

**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 August activities. If you want to learn more about a given subject, please don't hesitate to contact a pastor or elder. Thank you for your interest as we seek to help thousands more experience Jesus in a gospel inspired life.

## **AUGUST 13, 2024, REGULAR ELDER MEETING**

### **Updates**

- The elders were updated on FCC's parking project. Recent soil boring tests were 'acceptable'. Our civil engineer will be designing the two retention ponds (see earlier reports) accordingly and then submitting a plan to the Hudson City Council for approval. He does not foresee issues. While this part of our project is less than budgeted, it now leaves open our 2030 need to connect to city sewer. We hope to still do this as part of the current capital project, but it will be contingent on the project's total costs.
- The elders were updated on communications regarding changes in staffing in our children's ministries and communications.

### **Topics**

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

**Capital Authorizations:** The elders authorized previously approved capital expenditures for a new floor scrubber and additional pub-style tables.

**Annual Meeting Content:** The formal agenda for the annual meeting was reviewed, as was the annual financial report. The elders thanked God for his goodness and faithfulness in the past year as a broad range of numbers show very encouraging results. It was also agreed that the earlier, member-approved, 2024/25 capital budget would be reviewed at the annual meeting. Specifically, monies approved for the capital project will be allocated toward parking and architecture fees in a different ratio than planned.

**Capital Campaign Update:** The elders were updated on the most recent activities of the Reach campaign. The elders were informed that the timing of the campaign launch overlaps with our annual Heart for the Valley initiative. It was proposed that this year's Heart for the Valley initiative be included in the on-going capital campaign. After discussion, the elders approved the request.

**Discipleship Initiative Update:** A brief update on the subject was provided. This elder-led effort has seen little advancement since it was discussed in May due to time being focused on FCC's

child protection policy breach that occurred in late February during a Saturday conference (see previous reports for more information). The roles previously contacted volunteers and interested parties were discussed and clarified.

**Child Protection Policy Final Report Draft Review:** The elders reviewed the subject report. (see earlier reports for more information). Several insights were discussed. Several suggestions for clarification were also provided and compiled. It is expected that modifications will be made and be the subject of our next elder meeting.

## **AUGUST 27, 2024, REGULAR ELDER MEETING**

### **Updates**

- The elders were updated on planned next steps regarding our employee health plan matter. (See earlier reports for details.)
- The elders were briefly updated on the design and build project. Some smaller requests for an expanded scope were discussed. The elders were also informed that formal design meetings with our architect are expected to begin in September.
- Annual Meeting Debrief: The elders discussed several aspects of the August 18th annual meeting. Further comments can be found in the topics section below.
- The elders were updated on the social media-led Biker Against Child Abuse rally.
- The elders were updated on the communications and children's ministries staffing transitions.
- The elders were updated on a plan to recognize retiring staff.

### **Topics**

**Guest Speaker:** The elders brought in a guest speaker for a presentation regarding caring for someone with trauma. A significant discussion followed.

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

**Capital Campaign Update:** The elders were informed about our capital campaign consultant's opinions regarding our subject efforts in light of recent concerns regarding FCC's February 24<sup>th</sup> child protection policy breach and our response to it. (The topic concerns FCC's child protection policy breach regarding our two volunteers/staff protocol that occurred in late February during a Saturday conference. See earlier reports for details.) The primary questions discussed was whether the campaign should continue as planned, be slightly delayed, or be significantly delayed/re-started. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the campaign would continue 'as is' for now and that the elders would reconsider the topic at our next meeting.

**Shepherding Response Team:** The elders were informed about a Shepherding Response Team that has been created to focus on concerns being raised regarding FCC's February 24<sup>th</sup> child

protection policy breach regarding our two volunteers/staff protocol that occurred during a Saturday conference. (See earlier reports for details.) One of the elders is leading this team. A lengthy discussion followed. The pastors and elders were encouraged to forward all concerns to this team. The general approach of the team was discussed and affirmed. It was also agreed that this team's leader would be the aggrieved family's primary contact point. Of note, the elders had been in prayer and fasting regarding how to respond to a number of recent inquiries from the aggrieved family. The elders agreed that we would continue to recommend that efforts to reconcile be facilitated by a third-party mediator. It was also agreed that our primary contact would reply before the end of the current week.

**How you can pray us:**

- For God's grace, healing and peace upon Dan Clancy's family and all those impacted, including our many youth, by his recent passing.
- For God's guidance and wisdom for our staff and elders regarding our next generation ministry as FCC works through an interim staffing plan and looks to hire new staff.
- For God's guidance and wisdom as FCC looks to address a child protection policy breach regarding our two volunteers/staff protocol that occurred in late February during a Saturday conference. Please also pray for effective implementation of new measures to address the matter and that this topic can lead to unity and spiritual growth.
- For God's grace and wisdom upon the two new pastors that FCC has recently hired and that they will be enabled to begin ministry quickly and effectively at FCC.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we look to begin implementing our plans to accommodate and enhance the growth that FCC has been experiencing – specifically our efforts to design a facility that will meet our needs and budget target and our efforts to finance it through a capital campaign.
- 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 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 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 roles, responsibilities, and authority within the local church and specifically how it applies to 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 – especially as we deal with a complex health plan matter.

- For our staff and volunteers as they work diligently to faithfully serve the increasing number of people who call FCC home.

In Love and Peace,

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

(Gregg Bennett, John Blum, Bill Brinkman, Jim Duffey, Dan Fosterling, Jon Gross, Steve Holsteen, Tim Kurtz, Eric Lent, Tim Porter, Tim Prince, Pat Stream, Tim Studt, Larry Szyman, and Jan van Amerongen)