

Report from Superintendent- July 30, 2020

It has been my pleasure to serve as “part time” Superintendent. Thank you for this appointment as I sensed a calling from the Lord to this opportunity. There has been a lot to learn about the Body of Christ we call FCNC. There is also much to be done ahead.

According to the job description, one of the main responsibilities tasked to the Superintendent is to work with churches that are small, perhaps struggling, to provide encouragement and help for those churches to be strengthened. Of course “small” is a relative word- if we compare to many of the churches in our society, ALL of our churches would be considered “small.” But looking at the numbers of our memberships in 2020, only 8 of our 29 churches list over 100 members, while 10 have 50 or less. We would hope that attendance might be better than listed membership, but that is unknown. Perhaps 1/3 of our churches could be classified as small.

“Struggling” is another consideration. One church was down to 4 attenders who held their last meeting in December. Another no longer meets for worship, having only a weekly Bible Study. At least 4 others have considered closing their doors, prior to the health shutdown. Happily, I can report that all 4 of those are still meeting and seem to be back on track. However, sometimes “struggles” are not over membership. Internal strife can be devastating to a church’s overall health, and we have been working to alleviate that.

Another of my primary responsibilities is to encourage and work with our pastors. I am available to our pastors 24/7, (except Sunday mornings!) and have met with all but one either individually, or in small group settings. We have a dedicated group of men and women who serve the Lord faithfully. I encourage you as churches to support your pastors, pray for them, and boost their ministries. Listen to their needs. In a world that is terribly inflationary, give your pastors a raise! As you enhance your pastors, their ministry will enhance you!

My requirement to worship once per month in an FCNC church has been impossible to meet under recent conditions, but I have worshipped with 9 of our smaller churches, as well as attending some business sessions, Ministry & Counsel sessions, Quarterly Mtg revivals, and special events. I constantly am searching to recruit pastors and youth leaders. Each week, I have emailed a short message with prayer concerns for FCNC to a representative of each church. I’ve posted 5 videos through the ComTech committee on Facebook. I contacted 7 independent churches who left NCYM, in an attempt to have them re-unite with FCNC; but, I believe we waited too long and most show no interest. I have met with quite a number of individuals from across FCNC. And of course I pastor at the Connection near Charlotte.

My biggest disappointment has been the failure to plant a new church. Every church in FCNC began when someone had a vision to start a church. FCNC MUST regain that vision to be viable in 20 years. Our youth are moving to population centers where jobs are available, but where we do not have churches. I have spent time in the past year talking with individuals about this, and also searching to recruit a pastor. I felt we were on track, until the virus.

However, North Carolina is now 10% Hispanic and we have a Hispanic Congregation! Odra Nuevo de Los Amigos is meeting in the Harmony Grove facility in Yadkinville. They are averaging 40-50 in attendance; we hope they will become a Monthly Meeting in FCNC. Kernersville, Liberty, and Pilot Mountain, Cane Creek, Thomasville and Back Creek all now have pastors and are taking exciting strides forward.

I don’t think my presence has overly affected any of our churches. But I do believe God has chosen to work through me, or maybe around me, to encourage and help us make positive steps forward. I ask that all of you : Pray. Keep a positive attitude. Reach out to your community. Call me for help/advice etc. when you need it. Remember - we are the Body of Christ ministering in 29 different communities; we are in this together!