

Living Faith Goals 2022

2022 is a significant year for Living Faith Church. Now that we've had 2 years of living under the Pandemic, it is time that we looked at our situation and faced the fact that we need to make some hard choices. While we could just give up as many churches have over the past couple of years, the fact that we're still here, no matter how diminished indicates that we still have something worth preserving. There are a great many churches who are making it with fewer people and worse resources than we have, as well as a good number who are better situated, yet unable to go on, so we should commend ourselves on the faith and determination that has seen us thus far.

All that is to say that if we wish to move forward in 2022 and secure our future, there are a number of things we should do. The first is to understand that we can't plan things based on "when this is all over," so much as doing the best we can under the circumstances in which we find ourselves. That means:

- Leaning into the technical capacity we have developed over the past couple of years;
- Occasionally taking "time off" from our schedule when the situation demands it;
- Changing our perceptions of "how things must be" in order to count as "church;"
- Paying increased attention to each other, so that no one is left feeling out of touch;
- Speaking out about the church and sharing our own ideas for what to do and how; and
- Committing ourselves to the work of the church.

Toward that end, here are some goals I believe the church should adopt for this year, but remember that these goals only work if all of us are willing to commit to them:

- 5 New Families taking part in our activities. I'd prefer to say "10 more families active than we've had over the past 2 years," which would mean a mix of new ones and old ones coming back, but we need to emphasize evangelism and *new* people participating. We have at least one family that has already been discussing joining with us, but we've not pushed this and committed as a church to this sort of goal.
- 2 Christian Education initiatives. We had one in 2021 with Linda's leadership of the Flourish Bible study course at her home. As director of the Flourish Center, I have free access to everything on our agenda, and will develop a number of new ones this year, but we have many other things we might do, as well as access to FaithElement and other resources that can be taught online or worked through on an ongoing or close-ended basis.
- 3 Community events that involve food. I'd rather say "5 Fellowship events, at least 3 of which require food" so we plan for some outdoor, safe, meals and perhaps some fun things we can do together. While I'm always up for fishing and things like that, we can play games and do other fun things online, should we decide we want to go that way.

- 10 Outdoor worship services. That's 2 a month for 5 months, which gives us the ability to reschedule a few in case things go south on us. We've worked hard to reduce the technical overhead for outdoor worship, so this is possible, but people have to turn out to support it when we do this. BTW, they don't always need to be on Sunday morning and we can always combine them with fellowship if someone gets some other ideas.
- 2 Missions projects. We can make these as complex or simple as we want, but there are always things to do, like supporting families who are trying to make it through the winter; joining with other churches for some shared work; or addressing an immediate need in our own church family. Additionally, CBF-KY is going all-in on projects to help rebuild in Western KY, and there are ongoing Appalachian ministry opportunities.
- Raise our overall giving by at least 8%. That will not satisfy our overall financial need, but if it's combined with numerical growth and participation, it should get us close enough to avoid having to make some really hard choices. We will want to think of creative ways to raise funding throughout the year.

There are other things we will want to attend to this year, many of which are a continuation of previous efforts to prepare ourselves for the future. For now, however, it is important to commit ourselves to specific things that we can do and to communicate our ideas and feelings as we work toward them.