

FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
SESSION REPORT TO CONGREGATION

May 21, 2023

I had the joy and privilege of addressing you from the pulpit on New Year's Day 2023 about the "crowning blessing" of our salvation in that we are "no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." (Galatians 4:7). At FEC we are not just a church, we are a spiritual family. And as such, our family has experienced a lot together since our last congregational meeting in May of 2022. On behalf of the Session, I would like to share a few highlights.

As we entered the summer months of 2022, we officially launched our senior pastor search in late May. And, by the way, the Session has been encouraged to see how the FEC family (staff and congregation) has pressed forward in productive ministry and fellowship with one another during this season of searching for our new senior pastor. As the summer progressed, the Session moved forward with action steps in our six challenge areas of Give Grace, Preserve Unity, Stand Strong, Impart a Godly Legacy, Seek the Lost and Work Smart. These steps included, through the leadership of Steve Boyd and Bryan Miller, initiating plans to improve our shepherding ministry and our governing responsibilities.

Our time in the fall of 2022 was spent working through some reconciliation initiatives with Cole Huffman and Howard Clark. Also, we brought onto the FEC staff Steven Yeo as the Director of Outreach and Memphis Ministries and approved Christy Bicknell as our new Women's Ministry Director. Further, the Session provided some direction to the Pastor Search Committee on some doctrinal distinctives of FEC to communicate to senior pastor candidates. The Council Retreat in October of 2022 was led by Mickey Bowdon who guided us through a leadership workshop. The Lord blessed our last Discover First Evan class with 33 attendees, which may be the largest Discover First Evan class we have ever had at FEC.

As we entered 2023, the Shepherding Council of the Session initiated a program of periodically bringing together both sitting and non-sitting elders for a time of fellowship and to encourage one another in our shepherding responsibilities. Through the leadership and work of Cortney Cannon, our Children's Ministry Director, and others, our church family enjoyed an "Equipping Parents" dinner and seminar in February of 2023 that focused on what is the source of all truth and how to arm our children with confidence in embracing what is spiritual truth. Jim Pendleton and our Global Mission Team presented a grand missions conference in February. Ken Boer, and all those he directs in our worship ministry, presented very powerful, uplifting worship programs at Christmas and Easter.

The spring of 2023 finds us continuing to strive together in ministry. As we seek to strengthen the ministry to our young families at FEC, the Session has initiated the search process for a man to fill the position of Pastor of Family Ministries. Furthermore, we enjoyed a great time of fellowship with the Seder Dinner during Holy Week that was attended by more than 400 people.

We serve a great God. As a church family we will continue to have our challenges in providing effective ministry to a multigenerational congregation. But I believe our next Senior Pastor will be blessed to minister to this FEC family that continues to be "on mission". Thank you for your faithfulness.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin W. Weaver, Chairman  
FEC Session