

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



FEC President Excited to Share Vision for New 3-Year Term

Rocky Rocholl was affirmed last month for three more years as the president of the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches. This will be his final term in the role after taking the position in 2010. While preparing a smooth transition for the next president, Rocky looks to the future with hope and excitement as he casts the vision God laid on his heart to carry out.

The first step is to focus on being “incarnational,” Rocky says. “How do we actually live out our mission in a local context?” This looks like practicing what is preached and being the hands and feet of Jesus within local communities.

Next, Rocky wants to see grace-filled bridge building in areas like racial reconciliation, interpersonal relationships between churches, and greater unity within the body. “We have just as much of a bridge to build between FEC churches as we do with the other churches and individuals in our community.” Rocky sees how God can use this to take the gospel into new places and to strengthen

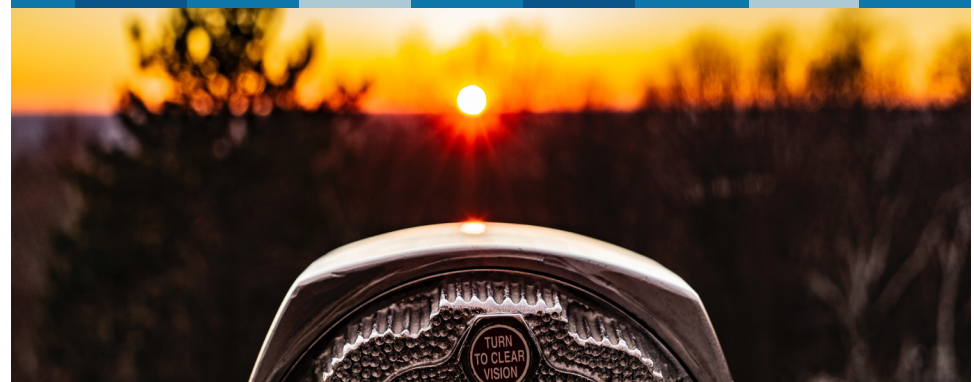
partnerships with other ministries.

Finally, Rocky wants to identify and develop the next generation of leaders. He sees a beautiful opportunity for our current leadership to come alongside the next generation. This means developing strong, mature, and trained leaders from those of us in our 20s and even younger. Some ways FEC currently does this is through residencies, internships, and emphasizing training from within “so they already have our DNA,” Rocky says.

In his 13 years serving as president, Rocky witnessed many ways God has grown the FEC, from developing a heart for church multiplication to congregations adopting a more cross-cultural look. Soul Care for pastors and leaders has been a particular highlight for Rocky. “There’s really no manual for how to be president,” he says. “But being able to pursue our shared mission together is invaluable.” It’s Rocky’s final term, but in many ways, he knows the FEC is just getting started.

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Southside Community in Wooster, OH, Celebrates as the Plant Becomes “Fully Participating”

Southside Community Church launched in November of 2018 in a hotel conference room in Wooster, Ohio. In December, it was affirmed as a “Fully Participating” church within the FEC. Pastor Greg Grimwood can summarize the impact of this new chapter in a word: gratitude. He feels grateful for the friends, family, churches, and other leaders who made this all possible. “And most of all,” Greg says, “gratitude for Jesus allowing us to take part in his wonderful plan to build his church to the ends of the earth.”

One way God has been moving in Southside is through its Benevolence Team. An offering is collected all year long for the team to distribute throughout the Southside family and Wooster community. Southside attendees filled out a survey of their various gifts and talents. Pastor Greg says, “When a need arises, whether it’s financial mentoring, yard work, or meal trains, our Benevolence Team makes the match. They’ve been an incredible help!”

This Christmas, a church member led a collection for Operation Christmas Child, providing 56 boxes for children around the globe.

Pastor Greg has also seen God build Southside into “a healing place,” with many stories of brokenness, trauma, addiction, and much more. “But more importantly, we’ve experienced the relentless grace of Jesus. Wave after wave after wave of his grace. And it’s genuinely healing and transforming people in our midst.”

“Our ultimate end is to make room for whatever Jesus wants to do at Southside,” says Greg, “and do our best to keep in step with him.”

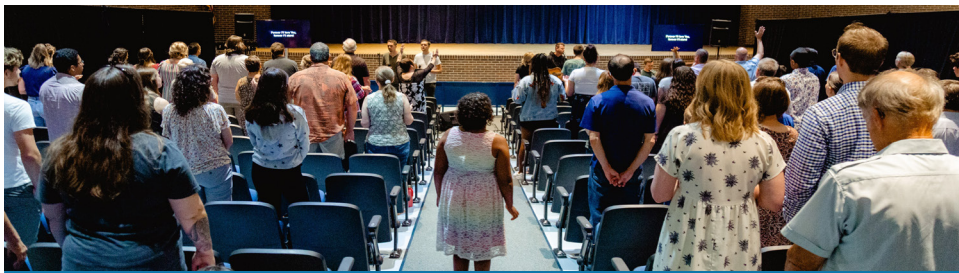
King’s Cross Church in Lyons, KS, Transitions from a Plant to “Fully Participating”

In 2020, King’s Cross Church opened its doors in Lyons, Kansas, embracing the community and pointing them to Jesus. Last month, during the FEC’s annual meeting, King’s Cross officially became a fully participating church. Though that does not change its mission or day-to-day life, Pastor Caleb Barrows is grateful. “It’s really meaningful to be a part of this group [the FEC] that’s vibrant and healthy and planting churches.”

As of January, King’s Cross will no longer meet in the Lyons High School cafeteria, but will move into a previously Presbyterian church “for the unseeable future” says Caleb. He’s seen the church grow in discipleship, outreach, prayer teams, various ministries, encouragement, and accountability.

One ministry started in January of 2023 when King’s Cross sponsored its first Ukrainian family, giving them the chance to connect with the Kansas community. As of today, three more families are in the process of being sponsored. Church members have connected with them, hosted dinners, and welcomed them into the King’s Cross church body. “It has been great to see those friendships grow,” says Caleb.

A weekly Bible study at the local women’s jail launched as well. Pastor Caleb is “seeing God really work in amazing ways there.” One young woman recently gave her life to Christ after attending the study, and many more are growing in their faith and feeling connected to King’s Cross.



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