

IRON MILL CHURCH

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December 9, 2021

Gathering as One Body – Moving to One 10am Service

Covid has created a barrier for people to connect. We believe the Gospel is conveyed in community. This value not only applies to community groups but also to our Sunday morning gatherings. Over the summer we were blessed to worship together, and for the time being, we believe the opportunity to worship together as one body will be restoring and refreshing for everyone. As Elders we have decided that **beginning Sunday Dec. 26th we will worship as one body on Sundays at 10:00 am.**

Over the past few months we have made a few observations:

- 1) Our weekly attendance has been affected by Covid as it has impacted all churches. We are thankful that we have not seen as sharp a drop as most churches, but we have seen a reduction in our average weekly attendance.
- 2) The drop in average attendance has had an impact on our volunteer base. We simply do not have the staff required to offer two services (and do them well) at this time. As Shepherding Elders it is important that we care for our volunteers and do not cause them to become burned out by asking them to perform double duty, or serve more often than previously anticipated.
- 3) Kid's discipleship is an important ministry that we provide at Iron Mill. We feel it is a priority to provide this to each child who comes regardless of the service they attend with their family. We have not been able to staff a full kid's discipleship ministry at both services. This is not a negative reflection on Anna or Abby; they have been working hard at recruiting and training.

We want to assure you that this is a temporary measure. We will reevaluate later in the year and hope to be able to multiply to two services in the fall. In the meantime, our plan is to make a greater investment and be strategically intentional with outreach. The Elders will also be engaging with members of their Shepherding groups who are currently not serving and begin a conversation to help them understand their gifts and where God may be calling them to serve and provide equipping/training where needed.

God Bless,

Pastor Jason and the Elders