

Dear CB North Central Churches,

This February will be two years since I started at Eureka Baptist Church in St. Croix Falls, WI. My wife, daughter, and I have grown to love the area, and even more so the people over that time period. One emphasis from day one was to build a church on the Word of God. What this means is that we were not going to draw people based on what programs we had, or what kind of music we played, or entertaining preaching. Rather, the Word would be preached, and in everything we do Scripture would be the focus and God's people would hear and be a part of our fellowship. Jesus makes clear that the people of God hear



His voice and follow Him (John 10:27). We have seen both believers hungry for a church built on biblical centrality come, and also unbelievers whom the Lord leads to us as people in our congregation invite them. It has been encouraging seeing both drawn to us through the ministry of the Word. As the Word is preached and people live it out, each one begins to look more like Christ and the church transforms into a mature one that grows "up in every way into Him who is the head" (Ephesians 4:15). This is God's formula for the church and we have seen His grace shown to us in that time. The Lord has been very faithful to deliver as we have used His means to build!

One exciting development that shows the grace of God recently is the addition of the office of elder. For the first 137 years of the church's history the church constitution made it so that there was one pastor and multiple deacons. While this is a good way to lead a church, Scripture makes quite clear that in the first century church a plurality of elders oversaw a local church (Titus 1:5; Acts 20:28). For one shepherd to look after a whole flock, even at a small church, is quite a burden. So as we examined the Scriptures more closely. A couple of months back Eureka Baptist voted unanimously to add a plurality of elders for the first time in the church's long history. To have this unity from the whole flock at Eureka was quite a sight to see. We saw the Lord's fingerprints all over it! For the past couple of months, we have had three elders (me being one) look after the flock at Eureka Baptist. As one who was once the lone shepherd here, I am very grateful for this development.



As an under-shepherd under the Chief Shepherd, I can see that the Lord is doing wonderful things in our midst. It has been encouraging seeing those who have been here for many years describe their excitement at the direction we are heading. We still have a long way to grow as we mature in the Lord together and reach others for Christ. However, it is crystal clear the Lord is leading us in the right direction. We would appreciate your prayers in the weeks, months, and years ahead as the Lord continues to build His church at Eureka Baptist. It is our prayer that the Lord would also continue to build up your church to be a holy

temple (1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 4:15-16), full of splendor and pleasing to Him.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth Brickley