



We aspire to be beacons of God's love and truth ...

February 6, 2024

Dear Members and Friends of FPC Moorestown:

Many years ago when I was still in high school, I was working at my Dad's stationery store in Chester, Pennsylvania. I was sent to deliver a package to City Hall. I met an older black man in the lobby. He worked in City Hall but he was also a Pastor at a local church in the city. He asked me about my plans for college. I told him that I believed that the Lord had called me to serve Him as a minister of the Gospel. He asked me if I understood the meaning of a call. I didn't really. He said, "A call is an invitation." A call is an invitation to serve the Lord and His people.

I'm writing today to extend a call to you. I invite you to commit to growing the Kingdom of God with me and with our Staff and lay leaders. This is a straightforward ask. I'm not asking you to think about this or to get to it one day, some day. I'm asking you to *commit* to doing four things.

Someone noted that churches tend not to ask too much of their members. Churches generally ask too little. I think that's largely true. At present, we really ask only one thing of our members. Every October we ask you to complete an Estimate of Giving card, a financial pledge for the coming year. That's it.

Now, I'm inviting every member and friend of FPC Moorestown to grow God's Kingdom. As we do these four things, I'm certain that the Spirit of God will grow God's Kingdom in the communities where we live. Today, amid all the challenges that nearly every church in the country faces, the right emphasis is not growing our church but growing God's kingdom.

As we commit to growing God's Kingdom, every member and friend of FPC Moorestown is invited into a covenant with *four* commitments. We look to members and friends to pray often for God's leading and provision. We invite others to come to FPC Moorestown and, most importantly, know Jesus. Members and friends serve with their time and their hands to support and aid our mission and ministry. Finally, our people give financially in consistent ways and sometimes sacrificially.

Each commitment has a first and second step. Step one is an initial but necessary step, while step two a more expansive, faith-requiring step. As we invite our people to participate, we'll also provide training for each area.

1. I will pray.
2. I will invite.
3. I will serve.
4. I will give.

continued

I will pray. I pray regularly for the ministry and mission of FPC Moorestown.

- Step 1: I will pray for the needs and work of our congregation so that we may fulfill God's Kingdom purposes. Those who pray use a daily prayer guide.
- Step 2: I will regularly pray with other members and friends for the community and congregation. I'll join a prayer group or find a prayer partner with whom I'll regularly pray.

I will invite. I invite people into the life of FPC Moorestown, ultimately to know, follow, and serve Jesus.

- Step 1: Inviting others each week to worship and/or church activities like Family Dinner, concerts, small groups or retreats.
- Step 2: Inviting others into a relationship with Jesus using Discovery Bible Study or other means of evangelism, with the goal of making disciples of children, youth, young adults and adults of every age.

I will serve. With my time and using my talents, I participate in the ministry and mission of FPC Moorestown.

- Step 1: I offer my services for the work of the church by volunteering to help with a church program or ministry.
- Step 2: I seek to serve our community with acts of kindness and mercy through the guidance and direction of the Deacons and Mission Committee.

I will give. I financially support the work of FPC Moorestown with intentional, sometimes sacrificial giving.

- Step 1: I regularly give to FPC Moorestown.
- Step 2: I plan to give to special needs or projects.

Please review the Grow the Kingdom Commitment Card that is linked to this update. **This coming Sunday, February 11, is our Grow the Kingdom Commitment Sunday.** At both services, at the close of the sermon, we'll be asked to walk forward to offer our commitment cards, signifying that we're ready to grow God's Kingdom. If you won't be with us this Sunday, you may fill out the form online.

I'm inviting you to do the most wonderful thing we'll ever be invited to do: grow the Kingdom of God for the glory of God. I look forward to committing myself to this task with you on Sunday.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Pastor Stuart Spencer

For further information about our Grow the Kingdom emphasis, visit our webpage:

<https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/grow-the-kingdom/>. There, you'll find information about the Grow the Kingdom initiatives formed by our leadership this past year. Also, you'll find resources about the Kingdom of God to help you on this journey.