

APRIL ELDER UPDATE

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 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 8, 2025, ALL ELDER MEETING:

Updates

- The elders were updated on the building project. An application for a construction loan with Citizen's State Bank has been filed.
- The elders were informed that Chris and Jill Willeke are being commended as FCC's volunteer Missions Directors for cross-cultural missions. Their formal approval will be sought at a future meeting.
- The elders were informed that a congregational meeting is being planned for May 20th where Pastor Porter will further discuss his calling and decision to step into a new role at FCC focused on outreach, evangelism, and leadership development. This meeting will also include an update regarding the plan for the Senior/Lead Pastor role and responsibilities.
- The elders were informed that Levi Porter has started his position as an interim part-time Refuge Coordinator pending the hire of a full time Refuge leader. Efforts to find a full-time hire continue, and FCC has interacted with a search firm regarding the hire.

Topics

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

Five Voices Exercise: Time at the all-elder meeting was utilized to work through a Five Voices assessment and exercise. Pre-work involving a personal assessment and background insights was done earlier. The purpose of the exercise was to better equip the board with an understanding of their own leadership voice and how others express their leadership voices. The exercise was intended to enhance communication, leverage the strengths of each team member, enable each to bring their best to the team, and deepen the levels of trust on the board. Various insights and understandings were gained.

Fiscal Year 2025/26 Income Projection: The elders were informed about the process to estimate the upcoming fiscal year's income projection. A projected income was presented and

approved by the board. This figure will be used to help plan the overall budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Building Project Update: The elders were informed about the most recent building project cost projections that have been provided by our builder. The recent cost update was substantially higher than the update presented in January. The elders were told about efforts to bring the cost projection back to the originally planned levels. Further updates will be provided at future meetings.

Shepherd Response Team Update: The elders were updated on recent activities regarding a disaffected family. The elders affirmed a proposed approach for further communication.

APRIL 22, 2025, REGULAR ELDER MEETING:

This meeting focused almost exclusively on the proposed fiscal year 2025/26 budget.

Updates

- More than 1600 people joined us in FCC's auditorium over our three Easter services. The elders expressed their thankfulness to God and our staff for the opportunity to host so many in a welcoming manner.
- The elders were updated on the hiring efforts for a full-time Refuge candidate. Five candidates are presently being interviewed. The job has recently been re-posted and the timing seems to be matching well with interested candidates.

Topics

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

Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget Proposal: The majority of the meeting was spent on this topic. A proposed budget was presented to the elders. Its structure is different than previous budgets, so a direct comparison to previous budgets is less obvious. Various proposed expenditures were discussed and generally agreed upon. Both the operating budget and the capital budget were conditionally affirmed. The elders' next meeting will focus on further discussion and small revisions.

APRIL 29, 2025, REGULAR ELDER MEETING:

This meeting focused largely on finalizing the proposed fiscal year 2025/26 budget.

Updates

- The Elders were updated that the Vision Forward budget meeting is planned for May 18th following the second service. The elders were also reminded that on May 20th a congregational meeting will be held at 7PM. (Details of that meeting can be found in the April 8th Elder meeting notes.)

- The Elders were informed that two candidates for our open Refuge leader position have been twice interviewed, and the outcomes appear favorable. Additional candidates continue to be screened and considered.

Topics

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

Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget: A final proposed budget for both the operating budget and the capital budget was presented to the elders. Following discussion and clarifications, the two budgets were approved. They will next be brought to our body for discussion and subsequently a member vote. The elders thanked and noted their appreciation of our Finance Administrator, Ashley Hines, and Pastor Jan van Amerongen for their significant efforts regarding this endeavor.

Volunteer Missions Directors: The necessity and planned role for volunteer missions directors was described to the elders. Chris and Jill Willeke were recommended to the elders for this role, and their focus will be on cross-cultural missions. Pastor Tim Prince will oversee their activities. The elders approve filling this role. They were also thanked and appreciated for volunteering in this important manner.

Pastor Title and Elder Title at FCC: The elders have had an on-going discussion about the titles of Pastor and Elder at FCC. For a number of reasons, the distinction is important and also needs to be understood in light of FCC's constitution. The elder agreed to the following:

- *Pastor Title at FCC:* Elder qualified but not necessarily elder-board-appointed.
- *Elder Title at FCC:* Elder qualified and elder-board-appointed.

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 wisdom and guidance as we contemplate various changes in the roles of our pastors and that unity in our body will be maintained.
- 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 and our recently commenced building project is bringing about. For our staff and volunteers as they work diligently to faithfully serve the increasing number of people who are calling 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 guidance and wisdom for our staff and elders regarding our next generation ministry as FCC works to hire leadership roles in the Refuge.
- For the reconciling presence of Jesus to be on full display as we seek to shepherd and compassionately care for those impacted by conflict. For humility, love, grace, and clarity for all involved.
- 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 implementing our plans to accommodate and enhance the growth that FCC has been experiencing – specifically our efforts to conduct ministry effectively during the construction phase of our on-going building project.

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, and Jan van Amerongen)