

**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 October 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.

### **October 11, 2022**

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

**Third Quarter Finance and Attendance Update:** A quarterly report was presented to the elders. FCC has continued to be blessed with significant, double-digit, attendance growth. Of note, the average in-person attendance for the preceding four Sundays matched our pre-COVID numbers for the same dates (Sunday online attendees are in addition to this). Tithes and offerings increased during the quarter as well and are largely aligned with our plan. Spending remains slightly under plan. In total, income continues to exceed expenses. The elders are extremely thankful for God's faithful provision and His work in drawing many more to join with us!

**2023 Budget Planning:** The majority of the meeting was spent on this topic. An estimate for 2022 year-end income was provided and agreed upon. A projection of 2023 income was also agreed upon. Proposed spending plans, based upon major areas of the budget, were subsequently reviewed and discussed. Various topics requiring further definition, clarification, and discussion will be addressed at our next meeting. Ministry leaders and staff personnel will also have occasion to 'appeal' the tentative decisions that were made.

**Non-Vocational Elder Apprentice Training Plan:** A training plan was brought to the elders for review. The intention of the plan is to ground the current elder apprentices in various theological and administrative matters specific to FCC. Additional suggestions were made and incorporated. It is planned to begin the training in November.

**Letter-to-Elder Operating Procedure:** A recent e-mail letter to the elders revealed weaknesses (due to vacation and incorrect e-mail addresses in the original) in our method of reply. A method to ensure prompt and efficient replies was agreed upon.

**Letter to Board of Elders:** The elders received a letter noting perceived inequity in the provision of specially printed t-shirts to those involved in FaithKids versus those involved in FaithLittles for our recent Discovery Land curriculum launch. The root cause of t-shirts being unavailable for FaithLittles was a backorder issue at the supplier. Better communication about the backorder and the plan to have printed t-shirts for both ministries was needed. The letter has been followed up upon and successfully explained. The matter is considered closed.

**Other:**

- 1) Money from the elders discretionary spending account was approved for both a special recognition and for a family in need.
- 2) A plan to announce the elder apprentices was agreed upon.

**October 25, 2022**

**Tim Porter Two-Week Sabbatical Request:** Tim Porter requested a (nominally) two-week sabbatical that would be added to his planned vacation time in November. (He will be away from FCC for about 5 weeks.) For a variety of reasons, the past quarter has been difficult, and Tim requested the sabbatical time for further refreshment and revitalization. The elders approved the request.

**FCC Constitution Change Request:** A small oversight was found in the previously approved constitutional changes that will be published to FCC before October 29<sup>th</sup>. The oversight was reviewed and a recommended change was approved.

**2023 Budget Planning:** The majority of the meeting was spent on this topic. A number of changes and modifications from the previous meeting were reviewed and discussed. A near-final budget plan for 2023 was ultimately agreed upon. The changes will be finalized in the coming weeks. The budget will then be presented to the congregation on November 20 and submitted to the members for approval on December 4.

**Other:**

- 1) The Ukrainian refugee we are seeking to assist as part of our transitional housing ministry is presently in the United States. She has informed us she is also interested in helping her parents emigrate. She also informed us she is considering Florida for residence.
- 2) The elders have set a special meeting date (12/10) to focus upon and deeply discuss future expansion needs.
- 3) The Hudson Police Department sent FCC a very kind note in appreciation for our hosting a suicide prevention seminar. It was shared with the elders.

**How you can pray us:**

- For God's grace, healing, and presence for the Prince family.
- For God's sustaining grace for Tim Porter during his time of vacation and brief sabbatical.
- For God's grace and blessings upon our church and our leaders.
- For Dan Clancy as he continues to begin leading our next generation ministry.
- In thankfulness as our significant efforts to implement a new Sunday morning curriculum for FaithKids and Faith Littles 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 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.
- For God's wisdom and grace in the wake of this election cycle – that we would rest in God's providence for its outcomes and be gracious to one another in a polarized political culture.
- For God's wisdom and leading as we look to broaden our marriage ministry.
- For God's wisdom and leading as we develop our ministry and budget plans for 2023.

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)