

CASTLETON COMMUNITY CHURCH

DEAR CONGREGATION:

A name is an important part of the identity of any church. Names help clarify the boundaries of who belongs to a body of believers, as well as provide direction for what that church values most. For these reasons, the leadership at College Park Church Castleton has carefully and prayerfully considered a wide range of possible names and has emerged from that process with the proposed name of Castleton Community Church.

HOW WE GOT HERE:

The Name Change Committee consisted of Kristy Blackwell, Roger Brunkow, Marguerite Havard, Chad Jaggard, Tommy Johnston, Gina Landis, Allison Martin, and Carlos Roman. This team was intentionally reflective of the diversity of our membership body, encompassing members from varying stages of life and church backgrounds. The committee invested many hours of group and individual work to evaluate various naming possibilities over a period of several months. During this period, the committee considered every name submitted by the congregation, as well as names generated by the committee.

One clarifying moment for the committee came in a conversation around the word or phrase that best describes our church, as the word “community” kept emerging. The committee felt that our culture of hospitality made the term a natural fit. When this experience was coupled with the write-in results where the third most-frequent submitted term was “community,” the committee began to sense the Lord’s leading.

Further clarity came as the committee discovered a preference for our location to be part of the name. Many of us use “Castleton” as shorthand for the church, which was only reinforced by “Castleton” being the second most submitted term by the congregation (“Church” was the most often submitted term).

Along the way, the committee became convicted that the name should not be tied to our past but should instead allow room for our church’s future. We all love our heritage of both College Park Church and Walnut Grove Chapel, and we as a church have benefited so much from their legacy of faithful ministry. Still, we felt strongly that incorporating parts of either name would be a hindrance for building our new identity as a blended body. Our hope is to continue giving thanks for what God has done through both of these churches even as we form around a new name.

The Castleton elders also considered multiple name options and unanimously agreed that the name Castleton Community Church would be put forward as the proposed name for our church. We believe it reflects our mission to proclaim the gospel of Jesus in the place the Lord has planted us. We also love how it reflects our value of warm hospitality, both toward each other in our fellowship and toward our unsaved neighbors through our evangelism. Throughout this process, we have been reminded continuously that it is the “name that is above every name” that must always receive the glory, and that the label given to this particular body of believers will only be as powerful as how through it we proclaim the name of Jesus Christ. While we have loved being known as College Park Church Castleton, we pray that with the Lord’s help, the church named Castleton Community Church will glorify the name of Jesus for many years to come.

Blessings,
Tommy Johnston