

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Greensboro, North Carolina
CHURCH CONFERENCE
Sunday, May 24, 2019

AGENDA

MINUTES

Moderator and Clerk

Minutes for the March Church Conference were prepared by our Church Clerk, Nancy Culclasure, and are on file in the church office.

No meetings were held in March or April due to closure of the church during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This Church Conference was held as a virtual conference with the Membership joining as a group via Zoom. Over 50 members were virtually present.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Matt Messick, Moderator

Members Joined by Baptism

Della Sherouse (3/8)
Eloise White (5/10)

Members Transferred

Zach Riddleberger (Ardmore Baptist Church)

Members Deceased

Maxine Crews
Lib Murray
Jim Deere
Margaret Wilson
Catherine Tate
Clyde Mitchell
Varnell Moore
Elise Berkley
Tom Boyce

Motion 1 – To affirm these membership actions

This Motion has been affirmed by the Deacons.

The Congregation affirmed the Motion.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Cathy Wells, Finance Chair

The Financial Report for March and April was presented by Scott North, Financial Administrator. Mr. North presented an overview of the financial health of FBC over the last 2 months with a presentation of our giving and expenses for March and April via screen shot comparison of March 2019 and 2020, and April 2020 receipts and expenses.

Mr. North clarified that while the current receipts are down, the receipts follow a similar pattern of giving displayed in the last fiscal year despite the current health crisis.

He also noted that the closing of the Weekday School increased the deficit for FBC.

Additional vision of FBC's fiscal health was addressed in a review of the FBC Endowments which did decline. This reduction is not unanticipated given the volatility of the financial market in past weeks, and it is expected that May's totals will reflect change based on market changes.

(See Summary Financial Reports FBC March 2020, and FBC April 2020; FBC Revenue & Expense Summary Budget Only Sheet March 2020; FBC Balance Sheet of All Funds March 2020; FBC Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets; FBC Designated & Restricted Accounts MTD January to March 2020)

Cathy Wells, Chair of the Finance Committee, continued the presentation of the Financial Report for March and April 2019 with 2 motions on behalf of the Missions Committee and the Finance Committee:

As a response to the growing needs of our community, FBC, using seed money from The Great Commission Fund has initiated a fund to help provide immediate relief to our community mission partners and the wider needs of the community. With the goal of helping to meet and alleviate those needs, a call went out to the Congregation. At this time, we have collected over 17,000.00 of which the Missions Committee has disbursed. 7700.00. Recipients were our 15 mission partners with additional disbursements going to Mustard Seed Clinic, Faith Action International, GSO Housing Authority. These organizations represent the needs of housing and food. It is apparent that we need a means to meet these growing needs to provide quick, flexible funding during this time of crisis. And as a result, Ms. Well presented a motion to the Congregation:

Motion 2 – To establish a COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund

This Motion has been approved by the Missions Committee, the Finance Committee and the Deacons.

The Congregation approved the Motion.

A request from another of our mission partners, NC Baptist Children's Home, was presented:

Motion 3— To authorize the use of 3000.00 from New Missions Church Starts/Other Missions (Account 2001) for Children's Home to assist in the purchase of a van for Guatemala Mission.

This Motion has been approved by the Missions Committee, the Deacons and the Finance Committee.

The Congregation approved the Motion.

Also to be discussed as a consideration of the Finance Committee is the consideration of the PPP Loan. It will be addressed under New Business.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Laura Lomax, Personnel Chair

The Deacons voted to continue the church building closure in accordance with the Governor's orders and voted to keep the building closed until the next Deacons' Meeting.

Ministerial and Administrative Staff have been working remotely to continue to create mid-week and Sunday worship services. Our Zoom meetings have helped to keep us informed and connected.

Personnel will meet to determine how the custodial staff and certain administrative staff who have not been able to return to the building will be able to return safely by establishing protocols for masking and distancing for their safety as they perform their duties. Also, protocols for the cleaning of the Church will be established.

Newsletters have not been published, but regular e-mails or paper mailings have been sent. A June newsletter will be sent. During our time of social distancing, the newsletter will be bi-monthly, but will move forward with newsletters and mailings as we are able to reconvene as a staff.

Staff salaries have continued to be paid during this time, and details will be discussed with the presentation of the PPP loan.

DEACON REPORT

Brad Wall, Deacon Chair

Mr. Wall shared the several of initiatives supported by the Diaconate:

Deacons have continued to meet remotely on a monthly basis. During this time the Deacons and have continued to reach out to the church community and to the Homebound during this time.

All of the Standing Committees have continued to meet during this time including Finance, Missions, Personnel, Building and Grounds, and the Christian Assistance Fund.

The Deacons have formed a COVID-19 Task Force made up of 6 deacons and 3 ministers who have been instrumental in connecting the ministers and lay ministers with the needs of the membership. The members of the Task Force are: Janice Newsome, Debbie Hunnycutt, Dave Worsley, Adam Barnes, Seth Hix, Brad Wall, Courtney Willis, Doug Vancil and Alan Sherouse.

This group has met twice weekly for the last 10 weeks considering needs of the Church such as what is going well, what needs work and what is next.

Mr. Wall asked Pastor Alan Sherouse to add to the discussion.

Mr. Sherouse suggested that while the "building is closed, the Church is open." He added that as we are looking at when will we return to an in-person gathering, we anticipate that this will be a phased in process with guidance from the state's health considerations. We have consulted CBF denominational leadership for guidance. He continued stating that as we move to Phase 2, churches

and houses of worship will be able to meet, but questions of not when can we meet, but rather when can we meet safely. Our decisions will be First Baptist specific. We will focus on safety, effectiveness, inclusivity. Just as we will move in stages with staff's return to the building, the Congregation's return will be in stages: outdoor, modified indoor, and finally, a new normal.

Deacon Chair Wall continued to share revisions in church programing that have resulted from the current COVID-19 shut down:

Some regular activities like VBS will be virtual and Passport has been cancelled. Activities such as the scheduled summer mission trip will be postponed.

The Committee on Committees who are charged with securing replacements for standing committees are in a holding pattern. This will necessitate an extension of terms for individuals who would rotate off in September.

Other activities continue:

At request by Sharpe Road Baptist Church for assistance from the Carter Trust for 2500.00 to assist with the amelioration of flooding issues to basement is under review. The decision of the Carter Trust will be reported at a later date.

Funerals are being held, but are under a limited attendance requirement—family only. Services of Remembrance will be scheduled for a time when a wider attendance is possible.

The Strategic Planning Committee has paused while the COVID Crisis Team is meeting.

Pastor Alan Sherouse emphasized that ministerial staff is at work and is available for support in meeting the on-going needs of the Congregation.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion brought by Personnel, Finance and Deacons to accept the Paycheck Protection Program and to utilize the money with the intent of meeting the requirements for forgivability.

Deacon Chair Wall, Finance Chair Cathy Wells, Personnel Chair Laura Lomax, Church Administrator Scott North and Pastor Alan Sherouse presented information about the CARES Act and the PPP Loan. Information was made in the form of a FAQ about the process, the expectations of institutions accepting the PPP, the use of the monies by FBC and concerns about the acceptance of the loan and the values of FBC. (See PPP FAQ—included the questions gleaned from two Zoom meetings, letters, and emails.)

The Congregation approved the Motion.

Summary of Committees votes on motion:

Personnel Committee approved the motion unanimously.

Finance Committee approved the motion 12-2.

Deacons Committee approved the motion 28-1.

Congregational Vote Analysis

160 online votes: 148 – Yes 12 – No

123 paper ballots: 100 – Yes 18 – No 5 – Did not indicate choice

COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT BY THE PASTOR

Alan Sherouse

In his concluding remarks, Pastor Sherouse suggested that 2 questions are still evolving: building occupations, when and how.

FBC will continue to meet virtually online throughout the week and on Sunday.

MOTION 1

Subject of Motion	Membership Matters
Date Approved by Church	May 24, 2020
Diaconate Chairperson	Brad Wall
Church Clerk	Nancy Culclasure
Motion Made by:	Brad Wall, Diaconate Chairperson

Motion 1 on behalf of the Diaconate to affirm the following membership actions:

Members Joined by Baptism

Della Sherouse (3/8)

Eloise White (5/10)

Members Transferred

Zach Riddleberger (Ardmore Baptist Church)

Members Deceased

Maxine Crews

Lib Murray

Jim Deere

Margaret Wilson

Catherine Tate

Clyde Mitchell

Varnell Moore

Elise Berkley

Tom Boyce

The Motion was affirmed by the Congregation.

MOTION 2

Subject of Motion	Establishing COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund
Date Approved by Church	May 24, 2020
Diaconate Chairperson	Brad Wall
Church Clerk	Nancy Culclasure
Motion Made by:	Cathy Wells, Finance Chairperson

Motion 2 –To establish a COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund.

This Motion has been approved by the Missions Committee, the Finance Committee and the Deacons.

The Motion was approved by the Congregation.

MOTION 3

Subject of Motion Authorization of funds to assist in purchasing a van by the NC Baptist Children's Home.

Date Approved by Church May 24, 2020

Diaconate Chairperson Brad Wall

Church Clerk Nancy Culclasure

Motion Made by: Cathy Wells, Finance Chairperson

Motion 3— To authorize the use of 3000.00 from New Missions Church Starts/Other Missions (Account 2001) for Children's Home to assist in the purchase of a van for Guatemala Mission.

This Motion has been approved by the Missions Committee, the Finance Committee and the Deacons.

The Motion was approved by the Congregation.

MOTION 4

Subject of Motion	Authorization of acceptance of the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) Loan under the requirements needed for forgivability.
Date Approved by Church	May 24, 2020
Diaconate Chairperson	Brad Wall
Church Clerk	Nancy Culclasure
Motion Made by:	Cathy Wells, Finance Chairperson

Motion 4— To accept the Paycheck Protection Program and to utilize the money with the intent of meeting the requirements for forgivability.

This Motion has been approved by the Personnel Committee, the Finance Committee and the Deacons.

The Motion was approved by the Congregation.