



November 3, 2015

Dear FPC brothers and sisters in Christ:

A big thank you to all who helped Sunday happen in such splendid fashion, and to those who came and exercised your privilege to vote. As Presbyterian-type Christians, we discern the Lord's will through such endeavors, and we trust that He made His will for this congregation's future known with great clarity yesterday. What happened on All Saints Day, though, does not usher us into the "Promised Land." Instead, we go forward as still a hospital for sinners, an assortment of God's lost and found, called by Christ to roll our sleeves up and be about the real work of the Church—especially working toward healing and reconciliation among ourselves while we carry out The Great Commission and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

I urge you to take a posture of humility as we go forward, and treat each other with mercy and grace, no matter what side of the vote you were on. The vote now lies in the past. What lies ahead is a renewal of our commitment to be a joyfully worshiping, Christ-centered, Bible-believing, missions-driven community that strives to make Jesus visible through the two prongs of personal evangelism and social justice—across this city—and around the globe.

Being a life-transforming congregation also means "putting our money where our mouth is". This Sunday is Covenant Commitment Sunday, so I hope you will be here at one of the three services, and step up to the plate with a pledge to invest financially in what the Lord is doing in and through our wonderful congregation.

Let's enter into this new era in FPC's life by making sure all of our ministries and missionaries are fully funded—and the campus at 4th and Alamo is well taken care of—as a launching pad for ministry. The Bible teaches tithing, and I preach it, and Anne and I do it—and I hope you will join us. God's economy doesn't run by Harvard Business School principles. I challenge you to tithe (10% of your gross income invested in God's worldwide Kingdom enterprise) and watch Him do some amazing things with your investment—and with your life. You'll never be the same—and you'll never want to go back—and you'll never want. Be in prayer about that and other ways you can help launch FPC into our new denomination—the Covenant Order Of Evangelical Presbyterians—and the bright future He has planned for us.

FPC's best days still lay ahead. Let's join hearts and hands and move into that future together—to God's glory.

Stay strong in Him,

Ron Scates
Interim Senior Pastor