



## Welcome to CrossRoads Protestant Community! Fort Leavenworth, KS

### Why a new name? A brief history . . .

A little over a year and a half ago, the General Protestant Congregation's Parish Advisory Council began meeting to discuss the potential for a new name that would better represent our unique community of Christ-followers represented by two worship services (0830 and 1100), a Sunday school program, and neighborhood Bible studies scattered on and off post. Unlike many chapel communities across the Army, the Fort Leavenworth General Protestant community has a unique identity historically, an uncommon sense of belonging, an unquestionable commitment to Biblical truth, a strong foundation of permanent party members, and a lasting vision and mission to disciple believers and non-believers in the way of Jesus.

Considering these aspects of our identity, we agreed that "General Protestant" was no longer a fitting name for our chapel community. The term "General Protestant" can mean many things across Army installations, is usually only associated with one worship service, and in the wake of an evolving theological culture, does not necessarily communicate a commitment to Biblical authority and the Good News of Jesus as our only hope for salvation.

After a couple months of discussion, prayer, and brainstorming, in April 2023 we announced our congregation's new name: "Fort Leavenworth Community Chapel." By God's grace it was an amicable process and received well by student and permanent party members alike. But a few months later, it began to be clear that we had not foreseen some issues with this new name and the process we used to establish it.

Therefore, in order best serve and support the entire Christian

chapel community on post, to not have a name that could be interpreted to mean we were the only chapel congregation on post (oops!) and to better describe who we are and what we are about, the Parish Advisory Council agreed to head back to the drawing board. A committee took a couple months brainstorming, and this past fall the council approved "CrossRoads Protestant Community," or CrossRoads, for short, which was also unanimously approved by both the installation chaplain leadership and the Garrison Commander.

Why CrossRoads? Well, in addition to what I've already shared, we also discussed how our chapel community here on Ft. Leavenworth not only represents a geographical cross-roads to the American West, but also a strategic cross-roads from which followers of Jesus are sent all over the world. In addition to this, at many different points in their careers our members come here and face a variety of personal and professional "cross-roads:" preparing to become field grade staff officers, to take command once or twice, or to retire. And in the midst of that, many also face "cross-roads" in their spiritual growth, in their marriages, as parents of children who are preparing to begin their own lives, and in the struggle of career transition.

But above all, we see our community as one called to help one another seek Jesus at the cross-roads of our lives, because he met us fully on the cross, to open to us the way (the "road") to life with him, now and forever. In Jeremiah 6:16, the LORD says, "You are standing at the crossroads. So, consider your path. Ask where the old, reliable paths are. Ask where the path is that leads to blessing and follow it. If you do, you will find rest for your souls." (NET). Jesus *is* the path, the way that leads to blessing and rest for our souls, and we want to always meet him there.

So as of today, January 21, 2024, we *are* CrossRoads Protestant Community. It is our vision to glorify God by bringing in, building up, and sending out disciples of Jesus to minister effectively around the world for the sake of His kingdom. We are excited about our name, the calling God has placed on this community, and you being a part of it!

Welcome home to CrossRoads!  
Chaplain Josh Grimes, Pastor