

Dear Faith Community Church,

One of the honors of being an elder is the visibility one gains of the church as it works together as a whole. As this report was being prepared, Ben Prince's tragic death deeply impacted us all. I want you to know how amazing your pastors have been during this time of crisis. They have walked closely with the Prince family, supported the body as a whole, and have continued to carry out the purpose and mission of our church. They have done all of this even as they too are deeply grieved. It is an honor to work with these men. Please continue to pray regularly for us, and especially for the Prince family. We are a Spirit-led church. Know that we rest in His strength and continue seek His direction.

Below is the monthly Elder report. Your Board of Elders desires to inform you of our recent activities and requests your prayers for us as we collectively pursue our Spirit-led mission of making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ. 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.

June 14, 2022

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

Future Non-Vocational Elder Candidate Update: Three men have been identified as potential non-vocational elder candidates. A vetting plan for each has been agreed upon. The elders also agreed that these three candidates would comprise a possible group to be announced at a future membership meeting.

Non-Vocational Elder Vetting Process: The elders agreed that, in addition to the constitutionally-required vetting process, the non-vocational elder candidates would also be invited to attend current elder meetings as non-voting observers. This will allow them to further discern their interest in being an elder apprentice and help the elders get to know them better.

Next Generation Theological Convictions Guiding Document: As discussed in earlier reports, a document articulating the role of parents and the church in the discipleship of children has been developed. The elders affirmed the statement and its use as a guiding document (not an elder statement) for staff and parents.

Deaconate Project Charter: As has been discussed in earlier reports, the elders aspire to improve FCC's ability to "shepherd" our people. The framework for a deaconate was proposed and approved at a May meeting to help us meet this desire. A project charter for a task team that will plan the development and implementation of a deaconate was reviewed and approved. Tim Prince will lead the team.

Next Generation Executive Director Position: Dan Clancy was identified as a candidate for this position. An elder lead team of staff, and key volunteer leaders interviewed Dan in June. The team leaders reviewed their findings with the elders and recommended offering Dan the position. The elders approved. (Dan has subsequently accepted our offer and we are very excited to have him coming on board during the second half of July! Welcome Dan and Leah!!!)

Sense of the Elders - Elder Board Structure: As discussed in the May report, the elders believe the board's current structure with two categories of elders -- Family of Family Elders and Extended Family Elders -- is not optimal. A discussion of moving to a 'single elder structure' was held to determine a "sense of the elders" on this concept. Various merits and concerns about the proposal were heard. Based upon the input, a more formal and detailed proposal will be brought forward at a future meeting.

771 Carmichael Transitional Housing Pilot Update: As discussed in earlier reports, the elders approved the renovation of the house we own adjacent to the church with the intention of using it for transitional housing. An immediate opportunity to use the house for a legal refugee from Ukraine was presented to the elders. Individuals in our church have volunteered to provide sponsorship and direct support for this candidate. Pending proper legal clearances the elders approved, on a pilot basis, allowing the candidate to use the house during their transition. The pilot trial will allow us to serve this person in their need and provide the opportunity to refine and complete a more detailed policy for future use of the house.

June 28, 2022

Uganda Ministry Update: Larry Szyman updated the board on our ministry efforts in support of local churches in Uganda and an emerging opportunity to support churches in South Sudan. In partnership with two international missions agencies and the 4 churches we've helped plant in in western Wisconsin, FCC has provided nine training sessions in Uganda since 2019. The local Ugandans who completed this program developed a firm foundation in biblical interpretation, teaching and church leadership. Additionally, five Ugandan leaders were trained to continue and expand the training within six different people groups. Having established these local leaders to carry the program forward, our initial effort to Uganda has been completed.

An Anglican Archbishop who oversees some 500 churches in South Sudan near the border with Uganda learned of these efforts. At a meeting with Larry in South Sudan, he requested that we repeat the training for the leaders in these churches. It was concluded that the logistics of reaching South Sudan are too difficult, but both parties agreed it might be feasible to bring the South Sudan pastors to Uganda for training. This possibility is being prayerfully considered.

The board sincerely thanked Larry Szyman for his dedicated efforts on behalf of FCC and this initiative and gave thanks to God for all that is being accomplished. It is truly amazing. John

Blum's work to initially establish the necessary partnerships was also acknowledged and appreciated.

Criminal Vetting of Elders: FCC's policies require criminal vetting of volunteers and staff who work with children. It was proposed and agreed upon that FCC's elders should be similarly vetted.

FCC Balance Sheet Cash Stewardship: The elders affirmed a proposal to utilize a one-year ladder structure of CDs and/or U.S. Treasuries to earn interest on our balance sheet cash. It is estimated an annual rate of return of about 3% can be made with the approach. The elders also affirmed the amount of 'checkbook cash' we should maintain. We will also investigate the practicality of investing some of our money in a church bond program that provides a modest return with high liquidity while supporting investments in Converge churches.

Elder Agenda Hopper Overview: The elders were informed in greater detail about the method used on a monthly basis to track and review all the topics and projects under their stewardship. The process helps ensure that various topics are not overlooked while interim actions are pursued.

Timing and Implementation of Discovery Land (DL) Curriculum – Costs and Constraints: The board was updated on the additional space and renovations needed to successfully launch the DL curriculum they previously approved. The elders authorized the necessary reconfiguration and costs and further noted their willingness to ask the membership to approve additional funds for the capital budget if needed.

FCC Sponsored Ministry Process: A streamlined process to help support, clarify, and discern member initiated ministry ideas was reviewed and approved. Early in the process, it seeks to identify expectations for support and resources. It also provides an initial pilot phase to help determine the viability and fit of the new ministry within FCC's overall mission and vision.

Expanded Marriage Ministry Proposal: A proposal for an expanded marriage ministry that was discussed in a previous meeting was reviewed in light of the above "sponsored ministry process." The proposal was approved by the elders with the understanding that the various open details will be completed and discussed with FCC staff in alignment with completing the sponsored ministry process.

Voting upon New Members having Letters of Commendation: An opportunity for potential new members coming to FCC with letters of commendation has presented itself. It was agreed that such new members would be voted upon in the usual manner, and in alignment with our constitution, but that their letter(s) of commendation would also be noted to the membership. It was also agreed that letters of commendation would be sought by these potential new members.

Sense of the Elders – Ministry Leaders as Members: A sense of the elders discussion was held concerning whether all ministry leaders should be required to be members. The merits and concerns of the proposal were discussed. It was agreed that a clear definition of a ministry leader would be needed. The elders have requested the staff to define the term ‘ministry leader,’ establish a list of who fits this definition and determine their membership status. A future elder discussion will be held once that task is completed.

How you can pray us:

- For God’s grace, healing, and presence for the Prince family.
- For God’s grace, healing, and presence for the Stream and Christopher families.
- For God’s grace, healing, and presence for the FCC staff and elders.
- For God’s grace, healing, and presence for our entire body as we mourn.
- For God’s grace and blessings upon our church and our leaders.
- In thankfulness as we look forward to Dan and Leah Clancy joining our body and Dan’s leadership of our next generation ministry.
- In thankfulness as we look to implement our next generation discipleship principles and the curriculum we have identified for that need.
- In thankfulness for the three men who have expressed interest in being future non-vocational elders and for wisdom as the mutual vetting process begins.
- For God’s guidance and wisdom as we contemplate how to best shepherd, via a deaconate structure, 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 continue to pursue utilizing the house next door for potential transitional housing needs and for the Ukrainian refugee who has been identified.
- For God’s guidance and wisdom as the elders further contemplate the future structure of the elder board and the qualifications of ministry leaders.
- 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 begin to implement a FCC sponsored ministry process.
- For God’s wisdom and guidance as we enter into another election cycle and that we speak well toward God’s heart in such matters.
- For God’s wisdom and leading as we look to broaden our marriage ministry.
- In thanks for all that FCC’s and Larry Szyman’s efforts have brought toward training up competent church leaders in Uganda and for discernment and guidance as we contemplate similarly supporting pastors from South Sudan.

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)