

## **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 March 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.

### **July 11, 2023 Regular Elder Meeting:**

#### **Topics:**

*Prayer:* The elders spent time in prayer for our church.

*Diaconate/Shepherd Eldering Update:* An elder-commissioned task team reported to the elders their thoughts on how to organize a diaconate to help the elders assure proper spiritual and tangible care is provided for our covenant members and ultimately the entire congregation. The use of our missional communities in this regard was proposed as a key aspect of the approach. Significant discussions followed. The elders greatly appreciated the very deep thought, hard work, and important ideas that were shared. The task team will contemplate the elders' feedback and next steps.

*Expansion Planning and Building Update:* The elders were updated on efforts to contract both a builder and an architect for the subject. A design-to-build single point of contact model with the builder is being pursued. The elders approved the approach. A proposed contract is being reviewed. Meetings with Faith Kids and Faith Littles teachers and leaders are being held to gain insights for the proposed Next Gen addition. In the area of communications, a detailed 'white paper' was sent to all who currently attend and are associated with FCC. It provided background, understanding, and insight into the direction the elders are pursuing. The feedback that was received was limited but positive and no negative feedback was received. Concerning the capital campaign to support this initiative, a review of the two final candidates was provided and approval was given to contract with one of them.

*Church Planting Philosophy:* The elders reviewed, discussed, and affirmed a proposal describing how FCC would approach any future church planting initiatives. The general philosophy included broad content ranging from theological underpinnings to day-to-day operations. The effort remains a work in progress as many details, especially related to potential operational aspects require further development.

*Transitional Housing Pilot Ministry Update:* The Ukrainian refugee who was our initial occupant for our transitional housing pilot ministry has formally transitioned out of our care. We wish her well! Various shorter-term occupants have also been using our 771 Carmichael property. Additional longer-term occupants are also being considered.

### **July 25, 2023 Regular Elder Meeting:**

## **Topics:**

*Prayer:* The elders spent time in prayer for our church.

*Elder Apprentices Affirmed:* The elders affirmed and recommended the three elder apprentices to our membership to become non-vocational elders. A member vote is planned for August 27. Each of these men has been active and diligent in numerous ways during their one-year apprenticeship. The elders expressed their appreciation for their service and confidence they will serve FCC well as elders.

*Quarterly Financial Update / Closing the interim fiscal year:* As affirmed by our membership, FCC is moving from a calendar-based fiscal year to a July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> fiscal year to better align with our ministry cycle and giving patterns. Consequently, the first six months of 2023 mark an interim budget period. Effective June 30<sup>th</sup> that interim budget cycle ended and effective July 1<sup>st</sup> our new full 12-month budget cycle began. The income and spending for the most recent quarter and the six-month interim cycle were reviewed and discussed. Unfortunately, due to a number of various one-off expenses and timing issues, our expenses were about 2% above our income during this six-month timeframe. This occurred despite strong income growth and spending only 47% of the full 12-month budget. It's projected that this deficit at the end of the first 6 months would have been eliminated in the following 6 months based on FCC's historic ability to manage a full 12-month budget cycle including December contributions (typically more than 2 times the average month's giving). The elders agreed the costs in excess of income will be covered with funds from the "cash flow cushion" on our balance sheet and our interim fiscal period will be closed in this way. The expectation that we will not exceed budgeted expenditures or overspend operating income in the upcoming 12-month budget cycle was discussed and concurred upon.

*Staff's Q2 Objectives Review and Q3 Outlook:* The elders reviewed the Q2'23 staff objectives and accomplishments as well as their Q3'23 plans. Significant progress continues to be made. The various objectives were directionally affirmed and appreciated.

*Zoning Update in support of a digital sign:* An earlier capital budget approved the addition of a digital sign as a replacement for our current monument sign. It has been learned that FCC's zoning does not currently allow for digital signage. Initial discussions suggest that updating our zoning constraint may not be easy. Alternative options are being considered and the board will be updated accordingly.

*Complementarian Theology Discussion:* Per earlier meeting reports, FCC's elders are considering this topic. (Please review previous reports for additional context.) A sense-of-the-elders discussion was held on some of the scriptures that we've recently studied on this topic. It was agreed that a summary document and forward-looking 'road map' would be helpful. A plan to enable these next steps was agreed upon.

## **How you can pray us:**

- For God's grace, healing, and presence for the Prince family.

- For Dan Clancy's health as he continues as our leader for our Next Generation ministry.
- In thankfulness for the three men whose faithful service as apprentice elders has demonstrated their fitness and calling to become elders.
- 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 provisions to FCC and his work in drawing many more in joining with us.
- For God's wisdom and leading as we look to pilot an expansion of our marriage ministry.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we seek to begin implementing our plans to accommodate and enhance the growth that FCC has been 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 wisdom and guidance as FCC contemplates what church planting via a campus planting model means in practice.
- For God's grace and blessings upon our church and wisdom for our leaders.
- For our upcoming ministry year as many plans are beginning to move toward implementation.

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 Willike)