



April 20, 2017

Greetings from FELC Congregation Council,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Spring is a time of new growth. Easter is a time of rebirth. As your Council, we are energized to move First English forward to further our mission: *"Love Jesus. Live your call."* We recently held our annual Council retreat to identify and create action plans for focus areas that will positively impact the ministry and discipleship of FELC as we embark on our second century together.

Thank you to the 259 worshipers who completed the recent FELC survey. An outside consultant trained in data analysis donated his time to organize the survey results to allow for meaningful review. He commented that it was the most positive survey that he had seen. A supermajority of respondents was positive about virtually all aspects of FELC. Some trends were noted:

- 60% of the sample population was age 45 and over, while less than 3% was age 18-34
- 69% had been worshipping at FELC more than 10 years
- Music is important to worshipers
- More emphasis should be directed toward young adults
- More emphasis should be on reaching out to the unchurched
- We should make guests feel more welcome
- We should clarify and promote our mission

We encourage members to look at the survey results at www.felc.com. Results will also be available at the church office and can be mailed to you at your request.

At our retreat, the Council reviewed the survey and used it to help plan a future course for FELC. The Council has identified two areas that we want First English to focus on over the next several months. First, we want to develop a clear mission - who are we and where are we going? Second, we would like to identify and address the needs of specific demographics - connecting people with similar interests or life stages. Please join in as we roll out these initiatives.

First English needs congregants to step forward as we launch into our second century. Our success in growing the body of Christ and creating a rich spiritual environment is dependent on engaged members. We are our church! A "Ministry Team Fair" will take place on upcoming Sunday mornings, at the North Site on April 30 and at the Downtown Site on May 7. Representatives of the ministry teams will explain the roles of their teams and a sign-up will be available. Please prayerfully consider joining a team.

We are thankful that we, as a congregation, have been successful in meeting many of the expectations of our members. However, the survey also helps us to understand that we clearly have opportunity to grow and improve the ministry of FELC.

In Christ's love,

FELC Congregation Council

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