

First Christian Church and Central Community Church Merger Discussion
Informational Meeting Notes
1/17/21

Update since our last meeting with the FCC Congregation on 12/20/21.

Additional FCC Leadership Meetings:

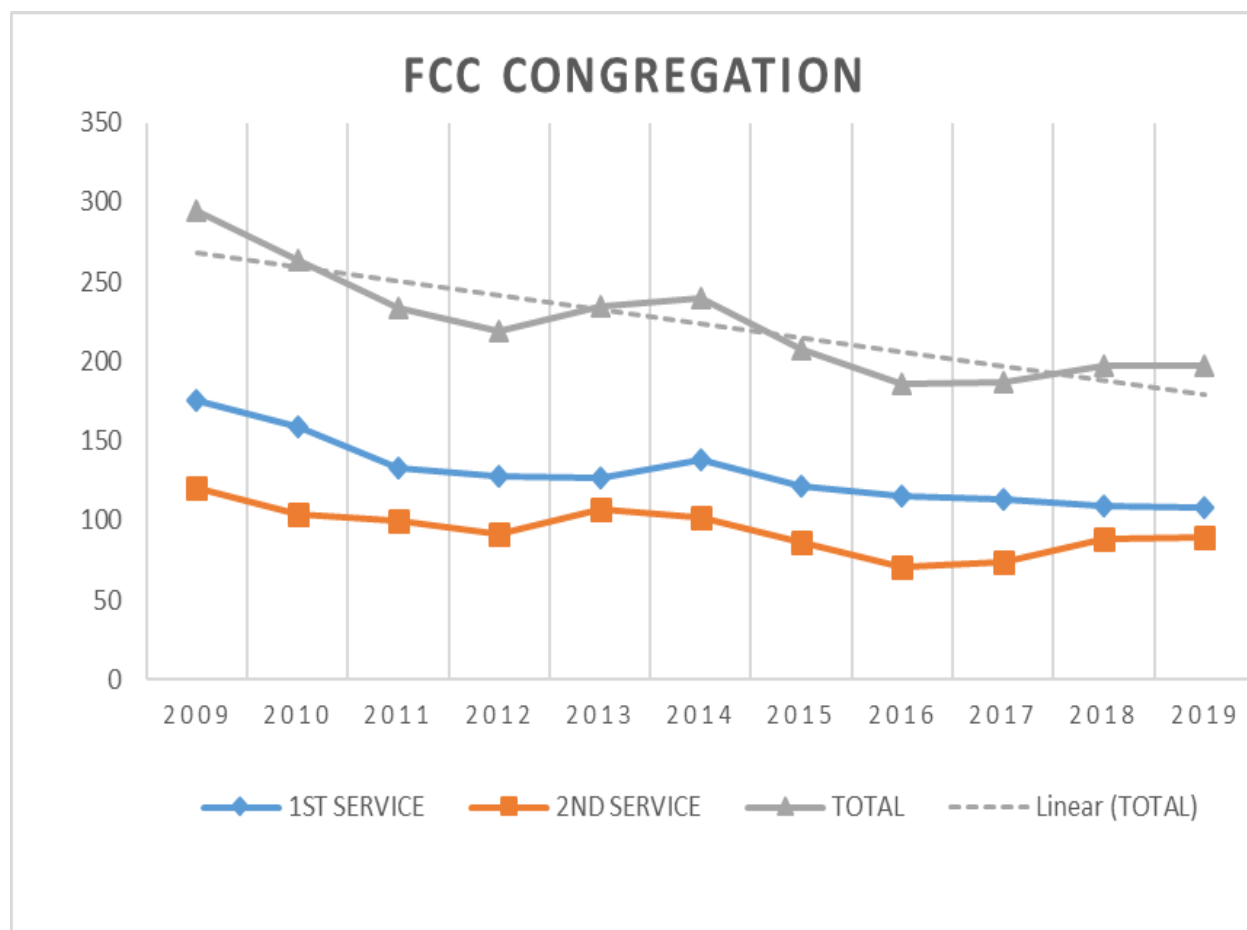
- FCC Elders met on 1/5/21 – Answered “Feasibility” questions to help determine if a merger between FCC and CCC is feasible. There were 25 questions relating to doctrine, philosophy of ministry, personnel, and legal topics.
- FCC Elders and CCC Leaders met on 1/6/21 – Compared FCC and CCC feasibility answers. We continue to find a high level of compatibility with CCC. We also discussed mission and vision.
- FCC Elders and CCC Leadership met with Don Green, former LCU president. FCC and CCC previously shared Church Comparison and Feasibility documents with Don Green. Don led a discussion about values, practices, doctrine, and church leadership models.

Update to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- **How often will we offer Communion?** CCC currently has communion 1x per month. If we merge, we will continue to offer Communion on a weekly basis. CCC is agreeable with this.
- **Will the preaching and teaching be from the Bible?** Our sermons and teaching will continue to be from the Bible, the Word of God.
- **What building will we worship in?** This has not been determined. Members from both congregations are emotionally tied to their respective church buildings. FCC has recently invested a significant amount of money in the maintenance and upkeep of our building. CCC building has advantages including parking, single-level access, and classroom wing layout. Though facilities are an important element to consider, the people are the church.
- **How will we baptize?** By immersion.
- **How did this come about?** Pastor Steve Morgan has been praying for unity among the churches in Mattoon for a long time. And the Elders pray at 7:07 a.m. every day for a vision for FCC. Steve built a relationship with Pastor Johnny from CCC prior to his departure. After he left, this opportunity presented itself.
- **What percentage approval will be required for the vote to pass?** Our constitution requires a 2/3 majority to make changes to the constitution. It does not say what is required for a merger. The suggestion from the Elders is 75%. This would go to the board for approval prior to a congregational vote.
- **How will the vote be handled during COVID-19 restrictions?** We have not addressed a potential method of voting. It is important to give members an opportunity to vote. If the Elders offer a recommendation to merge, it is unlikely for a vote to happen before July. We do not know what the restrictions will be at that time, and how many at risk members will have been vaccinated.
- **Why doesn't Central Community just start coming to First Christian?** If the two churches merge, we don't have a vision of 100+200=300. We want to see 100+200=500 (plus!). Both church bodies have strengths and weaknesses which complement each other. One of their strengths is their children's ministry. They have a well-developed classroom space for children's ministry. And they have the volunteers to support it. We have seen a significant decline in our children's ministry, which we attribute to a lack of volunteers in this area. This is a challenge. We need more young families to have more volunteers so we can have more young families in the church.

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A graph depicting our church attendance from 2009 to 2019 was shared on the screen. If we do not do something, we will continue to shrink.



Upcoming activities:

- 1/19/21 FCC Elders meeting.
 CCC Leaders meeting.
- 1/24/21 FCC 8:30 Traditional Worship Service – Steve Morgan preaching.
 CCC 10:00 Worship Service – Steve Morgan preaching.
- 1/26/21 FCC Elders and CCC leaders meet together.
- 2/TBD/21 FCC and CCC meet with Don Green.
- 2/21/21 FCC Informational Meeting with Congregation.