

Dear Skillman Family –

As we heard from several Members in favor of the proposed takeover of Skillman last week, the rationale concludes with the perilous prediction – “... and IF Skillman doesn’t change, it will ‘Die’.”

While there are clearly two differing views on the required vote for the future of Skillman, many of those opposed to giving Skillman to The Hills (or any other church), **AGREE** with the above prediction...

"IF Skillman does not change (in many areas), and/or remains the same (status quo)..." we also do not see success, or long-term viability for Skillman.

As I mentioned in last Wednesday’s Meeting, several Members (including me) are proposing an **Alternative**, which attempts to answer the question –

What is the ‘Plan’ for Skillman going forward, should the vote to ‘join’ The Hills fail?

We are excited to propose the attached Outline suggestion, which includes:

1. A ‘Go Forward’ Permanent Plan - Changes the Leadership Model (moves away from our current Elder model), separates the decision-making processes, and engages the entire Congregation in contributing ideas, suggestions, and expertise, in determining the best Path Forward (including who will be in leadership roles) for the Skillman Church of Christ,
2. Provides an ‘Immediate Needs’ suggestion (Interim Steering Committee), with participants determined/chosen by the Congregation, to maintain continuity of current Services (including continued employment for all staff - no layoffs, guarantee of no changes to CDC - for minimum of three school years, and continuing to have Jake, or other guest Ministers ‘On Site’ each Sunday to provide the Sermon/Message in the Sanctuary), until the Congregation arrives at the permanent Go Forward Plan,
3. Provides a suggested Leadership Model, which separates the various needs of the membership into different roles and responsibilities (Pastoral Care, Administration, and Trustees) to maximize the strengths and talents of the leaders chosen by the Congregation, for each specific set of responsibilities, and
4. Provides a number of Suggestions (with more to be added) for topics, programs, outreach, etc., all of which would be addressed with the suggestions and input from our entire Congregation, during Congregational Meetings.

Since the Elder announcement in January (resulting in the 'required' vote in May), several members who oppose Skillman being given to The Hills have been in frequent contact with each other, and on several occasions, with our current Elders, to discuss and present alternatives to avoid this destructive and divisive vote.

While our group has not agreed on every aspect of this matter, we are unanimous and resolute in the following:

We hope and pray for the **opportunity** to **Revitalize Skillman** and **believe** that is possible by ***including the suggestions and talents of everyone in our Congregation***, rather than giving control for all decisions to the senior leaders of The Hills (or any other church), or our current model, where only three individuals have the authority to make decisions impacting the Congregation, without consideration of Member's alternatives, suggestions, or opposing views.

Please know that this critical vote is NOT limited to only two outcomes:

1. We either give total control of the Skillman Church of Christ to The Hills, or
2. If we don't vote to 'join' The Hills, Skillman has no chance for future success.

Please look to the potential future for the Skillman, and changing our long-held beliefs that we have to continue with the same models, traditions, and leaders, without giving all in our Congregation the opportunity to help devise a better path forward for our Congregation.

Please join me in voting 'NO', or against giving our Church to The Hills, providing the Skillman Church of Christ the opportunity to Revitalize, and worship God (in-person) at our Church.

Thank you,

Mark Prude