

Council Report

June 2015

The June Council meeting was held June 15th. The opening prayer was given by Chuck.

Our first order of business was concluding the study of “Who Stole My Church” by Gordon MacDonald. The Council encourages everyone who has not already done so to read this book. While it is a fictional account of how an old, tradition-bound church in New England deals with change, you will be surprised at the parallels to some of the circumstances we are currently facing such as inward focus, contemporary music, possessiveness, fatigue, negativity and defeatism, etc.

The church members in the story forgot that “their” church really belonged to God; that he had a plan for His Church (that they attended); and the plan necessarily involved change and transition. In one of our recent town hall meetings, a question was raised about the impact of the recent staff resignations, particularly on our youth and children. A very wise soul reminded us that staff members will come and go, always have, always will. What is critical to minimizing any adverse impact is how we, the body, react to these departures. We are blessed with a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who have developed strong relationships with our youth. We have also moved quickly to fill the personnel vacancies. Indeed, all three positions have already been filled which should be a clear indication of how God is watching over us. Thus, we expect virtually no adverse impact from the resignations of Jon, Brian, and Erin. Praise God for His provision.

We should also be mindful that when we hire good people, they generally have ambitions to grow in their chosen ministry area. It simply wouldn't be fair or reasonable for the body of FCC to expect them to decline an opportunity to pursue their ambitions and dreams. So when they go, we thank them for their service to God and to us, wish them well, and take comfort in having contributed to the growth and development that helped make them candidates for something that might allow them to reach even more of the lost.

Council also reviewed changes to our VBS format and schedule for this summer. With all the transition activity, a concern arose as to how VBS might be affected. In an effort to make the transitions somewhat easier for our new personnel, it was decided to engage Covenant Pines for assistance. They will be coming to FCC Aug. 10-13 with a high energy program that will excite everyone who attends. Stay tuned for more details.

Finally, Council encourages all who call FCC home to attend service on June 28th. We will be using a new format in which we will incorporate our annual business meeting as part of the worship service. Thanks to everyone who attended one of the three town hall meetings, we anticipate little need for any discussion on the business issues. The primary agenda

items are consideration of the proposed FY2016 budget, and the election of new Council members. Child care services will be extended for this service. And don't forget, June 28th will be the first Sunday at which we will only offer one service, with that service beginning at 10:00 am.

This is a time in which we claim and hold fast to Jeremiah 29:11. Council is steadfast in our belief that God does have great plans ahead for us. We look forward to seeing what He has in store.