

From the Elders

FORMATION OF TASK FORCE

GLENWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST / APRIL 2016

In February of this year, we announced the beginning of a congregational study, which will help us discern the ways in which women might serve our family in the context of public worship. Given the strong emotions on all sides of this issue, we thank you for your patience and prayer as we continue this important conversation together. In John 13:35, Jesus said to His disciples: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." We are confident that even through this difficult conversation the Glenwood family will display the character of God by loving each other as God has loved us.

As your shepherds, we have made the commitment to give you regular updates as the process unfolds. At the initial announcement of our study, we mentioned the formation of a task force. At this time, we would like to explain a bit more about the role that task force will play.

At the outset, it is important to understand that the task force will not be asked to make any decision about what women can or cannot do in our public worship assemblies. At the conclusion of our in-depth biblical study, extensive prayer, listening to the Glenwood family, and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the shepherds will make any final decisions about the future direction of public worship at Glenwood. We believe God has entrusted us with that responsibility. We take that responsibility seriously, and we would never force that responsibility upon others.

If the task force will not be asked to make any decisions about the direction of worship, what then will be their role? In short, the task force will be asked to do two things:

- First, they will design the process our congregation will follow as we study this issue together.
- Second, they will help us facilitate that process.

Other congregations that have engaged this study have included many items in their process, including guest speakers, reading booklets, focus groups, congregational surveys, and prayer teams. Our task force will prayerfully consider what path our family should take in studying this issue, and then they will help us walk down that path together.

We are pleased to announce the members of the Glenwood task force: Bob & Katie Burnett (co-chairs), Judy Anders, Brent Armstrong, Nigel & Brianna Clark, Linda Holden, Richard Leard, Melodye Phillips, Mark & Sharon Richardson, and Darrell & Rachel Welch.

The task force will begin meeting immediately to pray about and discuss the process we will use to discern God's direction for the Glenwood family. Please join us as we pray God's richest blessings upon them and their families as they help lead us through this important moment in our history.