

Future Plans and Developments for the Karns Church of Christ

2015 has been a dynamic time for our church family. The Lord is adding to our numbers just as he did in the first century (Acts 2:47, 16:5). There have been 26 baptisms, including several in the county jail. Sixty-four brothers and sisters have placed membership in 2015, forty-nine of them since June 1. This growth can be attributed to several factors, the greatest being our love for God, each other, and our neighbors.

Jeremiah wrote to the elders of the Babylonian exiles these words from the Lord: “For I know the plans I have for you, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:1, 11). The elders feel that God has a plan for us. These plans include bringing more people to Christ in our neighborhood, city, nation and worldwide. In order to do so, we must plan for the increase this will inevitably bring. Therefore, the elders would like to inform our family of future developments.

First, we must plan for the expansion of our local church family. Our facilities have just about reached maximum occupancy, a good problem to have. In order to handle this increase we must expand our capacity. Therefore, the elders have selected an architectural firm to develop a site master plan in the next few months. The master plan will lay out what we can do in terms of expanding the auditorium, increasing the number of classrooms, increasing parking and fellowship hall capacities, and improving the Southeast facilities. The master plan will develop stages of expansion for the next 15-20 years, beginning with our most immediate needs starting next year.

Next, we will begin the selection process for additional deacons and elders. This will start with a leadership class for men in the winter quarter. We will solicit input from the congregation and will ensure that each man selected meets the requirements set forth in the Bible, specifically 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. The selection of deacons and elders is not taken lightly and the elders will take great care in doing so, with prayer and supplication to God (Philippians 4:6).

We must also prepare for an increase in students and staff for Southeast. We are likely to add at least one staff member in the short term, with more added later as we add students. Will Hanstein, the director of Southeast, is working with the elders to that end.

The elders ask for your prayers and assistance as we plan for future expansion. It will take all of us working together to increase our ability to serve others. The Lord has a plan for us, and “the plans of the Lord stand firm forever” (Psalm 33:11).

By Tony Turner,
For the elders