



# SKILLMAN

CHURCH OF CHRIST

## **Elder Announcement**

**Jan. 9, 2022**

*The following announcement was made by Shane Calvin on behalf of the elders during our worship service on Sunday, January 9, 2022.*

In November the congregation was asked for their opinion about exploring options to combine with another congregation. In previous announcements and congregational meetings, the elders have indicated that preliminary discussions were happening with The Hills. This past Thursday evening (January 6, 2022) the elders, David Williams, Craig Gray and Shane Calvin met with leadership of The Hills: Executive Minister David Meyer, Senior Teaching Minister Rick Atchley, Elders Curt Parsons and John Wilbanks. We listened as these men outlined and talked passionately about the vision they have for God's Kingdom. We listened as they explained why they are looking toward Dallas County to expand God's Kingdom. We listened as they talked of how God's Kingdom could be advanced and grown from a location in East Dallas.

For many years Skillman members have expressed the desire for this church to outline and adopt new vision. People have come and gone as Skillman has been unable to capture a clear and sustainable vision. As a result, we find ourselves in 2022, after 20 difficult months of a pandemic, continuing to struggle for direction. Now, we find ourselves with a great opportunity to join in and be part of a big Kingdom vision.

The Hills leadership has discerned that God is leading them to add a campus in Dallas County. What was initially envisioned as steps to be taken in 2023 and 2025, they see great opportunity now in 2022. They see opportunity for God's Kingdom in a highly respected and sought after pre-school. They see opportunity in the neighborhoods of young families that surround this church. They see opportunity but a few miles away in neighborhoods that are economically challenged. Both neighborhoods are in tremendous need of God's saving message. They see opportunity for God's Kingdom from a campus located at 3014 Skillman St. in East Dallas.

From The Hills point of view, the next steps for a move into Dallas County would be very soon and in a timeframe quicker than we imagined. Within the next few weeks, The Hills desires to conduct a worship service to gauge the level of interest for a campus in East Dallas. That service will be hosted in our auditorium. Promotion of that service would be done by The Hills through their media outlets, media outlets of Skillman, our members, and other people in Dallas that have expressed an interest in The Hills. Based on the enthusiasm for that service, the next steps would be put in motion to bring the vision and passion of The Hills to East Dallas. Those steps are hoped to be completed in a matter of months.

As a result of these timelines, the elders of Skillman Church, believe it is right to suspend any major decisions related to new initiatives, staffing, and leadership. Specifically, the process of installing June Martin and Ken Teague as elders will be suspended until there is a resolution to

this significant opportunity for the church and God's Kingdom. The Hills leadership is in agreement that it is best to suspend any major decisions while these discussions are going on. It is appropriate at this point to mention that there were no objections received that questioned the character of either June or Ken and that commitment to their installation based on their giftedness has not changed. The elders met with June and Ken yesterday to involve them in this decision. It was agreed that the discussions and opportunity with The Hills needed to be completed before any further steps regarding their installation were taken.

So, what can you do?

The first important step is to understand what The Hills' vision and mission is about. In September, Rick Atchley preached a two-week sermon series outlining their vision titled, 'Asking for Nations and Generations.' That vision will be presented during our services on Sunday, January 16th and 23rd. Rick Atchley has offered to come to Skillman next weekend and preach the first part of the vision in person. The elders have accepted that offer and agree that Rick's presence would be a blessing to the church. Rick committed to us that he would be present and involved in a Dallas campus. We ask you to be here or attend online to hear those messages. We believe that the vision that you will hear is Christ-centered, challenging, and captivating.

Listen and pray. God is on the move. Ask to be challenged and convicted by God's message. Ask for opportunity to be a bearer of the life-giving message of Jesus.

The elders have been moved by the humility, wisdom, and passion of The Hills leadership. Each meeting with them has been a life-giving blessing. This brief announcement cannot convey the magnitude of our thoughts and excitement. We ask you to be present and listen to how God is calling each of us to greater involvement and service in His kingdom.

Let's pray:

*Father, we come before you today as your humble children. We ask your blessing and presence in this place as we worship You together. Father, we ask for Your Spirit to be in us; that it would stir us to action in Your name so that we may be a life-giving blessing to those we know. Help us to see others through your eyes. Help us to be strong and courageous knowing that you are with us wherever we go. Amen.*