

FOSTER-TUKWILA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
January 29, 2017 – 12:15 P.M.

Opening Prayer

Reading of Minutes

Review the Printed Reports

Election of Elders

Election of Deacons

Election of 2017 Nominating Committee Members

Review of the 2017 Budget

Old Business

New Business

**Adoption of FTPC By-laws as an ECO congregation*

**Acknowledgement of initial list of Covenant Partners to qualify as an ECO congregation*

Closing Prayer

CORPORATION MEETING (Immediately Following)

Opening Prayer

Reading of Minutes

Election of Trustee, Class of 2019

Old Business

New Business

Closing Prayer

PASTOR'S REPORT - 2016

“But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” I Peter 3:14-15 [NIV]

One of the things I and some of my family members look forward to at the end of each year is our reading humorist Dave Barry's annual "Year End Review". He takes events that have happened during the year, and with the help of exaggeration, gives us opportunity to laugh. We could use some relief after what the year 2016 brought, highlighted by a year-long unpleasant presidential election. As a Christian who is not only observing all that has gone on but is affected by it as well, the above verses have resonated strongly with me. It seems that so many of the events in the world (e.g. terrorism, ongoing wars, economic uncertainties, injustices) elicit fear in people. Fear is induced both by actual circumstances and also by imagined outcomes. To make matters worse, as people share about their fears with each other they can wind up stoking their fears, real and/or imagined, in seemingly exponential proportions. This has always been part of human nature but is further exacerbated now through social media. OK – so what about those of us who follow Christ and want to obey God's word where one of the most frequent commands in the Bible is, "Do not fear/be afraid"? Hmmm! We still struggle with fear because we struggle with our old sinful nature, which is prone to fear. But we now have Christ's presence within us by the Holy Spirit – and one of the key fruits of the Spirit is peace. And the perfect love of our heavenly Father, which we have in Christ, casts out fear (I John 4:18). We do not have to live in fear. And the antidote to fear is faith – faith in our Lord that He is working all things out for good to those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

Therefore, one of my main recurring themes this past year – in preaching, in sharing with others (and with talking to myself) – is that no matter what happens here on earth, Christ is still on the throne and God is working out all things for His ultimate glory. That is why it is so important that we not only refrain from joining the fear parade of our culture but that we also let our lives witness to the hope we have in Christ. I am so thankful that it has been my observation that the people of FTPC are growing in their faith in God's purposeful sovereignty and growing as ambassadors of hope in Christ.

During Lent I preached a series called: *The many faces of sin and the complete sufficiency of the cross of Jesus*. Following Easter and into the summer I preached a series on "spiritual gifts" with many at FTPC also filling out inventories to help determine their motivational gifting. As we continued our transition from PCUSA to ECO I patterned a fall series of sermons on understanding the biblical concept of "church membership", which ECO calls 'Covenant Partners.' Using the phrase from I Timothy 4:16, *"Watch your life and doctrine closely..."* I preached on various texts revealing the importance of the 3 "B's" – Believing, Belonging, Behaving.

I continued to be active in the Church of Tukwila as well as doing some ministry with PRMI (Presbyterian Reformed Ministries International).

Speaking of our transition to ECO, we have never done this before. Heading into this move, beginning in 2015, there was a certain measure of uncertainty. The recipe was there for fear (e.g. of the unknown, how would Seattle Presbytery respond...). However, FTPC has done a remarkable job of keeping our eyes focused on the Lord, doing the ongoing work of mission and ministry, and as we complete this process at the end of 2016, we have found the peace of Christ filling our hearts. As we head into 2017, let's continue to do so, being ambassadors of hope in Christ to all those around us.

In Christ's love,



Pastor Nick

NOMINATING IMPACT TEAM - 2016

The Nominating Committee is charged with the task of prayerfully approaching and asking members of FTPC to serve terms as elders or deacons. The following individuals will be presented to the congregation as nominees for elder and deacon positions.

Elders Class of 2018

Aaron McGruder

Elders Class of 2019

(two positions still pending at deadline for this report)

Deacons Class of 2019

Erick Elfstrom

Pat Heier

(two positions still pending at deadline for this report)

Nominating Committee Members: Marci Krantz, Azaria Heier, Nick Myrick: *Congregation at large*; Colleen Richards: *Deacons*; and Al Patterson: *Session*

CLERK'S REPORT - 2016

Praise God for his steady hand of guidance on Foster as we serve him faithfully and with hearts united.

Our transitioning from PCUSA to ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians) has continued to be a process with God's hand upon us. Part of the clerk's responsibilities is to take minutes at session meetings and then to keep records of session minutes. There is also a church register which keeps information updated on members such as when they became a member, baptisms, weddings, serving as elders or deacons, transferring to or from a different church or death. Those types of records have been maintained since the beginning of Foster's history over a 100 years ago. Some might remember that several of our church records were stolen and we lost the early recorded portion of our history. But we do have minutes and historical records since 1949.

Part of our transition to ECO has included giving all our church session minutes and church registry to Seattle Presbytery because the records are technically PCUSA property. Prior to turning all this historical data over to Seattle Presbytery copies were made of each page and have been consolidated in several notebooks so we can continue to have local access to our historical roots.

As we finalize our move to ECO and as PCUSA "members" choose to become ECO "covenant partners" a new church register and book of session minutes will be developed so we can continue to have a written record of Foster's history.

In the process of doing some of the tedious work of making copies of each page and assembling notebooks I was struck anew with the evidence of God's faithfulness to this congregation for over a century. He has protected and provided for us through good times and challenging times. I am thankful for those who have gone before us and lovingly served the Lord at Foster and I am thankful for each person today who lovingly serves the Lord at Foster. God's sovereign hand continues to be upon us guiding us during this season. We journey on together.

"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God..."

With a thankful heart,
Bea Eaton, Clerk of Session

FINANCE IMPACT TEAM 2016

This past year many people have been talking about new things, new directions, and new ideas and looking to see where God would lead us in ways we may not have been before. Well, Finance IT, not wanting to be left out, started a new program in 2016. Actually not for that reason, but for the reason that the way people do monetary transaction in our society is changing drastically and as a church we need to have a program in place to handle the advances in electronic banking. So, last February we engaged a company called PushPay to be the portal for electronic giving to FTPC. PushPay allows donors the options of paying directly from their bank account (ACH) or paying with a credit card through an online website or from a smart phone. Several of our attendees have taken advantage of this convenient method of making donations.

The shift from placing checks or cash in the offering plate is probably most evident to those who sit towards the back of the sanctuary. This is because, along with PushPay, another option that several people use to donate is the bill-pay program offered through a checking account by most banks. These changes have made Bob Ferguson's job as Financial Secretary a little more complex since the donations are coming in at different times and from different sources. He has done a great job of tracking all the gifts and recording them for your tax records.

Overall, it has been a positive year for FTPC's finances. God has blessed us with a bountiful crop. And because of that, we were able to make the payment to Seattle Presbytery for our transfer to ECO without taking a significant hit to our bottom line. 2017 looks to be a bit different, though, with some added expenses in the budget and some large projects that need completed. But God is and has always been faithful when His people seek Him. Let's be ready to serve Him in all things.

Brian Linscott, Finance IT

FACILITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Two Thousand Sixteen was a year of transition in many ways for FTPC including facilities. We've had key people step up in big ways resulting in beautiful renovations of our Junior High and Senior High meeting rooms. Also, the sagging roof panels at the front of our worship hall were reinforced and given a makeover in the process. We've green lighted the move forward to replace carpets, but progress is a little slow as finding estimates for a project this large can be difficult. FTPC continues to meet challenges with the addition of two other church bodies sharing the facilities. Session agreed to extend hours and increase pay for staff to help compensate for the additional time and effort required by this large expansion, still, opportunities for growth continue to present themselves in the face of cultural differences. FTPC youth have been recruited on occasion to help with projects around the church and grounds including lawn work and major pruning of the large tree in the south field. While the assistance is helpful, the intention is to lay a foundation for future stewardship and pride in the facilities.

Todd Hutchinson, Facilities Elder

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IMPACT TEAM - 2016

In the Spring of 2016, Barbara Gilbert, with the help of many others, spearheaded the effort to renovate our youth facilities downstairs. The congregation gathered together and re-painted the downstairs rooms, changed some of the doors, replaced the furniture and generally updated the feel of the room to something significantly more contemporary. In addition, the nursery was moved upstairs to ensure that

parents would have access to their children during service (which also provides more adults to ensure the infants' safety).

At the 2015 Annual Meeting, Katrina Eaton noted that the Christian Education Team had made strides towards a new Sunday School format, that would be primarily aimed at bridging the different generations of the church. Rather than having each age group essentially have a separate Bible Study, the Christian Education Team felt as though God was leading in a new, more unified direction. In January, we embarked on this new mission, called "Generations". In this format, there would be an inter-generational teaching. The new format proved successful in sparking a renewed interest in Generations, with a measurable growth in attendance. Prior to Heather Covarrubia's departure, she put in a great deal of effort in making sure that Generations had a functional curriculum to work from, which is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Robert and Katrina Eaton for spearheading the effort in transitioning to this model, as well as Pastor Nick Krantz, So Won Kim, Jon Fertakis, Ninalynn McGruder, and Kim Linscott for their consistent service in leading these Generations Sessions.

In September, So Won Kim chose to accept the position of Youth Pastor at the church, which we are grateful for. In the short time that she has taken the position, she has had a clear positive impact both on the youth that she works with and on the congregation as a whole.

In 2016 we continued our outreach to kids and youth through our Junior High and Senior High youth groups and Vacation Bible School, among other things, including a fun Christmas play during the holidays in which some of our newer youth group kids played important roles. Although five of our key youth leaders graduated from high school this year, we have a core group of about 7 high schoolers remaining who are anxious to grow in their faith and who have been involved with youth group and VBS Tukwila and VBS Mattawa for a few years now. We believe the Lord will use this strong base to continue to expand his work in the 3 high schools represented by these kids, and beyond.

We have had a bumper crop this past Fall of Junior High youth, with about 20 kids attending regularly or repeatedly, representing at least 4 middle schools and home schoolers. VBS this past summer was held in Joseph Foster Park again with about 50-60 attendees. We also held another successful VBS in Mattawa with nearly two hundred kids who attended all or part of the VBS. Our connection with the community there remains strong, and our Mattawa VBS Junior and Senior High Club on Facebook has 55 kids on it. We started posting daily Bible verses on that page, often with some commentary, and a number of the youth are reading the posts regularly.

The CE Impact Team would like to thank the members of FTPC for their wonderful support of our efforts - through prayer, financial support, providing dinners for the youth group and cookies for VBS, volunteering whenever needed, and blessing us with personal encouragement. May the Lord richly bless the whole FTPC family because of the congregation's outreach to children and youth who are in desperate need of a Lord and Savior and don't even know it most of the time.

Faithfully submitted,
Aaron McGruder and Jon Fertakis

WORSHIP - AV TECH - PRAYER IMPACT TEAM - 2016

This was Micah Linscott's third year as Worship Coordinator here at FTPC. 2016 had its share of changes - some planned and some unplanned.

At the beginning of the year, Micah took over from Jenny McCoy the job of chairing the Impact Team meetings. The Worship Impact Team meetings were often combined with music practice times for the learning of new songs. This year we introduced several new songs, including *Lord I Need You*, *Christ is Risen, This Is Amazing Grace*, and *Behold Our God*. The worship team also put in some extra time practicing special music: *The Easter Song* for Easter Sunday and *Noel* for the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

On August 21, for the first time in a long time, we had an outdoor worship service, coinciding with our annual picnic. Although that morning turned out to be chillier than expected, the service went well. We may do it again next summer.

For the second year in a row, we did a sound stage at **Trunk or Treat** on October 31, with music provided by the worship team of Grace Point Community Church.

Kathy Hougardy continues to play piano once a month, and helps to introduce some new arrangements of familiar worship songs. She and Micah have been working together to update our worship song charts; correcting errors and providing charts in alternative keys.

Our worship team lost a few singers this year, as some moved away and others chose to step down. But we also brought in some new talent, with Sawyer Buyagawan joining us on drums for the first time on November 6th. On some Sundays, we have a full band, and on others just a small team of two or three, but it has always been sufficient.

The River Service met on a Sunday evening in February, April, September, and December. In 2017, The River will continue to meet bimonthly.

We participated in several prayer initiatives this year. We continued with our monthly **Lord's Watch**, our annual **Seek God for the City**, 40 Days of Prayer during Lent, the **Global Day of Prayer for Burma** in March, the **National Day of Prayer** in May, the **Global Day of Prayer** in June, **30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World** in May and June, and the **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church** in November. Our annual **Lenten Cleansing Prayer** took place on a Sunday morning, as was the case for the past two years, and many expressed joy in being able to participate.

Kim McCoy, Ben Linscott, and Patrick Heier continued to share the responsibilities of the AV ministry on Sunday mornings.

We look forward to the ways in which God will mold and shape the Worship/AV Tech/Prayer Impact Team in 2017.

Micah Linscott, Worship Coordinator

CHRISTIAN EQUIPPING IMPACT TEAM - 2016

Our Christian Equipping (Disciple Making and Fellowship) Impact Team members have been Heather Covarrubia, Bea Eaton, Lori Grimm, Alex Myrick, Jon Fertakis and Dick Andrews. We have worked together to create learning opportunities and relationship networks as the Holy Spirit has guided us.

Making Disciples: Responsible for this focus, Dick Andrews designed and developed a parental core group who focused on praying for their adult children. We used the book *The Power of Praying for Your Adult Children* by Stormie Omartian. Her helpful study guide chapters enabled us to pray effectively aligned with each chapter's topics. Fifteen parents have participated in this pilot program. This study continues for five monthly meetings in 2017.

Men's Fraternity: In 2016, Men's Fraternity launched a new DVD series of six lessons entitled "A Man and His Marriage." Stimulating topics included the "Paradox Principle" where men die to themselves in order to truly live as servants.

Ohana (Family) Study group: Lorenzo Montoya spearheaded this group which experimented with various curriculum that met their attenders' interests.

Life on Life Journey Pilot Program: Pastor Nick and Dick led this pilot program for eleven men who studied 26 unit lessons, meeting once a week for two hours in 2015. The final two unit lessons were completed in January 2016. Bea Eaton launched a second pilot program for women using the same course content.

Focus in our Impact Team meetings: We focused on studying Spiritual Gifts so that we would be better equipped to identify and apply our spiritual gifts given exclusively by the Holy Spirit to build up the Body of Christ. Pastor Nick preached an entire series on understanding our spiritual gifts including Spiritual Gifts Assessments and Motivational Gift Scoring Charts to graph our individual gifts. Those people who completed and handed in their scoring charts are regularly prayed for during team meetings.

We also concentrated on learning spiritual leadership principles from the OMF publication 36 Steps to Christian Leadership written by D. E. Hoste, one of the original Cambridge Seven who served in China.

While there is rich fellowship time before and after each Sunday service, there just isn't enough time to get to know each other well enough to be all that FTPC can and should be - a visible picture of the Kingdom of God where people are loved, encouraged, and built up in their relationship with our Savior and Lord. We support the monthly potlucks after Sunday service where we can break bread together in a relaxed family atmosphere, and the Church Family Camping Trip at the end of each summer to Wilderness NW.

We continue to pray that the Holy Spirit would knit us together in the bond of love so we can minister to each other and the community around us. For various and sundry reasons, we were not able to launch any new initiatives in 2016, but in 2017 we intend to prioritize the following:

1. Follow up of visitors to our worship services;
2. Create opportunities for FTPC members to interact with each other through shared experiences such as progressive dinners, outings such as hikes or concerts, etc.; and
3. Sponsor panel discussions or workshops on specific spiritual topics or issues.

We would appreciate your support by praying that Jesus, the Bridegroom, would direct our efforts to make FTPC, the Bride, a fitting and attractive partner in his efforts to save the lost and build the Kingdom of God.

On behalf of the Christian Equipping Impact Team,
Dick Andrews and Jon Fertakis

MISSION/COMMUNITY OUTREACH IMPACT TEAM - 2016

FTPC is blessed to be able to support a number of missions and missionaries, including some home-grown ones. This support of missions near and far, along with the reports we receive, keep us mindful that we are part of a world-wide movement for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Locally, we are able to not only support ministries but also to be actively involved in them as well. For example, we have folks involved with Care Net, Genesis Project, Young Life, and the Tukwila Pantry. Although not a budgeted missions item we have many volunteers working with the Snack Pack program providing food for McKinney-Vento children over the weekend. Beyond volunteers, we also collect a significant amount of food as well for this outreach. Also, although not a line item in our missions' budget, we again had a team of "Foster Pres Tukkies" raising funds for World Concern's Free Them 5K to help combat human trafficking. And though PRMI is an international ministry to equip Christ's Church we have FTPC folks that help administer PRMI programs in our region.

Other ministries we support that are not local communicate with us through letters, emails, etc. And three times last year, with Kathy Giske preaching earlier in the year, the Eubank's visit in August and Ken Richards visit in November, we were able to hear first-hand about their work on the other side of the world and to pray for their ministries. Additionally, a number of FTPC-ers were able to attend the annual MissionsFest Seattle in October, with our own Dick and Donna Andrews presenting one of the workshops.

Besides the Andrews, we also support home-grown missionaries Al Patterson as local police/fire chaplain and Doug and Wendy Linscott as they continue to serve the poor in South Africa.

Underneath all the turmoil in the world God is doing amazing things in advancing the good news of the gospel. Through our missions' ministry FTPC has a vital role to play. Let's keep our missionaries and ministries in prayer.

Serving Christ together,
FTPC Missions IT

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP – 2016

In the spring of 2016 the men finished the fifth in the Men's Fraternity's series of 6-week studies called "33 – The Series." This study focuses on a man and his marriage, with helpful insights not only for married men but singles as well. In the fall, we began the final 6-week installment of "33-The Series". This one is about a man and his fatherhood. During February, after a couple years' hiatus, the men revived the "Sweetheart Brunch" in a modified form. Taking the place of the monthly potluck the men provided a brunch of pancakes, eggs, etc., for everyone. And then, to help digestion (or not) they put on a pun-filled skit.

On behalf of all the MF men,
Pastor Nick

KOBA CIRCLE - 2016

KOBA CIRCLE meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September through June. We meet at 11:00 a.m. and start with the bible study, followed by lunch at 12:00 p.m. There are 2 hostesses who set up and bring dessert. After lunch, we have our business meeting and then share our concerns and thanks for prayer. This year we are continuing our bible study in the book of Acts using a Life Guide Bible Study book, titled "Acts, Seeing God's Power in Action." God is still working as in the past. At each meeting, we take an offering to be used in December. This year we gave to several of our own members who were in need. This year we met at the church in the basement fellowship hall, Lake Shore dining room, and Sizzler. We had potlucks at 2 of our meetings.

Some of us again took part in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child by filling shoeboxes with gifts to be distributed to children in need worldwide.

All women of the church are welcome to join us and will find this group of ladies loving, warm, and supportive. We truly enjoy our time together each month fellowshiping and growing together in Christ.

On behalf of KOBA CIRCLE,
Colleen Richards

DEACONS - 2016

The deacon committees serving the Lord at FTFC are as follows: Comfort/Care Groups; Family Potlucks; Kitchen; Retirees; Visitation/Transportation; Weddings/Bereavements; & Worship Assistance.

The Deacons serving this year are Adriana Cribb, Colleen Richards, Gin Opel, Lynette Wetzler, and Jean Layer, Bob Ferguson, Elain Higman, Barb Ivanov.

Committee Leaders are as follows:

1. Retirees Luncheon: Tammy O'Dyley
2. Potlucks: Adrianna Cribb
3. Weddings and Bereavement: Lynette Wetzler / Adriana Cribb
4. Social Hour: Elaine Higman
5. Worship Assistance: Barb Ivanov (ushering) and Todd Hutchinson (communion set up and clean up)
6. Care Groups: On Hiatus for 2016
7. Kitchen and Pantry: Jean Layer/Bob Ferguson
8. Visitation/Transportation:

Unfortunately, three of the deacons were not able to fulfill their duties for the year due to accidental injuries or illness leaving some gaps that were not completely filled. Todd is not a current deacon, but continued to assist in these areas. Bob Ferguson stepped in where needed, and picked up the kitchen supply purchases. In late October, the Service Groups took over responsibilities for the Social Hour and Worship Assistance.

The annual picnic was held in August with the church providing the hamburgers and hotdogs again this year. Everyone had a great time. The monthly family potlucks (fall, winter and spring) seem to be well attended. The February potluck was replaced by a pancake feed with the men's group hosting it. The men will again host the 2017 February time slot.

The Deacon's board, with the congregation's support, provided Christmas help to several of our members, resulting in a much happier Christmas for their families, due to the congregation's generosity and good will.

Bob Ferguson, 2016 Deacon Moderator