



KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL NORTHEAST CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

JUNE MINUTES (June 15th, 2024)

Attending:

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

Excused:

Scott Stodola, Brad Wilson

Call to Order

Rob opened the meeting at 9:00 AM

Opening Prayer

Jim H said an opening prayer.

Approval of April 2024 Minutes

Tom previously distributed draft minutes of the May 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. Harry 2nd. Motion passed.

Financial Report

Harry previously distributed an email detailing a year to date recap of our finances on a monthly basis through June 2024. From this summary we are up to date with our finances with Tennessee State Kairos and cleared all of our advances. It shows us with a positive balance as we have a net balance of \$3,862.56 through June.

George provided a recap of the expenses for our previous 3 weekends. It highlighted that the costs of our weekends are increasing.

Kairos 41	\$5,500
Kairos 42	\$6,407
Kairos 43	\$6,688

Based on this, we need to estimate that the cost for Kairos 44 will be over \$7,000.

Unfortunately donations for our ministry have been going in the opposite direction as they have

been decreasing. The financial goal of each weekend is that it result in a positive cash flow or at worst, break even financially. This was not the case on Kairos 43 and we lost money. We need to increase our fundraising efforts, which we discussed later in the meeting, and also need to request larger donations from our volunteers to help make up this difference on future weekends.

We need to prepare an individual budget for each weekend to help control expenses and donations to offset costs. This is an important element of the weekend as we cannot afford to drain our Council's assets by losing money on weekends.

George reported that the fee for the Kairos post office box is due. It is \$100 for 6 months or \$200 for the year. Although we get very little mail at the PO Box, we do get checks from two churches on a monthly basis. (Harvest and Grace) It is therefore important we maintain a PO Box to receive these monthly checks. George will pay \$200 and renew the PO Box for one year.

Spiritual Director Devotion

Jim C. provided a meditation from Acts 22:8 which outlined the transformation of Saul to the disciple Paul. Saul was dedicated to defending his Lord as he saw his mission to protect the Jewish leadership and was fanatical in his faith, even to the point of killing one of the followers of Jesus, Steven. Then Christ changed his life and he transformed from a person attacking the followers of Jesus, which was his path of self destruction, to one of turning to God and following the path of Christ.

We are also flawed and need to go from our self destruction to following Christ. We can be religiously zealous but not follow God. It is God's ways and not ours.

Review of Action Items

We reviewed the Action Items and removed the action item to conduct a Kairos weekend in the NECX annex. This may be considered at a later date. Also, what Harry provided for his financial report completed the action item to provide our own ledger accounting system and we therefore also removed that item from the list.

The only item we are now tracking is the new sound equipment for our weekends. Scott H talked with Kevin but did not get an update at this time. Kevin may have access to some financial donors to offset the cost of this upgrade. We do need a new mixing board and had to borrow NECX's mixing board for K 43. A 16 channel board will make it a lot easier to control sound during the weekend. It was suggested that maybe this expense can be tabled and the funding for this item used for more critical weekend expenses. Sound was problematic on K 43 but is something we may be able to control. We need to talk with Kevin and get an update on the sound equipment.

Ongoing Ministry (Journey) Report

Jeff reported that we have 73 dozen cookies from Kairos 43 and he would like to take them to our next Tuesday prayer and share meeting to distribute to the men. He has the approval memo outline needed to get these approved by Resy to take inside and will handle getting approval to bring them inside, before next Tuesday.

Last Tuesday, at the prayer and share gathering, the number of residents attending was down slightly but after Kairos 43, the weekly attendance has grown from 35 - 40 to now 50 - 60 residents each week. The Tuesday sessions are becoming more popular with the men inside and more of them are becoming aware of the sessions, including men who have not attended a Kairos weekend. We feel this is due in part to the word of our gatherings being spread throughout the complex.

Communications Coordinator

Scott S. was at a wedding in Indiana and not at our meeting. He did not provide a Communications update.

Kairos Outside / Emmaus Liaison

Scott H., through his contacts in Emmaus, provided Jared a list of 4 names of potential volunteers for Kairos 44. This is a good start and the Council thanked Scott H. We discussed the importance of securing clearance into NECX for these new volunteers as soon as possible. There is a two step online process that needs to be completed to ensure these individuals have clearance for the weekend. Jared will work with the first time volunteers on his weekend to make sure that occurs in a timely fashion. Resy also does an introduction meeting for all new volunteers on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

NECX Liaison Report

Jim H. once again provided the Council with a positive report regarding our relationship with NECX Administration. We are highly regarded as Kairos has a positive impact on the men in the prison and we conduct ourselves in a respectful manner with prison staff. Jim also reported that Zoe and now DJ, are now going to work with Resy in the Chaplin's office after James leaves. This is good.

Jim also asked the Council members again to help offset the cost for Scott S to attend the KPMI annual meeting in July. We started that effort at the last AC meeting, but more is needed. Jim H. is working the annual meeting for KPMI and will share a room with Scott.

Kairos 44 – Jared

Jared has finalized the dates for Kairos 44. The weekend will be Thursday, Oct 17th to Sunday, October 20th. He has also reserved Camp Placid for a team formation weekend from Friday evening, September 13th through Sunday the 15th. There will be one team meeting prior to this training weekend and one team meeting after. Jared has also posted the weekend on the Kairos Calendar and anticipates receiving his Ezra in the next day or two so he can begin

to enter the weekend data. He talked with Dean Yates, who is now confirmed as the Observing Leader for the weekend.

Dean has not done AKT and Jim H. mentioned that he is scheduled to teach AKT the 2nd weekend of July in Raleigh NC. If Dean is willing to attend and we can get him approved to attend, Jim can share travel and may be able to offset some of Dean's costs to attend.

Harry has agreed to be the Coordinator for Kairos 44 and Greg Watlington has agreed to be Agape Coordinator. Jim H. asked about an assistant coordinator, which is a position that was discussed in the past. Jared indicated they will look at doing that but is also looking at Greg providing a level of backup and working with Dean more as a team.

Jared has 11 volunteers confirmed for the weekend. He then asked how many council members would like to work the weekend and most verbally accepted. Based on this, Jared should be up to 20 volunteers for his weekend. As there are always drop offs, we need to secure as many volunteers as possible.

Harry mentioned that we need to meet with the congregation at Bethany and tell them again what we do on Kairos. This is especially important now given the changes that have occurred at that church.

Ongoing Fundraising for Kairos Weekends

5 Guys Food Trucks

Jared wants us to work on these fundraising opportunities as soon as possible for Kairos 44. Jody has done 4 food truck fundraisers in the past with the first one making \$1,500, subsequent events, at the same location, provided much less revenue with the last one netting only \$500. These events need to be coordinated with the Food Truck Association.

The 5 Guys fundraiser will need a confirmed date and then a lot of advertising in the community to invite people to go to 5 Guys and buy food that day. You can make a lot of money if they respond. Jody also mentioned that he made \$200 from Special Harvest.

Jody and Jared will work on getting both of these fundraisers established for the near future.

Old Business:

Bethany Church support for Kairos 44

Everyone thanked George for the outreach he did in meeting with First Christian Church in Mountain City and exploring the opportunity of using this facility as a site to support our Kairos weekends in Mountain City. He did a good job summarizing this in an email

to the Council. This is important, as currently the congregation at Bethany Baptist Church is only about 9 people and some of them may be reluctant to support our Kairos ministry and weekends. Therefore investigating a local alternative facility for future weekends is definitely something we should be doing at this time.

The facilities at First Christian were examined by George and are deemed to be adequate. There is plenty of room and facilities. The kitchen is okay but there is only one oven. Also kitchen storage may be less than what we have at Bethany. The biggest issue noted was its distance to NECX. It is much longer distance from NECX than Bethany, and the extra time to the prison will need to be taken into consideration for food deliveries. The pastor at the new church is open to us using his church to support Kairos but knows we have a good relationship with Bethany and does not want to do anything to jeopardize that relationship at this time.

The major discussion at our meeting centered on how we proceed with Bethany Church. We have for decades maintained a strong relationship with Bethany but the question is how do we go forward knowing the congregations at that church is quite small and may not be viable to support Kairos. There are questions as to how long a church can survive with the small congregation size it currently has to support it.

It is important that we continue to work to maintain and strengthen our relationship with the Bethany Church congregation and their leadership as our partner. We have been told by David, Marietta and others that we are a valued partner in their church going forward as they are even planning to highlight Kairos in their recruiting for new members. To advance that relationship, Rob will contact David South and continue their conversation on us working together on future Kairos weekends. Rob is also going to inform Bethany about what we are doing at First Christian and other local churches, in developing additional Kairos relationships, emphasizing why that is important.

(NOTE: Subsequent to this meeting, Rob, Jim H. and Scott H, met with David and Marietta at the Church on Tuesday, June 18th. We received a positive response and a strong reassurance on their desire to maintain our future relationship and feel comfortable we will be using the Church as our partner for some time to come.)

Jared will talk to Scott when he comes back from the wedding in Indiana and they will setup a meeting at First Christian in the next couple of weeks. Their goal is to establish relationships with them and other Churches in the area in supporting Kairos. It is important we meet with First Christian and other Churches in Mountain City to ensure they know who we are, what we do and how they can support our ministry by providing volunteers, baking cookies, helping with cooking during the weekend, preparing posters and financial contributions.

It was emphasized that we do not want to damage our relationship with Bethany. We obviously have a lot invested with this church and they are a wonderful partner. We just feel it is necessary to have a backup plan, if necessary.

Another option discussed was to continue to use Bethany for supporting food preparation for our weekends and now use First Christian to house some of our volunteers.

Harry informed the Council that he attended the Holston conference which includes Pound and Wise. They have facilities near 3 prisons and Harry asked them for prayers, volunteers, cookies, posters and financial support. Tom also sent an email to the Pastor and Deacon at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Mountain City as another possible site in Mountain City to support future weekends, recruit volunteers and provide financial donations.

Sound Improvement at NECX for weekends and Prayer and Share

We will follow up with Kevin Wilson on this for our next meeting.

Kevin Wilson on joining Advisory Council

Scott H informed us that Kevin has agreed to be on the Advisory Council and will be here at the July meeting.

New Business

Backup site at First Christian Church in Mountain City

This agenda item was included in the above discussion regarding Bethany Church.

Prayer Requests

- Jared once again asked for prayers for a former neighbor's son, Harrison Seagraves, who is 2 years old and is fighting cancer. Harrison had 2 surgeries last week. .
- Harry asked us to pray for his wife Neva's aunt's grand-cousin who is fighting with a drug addiction problem.
- Hugh Johnson's s girl friend Phyllis has been fighting repertory problems and was in the hospital with a lung issue.
- Scott H. asked we ask God for wisdom for the advisory council in the upcoming decisions we need to make about support for our weekends in Mountain City May we get the information we need and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- Rob highlighted the fact that our Country is in need of serious prayer as we continue to go in directions contrary to Christ's teachings.

Closing Prayer

Jared closed our meeting in prayer highlighting our prayer requests.

Meeting Ended

Rob closed the meeting at 10:28AM.

Respectively submitted,

Tom Egan, Secretary

Tom

DRAFT

KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS FROM MARCH MEETING

(May 18, 2024)

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
Do a Kairos NECX budget review	Tom	
Upgrade Sound Equipment for Weekends	Kevin	