

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 September activities. If you desire to learn more about a given subject, please do not 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.

September 10, 2024, Regular Elder Meeting

Updates

- The elders were updated on FCC's parking expansion project. FCC's plans for the addition of new parking stalls on the West side of our property and along Carmichael Road will be submitted to the city on 9/18. Timing will be tight to achieve our objective of completing new parking spaces before the winter. Ideally, efforts will commence in late October.
- Dates with the architect to review the interior design modifications and to prepare final construction drawing have been scheduled for September and October.
- The elders were advised that the initiative to substantively review FCC's approach to offering health care to our employees has been put on hold for 2024. It is felt that there are too many other major initiatives underway at present. This effort will become a 2025 objective.
- The elders were updated on the numerous staff transitions that are underway.
- The elders were provided an update regarding the monthly metrics report.

Topics

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

Signatory changes: The elders approved changes related to signatory matters regarding various financial accounts. Changes were needed given the retirement of our previous Executive Pastor who was a signatory.

Adult Participation Waiver Change: The elders approved a revised adult participation waiver.

Quarterly Objectives Update: The elders affirmed a revised set of staff objectives for the remainder of 2024. Revisions were needed given the passing of FCC's executive director for next generation ministry and other circumstances.

Capital Campaign Update: The elders were updated on the most recent activities regarding the subject. The elders also continued the discussions from the previous meeting (see August meeting notes for more information). It was affirmed that FCC would proceed with the capital campaign as originally planned.

Shepherding Response Team: An update from the Shepherding Response Team was provided. (See August meeting notes for further information.) The elders approved proceeding with Peacemakers to facilitate a mediated reconciliation process. The elders also reviewed and discussed a letter from a member regarding the breach in our child protection policy in February. The elders appreciated the insights that were provided. It was agreed that the Chair would follow up with the member regarding various specifics.

Child Protection Policy Final Report: Following up on previous discussions, the subject report was again reviewed and discussed. (Please see earlier reports for more information.) The previously requested changes were made and reviewed. An additional small revision was also discussed and agreed to. The report is now considered complete.

Child and Youth Policy Changes: An approach was presented that keeps base policies applying to all next generation ministries together while also breaking out the additional policies that are specific to either children or youth. This allows for ministry specific and streamlined training. Some updates were also made to the policies, children's ministry/volunteer application, and youth/student ministries worker/volunteer application. Interim approval was granted with final approval planned for forthcoming meetings.

Adjacent Property Discussions: FCC's expansion efforts have highlighted the possible need for additional property to be added to our site. Initial discussions with one landowner were held and the elders were updated on the feedback and plans for next steps.

Sense of the Elders – Pastor Title: A sense of the elders' discussion was held concerning how FCC presently uses the title of Pastor. These insights will be included in our on-going efforts to decide a Roles, Responsibilities, and Authority Structure in the Local Church elder position paper. Various views, commonalities, and differences were all discussed and noted.

September 24, 2024, Regular Elder Meeting: Many of the key elder objectives for 2024 are well underway. Considering the progress and the very substantial efforts being made by many of the elders during this season it was agreed that our September 24th meeting could be cancelled.

How you can pray us:

- For God's comfort, healing, and peace upon Dan Clancy's family and all those still impacted by his passing earlier this year
- For God's grace and favor over the many staff transitions that are presently underway; that those who are stepping out would be appropriately honored and supported, that new Pastors would be enabled by the Spirit to shepherd well, that the ministry of the gospel would be enhanced, and that God would be glorified throughout the process.
- 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 replacement candidates.
- For continued implementation of measures to care for and protect children and youth at FCC.
- For God's guidance and wisdom in conflict resolution.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we 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, our efforts to finance it through a capital campaign, and our intent to reach deeper into the St. Croix valley through campus planting.
- For God's guidance and wisdom as we pursue a diaconate structure to help shepherd 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
- 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 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)