

Madison Heights Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

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Update on the Campus Model of Ministry

When you look at doing dual ministry, several things have to be just right in order for the Campus Model of Ministry to work. In this particular case, the two churches are very strong, healthy, and able to stand on their own. Both churches are currently strong enough to physically and spiritually be able to withstand the trials and set backs of contemporary society on their own. The Campus Model of Ministry is a learning process for all of us and I have gained valuable insight into the process that may come in handy as a backup plan if needed in the future.

There are three important positions that needed to be considered, analyzed, evaluated, and understood. One position is that of Fairview Christian Church. They have been in the search and call process for three years. This is longer than usual but that is most likely due in some part to COVID. People simply shut down and did not desire to relocate or put in their papers for search and call. They are currently in a difficult short term position because their interim minister has resigned for medical reasons. The Campus Model of Ministry was an option for them to consider because they are in need of an interim minister at a time when the region currently does not have any available. However, this is only a short term situation. They have tremendous potential due to their location, resources, integrity, outreach missions, and love.

The second position to consider is that of us here at Madison Heights Christian. We are currently in a very healthy position. Our finances are healthy. Our attendance has held up, what we are missing from "in person" attendance is more than made up for with increased online participation. We have a core group of active and devoted members that keep us strong and healthy in attendance, active participation, and finances. Our outreach ministries and offerings are very healthy and we have gone through COVID better than many other ministries. We are free of conflict and stress, and maintain a loving environment. Currently we are not in a position to enter into a campus model of ministry. However, it is good to research, gain experience, and have a backup plan in place just in case it is needed sometime in the future.

The third consideration is my own position. It is an extremely valuable learning experience to be in a leadership position while navigating uncharted waters. However, in regards to myself, I have to make sure this would be something that I could do without adversely affecting my health, stress, and family. This is matter of delicate balance between my devotion to you, a sister church, and the Lord.

Considering all of these variables, I offered my services to Fairview Christian on a trial basis with no change or impact on our existing ministries here. I could only commit to a six-week trial basis in hopes that there is no objection from this congregation. This would allow them the opportunity to test the campus model of ministry and allow me the opportunity to gain valuable experience and report my findings to you at the June board meeting.

As both churches are able to stand strong on their own, everything does not fall in line for the Campus Model of Ministry to work in this particular case. Therefore, the two churches will not be perusing this model further at this time. Since Fairview is in need of another interim it is my desire to be able to help them on a short term basis to fill in any gaps they may exist while they are without an interim minister.

Thank you,
George