

DEACON BOARD REVIEW & REPORT TO THE MCC FAMILY REGARDING MCCS

March 2009

Dear Meadow Creek Church Family:

Meadow Creek Christian School (MCCS) was formed by Meadow Creek Church (MCC) in 1976 as a ministry of the Church. Over time the School leadership and constituency came to believe that autonomy would be in the best interests of the School. Based on that belief, the Meadow Creek Christian School leadership petitioned the Church for a complete separation from the Church except for an arrangement to occupy the Meadow Creek Church campus for a limited period of time. In late 2003 the Meadow Creek Church congregation voted to consent to the separation which had been requested by the School and a separation was completed early in 2004.

An arrangement was also reached to allow Meadow Creek Christian School to continue to use the Church campus without paying any lease or rent payments to the Church, even though it was now a separate entity, until July 2009 by which time the School would occupy a new school campus located on land purchased by the school. During this time the School was only required to pay for a portion of utilities and maintenance of the spaces primarily occupied by the School. This plan provided the School five years for fund raising, and the construction of new school buildings on the land it had purchased or to find other suitable facilities.

Planning ahead for the School's departure in 2009, the Church deacon board in November 2006 reminded the MCCS trustees of our intent to begin renovations of our campus beginning August 2009. The board then in early 2007 established a renovation committee and many of you participated in focus groups regarding the opportunity for the Church to expand its ministries when the space, now occupied by the School, would become available for renovation at the end of July 2009. This planning brought real excitement to many involved in ministry as we dreamed, prayed and planned together regarding ways of expanding the Church's ministries on our campus.

Then, in November 2007, The Deacon Board received from the Meadow Creek Christian School Trustees a request to discuss a renewed relationship with Meadow Creek Church. The Deacon Board agreed to that request and began a dialogue regarding the possibility of a new relationship in which the School would come under the ministry of the Church once again.

In prayerfully considering the possibility for the school coming under the ministry of the Church the Deacon Board agreed that certain points needed to be clear from the beginning if such a relationship could be successful and good for both the Church and the School. First, there would need to be one unified vision of ministry which would mean that, like our other ministries, the School would need to strengthen the overall ministry of Meadow Creek Church. We believe that the Church is God's plan to reach the world with His love and grace. The mission of the Church is to be obedient to the Great Commission given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. Within that commission we seek to make disciples and mature them in the faith in ways that glorify God. That is our purpose and must be our priority as a Church. With that in mind, it was clear that if MCCS became a ministry of the Church, it would come under the governance of the Church as an integral, supportive ministry. Based on our experience, we know that it is important that one vision for ministry unites all of the individual ministries of the Church to work together for the cause of Christ whereas. an arrangement involving two organizations with different visions weakens the missions of both. Secondly, since becoming independent MCCS has changed its statement of faith and so, we believed it logical that if the School was to become a ministry of the Church that MCCS would need to adopt the MCC statement of faith once again. A third requirement made by the Deacon board was that, to promote a unified ministry staff the Superintendent should be part of the Pastor's staff and would need to become a member of Meadow Creek Church.

Lastly, because the occupation of a large portion of our campus by the school would cause the Church to be short on space for other ministries, we required a minimal facilities use fee, well below the market rate for leasing space. In this way, the School could partner in support of all the ministries of MCC as it occupied the campus.

After months of good and honest discussion, the Meadow Creek Christian School trustees determined that independence was still best for the School's desired future and decided not to explore becoming a ministry of the Church again and to remain a wholly autonomous, independent Christian school. Based on that decision, the School board moved forward focusing on completing a fund raising and building feasibility study and the creation of a strategic plan.

During discussions that took place early in 2008, the School trustees asked the Church deacon board to consider granting the School a one-year extension to allow time to build, contingent upon a scenario where in the spring of 2009 the School had all its financing in place and was ready to build, would the deacon board consider granting the School a one year extension to allow them the time to build. On that basis, and after much prayer and discussion, the deacon board agreed to extend new terms that would allow the School one additional year on the Church campus. These terms and conditions for a one year extension were then discussed with the MCCS trustees in the fall of 2008.

We awaited communication regarding the School's progress, and in November 2008 the MCCS trustees shared their fund-raising and building feasibility study and strategic plan with the Church Deacon Board. At that meeting the School trustees proposed a multi-year extension under which they would continue to occupy the church campus as an independent school while moving to their new location in phases.

While we are treating the School with grace, the concern of the leadership of the church is that as Meadow Creek Christian School works toward its independent success, while occupying the Church campus, Meadow Creek Church continues to put ministry plans on hold. As leaders responsible for the mission of the Church and the ministry to the community God has placed us in, we believe that we cannot continue to put our vision for expanded ministries on hold for years to come. During this process we have prayed continuously for God's will and guidance and through His leading we have been impressed to be faithful to the fundamental mission of the Church and to move forward with planning for expanded ministry.

With a concern for the Church's ministry and for the School, the Meadow Creek Church Deacon Board has agreed to offer MCCS the opportunity to continue using our facilities for the school year 2009 – 2010 based on previous discussions in the fall of 2008 regarding terms and conditions now laid out in a lease agreement. Even though our current occupancy agreement for MCCS ends in July, 2009, we came to the decision to offer an added year because we believe that one additional year, which will bring the total to six years, will help Meadow Creek Christian School pursue options that will help it succeed. Based on this, lease documents that would allow MCCS to remain on the MCC campus until July 2010 were delivered on March 5th via e-mail to the MCCS trustee chairman. For this lease agreement to become effective, the MCCS trustees will need to approve and execute the lease documents by April 15, 2009. Should the School trustees choose to not effect the lease agreement by April 15th, Meadow Creek Church will obtain complete occupancy of the Church's campus on August 1, 2009.

We ask that you pray that God will bless and will make His will clear for Meadow Creek Christian School.

If you have any questions please feel free to talk with any of the deacons.

Sincerely,
Your Meadow Creek Church Deacon Board