



SKILLMAN

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elder Announcement Jan. 23, 2022

The following announcement was made by Craig Gray on behalf of the elders at the conclusion of our worship service this past Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022.

I want to speak to several items that the elders are undertaking.

First, let's remember that the membership overwhelmingly asked the elders to explore the possibility of joining with another congregation. In the November survey, 86 percent of the membership either wanted the elders to consider a merger or wanted more information about that process. To pursue that directive, the elders are in the process of creating a stand-alone advisory committee with members from at least these areas:

- a. CDC
- b. Finance Committee
- c. Facilities, and
- d. Missions Committee

This committee will independently 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.

The committee will begin its evaluation in February, or earlier, and end immediately after providing the church with their findings, to be no later than mid-March.

Secondly, the elders commit to communicating with the membership during this process to ensure the membership has facts and resources so that members aren't misinformed. Here's what you can expect:

- We'll be sending emails of important dates and announcements.
- We will also create a Web page with member resources that will include:
 - Skillman elder announcements during the process
 - FAQs about the process
 - Facts about The Hills, including links where members can learn more about how The Hills is engaging in God's mission.

This page will be updated as we continue through the process.

The elders will also host a Question & Answer forum for members here in the chapel Feb. 6, to ensure members can ask questions and express their opinions.

As previously announced, we have agreed to host The Hills worship leaders in our auditorium Feb. 3, as they reach out to the city of Dallas. I encourage you all to attend this service and to use this as an opportunity to reach out to one other person or family in Dallas to invite them to hear the message of God's saving grace.



SKILLMAN

CHURCH OF CHRIST

So, currently our timeline looks like this:

- **Jan. 23**
 - We announce an advisory committee that will evaluate joining with The Hills.
 - The elders will begin communicating facts and resources to the membership, beginning this week.
- **February**
 - The advisory committee begins its evaluation.
- **Feb. 3**
 - Skillman CoC hosts a worship service led by The Hills for the City of Dallas.
- **Feb. 6**
 - Q and A forum will be held in the chapel.
- **Mid-March**
 - Advisory committee submits its findings to the church. *Note: The announcement was made that the committee would submit its findings to the elders. This was incorrect. The committee will report its findings to the church membership, including the elders.*

I realize this is a lot of information, and we will post this announcement on a Web page and be sending emails about key dates.

Church, let me be clear: We are in a phase of exploring whether joining with The Hills is God's will for this church. This is why we've convened an advisory committee and why we ask for all to set aside time to pray alongside us. Please also realize that as we enter this season of discernment, we will do our best to keep you informed about the many moving pieces of this process. Recognize, too, that The Hills is also exploring and discerning how they can best further God's kingdom in Dallas County.

Brother Gray then concluded the announcement with this prayer.

Most importantly, church family, please pray with me.

Lord, we pray for Your will to be done. We pray for all Skillman and her staff to especially discern Your will in this process--your will, Lord, and not our own personal will. We pray that You will unite us behind that will. And Lord we pray that we have hearts to hear. Go in peace this week family, doing the Lord's mission.