



Elder Newsletter

April - June 2026

Hello, brothers and sisters. Greetings from the elders! We are pleased to share this brief quarterly update in order to help you:

- Better understand the church's ministry and administrative affairs.
- Know how to pray for our church, pastoral staff and elders.
- Have a clearer sense of potential ministry opportunities.

ELDER COMMITMENTS

At each elder meeting, we review one of the following commitments to refresh our focus on shepherding responsibilities. Please pray that the Lord will help us to be faithful in fulfilling each of these commitments to Him and to the people of Highlands.

1. Lord, we commit, with the help of your Holy Spirit, to shepherd well every person who you bring to be part of Highlands.
2. Lord, we commit to following you and helping your people to follow you. We commit to remain diligent in the study, teaching, and application of your Holy Word.
3. Lord, with your help, we will continue in our commitment to implement measures to protect all who attend Highlands and to prevent abuse of leadership, authority, and power.
4. With your help, Lord, we commit to thoroughly investigate and respond biblically where there is evidence of misconduct at Highlands.
5. We commit to pray for your people, that every person who comes through our doors or who participates in ministry here would find a safe place to worship, and that they will grow deeply in their relationship with you through the various ministries of this church.

Facilities Repair Update

We are pleased to share that our long-awaited SE Educational Wing repair project will be starting this July! Over the next couple of weeks, you will begin to see scaffolding, dust curtains, and other signs of the repair activity, beginning with the interior of the Upper Gym Rooms and the FLC Café. Our contractors will be doing the work in phases to minimize ministry impacts throughout the week and especially on the weekends. Please join with us in thanking the Lord for His provision, and please also pray for His help for a smooth and effective repair process.

2026-2027 ELDER GOALS

The Elder Council has established the following goals to be completed during the 2026-2027 administrative year:

1. Review and propose any needed updates to our Deacon & Deaconess policies to ensure faithful alignment with Scripture and consistent implementation across our ministries;
2. Establish the “Helping Women Flourish” project (see more details below)
3. Hold an annual social event to honor the wives of the Elders and Elder Candidates;
4. Hold an annual Elder/Staff fellowship event;
5. Implement the revised Elder Candidate Training Program;
6. Update the program to develop and disciple men;
7. Establish monthly ministry reports at Elder Council meetings;

Regarding the last of these goals: the Elders believe these reports will help them better understand our ministries and support them more intentionally in prayer. During the first quarter of the ministry year, the Elder Council received reports from the following ministry areas:

- Women’s Ministry: Judy Fetzer
- Celebrate Recovery: Darla Lorbeski
- Men’s Ministry: John Camerer

HELPING WOMEN FLOURISH

At Highlands, we want people to grow, thrive, and flourish in ministry and in life. To better understand how the women of Highlands are doing, we will launch a church-wide survey for women members and regular attenders in mid-August. Your feedback will help guide future conversations. Stay tuned for more information!



ELDER COUNCIL MEETINGS

Last year the Elders made several changes in the way that Elder Council meetings are conducted. These changes were intended to make the meetings more efficient, and to help ensure that meetings will not extend late into the evening. The guiding principles for these revisions were:

1. All things should be done “decently and in order”. (1 Cor. 14.40)
2. Limit the amount of time that Elders are away from their families.
3. Manage meetings to protect against lengthy meetings, to the extent possible.

The revisions made last year have been generally well received. Our elders plan to review these changes to be certain that our meeting structure continues to meet our needs.

NEW CHURCH MEMBERS

This past quarter, we rejoiced to welcome the following new members into the Highlands church family:

- Melody Adams-Forsstrom
- Donnie Anderson
- Melissa Anderson
- River Doyle
- Stacy Doyle
- Sigrid Jones
- Amber Privett
- Jonathan Privett
- Bineeta Boney
- Nathaniel Menenberg
- Lee Williams
- Maribeth Williams
- Jay Ahlbeck
- Mary Ahlbeck
- Margaret Peterson
- Kurt Nold
- Gwen Nold
- Renee Jucker
- Miranda Merris

Each new member has fulfilled the requirements for membership, including giving a credible testimony of their personal faith in Jesus and confirming their agreement with, and commitment to, our Statement of Faith and Membership Covenant. Please join us in extending a warm welcome and praying that each would be encouraged, known, and built up as part of our body.

ALL ARE INVITED

We invite you to attend any of the upcoming elder meetings. The elders meet on the third Tuesday of each month, except for the month of August, in Room 270. The public portion of these meetings begins at 7:15 pm. All are welcome!

Elder Candidate Training

The Elders approved a significant revision of the Elder Candidate Training process that Pastor Nate developed. The revised process places a greater emphasis on Elder shepherding through the use of more external resources, while keeping the focus on critical documents and processes. We look forward to investing in our new elder candidates through this new and improved training process in this coming fiscal year, and Lord-willing, this training program be used by the Lord to help these candidates serve as Elders starting in 2027-28. Please continue to pray for our current elder candidates: Eric Filer, Norm Hummel, David Miller & Jeff Purcell.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We thank God for your faithful generosity and continued financial support of God's work in and through Highlands Community Church. Congregational giving and expenses are closely aligned to plan in our first fiscal quarter (April – June 2026). We invite you to review our [most recent financial report](#) and full 2026-2027 Budget for more information.