



SKILLMAN

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elder Announcement

Feb. 13, 2022

Craig Gray, on behalf of the elders, addressed the church at the Feb. 13, 2022, worship service with this announcement.

Church family,

We want to update you on two items: progress on the exploratory process with The Hills and unofficial communications.

Update on the exploratory process with The Hills

We had good participation at the Feb. 6 Q and A forum, both online and in person. Thank you for attending and submitting questions, but especially, thank you for praying for God to make clear His path for Skillman.

Due to time constraints, not all questions were able to be asked at the forum, but all questions that members submitted to us concerning joining with The Hills have been forwarded to the Advisory Committee for their research.

The Advisory Committee members have already contributed in excess of 50 hours of their time researching the answers to questions, and are, this morning, attending services at the West Fort Worth and Southlake campuses in person, as well as the live stream from the North Richland Hills campus. Additionally, Gordon Green is here this morning to receive additional questions for the committee, at the conclusion of service.

We do have answers to some questions, and we have updated the FAQ section of the Web page, including a new section "Member Questions." We will continue to update that document as more information becomes known.

We encourage all members to use the Web page as your source of information during the exploratory process. If you need assistance in getting this information or accessing the Web page or any of the links on the page, please call the church office at 214-823-2179.

We also remind you again of the interest service to be led by The Hills this Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium. We hope you will attend.

Unofficial communications

We have become aware of a group of members who are calling themselves “Save Skillman Church of Christ Committee.” Let me be clear: The elders did not appoint this committee, nor did the church provide any email list to this committee.

On Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, the members of our Advisory Committee received an email sent on behalf of the “Save Skillman Church of Christ Committee.” Skillman members were copied on the email, which appeared to redefine the task of the Advisory Committee.

We have heard from some of you who were copied on this email that you were either upset or confused. Because we do not know who did or did not receive the email, we are responding directly to the membership.

There are three specific items from the email that I will speak about:

1. Role of the Advisory Committee
2. Concept and timing of due diligence, and
3. Fiduciary duties of the elders

First, let’s review the charge and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee:

Evaluate the potential of joining the Hills from the perspective of being faithful stewards of the resources God has provided Skillman to fulfill His mission of making disciples.

This is a fact-finding committee, made up of members who are volunteering their time and best efforts to report back to the elders and to the congregation. They have no delegated decision-making or negotiating authority. The committee will not be making a formal recommendation but will present its findings to the elders and the congregation.

Second, the term “due diligence” refers to the investigation that a reasonable organization or person is expected to take before entering into an agreement or contract with another party. While the fact finding of the Advisory Committee is a part of this process, many of the elements of the due diligence methodology as described in the email are beyond the scope of what they have been tasked to do, and are typically conducted after an agreement in principle has been reached. As a reminder, we are still in the exploratory phase.

The elders have already had discussions with a neutral third-party firm about conducting the legal due diligence to ensure that all applicable non-profit regulations and the requirements of our Bylaws, are addressed – if or when we get to the recommendation phase of this process.

Finally, the term “fiduciary duty” has multiple meanings, depending on whether the context is a for-profit business, a formal trust, a personal financial advisor, or a non-profit corporation, among others. Under the Texas Non-Profit Act, Skillman is a non-profit corporation, and those duties are outlined specifically in Chapter 22 of the Texas

Business Corporations Code, namely, to act in good faith, with ordinary care, and in a manner the director reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the corporation.

These duties do apply to the elders, who, according to our Bylaws are the directors of the non-profit corporation. They do not apply to the members of the congregation, including those who volunteer to serve on a fact-finding committee.

The terms “breach of fiduciary duty” or “violation of fiduciary duty” are generally perceived as implying that legal action may be taken. The implied threat of legal action against members of the Advisory Committee, if they do not comply with the demands of this email, is simply wrong.

We recognize that we are asking the church to consider a weighty decision, and emotions are at a peak. We urge you again to remember to extend one another grace, as grace has been given to each one of us. We will have differing questions and emphasis on various aspects of exploring the possibility of joining with The Hills. We encourage you to be patient with each other, and as elders, we ask that you continue to pray to discern God’s will for Skillman Church of Christ.

Please note that the elders have invited the members of the “Save Skillman Church Committee” to meet with us and pray about God’s will for Skillman.

I want to close this morning with the words of Paul, from Phillipians Chapter 2:

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:⁶ Who, being in very nature[Ⓜ] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[Ⓜ] of a servant, being made in human likeness.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Go in peace.