

Dear Faith Community Church,

Your Board of Elders desires to inform you of our monthly activities and to 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 concise 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 as we seek to help thousands more experience a gospel inspired life. We deeply appreciate your prayers!

May 17, 2022

New Members Class Content Revisions: The elders were informed about efforts to revise and implement different content for the subject class. A three-week format is being planned to cover the key topics of: what it means to be a Christian, FCC's beliefs, and what it means to be a covenant member. The elders will review the content before it is practiced.

Transitional Housing Update: Due to travel conflicts, this topic was postponed until June.

Future Non-Vocational Elder Candidate Update: As has been described since February, an update was provided concerning the contacting and searching for potential non-vocational elder candidates. The presence or absence of mutual interest was discussed.

Next Generation Summer Ministry Plans: The elders were updated on the plans for next generation summer ministries and how the efforts to implement the recently approved new fall curriculum might impact our traditional rhythms. VBS will proceed as planned. Efforts to minimize impact on summer Life Shaping classes were reviewed and directionally approved.

Believers Baptism Policy Statement Revision: As discussed in earlier updates, a letter to elders requested us to reconsider the elders' 2016 policy statement concerning the subject. The concern was that the statement did not clearly emphasize that we teach and practice believer baptism by immersion. The elders concurred. The subject policy statement has been revised. No changes to the 'functional aspects' of the statement were made – provisions for alternative baptism modes are still allowed for in various unique situations.

Deaconate Framework: As has been discussed in past updates, the elders are of the sense and conviction that we desire to improve what we have described as shepherd eldering, and we also desire to implement a formal deaconate. A task team has been working toward both objectives and presented a proposal to the elders. Briefly, it has been agreed that a deacon/deaconess will be defined as: 1) A member in good standing meeting the qualifications of 1. Tim. 3:8-13, and 2) has been appointed by the Elders and serves at their discretion, and 3) spots and appropriately responds to the spiritual and tangible needs of members/regular

attenders of FCC, and 4) works regularly with others in the Deaconate to promote and protect unity. A deacon or deaconess may also lead a ministry of the church. A theological rationale for the deaconate was provided and concurred upon. Numerous details about the framework for the proposed deaconate, including a likely constitutional revision, and plans to move forward toward implementation were discussed and ultimately approved. A task team for deaconate implementation will next be created and a project charter for their efforts will be brought to the elders in June. A Fall 2022 launch is being targeted.

Elder Structure Discussion: The current elder structure that comprises Family of Family Elders and Extended Family Elders is thought to be presently non-optimal. The original vision of having an Extended Family Elder leading all (or the majority) of missional communities is not likely to come to pass for a variety of reasons. A sense of the elders discussion was held concerning how we might move to a different structure and the strengths and weaknesses that any such change might incur. Based upon the discussions a proposal will be brought forward.

FCC Sponsored Ministry Procedure: A request and proposal to begin a broadened marriage ministry has been received. FCC's process for determining and creating formally sponsored ministries is not fully clear. A sense of the elders discussion was held concerning the matter and how it might be best enabled. The discussions also included thoughts about current ministries of the church. A formal procedure for defining and designating sponsored ministries will be discussed at a future meeting.

May 22, 2022

Membership Updates: The elders shared and discussed a variety of membership-related news and observations.

Next Generation Ministries Update: Concerns about how the job description for the next generation ministries executive director position was created has been brought to the attention of the elders. One of the elders followed up with those concerned to understand matters relating to miscommunication and misunderstanding. The efforts were appreciated. A general understanding has been achieved. The board was apprised.

Future Non-Vocational Elder Candidate Update: As has been described since February, an update was provided concerning the contacting and searching for potential non-vocational elder candidates. The presence or absence of mutual interest was discussed.

Non-Vocational Elder Apprentice On-Boarding Process: As described in an earlier report, the elders are reviewing the on-boarding process for non-vocational elder apprentices. A modified proposal was considered, generally appreciated, but with some revisions requested. Further modifications will be made and the concept brought to a future board meeting.

Sense of the Elders – Social gatherings for Elders: Historically, the elders have gathered socially in various settings. However, since COVID, these activities have largely ceased. A sense of the elders was taken concerning if and how such gatherings should be re-started. The value of gatherings was affirmed and a formal proposal to enable both social gatherings and intrapersonal team development will be brought to a future meeting.

Balance Sheet Cash Stewardship: The elders have requested insight on how to best steward cash that exists on FCC's balance sheet in the current high inflation environment. A small team reported back to the Board about options that could be considered. Given the current economic cycle deceleration, it was decided that 6 to 12 month CDs would be pursued. A formal proposal with necessary detail will be brought to a future elder meeting for approval.

Marriage Ministry Proposal: An elder brought forward a formal proposal to broaden FCC's current marriage ministry. The board supported the proposal generally and agreed that we would use the proposal as a template for the FCC sponsored ministry procedure discussed on May 17 (see above).

Sense of the Elders – Members Only Communications Portal: The subject was brought to the attention of the elders. The need, historic efforts, and the staffing required to effectively maintain such a portal were all discussed. It was agreed that FCC's staff would contemplate this matter further and provide further comment and suggestions.

Sense of the Elders – Matters related to political voting: The subject was brought to the attention of the elders. Discussions concerning what (and how) is best said from the auditorium platform and what (and how) is best said in a classroom format were discussed. The importance of discussing the topic well, especially with a focus on God's heart, and in advance of the election was also discussed. It was agreed that FCC's pastors would further discuss the matter and bring a proposal to the elders.

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 continue the process of asking and vetting potential future non-vocational elders. For clarity as to how we can best on-board the men who are likely stepping forward.
- 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 develop and launch a deaconate to meet the needs of our body and how we might 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 for our staff as communication plans for our vision frame, vision script, and discipleship framework are prepared.
- In thankfulness to God for his continued and faithful provisions to FCC and his work in drawing many more in joining with us.
- For God's wisdom, guidance, and unity for the elder board as we continue to contemplate and discern many matters of importance.
- That this Elder communication and prayer request initiative provides a helpful level of communication, increased understanding, and increased unity in our body.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we discern how to best define and implement a FCC sponsored ministry definition and process.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we enter into another elections cycle and that we speak well toward God's heart in such matters.
- For God's wisdom and leading as we contemplate broadening our marriage ministry.
- In thanks for Larry's safe return from Uganda and South Sudan and all that was accomplished during his trip.

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)