

**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 December activities. If you wish 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.

## **December 10, 2024, Regular Elder Meeting**

### **Updates**

- Various new member interviews were discussed and reviewed. Some follow-up actions have been assigned.
- A significant number of member updates were shared, discussed, and prayed for.
- The elders were reminded that input into a 5 Voices Exercise is due in January.
- Non-vocational elder assistance with Christmas Eve services was requested and discussed.
- The elders were reminded that our second meeting in December has been cancelled given its proximity to Christmas.
- The elders were advised of an approach that will likely utilize sub-teams to address various topics regarding the elders' Roles, Responsibility and Authority Structure in the local church paper.
- The elders were updated on the status of the REACH capital campaign.
- The elders were made aware of letters of thanks regarding our support of Lighthouse ministries.
- The elders were updated on the monthly finance and metrics report.
- Participation non-vocational elders at a January staff luncheon was requested.
- After discussion, the elders approved a request for an extended use of FCC's transitional housing.
- The elders were advised regarding successful follow-up to a November letter to the Board. The matter is now considered closed.
- The elders were updated on efforts to fill open positions in our Refuge ministry.
- The elders approved three housing allowance allocation changes.
- The elders were reminded of Pastor Larry's plans for retirement – specifically his planned absence through March of 2025 before beginning a part time position.

### **Topics**

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

**Shepherd Response Team Update:** The elders were updated on our activity with Peacemakers and reconciliation efforts with a family who no longer attends FCC. (Please see earlier reports for details.) The elders also discussed on-going efforts to shepherd our church regarding the matter, including an intentional effort to root our decisions and responses in the teachings of Scripture.

**Design and Build (D&B) Team Update:** The elders were updated on the recent efforts of the D&B team. Specifically, efforts to enable City of Hudson approval were discussed. Additionally, an update on the overall design was discussed. Various interior design modifications and enhancements continue. A recent cost update from our contractor was provided. The overall cost and timing of the project continues to largely be 'on plan'. A more detailed cost estimate will be available in January. The elders also continued contemplation of adjacent land.

**2024 Vision Script Review and 2025-2027 Vision Script Outlook:** The elders reviewed our 2024 vision script (effectively a 3-year goals outlook). 2024 was a unique year. The elders were thankful for God's faithfulness and His continued presence and blessings. A proposal for a 2025-2027 outlook was introduced. It will be further contemplated in January to build consensus.

**How you can pray us:**

- 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 guidance and wisdom as we contemplate how to best develop a discipleship initiative to meet the needs of FCC.
- 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 the unity of our body as we experience a number of changes that our present growth is bringing about. For our staff and volunteers as they work diligently to faithfully serve the increasing number of people who call FCC home.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as FCC contemplates what church planting via a campus planting model means in practice.
- For God's grace, healing and peace upon Dan Clancy's family and all those impacted, including our many youths, by his passing this past year.
- 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 God's guidance and wisdom as FCC continues implementing improved measures stemming from the breach of our child protection policy in late February. For humility, love, and grace as FCC pursues reconciliation with the now disaffected family who was most impacted - that the reconciling presence of Jesus would be on full display in and through all those involved in the Peacemakers' mediated reconciliation. For clarity, compassion, and care as we shepherd others being affected.

- For God's grace and wisdom upon the two new pastors that FCC hired this year; and that they will be enabled to quickly and effectively begin ministry at FCC.
- 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 we continue to implement 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.
- In thankfulness for God's provision and our body's response to our recently completed capital campaign.

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, Tim Kurtz, Eric Lent, Tim Porter, Tim Prince, Pat Stream, Tim Studt, Larry Szyman, and Jan van Amerongen)