

Dear Faith Community Church,

Your Board of Elders desires to inform you of our monthly activities and asks you to pray for us as we collectively pursue our Spirit-led mission of making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ. The following is a succinct summary of discussions we have had in the past month. (We meet twice per month for two-and-half hour sessions.) If you desire to learn more about a given subject, please feel free to contact a pastor or elder. Thank you for your interest and desire to help. We deeply appreciate your prayers.

February 2021

Annual Meeting Review: A deep appreciation was expressed by the elders that our church, not being a digital media company, was able to execute such a well-done event. The estimated viewing metrics were presented and discussed as was the cause for the error message that some members received during electronic voting. The elders were pleased to know that all of the ballot results were overwhelmingly positive and aligned with the measured vieweproportionate to the estimated member viewerships. We look forward to meeting in person in coming years!

Discipleship Framework Update: An update was given explaining the plan that's being developed to articulate how FCC will work to best equip our body for discipleship. Key elements of helping people explore, experience, and empower their personal discipleship path in a gospel inspired life were discussed. Current and future ministries and classes were also reviewed within the presented context. Work to build this concept to completion continues.

Next Generation Ministry Update: The efforts to hire a next generation ministry leader were reviewed. The on-going work of two task forces was also summarized. One is contemplating Sunday morning curriculum. The other is articulating our church's convictions about the balance between the role of the church and the role of parents in children's discipleship.

Elder Nominations and Next Steps: Names that have been submitted for potential eldership roles were reviewed. The likely next steps in our process were also discussed.

Sense of the Elders concerning our approach to shepherding: The elders discussed this topic to understand the breadth of our convictions. There was a clear sense among the elders that we need to be more intentional in this area and a sub-group will be raised to develop a future proposal for consideration.

Letters to the Board of Elders: Two letters were received in the last month. A letter from a member proposed that the board consider a constitutionally narrower definition of immersion baptism. A second letter, from a non-member, requests that our statement of faith be narrowed to require a literalistic interpretation of Genesis 1-4. Tim Porter has acknowledged receipt of both letters and is actively following up on behalf of the board.

Membership Updates: 25 new members were affirmed at our annual meeting. Welcome! In alignment with discussions that have been on-going, Gary and Angela Nourse formally informed us they will be joining a church nearer their home. They will be missed. We thank them for their years of service and blessings to many!

February 15, 2021

Elder Board Chairman and Vice Chairman: The two-year terms for current board chair and vice chair have expired. The Board of Elders appointed Gregg Bennett as Chairman and Dan Fosterling as Vice Chairman. The Board also expressed deep gratitude to John Blum for his service as Board chair for the past two years. The leadership he brought to the Board and our church during the challenging COVID season, his work to enable our various initiatives built upon Gospel Inspired Life, and his numerous efforts to personally serve our body of believers are all deeply appreciated! Thank you John!

Elder Board Agendas and Meeting Dates: Following up on a topic introduced at an earlier meeting, the Elder Board agreed that we would move to a single Elder agenda format beginning in March 2022. (We previously had one agenda for Family of Families Elder meetings and a separate agenda for Extended Family Elder meetings.) We also agreed to continue to meet twice per month but on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays - assuming no holidays or other conflicts. As best as possible, meeting agendas will be focused upon administrative or shepherding matters.

Elder Communication and Prayer Requests: Following up on a topic introduced at an earlier meeting, it was agreed that the Elders would begin more intentional and regular communication with the congregation. It was agreed we'd provide a brief monthly report describing the matters covered by the Board. The intention is to publish it before the first Elder meeting in a given month. (This is the first such report.) It was also agreed that the report would be an open report – available to all who visit the FCC website. Awareness about the report will be communicated via the Senior Pastor's weekly update. Given the public nature of the report, we also agreed that names will generally not be used. Those interested in further detail will be encouraged to contact a pastor or elder.

New Non-Vocational Elders: The Board affirmed that we desire to have 4-5 vocational elders (paid pastors) and 6-7 non-vocational elders (volunteer covenant members) on the Board – a nominal total of 11-13. This distribution aligns with our constitutional provision calling for a majority of non-vocational elders. This size would also provide a good balance between a group large enough to provide the wisdom of a plurality but small enough to facilitate good meeting efficiency and the dynamics needed for the unanimous Board decisions required by the constitution. In light of this conclusion, and expected non-vocational elder sabbaticals, it was agreed that we would seek three or four non-vocational elder as apprentices. The names provided by the congregation were reviewed and discussed. Efforts to contact and determine mutual interest will follow.

Building Use Request: A home school co-op has requested use of FCC's building on Mondays in the 2022 / 2023 school year. Some FCC members are part of the co-op. FCC's current building

use policy was reviewed. The Board discussed how to best serve the members who are part of the co-op while also addressing concerns that the labor required weekly to professionally clean and 'turn' the building raises cost equity questions if the request is granted. Additionally, FCC's plan to increase building use to accommodate ministry expansion in the coming year was noted as a potential source of 'space conflict'. The Board designated two elders to meet with the requestors as a next step to addressing these concerns and arriving at a decision.

Steve Holsteen Sabbatical: The Board gladly affirmed Steve Holsteen's sabbatical request -- nominally running from the end of March to the end of May. (Exact dates are known.)

How you can pray us:

- For God's continued grace and blessings upon our church and our leaders.
- For God's guidance and our wisdom in finding a Next Generation leader.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we seek to define the best approach to Next Generation discipleship and a curriculum that will meet that need.
- For God's guidance and wisdom as the elders begin the formal process of vetting potential future elders.
- For God's guidance and wisdom as we contemplate how to best shepherd those who call FCC home. We earnestly desire to do this well while being a church of our size.
- For God's guidance and wisdom as we seek answers and develop sensitive replies to the questions raised by the letters provided to us.
- For all of our new members and for blessings upon the Nourse's as they go.