing has generated revenue but he feels this new approach will yield more money and develop ongoing future revenue streams to our ministry. We will be asking our churches to feed our men and we will work with Christ do the spiritual work.

We may do another 5 Guys fundraiser but it will be in the one in Johnson City.

Harry mentioned that each weekend costs about \$6,200 and with 42 residents, that amounts to approximately \$140 per resident. We should use this in our fundraising and sponsor a resident for \$140.

## Old Business

### One-day Retreat

Jared stepped up to lead the retreat at our last meeting. There is only 2 weeks before the weekend so we were not sure if there is enough time to do the event before Kairos 45. Greg will follow with Jared and get a status.

*After our meeting, Jared asked us to remove this from the NECX calendar and we will do the retreat after Kairos 45.*

### Advisory Council Vacancy

Jody has notified us that he is resigning from the Council at the end of this year. This leaves us with 4 vacancies on our 2026 Council. George may hopefully be able to help one more year as his role is so important and it will take time for someone to come up to speed in following him as Financial Secretary.

We then identified and discussed volunteers who would make good AC members. Scott has a list of these individuals and will contact them.

### Volunteer Recertification

Scott received notification from Nashville that he needs to go for recertification and Rob has also received his notification reminder and needs to schedule the online class.

## New Business

### Volunteer Recertification

Scott said that he wanted us to consider buying a property near Mountain City for kitchen support. He asked for our prayers as this would provide benefit for our weekends. There may be an opportunity as there is a church close to the prison that has recently built new facilities. We may be able to acquire and modify their old building. We would also need to partner with other groups to generate revenue when we are not using the facility for our Kairos weekends.

*After our meeting we learned that the Church near NECX was not interested in selling their old facility on their property. We will continue to pursue other options.*

### **Prayer Requests**

- Kairos Outside
- Kairos 45
- Advisory Council openings be filled
- Dean as leader of Kairos 45
- That our one-day retreat happens in August
- We can purchase a commercial kitchen in the Mountain City area for Kairos
- Rickey Poore as Observing Leader of Kairos 45
- Staff kitchen support for Kairos 45

### **Closing Prayer**

Scott ended our meeting in prayer highlighting the prayer requests.

### **Closing**

Scott ended the meeting at 11:50 AM

Respectively submitted,

Tom Egan, Secretary

*Tom*