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DATE: October 14, 2023
TO: The Zionsville Great Banquet & Awakening Communities
FROM: Zionsville Great Banquet & Awakening Board of Directors
RE: Randy Laffoon

Dear Zionsville Great Banquet and Awakening community,

It is with very heavy hearts that we share with you the news that our beloved Randy Laffoon passed away unexpectedly, but peacefully, on Thursday night in his home. We mourn with his wife Betty Sue, children Sarah, Mary and Stephen, grandchildren, extended family, and many dear friends.

Randy Laffoon was the father of the Zionsville Great Banquet and Awakening. He attended his first Great Banquet, reluctantly to appease his wife as he told it, in Madisonville, Kentucky and it changed his life. When his job relocated his family to Indiana, he championed the Great Banquet among church leadership at ZPC and was the driving force to plant our Great Banquet community, the first ever offshoot, right here in Zionsville in 1992. He also spearheaded the development of the Awakening which was created originally in Zionsville to meet the needs of our teens. He served as Community Lay Director and Executive Director of the Board for many years, and more than once "renewed his term" to keep the momentum going. When asked how many banquet teams he had served on he humbly just said "lots", a huge understatement to say the least. Randy was a humble man, but he is the one God chose to be responsible for the growth of the Great Banquet movement from one church in Madisonville, Kentucky to Zionsville and ultimately to 35 communities in the United States and internationally in Brazil, with ZGB helping to plant the great majority of them. In Zionsville alone, nearly 5,000 guests have gone through the Great Banquet and over 2,000 sleepers have attended the Awakening. Randy was a shining example of what God can do through one willing disciple. If you benefitted from your Great Banquet or Awakening experience, you have Randy Laffoon to thank.

To know Randy was to love Randy. He blessed this (and many) Great Banquet and Awakening community through his love language of food, always a constant force in the kitchen during banquet weekends, and renowned for his delicious signature dish of biscuits and gravy and grits. He blessed this community with his leadership and dedication to the cause of the Great Banquet, facilitating the way to bring thousands to God's table for a feast of agape love. He blessed this community with his loving heart, warm smile, southern accent, sassy sense of humor and genuine love of all people. He blessed many others at ZPC, Noah's Ark and in the greater community through his service. He was a man of giant faith, and he will be greatly missed.

Details about his funeral arrangements will be shared when they become available. For now, we ask you please keep his precious family in your prayers. If you wish to send them a note, you can address it to Zionsville Presbyterian Church, 4775 West 116th Street, Zionsville, IN 46077.

We are ever grateful for the legacy of Randy Laffoon.

De Colores,

Clay and Karen Barnes
Executive Directors, Zionsville Great Banquet and Awakening Community