

**Dear Faith Community Church,**

Your Board of Elders desires to inform you of our recent activities and request your prayers 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 April 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.

**April 9, 2024 Regular Elder Meeting:**

**Updates**

- More than 2000 people (including children and on-line attendees) participated with FCC during our Easter schedule. This is likely the first time FCC has exceeded 2000 weekend worship participants. The elders were very thankful.
- Two additional couples are being considered for our diaconate pilot ministry project. Their names were proposed to the elders and subsequently affirmed.
- An update on efforts to contract a civil engineering firm for the planned parking and city sewer addition was provided.
- An update on various actions to address concerns related to the recent breach of our child protection policy was provided to the elders. (Please see earlier elder meeting notes for further details.)
- An update concerning on-going efforts to address an employee health plan matter was provided. (Please see earlier elder meeting notes for further details.)
- The elders were updated on the health status of our executive director for Next Generation ministries. The elders were informed that he has very recently decided to forego further medical treatment and he will likely soon be going home to our Lord. The elders were deeply saddened by this news and spent time in prayer for all those who would be impacted.
- The elders were updated on preliminary plans to prepare for the absence of our Executive Director of Next Generation ministries.

**Topics**

**2024/25 Budget Planning #1:** FCC spends two elder meetings each year on budget planning. This was the first of the two meetings. The remainder of this meeting was focused on the budget planning for our 2024/25 fiscal year. An initial proposal was brought to the elders. Much discussion ensued about the planned income and spending proposal. A number of specific points of feedback were provided and will be incorporated into a revised budget proposal at the next meeting. The elders were asked to review the specifics of the planned spending proposal and to be ready to further discuss any other questions at our next meeting.

**April 23, 2024 Regular Elder Meeting:**

**Updates**

- The Elders will need to interview a number of new member applicants. The elders were informed of a new and improved scheduling procedure for these interviews.
- A question arose about how to respond to requests for reinstatement from members who previously asked for their membership to be erased. The best handling of these requests in alignment with our constitution will be a future meeting topic.
- An update on FCC's role in the Together-For-Good initiative was provided.
- The elders were updated on the health of our Executive Director for Next Generation ministries. The elders were also briefed on progress for interim staffing in this area and plans for organizing our Next Generation ministry going forward.
- The elders were also briefed on recent changes and improvements in the narrative for our forthcoming capital campaign.

### **Topics**

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

**Staff Objectives Review:** An update of the Q1'24 staff objectives was provided. Most objectives were tracking in a positive and timely direction. An outlook for Q2'24 was also provided. Here, a number of objectives are being delayed or deferred in order to focus on sustaining the Next Generation ministry in light of the likely loss of our Executive Director. A significant revamp of expectations for the staff's collective efforts will be needed as a result. The elders supported the proposal and voiced their support for the need to reconsider staff objectives during this very difficult time.

**Quarterly Metrics and Finance Review:** The elders reviewed the Q1'24 metrics and finances. Most all of the metrics that are followed continue to positively improve. A detailed report will be provided at forthcoming budget meetings. The elders expressed their thanks to the staff and God for the continued and faithful efforts.

**Chairs and Parking Communications:** Increased seating capacity in the auditorium and increased parking spaces are both urgently needed to respond to strong and sustained growth in Sunday attendance. It has been decided that we will fund these two items from our balance sheet via the regular capital budget process. It was also agreed that our capital campaign would include these costs as part of the overall investment that is being made to facilitate and enhance growth at FCC. A plan to enable this communication was discussed and affirmed.

**2024/25 Budget Planning #2:** FCC spends two elder meetings on the topic of budget planning. The first was described above. This was the second of the two meetings on this topic. The changes discussed during the initial budget planning session were incorporated into a revised budget proposal that was presented. Few outstanding matters were left for discussion. Minor revisions and final decisions were made. The FY 2024/25 budget plan was approved by the elders.

### How you can pray us:

- For God's grace, healing, and presence for the Prince family.
- For God's grace, healing and peace for Dan Clancy's family, our many youth and all those impacted 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 replace its leader.
- For God's grace and wisdom upon the two recently hired pastors at FCC (Jan van Amerongen and Tim Kurtz) so that they can quickly and effectively begin ministry at FCC as they arrive.
- For the family of our new Executive Pastor as he works in Hudson while they complete the school year in Arizona.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we begin implementing our plans to accommodate and enhance the growth FCC has been experiencing – specifically that we'll successfully design a facility that meets our needs within budget and is financed 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 changes brought about by our present growth.
- For God's wisdom, guidance, and unity for the elder board as we continue to consider and discern many matters of importance, including our continued discussions concerning roles, responsibilities, and authority within the local church and specifically how this applies in FCC's context.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as FCC discerns a practical approach to church planting via a campus planting model.
- 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 are calling 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 Duffy, Dan Fosterling, Jon Gross, Steve Holsteen, Eric Lent, Tim Porter, Tim Prince, Pat Stream, Tim Studt, Larry Szyman, Jan van Amerongen and Chris Willeke)