

**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 and vision-focused mission of making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ. Below is a summary of our May 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.

### **May 9, 2023 Regular Elder Meeting:**

#### **Updates**

*By-Law Update:* A one word change to the previously approved by-laws updates, to enable further clarity, was requested and approved. The by-law changes will be sent to the membership for review in May and approval in June.

*Faithbase App - member database:* A request to provide the wives of elders with access to the member list was approved. They now have access.

#### **Meeting Topics**

*Staff Objectives:* The elders reviewed the Q1'23 staff objectives and accomplishments as well as the Q2'23 plans. The various objectives were directionally affirmed and appreciated.

*Operational Plan for pursuing the auditorium balcony and next generation wing expansion project:* As noted previously, three teams, one focused upon designing and building, one focused on communications, and a third focused on a capital campaign have been formed. These teams will regularly report progress at future elder meetings. Determining the design and cost of the project is currently the area of primary focus. An update on the availability of potential architectural firms was presented. Currently, it appears that conceptual drawings can be completed in 2023 and 'construction blueprints' provided early in 2024. The detailed assessment that's underway to determine what's needed to support our Sunday morning FaithKids and FaithLittles curriculum in the proposed next generation wing was also described.

*Replacement Executive Pastor Job Description:* Our current executive pastor will be retiring in 2024. The elders recently approved the engagement of a well-known search firm to do a national search for his replacement. The current job description was reviewed. Various modifications were suggested and agreed upon. An initial meeting with the search firm will be scheduled in early June.

*Sense of the Elders – Sunday Morning Adult Discipleship:* Our Sunday morning next generation ministry currently occupies nearly all of the building except our worship and commons space. As such, there's basically no place available for Sunday morning adult discipleship. One

advantage of creating a dedicated next generation ministry area is that the Refuge Room could be freed up for this purpose. A proposal was made to utilize that space to accommodate an adult leadership and discipleship initiative that's being developed. The proposal was directionally affirmed with the caveat that other types of training could also be conducted in this area if it was available.

*Expansion Planning Consensus Thoughts:* Since late 2022, the elders have had special meetings each month to consider our needs for expansion and to develop plans to address them. The next one is planned for May 23rd. In preparation for that meeting, an outline of an emerging consensus was presented, discussed, and concurred upon. Further details are noted in the Special Elder Meeting summary that follows.

*Prayer:* The elders prayed for our church and its many and various needs. Additionally, two different days of fasting and prayer were agreed upon.

**Special All Elder Meeting – Expansion Planning: May 23, 2023:** The Tuesday evening time that is typically devoted to regular elder meetings was utilized for a continuation of our all-elder expansion planning discussions. This was the seventh special meeting dedicated to deciding how to best accommodate and enhance the growth FCC is experiencing. *(Previous monthly reports should be read to enable full context.)*

Through these meetings, a growing consensus developed around some key concepts. These concepts were listed and discussed. It was agreed that this consolidated list represented our consensus. Based on that consensus, expansion plans to accommodate and enhance FCC's growth were determined. It was also agreed that for the time being we can formulate reasonable estimates but not solid quotes for the project's total cost. Consequently, the elders know they are making 'reasoned decisions' that may need to be adjusted once actual costs are fully known.

With this understanding, an 'estimated target' of the total budget for the expansion project was agreed upon. Included within the overall 'estimated target cost' were reasoned cost estimates for a balcony addition to the auditorium to enable about 25% more seating capacity; a minimum increase of our commons space of about 25%; a next generation wing that will enable us to execute our current Sunday morning FaithKids and FaithLittles curriculum with excellence; approximately 25% more parking space, and; seed money to support possible future campus planting. Additionally, a capital campaign target and a range of total debt that could be allowed was also agreed upon.

It was further agreed that detailed communication regarding the subject will commence in the near future. We look forward to sharing greater details with you soon!! (Thank you for your continued patience!) Finally, it was also agreed that the 'expansion topic' will become part of our regular elder meetings. No further all-elder 'expansion planning meetings' are presently planned.

**How you can pray us:**

- For God's grace, healing, and presence for the Prince family.
- For Dan Clancy's health as he continues to lead our next generation ministry.
- For our next generation ministry and the new interns that will be supporting our efforts this summer.
- In thankfulness for the three non-vocational elder apprentices -- that their apprenticeship time be effective.
- For God's guidance and wisdom as we contemplate how to best shepherd, via a diaconate 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 contemplate how to best develop a leadership and discipleship initiative to meet the needs of FCC.
- In thankfulness to God for his continued and faithful provision for 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 plan our communications about our intentions to accommodate and enhance the growth the FCC is experiencing.
- For the unity of our body as we experience a number of changes that our present growth is bringing about.
- For God's wisdom, guidance, and unity for the elder board as we continue to contemplate and discern many matters of importance, including our continued discussions concerning complementarianism at FCC.
- For God's grace and blessings upon our church and wisdom for our leaders.

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, Larry Szyman and Chris Willeke)