

**Dear Faith Community Church,**

Your Board of Elders desires to inform you of our recent activities and request your prayer for us as we collectively pursue our Spirit-led mission of making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ. Below is a summary of our September activities. 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 meet Jesus and experience a gospel inspired life.

### **September 13, 2022**

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

**Elder Board Structure Proposal:** As discussed in previous reports, the current elder structure comprising Family of Family Elders and Extended Family Elders is thought to be non-optimal. A number of sense-of-the-elders discussions have led to a 'single elder structure' proposal that we believe supports ministry expansion without unduly burdening our elders with excessive time expectations. The latest revision of this proposal for amending the 'elder organization' part of the current by-laws was discussed, slightly modified, and then approved. The proposed by-law changes will be brought to the membership for discussion and a recommendation for approval.

**Board of Elder Development and Social Gatherings:** Historically, the elders have gathered socially in various settings. However, since COVID, these activities have largely ceased. The elders agreed to re-start monthly elder dinners, intentionally and regularly conduct team development activities, quarterly discuss a topic that addresses challenges the church faces in our culture, and reinstate bi-annual fellowship events that include spouses.

**771 Carmichael Transitional Housing Pilot Ministry:** Steve and Nopaluck Cable, our long-time global ministry partners in Thailand, were the first guests in our renovated 771 Carmichael property during their recent furlough. They identified several improvements that are needed. The team that manages the property quickly addressed these needs. The Elders expressed their sincere thanks to the team for their prompt actions. Also discussed was a policy proposal that establishes priorities for selecting among potential occupants, outlines their responsibilities as residents and provides guidance for the length of their stay. Various suggestions for clarification and improvements were made. It was agreed a revised policy proposal would be brought to a future meeting.

**Update on the FaithKids and FaithLittles Refresh and Launch:** An update was given to the elders concerning the forthcoming launch of the new Sunday morning curriculum for FaithKids and Faith Littles. This has been a major endeavor requiring many hours from the staff and numerous volunteers. The elders are very encouraged that 80+ volunteers have agreed to participate and are being trained. It was also noted that some aspects of the new program will

still be under development when it starts on September 25<sup>th</sup> but more than enough is ready for a safe and successful launch. The elder's participation in the launch weekend was requested and agreed to.

**Constitution By-Laws and Constitution Changes:** As noted above, the proposed single elder structure will require changes to the church's by-laws. It was agreed that it would also be wise to update the constitution to accommodate operational changes (not theological changes) associated with our growth from a small church to a much larger church. A number of amendments were considered by the elders. Their input and suggestions will be incorporated in a revised proposal that will be acted on at a future meeting.

**Administrative:** The board of elders agreed to delegate Eric Lent as the elder representative to our Next Generation ministries.

### **September 27, 2022**

**Updates:** 1) The September 25<sup>th</sup> launch of the new FaithKids and Faith Littles programming was exciting and went very well. The number of children participating has increased tremendously compared to last year and even pre-COVID levels . 2) Feedback on the turn-out and participation in the Gospel Unity & Politics seminar was provided. More than 60 people attended. 3) It was reported that the Ukrainian refugee whom we expect to occupy our 771 Carmichael transition house has procured her visa and passport to enter the United States. Her arrival will likely be in October.

**771 Carmichael Transitional Housing Pilot Ministry Policy:** Per the September 13<sup>th</sup> notes, revisions to the subject policy document were brought to the elders, discussed, and approved.

**Constitution By-Laws and Constitution Changes:** Per the September 13<sup>th</sup> notes, revisions to the previously proposed changes to the by-laws and constitution were brought to the elders, discussed, and approved. These modifications will next be announced to the membership and subsequently voted upon at a member's meeting.

**Non-Vocational Elder Apprentices:** The vetting of three men as non-vocational elders has recently been completed. (All three have been present at board of elder meetings as non-voting attendees since at least August.) The board of elders affirmed moving all three forward as elder apprentices. The apprentices will be announced in October. An exact date will be determined shortly.

**Sense of the Elders – Elder Support for Difficult Biblical Counseling Cases:** A sense-of-the-elders discussion was held concerning the subject. The complexities and potential ramifications associated with difficult cases were discussed. Various suggestions and affirmations were heard and contemplated.

**Sense of the Elders - Future Facility Expansion:** Most of our meeting was spent on this topic. The purpose was to provide the current board of elders important background information. The subject is complex. Important aspects of the discussion included the nature of the 3 - 4 years lead time typically required for any facility expansion project at FCC. The elders also reviewed the constraints we'll probably face if the recent growth in attendance at our worship services, FaithKids and Faith Littles continues. The board of elders also reviewed our location's facility 'master plan'. Historic design concepts and projected cost estimates were also discussed. It was agreed that a meeting dedicated solely to this topic is needed and would be a likely next step.

**Administrative:** 1) The board of elders agreed to delegate Chris Willeke as the elder representative to our marriage ministry. Chris will also continue to lead a Missional Community. 2) The FCC website has been updated to include the FCC e-mail addresses of the non-vocational elders to better enable communication. 3) The elders approved a housing allowance modification for a staff member.

**How you can pray us:**

- For God's grace, healing, and presence for the Prince family.
- For God's grace and blessings upon our church and our leaders.
- In thankfulness as Dan and Leah Clancy join our body and for wisdom and blessings as Dan's leadership of our next generation ministry begins.
- In thankfulness as our significant efforts to implement a new Sunday morning curriculum for FaithKids and FaithLittles have successfully begun.
- In thankfulness for the three men who have expressed interest in being future non-vocational elders and have agreed to become elder apprentices.
- 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 look forward to welcoming a Ukrainian refugee to our pilot transitional housing ministry.
- In thankfulness to God for his continued and faithful provisions to FCC and his work in drawing many more to join with us.
- For God's wisdom, guidance, and unity for the elder board as we continue to contemplate and discern many matters of importance.
- 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 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)