

Dear Faith Community Church,

Your Board of Elders desires to inform you of our monthly activities and ask you to pray for us as we collectively pursue our Spirit-led mission of making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ. Below please find a short 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 don't hesitate to contact a pastor or elder. Thank you for your interest and desire to help. We deeply appreciate your prayers!

March 8, 2022

Vision Frame Update: A small task team has been working to provide the elders a vision frame and a vision script to consider. A proposal for both was presented. For FCC, a vision frame would incorporate our purpose, mission, values, vision, strategies, and desired outcomes into a formally stated and integrated approach toward our ministries. A vision script describes a humbly-held description of how the elders foresee FCC developing in the coming three years; with the later years being of less certainty. The proposal was well received. Some modifications were suggested. The elders agreed to pray upon the proposal and consider its formal approval at our next meeting.

Shepherding Team Update: As described last month, the sense of the elders was a need exists to be more intentional in our approach to shepherding. A small task team has been formed. A brief update was presented that included a defined problem statement. The nature of the problem statement was affirmed by the elders and the task team will continue its work. The scope will also include a holistic approach for a deaconate and collaborate/communicate as needed with a mercy ministries task team that is already underway.

Future Non-Vocational Elder Candidate Update: As described last month, the list of elder candidate nominations was reviewed. An update was provided concerning the contact of initial potential candidates and the presence or absence of mutual interest.

Next Generation Ministry Update: The on-going efforts to hire a next generation ministry leader were reviewed. A draft to describe FCC's convictions concerning the balance between the role of the church and the role of parents for discipling children was distributed and comments were requested. A brief update concerning the Sunday morning curriculum task force was also provided. A more detailed review and proposal for the latter is planned for the next elder meeting.

Letters to the Elder Board: As described last month, two letters to the elder board were received. An update concerning their follow-up was provided. Both are being followed up upon and limited only by scheduling.

Gospel Inspired Life SOAP Exercise: The elders were led through and participated in a SOAP-based bible study focused on key elements of our Gospel Inspired Life ministry philosophy.

March 22, 2022

Vision Frame Approval: As described above (March 8), a small task team has been working to provide the elders a vision frame and a vision script to consider. A final proposal was made to the elders that further included a brief, and more easy to remember, summary of the vision – a motto. Small improvements were suggested and agreed upon. The proposal was subsequently approved by the elders. The staff will continue work on how to best communicate the subject. A formal approval for our discipleship framework will next be advanced by the subject task team.

Future Non-Vocational Elder Candidate Update: As described above, contacts to discern mutual interest have been made. We expect to have an understanding of mutual interests by our next elder meeting.

Next Generation Sunday Morning Curriculum Team Task Force Recommendation: As noted above, the subject task team has working based on a previous commissioning. A number of potential Sunday morning curriculum were considered and a deep dive into five of them was performed. A detailed review of their pros and cons were presented to the elders. The task team recommended the use of 'Discovery Land' as it appears to be the best fit for FCC. The elders approved the proposal. The team also discussed the timing for a possible curriculum change. A number of complexities exist. Most notable would be the timing of the next generation leader hire, various space needs/requirements, volunteers, and execution of our current next generation summer plans. Various tasks for the staff, as well as the approval of the intention to commission a separate task team to make a recommendation to the elders on how to best enable the transition, were decided upon. The elders also expressed the deep thanks and gratitude to the task team for all of their excellent, diligent, and timely work. Thank you!!

Building Use Request Approval: As discussed last month, home school co-op has requested to use FCC's building on Mondays. A separate meeting was held with the co-op and a proposal addressing the concerns and interests of both parties was mutually agreed to. The proposal was brought to the elder board and formally approved.

Building Use Policy Revision: The above discussion with the home school co-op brought us to the realization that our building use policy language should include the following statement that affirms our present approach: *"Costs for user groups who reserve multiple rooms for meetings more than once a month will be determined separately by FCC's elders."* The elders approved the policy statement revision.

Sense of the Elders concerning the use of 771 Carmichael for transitional housing needs: A sense of the elders was requested concerning the renovation and utilization of 771 Carmichael (the yellow house adjacent to FCC that we own) for transitional housing. The capital costs needed for the necessary upgrade were noted. Also noted was the possibility of a partnership with Samaritan's Purse and the possible opportunity to house legal immigrants from war-torn countries on a transitional basis. The need for clarity on issues concerning costs, leases, timing, a formal policy for 771's utilization, and communication to the body were noted. The elders affirmed efforts to further define the opportunity for formal consideration.

Letters to the Elder Board Update: As described last month, two letters to the elder board were received. A pastoral meeting to discuss the letter from a non-member who requested that our statement of faith be narrowed to require a literalistic interpretation of Genesis 1-4 was held. FCC's theological statement concerning matters involving creation and creationism, which affirms various matters beyond our faith statement, was shared and discussed. The elder's intention to not further narrow our faith statement was also shared. While some disappointment was expressed, a mutual understanding concerning this matter of conviction seems to have been positively achieved. The elders see this letter as being 'closed'.

A new letter to the elder board from a non-attending, non-member was recently received. The letter concerns the theological nature of counseling that was provided in a specific case. The letter's receipt has been acknowledged and an elder has requested an in-person follow-up meeting with the sender.

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 the implementation of curricula that will meet that need.
- For God's guidance and wisdom as the elders begin the formal process of asking and vetting potential future non-vocational 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 contemplate how to best set up a deaconate to meet the needs of our body and to perform various ministries of mercy outside of it.
- For God's guidance and wisdom as we contemplate how to best use the house next door for potential transitional housing needs.
- For God's guidance and wisdom as we seek to provide biblically correct answers and properly sensitive replies to the theological questions raised by recently provided letters.
- For God's guidance and wisdom for our staff as communication plans for our vision frame and vision script are prepared.
- That this Elder communication and prayer request initiative provides a helpful level of communication, increased understanding, and increased unity in our body.

- For blessings and peace for Steve Holsteen while he is away on his sabbatical.
- For wisdom and clarity upon the staff and elders who take up Steve's roles during his absence.

In Love and Peace,

Gregg Bennett – Chairman of the Elders on behalf of your Elder Board:

(Gregg Bennett, John Blum, Jim Duffy, Dan Fosterling, Steve Holsteen, Eric Lent, Tim Porter, Tim Prince, Pat Stream, and Larry Szyman)