

As you determine your 2021 Faith Promise declaration, we in the Session ask that you ponder the following reflections.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic challenged Faith Church in many ways. Yet even in the midst of the difficulties we experienced, our Church has been undergoing an exciting renewal: in our staff, our congregational care, our outreach, and our building. As the pandemic ebbs, we see a bright new year ahead! These changes are helping us fulfill our mission to: worship and glorify God, share the saving love of Jesus with our neighbors, and build mature believers who are equipped to serve Christ in the church and the world. You may not be aware of the extent of our ongoing transformation, so we are sharing this update. We hope that it will encourage you to recommit yourself to Faith Church in 2021. We ask you to Pray, Participate, and Pledge your involvement in our life together.

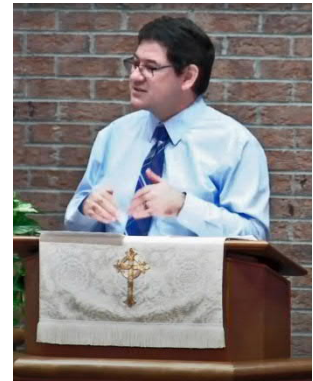
Perhaps the most important part of our renewal concerns our staff.



Pastor Neil

Pastor Neil continues to provide his consistently strong Biblical teaching that illuminates our Christian faith and relates it to our daily lives. He has now been joined by a new Assistant Pastor for Children, Youth, and Family, Chris Popadich. Chris and his wife bring a strong background in both missions and family ministry,

most recently from his position as Assistant Pastor of Community Growth at First Presbyterian Church in Fresno, California. Joining our staff to provide administrative support is Doncella Young, our new Office Manager and Financial Secretary. She not only holds a Master of Business Administration degree, but also has many years of experience in high-level financial positions in the Federal Government. As a devout believer, she is committed to serving in a local church.



Pastor Chris

Recently we revised and strengthened our nomination and election procedures for lay leaders. You in the congregation approved this new policy and recently elected committed new elders and deacons who will help guide us through the coming year.

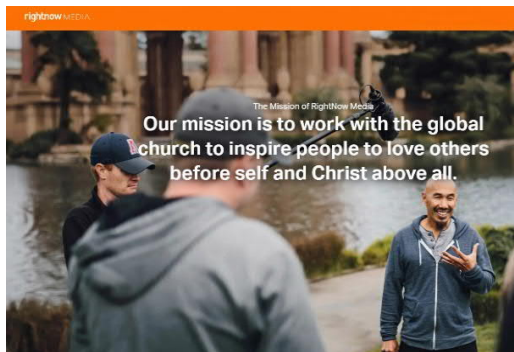
We keep in touch with all of you in our congregation through both weekly and monthly communications sent by email or regular mail. We maintain Care Groups of all our

Forward in Faith 2021: The Case for Giving

members that are managed by our deacons and elders. We solicit your prayer concerns and share them with others as appropriate. Especially this year, we provide substantial benevolence support to members and individuals in need.

We have implemented new means of discipling our congregation. We have modified in-person worship service to be safe for those who can come.

For those who cannot attend, we have procured new technology to produce professional-level YouTube broadcasts of our worship. Even when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, these will continue to reach those who cannot attend, as well as individuals seeking a new church home. Likewise, we are offering video-conference Sunday School classes, and even 'Coffee hour' conversations that allow you to chat informally with other parishioners. Our women's Precepts Bible Study and men's Bible study continue online.



To provide Christian education resources to small groups, home schoolers, and individuals alike, we have subscribed to RightNow Media, an online service providing a wealth of Biblically based resources for all ages. We now have 113 active users on our account, and currently average approximately 180 views per week. We provide space for Classical Conversations, a weekly Biblical

education for homeschoolers. We continue to confirm and baptize our youth who are ready to profess their faith, adapting our services to meet specific needs of each family. We have continued youth meetings and activities outside on our church grounds for health considerations and use electronic communication to keep in touch throughout the week.



We have continued our missions and outreach both locally and worldwide. We strongly support the nearby Koinonia Foundation, which serves those in need in our area. We

have begun working with Rebuilding Together to help revitalize homes for those who need assistance. We have a card ministry that hand-crafts cards to communicate God's love. We make annual gifts to the Sanctity of Life Ministry and distribute blessing bags to the homeless. Worldwide, we continue to support 29 missionaries in 16 different locations. We also support a group of local Christian workers in Lebanon who provide social early childhood development and adult mentoring. They welcome underserved children and families from all ethnicities and religious backgrounds, providing a healthy place for children ages one to four years old to explore their world and grow: cognitively, socially, and spiritually.

We have made truly dramatic improvements in our building and information systems. We have renegotiated our church mortgage to be paid off in only 15 years and at a lower interest rate than we previously had! After years of problems, we are finally repairing our leaking roof and skylight. The roof will now last many years longer, and the skylight will have new glass that will provide enhanced illumination. We have upgraded our bathrooms. Our church today depends heavily on electronic communication, and we have fundamentally revamped all our systems.

We replaced a patchwork of WIFI hotspots with a seamless network that connects directly to our Verizon gigabit service and provides better connections everywhere. We improved our internet outreach to the congregation to provide direct access to live broadcasts of our services and also libraries of past sermons and other materials in both audio and video form. This is particularly valuable to people looking for a new church home, as they often start by searching online. We improved our building security with a cyber lock entry system and closed-circuit video surveillance. We replaced our outdated fire protection system with state-of-the-art equipment.



Faith Church is ready press forward in 2021. But we need your involvement. Thus, we encourage you to recommit yourself to Christ this year in three ways: Pray, Participate, and Pledge.



Pray for our church and its leaders. Pray for an end to our national emergency during the pandemic so we can all return to our church home in person. Pray for our new staff and the continued renewal of our church and our congregation

Participate in services, Sunday school, and church activities—either virtually or in person. Participate in local outreach by giving in-kind donations to Koinonia and volunteer for church-sponsored programs.

Pledge your financial support as God leads you to foster the continued renewal and growth of our church and its service to our congregation and out community. Support has fallen during the pandemic as members have been weighed down by other concerns. Now is the time for you to renew and strengthen your financial commitment as we look forward to an exciting and blessed 2021.

-The Session of Faith Church