

I have been thinking about what lies in store for the Skillman Church after the merger vote is taken on June 12. It appears a significant majority of members will vote to merge with The Hills.

- If the merger is approved, I think it is reasonable to assume that by the end of 2022, membership and attendance will triple or quadruple for all age groups.
- Our current church activities, ministries, evangelism, services and education will continue, but attendance and participation for all will increase.
- I assume additional opportunities will become available as well.
- These changes should be especially welcomed by and beneficial to families, young marrieds, singles, young children, and teenagers.
- I hope Skillman members become vital participants and leaders of the merged congregation.
- I imagine the number of member's children attending the CDC will also increase, which hopefully may make us more attractive and inviting to non-member families looking for a church home; and discounted CDC costs.

On the other hand, it appears a minority of members will vote to reject the merger. And that minority has a significant chance of blocking the will of the majority. If this happens, the near future and fate of Skillman is less certain. We appear to be ill prepared for a rejection of the merger.

- It seems reasonable to assume the decline in membership and activities will continue once the merger is blocked. Just cannot imagine when such decline could be stopped and reversed.
- The perceived animosity from the opposition minority could limit the support given by the blocked majority. What happens if the losing majority take a wait and see attitude regarding the minority's seriousness to make actual and effective changes necessary to truly save Skillman?
- After the merger is defeated, exactly who is prepared to take immediate leadership and responsibility for Skillman. And who is prepared to take the lead for the two proposed alternatives from the Town hall meeting and the Committee's email?
- Correct me if I am wrong, but no significant plan can be developed and implemented before the summer of 2023, more likely the end of 2023. And any plan eventually implemented will take another year or more to actually reverse the decline at Skillman, into late 2024.

I am praying that the June 12 vote is an overwhelming and unified approval of a merger for an almost immediate reversal of our decline. I hope that Skillman members become a proud and unified part of the merged congregation; aiming for a successful and joyous opportunity to serve the Lord's purpose for Dallas city and county. I pray that our numbers, effectiveness, leadership and dedication match or

surpass that of the Hills main campus in honor of Skillman's true heritage and reputation.

In God's name  
Daniel Blucker