

Fairfax

CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 20 & 24th Beneficial Announcement

Announcement Text:

We serve an awesome God! In His Word He reminds us that He has plans to prosper and not harm us – His grace is amazing. Over the last several months our members and leaders have sought to better understand His Will for our family at Fairfax. Through prayer, study and discussion we have sought the guidance of His Spirit in an effort to best serve the needs of those in our community needing His grace, and those in our family seeking to serve in His name.

After evaluating all of your input, we have concluded that:

- We will refocus our efforts on becoming God's hands and feet to this community and deepening our reliance on God through study of His Word;
- Our Sunday worship services will remain unchanged;
- We are not planning an additional worship service; and
- We affirm the discernments presented in the March 1st announcement.

We have shared our discernments with our missionaries and have asked them to use Godly wisdom in applying these discernments with consideration to their situations.

We remain committed to the process of learning and sharing begun during this study and to improving the execution of that process. It is clear to us that God has prepared this church to do great things in this community. He has brought us incredibly talented servants in our members and staff, and He has opened wide the door of opportunity in this community. This is a door of opportunity that we, as the Body of Christ, need to recognize and enter. As we continue to seek ways of reaching and serving in this community, we will do so with our focus on missional outreach at the core of Christ's Great Commission.

It is not lost on us that discussions of these issues have created discomfort among some of our members, to the point that several families have chosen to worship God in other congregations of His church. We hold in highest regard our responsibility to God for the souls in our charge, and we will continue to make every effort to ensure that our words and actions do not jeopardize the salvation of any soul.

We are God's family. We are His church, and we are here to do His Will. We commit to spending more time as a family strengthening our walk with Him through study, prayer and fellowship. As our church continues to grow in Spirit and Truth, we will continue to address issues of diversity and opportunity through open dialogue as a family should. We believe it

imperative to the spiritual health of our family that we all learn to respect one another's consciences on differences in understanding.

If you have questions about our statements, please come and talk with us.

May God continue to bless this family and our efforts to be His heart to this community.

Shepherd's Prayer

Our loving heavenly Father we come before you praising your name and thanking you for being mindful of us.

We thank you for your Son Jesus who teaches how to obey and love you, and your Spirit who unites us with You, Jesus, and each other.

We ask that our love for Christ and the Spirit's working will heal and bid us together in love and grace for each other, in such a way that others are amazed and glorify you as creator of the universe.

We pray that you will help us to forgive, as you have forgiven us.

Father, help us to overcome our fears of rejection, inadequacy, or failure as we share our faith in you and your Son with others. Let us remember what you have done for and with us. Change our minds and hearts to align with your will.

We pray that you will use us for your purpose in this place. Use us beyond our dreams or expectations. May your Spirit open our eyes to the path you have us to walk.

Help us to be your Heart in this place and time. In Jesus's precious name, we pray.

And we all say together, So be it. So be it.