



Concilio Prison Ministry Renewal Planning Session

Executive Summary November 19, 2016

Prepared by *Carla Anglehart*, Organizational Development Specialist, Governance Consultant

Introduction

For over 20 years, Concilio has provided a unique ministry and service to current and former inmates, and has made a significant difference in the lives of so many. However, there are substantial challenges facing Concilio at present, and the Board of Directors has been hard at work for the past few years, exploring solutions for challenges.

The challenges include an urgent need for 'human resources' – new members for the Board, and volunteers for committee work. Both Spring House and St. Luke's Renewal Centre are in jeopardy, with insufficient funds to cover the ongoing operations and Program Facilitators to carry the work forward. The other two programs of Concilio, Kairos Marathons and Christmas/Advent programs, are also challenged by limited financial resources and increasing costs, and face a real need for new and younger volunteers committed for the long term.

The Board and other key stakeholders of Concilio Prison Ministry met in a facilitated session on November 19th, 2016 in Halifax to review the mission, goals, objectives and operations of Concilio Prison Ministry, and support the Board in making the best decisions about the future of the organization. Following is a brief summary of the outcomes of the planning session;

Future of Concilio

Participants identified and discussed the strengths and the weaknesses of the ministries, as well as the threats and the opportunities. With the challenges clearly understood, stakeholders shared their hopes for the future of Concilio. "Lives Changed" and "Love Heals" were captions stakeholders used to describe the outcomes they wish Concilio Prison Ministry to achieve. They expressed hopes for new and expanded programs to support these outcomes. The passion for Concilio was palpable.

Priorities

Recognizing that maintaining all ministries may not be possible in the future given the current challenges, stakeholders were asked to identify the priority they place on the Kairos Marathons, St. Luke's and Spring House (before, through an on-line survey, and

during the session). Following is the order of priority based on the input. First: Marathon (48), Second: St. Luke's (47), Third: Spring House (29)

Strategic Directions

Participants identified the following strategic imperatives to achieve their preferred future for Concilio:

1. Recruit Board and Human Resources
2. Establish a Clear Mandate for the Ministry
3. Secure Stable Funding
4. Leverage Partnerships
5. Communicate and Promote Concilio
6. Take Action with Spring House

Next Steps

A Steering Committee was established to steward the organization through the next steps. The committee is comprised of the following:

Harry Gardner, Rob Elford, Derrick McEachern, Clarence DeSchiffart and Sheila MacCrimmon. Following the session, Vicky Patton joined the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee agreed to meet to plan the next steps and explore the potential to engage the Chaplaincy Society and the Atlantic Divinity College. The steering committee will report back to the Board once they have had an opportunity to prepare their recommendations for Board decision and action.

If you are interested in more information or would like to receive a copy of the full report, feel free to contact:

Clarence DeSchiffart clarence.deschiffart@acadiau.ca

Sheila MacCrimmon sheila.maccrimmon@gmail.com

Harry Gardner harry.gardner@acadiau.ca

Rob Elford halifaxcommunitychaplain@gmail.com

Derrick McEachern Derrick.McEachern@nsc.ca

Vicky Patton vreidpatton@gmail.com

David Sellers davidseller@eastlink.ca