**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 November 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 experience Jesus in a gospel inspired life.

**November 8, 2022**

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

**2023-2025 Vision Script Update:** FCC is using a ‘vision script’ to describe how the Elders foresee our church developing in the coming three years. As each year passes, the ‘vision script’ is updated to clarify what we foresee for the coming three years. Needless to say, we hold these expectations loosely and have more clarity about the upcoming year than the third year. The elders reviewed, discussed, and agreed upon the updated 2023-2025 vision script. We anticipate communicating more about the Vision Script at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

**FCC Staff Objectives for Q4’22:** A quarterly review of FCC’s staff objectives was presented and discussed. The objectives planned for completion in the fourth quarter were reviewed, considered in more detail, and agreed upon.

**Elder Resolution to Establish a Brokerage Account and the Policy to determine its use**: The elders desire to effectively steward the cash on FCC’s balance sheet. A Cash Management Team has been established to enable this. The team has recommended, and the elders earlier approved, that FCC presently utilize short term US Treasuries to enable a nominally 4% annual rate of return from available balance sheet cash. To enable this practice, FCC needs a brokerage account to buy US treasuries. In order to establish such a brokerage account, a board resolution authorizing the account was required. The board reviewed the resolution and approved it. At the same time, a proposed policy determining how FCC is allowed to utilize the account was reviewed, slightly modified, and approved.

**Missional Community “Refresh”:** A task team was asked to assess how FCC could best ‘optimize’ our present Missional Community activities. Effective and healthy communities are critical to our Gospel Inspired Life ministry philosophy. Based on what FCC has learned since we initially established our missional community model, the task team defined an important list of ‘minimums’ required of our Missional Communities as well as list of ‘strongly preferred’ attributes. The task team also looked at what is needed to best sustain our Missional Communities and to help them thrive. Questions concerning whether the envisioned model is truly “missional” and exactly how it is “missional” required additional deliberation, carrying into the next meeting. Following this substantial review and discussion, the board ultimately affirmed the task team’s recommended model. (Note: Training of our MC leaders on this content is also being planned for early next year.)

**Prayer:** The elders prayed for our church and its many and various needs.

**November 29, 2022**

**Missional Community “Refresh”:** The carry-over discussion on this topic, begun in the previous meeting, was resolved. An understanding of the defined mission of our Missional Communities, why and how they are “missional,” and the critical need for giving them sustained support was ultimately agreed.

**Vision Forward Meeting Feedback:** The recently held Vision Forward budget meeting was discussed. The pastors and elders have been following up on a number of questions from members – whether received in person or by e-mail. It was felt that, following discussion, the various questions and concerns have largely been satisfactorily addressed. The proposed budget will be moving to the formal budget meeting (12/4/22) without modification (where it was subsequently approved).

**July 1 – June 30th Annual Budget Cycle:** On October 27th the members of FCC were notified that the Elders are recommending changes to the Constitution and By-Laws that will be voted on at next year’s Annual Meeting. These changes were subsequently presented and discussed at the November 20th Vision Forward meeting.

One of the important changes included in this set of modifications is an amendment to the By-Laws that will allow Faith Community to shift its fiscal year. Assuming this is adopted, the Elders considered a proposal to seek the members approval to shift FCC’s annual budget cycle from the current calendar year to a July 1 – June 30th 12-month period, beginning in 2023. The benefits of this change are that:

* our budget cycle will effectively align with the ‘school year cycle’ that aligns with our ‘ministry year cycle’.
* this approach will give us visibility of December giving, removing a very large variable from our planning process, and providing time for us to proactively respond to changing conditions.

(Note: Calendar year financial statements for individual givers will continue to be sent as usual).

The elders approved the change – conditional upon acceptance of the proposed amendment to the By-Laws. It was also agreed that in December the Elders would communicate their intent to seek members’ approval for this shift so that a vote on the change could occur at the Annual Meeting – again, contingent upon approval of the By-Law change earlier at the same meeting.

**Home School Co-op Building Use for the 2023/24 School Year:** A home school co-op presently pays to use our building on Mondays during the school year. FCC’s building offers an excellent space for their activities. In our meeting with the co-op last year, it was mutually agreed that FCC would consider their needs and our building’s availability on a year-by-year basis and that FCC would work to provide directional input to the co-op in January. The board discussed the expected 2023/24 school year request in light of the substantial growth that FCC has experienced during the past year. It was noted that building renovations and/or a third service may be required during this time period. The elders have set aside a Saturday morning in early December to discuss how we might best plan for our observed growth needs. It was agreed that this discussion needs to be concluded before we can provide appropriate feedback to the home school co-op concerning the building’s use. This topic will be re-visited at a future meeting.

**Prayer:** The elders prayed for our church and its many and various needs.

**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.
* For Dan Clancy as he continues to establish his leadership in our next generation ministry.
* In thankfulness for the three men who have expressed interest in being future non-vocational elders and have agreed to become elder apprentices. Please pray as well that their apprenticeship time will be effective.
* 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 our Ukrainian refugee who presently occupies our recently established transitional housing.
* 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 and leading as we look to broaden our marriage ministry.
* For God’s wisdom and guidance as we look to move to a ‘school year’ budget cycle.
* For God’s wisdom and guidance as we look to discern how to best plan for, and address, the growth FCC is experiencing.
* For God’s wisdom and guidance as we discern how to best move forward with the home school co-op that uses our building.
* For God’s wisdom, guidance, and unity for the elder board as we continue to contemplate and discern many matters of importance.

In Love and Peace,

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

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