



KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL NORTHEAST CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

JUNE MINUTES (June 21st, 2025)

Attending:

Tom Egan, Rob Roberts, Jared Malone, Jim Catt, Harry Ennis, Scott Hale, Harris Ennis, Elgin Gonce, Michael Turley, George Fulwider, Rickey Poore, Dean Yates

Excused:

Greg Watlington, Jody Mims

Call to Order

Scott opened the meeting at 9:05 AM.

Opening Prayer

Michael Turley began our meeting in prayer.

Approval of May 2025 Minutes – Tom

Tom previously distributed draft minutes of the May 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. Jared made the motion and Jim 2nd. Motion passed without exception.

Financial Report – Harry / George

Harry reported that his financial recap shows that we have \$16,813.30 in our account with the State. George noted that this is one of the highest balances we have had especially since that these funds are not specifically designated for some purpose and are therefore available for our weekends and events at NECX.

Spiritual Director Devotion

Michael's devotion was directed to have the Council to focus on the Holy Spirit to lead us as we concentrate on prison ministry at NECX, especially our work on Kairos 45. We should always make room for the Spirit and the unexpected that He directs us to

incorporate into our activities as we follow the general routines necessary to complete our weekends.

The Spirit speaks to us and we need to hear Him and listen. Michael encouraged us to make room for the Spirit and to not let fear turn us away from what He is telling us to do. We should not be afraid of what the Spirit wants us to do as with His guidance, we can do all things. We need to surrender to the Spirit and not give in to only our routine structures where we may feel more comfortable. We can't just rely on our traditions rather than depend on what the Spirit is telling us.

The Spirit calls us out of our comfort zone and challenges us. Michael made the comparison on how the Pharisees always lived in their comfort zone with their rules and customs.

Michael challenged us that next time we go inside we may be asked to do something we have not done before. He encouraged us to open our heart and strengthened our love of the Spirit to be in us. What does HE want us to do.

Jesus, I trust in you.

Communications Coordinator

Jared continues to reach out to churches in the Mountain City area. After some efforts to contact the pastor at Free Will Baptist, he made contact with Linda Hurley. She operates a storefront which is helping those impacted by hurricane Helene and is also very involved at the Church. She provided contact information for Pastor Perry at Free Will and also will give Jared contact information to other churches in the area. Jared feels this is a good start to increasing our support network in Mountain City for our weekends.

There was additional discussion on Mountain City church support later in the meeting.

Kairos Outside

Scott informed us that there is a Kairos Outside weekend scheduled this fall and he will let us know the exact dates. Sherry is leading the weekend in Unicoi and will need support for the candle service on Saturday evening and tear down on Sunday.

Emmaus Liaison

Greg was excused but did not provide an update on his interaction with the Road to Emmaus Weekend community.

NECX Liaison Report

Jim spent considerable time with Resy understanding what we now need to submit and when for us to schedule events at NECX as these events now require TDOC approval from Nashville. Jim mentioned that Resy indicated he needs between 4 and 6 weeks' notice to get any event scheduled. To be safe, however, Jim said we should submit our requests at least 6 weeks in advance, at a minimum. The good news is that the information we have submitted in the past has not changed at this time but, Resy thinks that it may change with additional requirements in the future.

Emergency preparedness planning is now necessary. How we handled this for Kairos 45 in the fall is still adequate and all we need to do is change the dates of our weekend.

We were not able to do our Tuesday meeting at NECX only because of a higher than normal number of men being processed into the institution that evening. (Chain). There were no issues other than the higher than normal registration numbers that evening. Jim mentioned that a chapel service was also cancelled on Thursday but that was due to a communication glitch, as Jim was there but mistakenly it got reported that there were no volunteers on site.

Jim reminded us to be flexible and remember that the Administration at NECX have their rules which we must follow. He indicated that we are approved for our Kairos weekend in September.

George asked about our one day retreat and whether that was scheduled with Nashville. Jim had not heard it was and will check with Resy on Monday. The date is August 2nd. We still have time to submit paperwork for this event if it is not scheduled.

Jim wanted to make sure we knew that the officers in the Sally Port who checks us into the institution on Tuesdays also records all of our information into a database tracking attendance at the institution. They want to make sure volunteers who have clearance are coming in on a regular basis, which is a requirement to maintain clearance. If we do not visit the prison periodically, our gate clearance will be revoked.

Nashville is also tracking visitor training, which is also a requirement for access. We need to be recertified each year by attending an online class. Those not attending this class will lose their access until the training is completed. Jim will ask for a list of Kairos volunteer from Resy who still need to be recertified, so Dean can make sure these individuals get certified and this does not become an issue for the weekend in September.

Data Coordinator

Rob asked Scott if the parts we ordered for our storage unit in Mountain City were delivered. They did not arrive, but when they do, the storage unit will be upgraded and an inventory completed on all of the items in the unit.

Kairos 45 update

Dean continues to put his weekend back together for September. He is being obedient to the Lord and things are going well.

The discussion of Cookies that were not used in the spring came up later in the meeting. There are over 700 dozen cookies currently available. We cannot keep these frozen until September so Jim is going to check with Resy on using them for our Tuesday sessions. We also need to donate cookies we still have in our freezer to other ministries so our churches know they were used for good causes.

Fundraising

Jody did not attend the meeting and did not provide an update.

Scott asked Michael Turley to inform the Council on a meeting a few Council members had with his church, Altar Fellowship in Elizabethon regarding sponsorship of our weekend in September. Pastor David from Altar Fellowship confirmed that their church will sponsor our K45 weekend in the fall and pay all of the estimated \$6k to \$10k in expenses as well as provide volunteers and support for the weekend.

Pastor David is also talking with the worship pastor at Altar Fellowship to get help with kitchen staff and other support for this weekend. Scott, who attended this meeting along with Rob and Dean, indicated that it was a great meeting and a lot was accomplished. Michael has been talking about this opportunity in the past and his church has definitely stepped up and made a commitment to support Kairos prison ministry at NECX. This is truly a gift from God which will allow us to expand the Christ-work we do

Michael also talked about an online program called **God Behind Bars** which is part of Altar Fellowship. God Behind Bars broadcasts Christian content inside of prisons via the Tando network for institutions now deploying iPads to their residents. Unfortunately, NECX, which has deployed iPads only uses the Edovo system for content. Jim will talk with Resy on any possibility for NECX to access Tando and Michael will also check whether God Inside Prison can be accessed with Edovo. This would be a wonderful addition to the men at NECX as Michael noted that thousands of conversions and

baptisms in the prisons have been witnessed utilizing this program. Michael will send the Council a link. Michael sent the link after the meeting: (WWW.THEATAR.TV)

Old Business

One-day Retreat

The date the Council developed for the one day retreat was August 2nd. George, who led the previous retreat indicated that although he could not lead it retreat would provide his expertise and support.

He reminded us that the retreat is open to all Kairos graduates and is specifically designed for graduates who have not been attending Tuesday sessions in an effort to get them to return. It will depend on the number of volunteers who commit to the retreat to determine how many Kairos graduates Resy can invite. There is not a big requirement for the volunteers as there are only short talks for the volunteers and one meeting before the retreat to organize.

Jared indicated that he thinks he can coordinate, but will need help.

Again, Jim thinks we have time to get this approved through Nashville if it is not on the schedule.

The retreat will need approval to bring in lunch, snacks and maybe sound equipment.

At this point of the meeting the discussion of Bethany Baptist Church was brought up. David South contacted Jared and would like to meet with the Council to clear up some misconceptions on the churches long term relationship with Kairos. He indicated that communications may not have been good and he did not want to ruin the reputation we had with Bethany.

The Council is still discussing what we need to do with support in Mountain City. We know we need to increase our support community in the Mountain City area with additional churches to help during our weekends. We also need volunteers from Mountain City but only got one volunteer from Bethany in over 20 years and there were others issues. Although we will still look to expand our support network, the Council feels Bethany is still a very viable resource. Dean indicated he will need to be involved in these discussions.

Advisory Council Vacancy

Scott confirmed two individuals who indicated they would be willing to come on the Council. We need one at this time to replace Cory Paul, who has resigned. The Council felt that both of these two individuals would be acceptable as Council members and gave approval for Scott to extend an invitation.

Also, in 2026, two Council members are coming off the Council. Since we now have one additional candidate confirmed, we will need to recruit a 2nd candidate before our 2026 election in this fall.

Volunteer Recertification

This was discussed earlier in the meeting and we will get a list from Resy of those volunteers who need to be recertified.

New Business

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party in December is on the approved list at NECX for December 2nd.

Prayer Requests

- For Christ's support in making Kairos 45 what He wants in September.
- For John, who is Tom's brother in law and is on hospice that he make the transition to eternal life with dignity and grace.
- For thanksgiving for Jared's mother who has made significant improvement since moving in with her daughter.
- For guidance in ongoing support for our weekends in Mountain City and help with Bethany Baptist and First Christian in our relationship and support level.
- For our Country and our world which definitely needs help.
- That we are mindful of those around us as Christians and focused on coming into the Kingdom.

Closing Prayer

Tom ended our meeting in prayer highlighting the prayer requests.

Closing

Scott ended the meeting at 10:37 AM

Respectively submitted,

Tom Egan, Secretary

Tom

DRAFT