**Dear Faith Community Church,**

Your Board of Elders desires to inform you of our recent activities and request that you pray 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 August 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 engagement as we seek to help thousands more experience Jesus in a gospel inspired life.

**August 8, 2023 Regular Elder Meeting:**

**Topics:**

*Prayer:* The elders discussed various needs and situations and spent time in prayer for our church.

*Accommodating and Enhancing Growth Project Update:*Updates were provided by the three sub-teams. The Design and Build Team noted that interviews with various stakeholders assessing needs for the next generation part of the building are almost complete. Summary reports are available in a shared drive. Finalizing a contract with an architect is presently the most pressing need. The Capital Campaign team noted that a contract with Injoy consultants is signed and work has begun on the overall schedule and key communication elements. An overview plan was presented and affirmed. The Communications Team summarized the results of recent survey work to assess the impact of alternate Sunday AM worship time changes on auditorium attendance levels in each service. No obvious solution to balancing attendance between the two services was apparent. A voluntary approach will likely be communicated and relied upon if necessary. The elders affirmed the various efforts that are underway.

*Annual Business Meeting Plan:*An agenda was proposed to the elders that described the content and approach to the planned 8/27 meeting. The elders affirmed the approach.

*Sense of the elders – Returning to ‘Communal Communion’:* The pandemic resulted in a decision to change our historic form of receiving communion elements. The elders affirmed a desire to return to our historic ways of practicing communion. A plan for this was presented and discussed. It was noted that it’s important to meet the needs of people who are sensitive to gluten and microbes as we transition back to elements that are shared among the congregation. Staff will take these into account as we return to distributing shared elements.

*Ministry Metrics:* FCC’s vision frame notes the importance of measuring to see if our ministry efforts are having their intended impact. A plan to review a variety of ministry “metrics” at a macro-scale was discussed. Most of the data is presently being tracked. Plans to close important ‘gaps’ (e.g. missional community attendance figures) were noted. The elders affirmed the general proposal and agreed to include these figures in our quarterly review of finances, overall attendance, key highlights, and staff objectives.

*Sermon Planning Process and Sermon Series Plans:* An overview and review of the subject process was presented. The way staff responsibilities and efforts align with this process was also described. The elders affirmed and appreciated the approach.

*Elder and Spouse Assistance in Ministry:* A request was made for the elders and their wives to support the effort to meet newcomers in the Volunteer Hub following our services. The elders affirmed that this was possible and requested a calendar be set up. Another request for the elders and their wives to help serve food at the 9/10 Fall Kick-Off was also presented. That request was also affirmed.

*Non-Vocational Elders to Microsoft Teams:* It was requested that the non-vocational elders begin to regularly use the Microsoft Teams software platform that FCC has licensed. IT support to enable their devices to run the Teams application was discussed and addressed. The elders affirmed that they will move to Teams and make efforts to use it as appropriate.

**August 22, 2023 Regular Elder Meeting:**

*Prayer:*  The elders discussed a substantial number of needs and situations and spent time in prayer for our church.

*July Storm Damage:* FCC’s building sustained storm damage recently. The amount of damage was not enough to make an insurance claim and will be covered by our repair and maintenance budget line.

*Transitional Housing Ministry:* The elders approved a 3-month extension for the current occupants as they work through the timing of their transition.

*Accommodating and Enhancing Growth Project Update:*Updates were provided by the three sub-teams. The Design and Build Team noted that they were continuing to experience delays in getting an architect under contract. They now expect a contract to be in place by late August/early September. This will likely delay various architectural deliverables by 2 - 4 weeks. The Capital Campaign Team and the Communications Team are still ‘on track’ although the delay with the architect could impact their timelines at some point.

*HR Planning:* FCC is coming into a season of significant turnover in key staff roles. Efforts to replace our retiring executive pastor were noted. They are well underway and on track. Local efforts to hire an Executive Director for Missional Communities (part of the ‘23/’24 member approved budget) did not lead to success. It was decided we will extend our efforts to a national search. It was also proposed that this position include duties and aspects of a campus pastor, in addition to the MC responsibilities. This person will ultimately replace our retiring (2024) Campus & Community pastor. Job descriptions with reconfigured responsibilities enabling these roles were presented, reviewed, and affirmed.

The elders were also informed of the recent resignation of our full-time office coordinator/administrative assistant. A plan to reconfigure that full-time position to a communications, data and design specialist was described. An open part-time position would then be used to address the office coordination/administrative vacancy. In total, these changes are “cost neutral.”  The elders affirmed the plans.

*Complementarian Theology Discussion:* As per previous reports, FCC’s elders are considering this topic.  (Please review previous reports for additional context.) A draft “roadmap” for the elders’ deliberations on biblical passages that are critical in this discussion was presented. The roadmap suggested that the scope of our effort be focused on the Roles, Responsibilities, and Authority structure in the local church. The various roles of men and women will be described in that context. The elders believe this is an important question for our body to understand. They affirmed this as the way to move forward with this topic.  A full version of the roadmap and a draft describing the various exegetical implications (needing review, comment, and consensus) will be provided to the elders before our next meeting on this topic.

**How you can pray for us:**

* For God’s grace, healing, and presence for the Prince family.
* For Dan Clancy and his health as he continues to lead our next generation ministry.
* For God’s guidance and wisdom as the elders and staff begin filling important positions at our church that are associated with retirements, planned additions, and a recent resignation.
* For God’s wisdom and guidance as we look to begin implementing our plans to accommodate and enhance the growth that FCC is experiencing.
* In thankfulness to God for the three men who successfully fulfilled their elder apprenticeship and were recently affirmed as elders of our church.
* 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 consider how to broaden our marriage ministry.
* 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/roles, responsibilities, and authority in the local church in our context 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, Bill Brinkman, Jim Duffy, Dan Fosterling, Jon Gross, Steve Holsteen, Eric Lent, Tim Porter, Tim Prince, Pat Stream, Tim Studt, Larry Szyman and Chris Willike)