

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO, NC
CHURCH CONFERENCE
Sunday, October 10, 2021

AGENDA

MINUTES

Moderator and Clerk

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Becky Starnes, Moderator

Members Joined by Statement

Michael Risotti (06/13)
Ruth Elliott (07/18)
Gary Smith (08/29)
Dale Allison (09/26)
Nancy Allison (09/26)

Members Lettered Out

Carolyn Lee Caviness Siler (09/16) Groometown Baptist Church
Davis Bennett (09/27) Lawndale Baptist Church
Susan Bennett (09/27) Lawndale Baptist Church
D.C. Thompson (09/27) Lawndale Baptist Church
Shirley Thompson (09/27) Lawndale Baptist Church

Members Deceased, June–September 2021

Lawrence Glisson (06/07)
Jack Echerd (06/10)
Margaret Eckelman (06/28)
W.P. “Win” Rose (06/28)
Frances Bolen (07/03)
Edith Edmonds (07/09)
Frances Fogelman (07/14)
Ward Burch (07/11)
Helen Stinson (07/26)
Brian Deer (07/28)
Linda Gleason (07/31)
Bob Wiggins (08/03)
Nellie Blance Hodge (08/07)
Willie Pitts (08/25)
Betsy McLean (09/09)

The membership actions of the First Baptist Church for June, July, August, and September were received and affirmed by the Congregation.

FINANCIAL REPORT *Scott North, Church Administrator and Jimmy Kessler, Finance Chair*

The financial month of September 2021 was strong, exceeding the receipts of the same time last year, although we are still behind our anticipated budgeted receipts. However, the anticipated budgeted expenses are also lower than anticipated.

Additionally, the expenses of the FBC Weekday School are less than they were at the same time in 2020. It is expected that enrollment will continue to increase, and the director, Autumn Culbreth, has continued to implement cost saving measures.

The PPP Loan, for which FBC applied and was approved in 2020, has been completely forgiven. And, as agreed by the Congregation with our acceptance of these funds, any monies that exceeded the anticipated needs for the operation of the Church, including salaries, operating expenses and maintenance, would be allocated to Missions.

Of the original PPP Loan of \$260,000.00 which was held in the Operating account, \$88,000 remains. With the approval of the Finance Committee and the Board of Deacons, \$50,000 will be allocated from the Operating account to the Capital Reserves/Major Maintenance account, and \$38,000 will be allocated to the Missions Committee.

MOTION comes on behalf of the Finance Committee and has been approved by the Diaconate to allocate \$50,000 from the Operating account to the Capital Reserves/Major Maintenance Account, and to allocate and \$38,000 to the Missions Account

The Motion was approved.

For information:

Associated Campus Ministries (ACM) at UNCG was established in 1990's unifying all the on-campus religious ministries in one building, including the Baptist Campus Ministry. The Baptist Campus Ministry was under the direction of the NC Baptist State Convention. At that time, First Baptist Church was a cooperating member of the NC BSC. While FBC has since disassociated with the NC BSC, FBC continued its affiliation with the Baptist Campus Ministry and the ACM.

At the time of the unification of the UNCG campus ministries as the ACM, funding was sought to construct the ACM building. The primary contribution of \$ 690,000.00 came from the estate of Mable Z. Smith, a former First Baptist member. When the building was dedicated, it was given the name the Mable Z. Smith Center.

More recently, the Baptist State Convention has announced its decision to disassociate from the ACM, which includes removing its endowment at a value of \$417,000.00. Because of the funds initially received from the Mable Smith Estate, the BSC has asked if FBC would like to receive half of the stake in the \$417,000 endowment.

Upon the withdrawal of the BSC, and FBC's acceptance of responsibility of half of the remaining endowment being held by the ACM, FBC's status in relationship with the ACM would change. FBC would become a formal partner in the corporation with all the advantages and obligations, eligible to hold additional designated seats on the Board of Directors and have no further financial obligations until 2023 when we would assume monthly dues, currently \$900.00 per month, allowing us to maintain a Baptist presence.

In summary, for no additional investment until 2023, and then with manageable fee, FBC can become more active stakeholders in ACM, be able to facilitate a Baptist presence on the UNCG campus and be positioned to have a stake in what may be next for Baptist life on the UNCG campus.

As the Deacons have recommended, the Finance Committee will continue to further evaluate the terms of this membership.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Scott Culclasure, Personnel Committee Member

Scott Culclasure shared the following information related to staffing.

The FBC Personnel Committee received with regret but also with gratitude Christina McCord's resignation as FBC Minister to Children and Families, thanking her for her dedication and creativity.

Christina's service to the Church will be celebrated on Sunday, October 31. Church members are encouraged to give to a love offering, with gifts made in the usual channels and checks labeled "Love Offering" on the memo line.

The Personnel Committee is working with Christina on interim arrangements, and we will share with Congregation prior to her departure.

Church members, and especially parents and anyone invested in Children's Ministry is invited to a conversation with Alan during the Sunday school hour next Sunday, October 17, as we begin to frame the upcoming search to fill this position.

Other staffing updates:

This summer, Personnel met with Baker Lawrimore, and along with Doug and Terri Vancil, reviewing Baker's year of Interim Director of Youth and Children's Music and have arranged with Baker to remove the "interim" from his work for the remainder of Doug and Terri's ministry. We are grateful for Baker and his good work and the imagination and effort he has shown during this pandemic year.

The committee has also extended the arrangement with Jeff Bennett as Interim Homebound Minister. The committee will be working with Senior Adult Council and others on long term planning for Senior Adult Ministry once we have called our new Associate Pastor of Missions

The Search Committee for the Associate Pastor for Missions and Community Outreach, comprised of Phil Barbee, Margaret Crawford, Molly Lyle, Margaret McCracken, Catherine Scott-Little, Helen

Vaughan and Scott Culclasure, Chairman, is nearing the completion of the search, having met in person with four candidates after reviewing more than twenty résumés and follow-up questionnaires and conducting a series of Zoom interviews. The committee's work is now completed and a recommendation has been presented to the Personnel Committee, which was accepted. The recommendation will be presented to the Deacons at their November meeting.

The Committee will present the candidate for a call to the congregation on Sunday, November 14. Additional details will follow, but we are planning for a morning greeting followed by a Sunday School hour question-and-answer session. The candidate will participate in the worship service that morning which will include the sharing of the candidate's faith story.

A special call congregational meeting for the purpose of issuing a call will be held immediately following the worship service. A welcoming reception on the lawn will conclude the morning's activities.

Finally, the committee reminded the membership that Alan Sherouse's sabbatical will now occur in the summer of 2022, having been delayed a year by the pandemic.

DEACON REPORT

Debbie Huneycutt, Deacon Chairwoman

Debbie Huneycutt welcomed the new Deacons as they begin their term of service: Cheryl Angel, Darlene Biffle, Megan Kessler, Graham Lyles, Tammy Miller, Ben Norman, Mary Petriskie, Beth Shaffer, Ryan Shiveley, Gail Wager, Joe White, and Richard Wiley.

Chairwoman Huneycutt thanked the Deacons who have rotated off the diaconate but whose service continues as members on the Committee on Committee. Special recognition was extended to Brad Wall, whose chairmanship was extended an additional as a result of the pandemic's impact. Mr. Wall's calm leadership, wisdom, and dedication were invaluable to our church community. Huneycutt noted that today was our first in-person church conference since March 2020.

The primary goal of the deacons for the coming year is to work alongside the pastors and the church family to share to our community the love of God. Be looking for communications from the deacons next month.

The COVID Task Force, consisting of Wall, Adam Barnes, Seth Hix, Janice Newsom, Dave Worsley, Courtney Willis, Dave Worsley, Alan Sherouse, and Doug Vancil, will continue to meet. Three of the members will rotate off the committee and with new members named at the next church conference.

Communications with the membership will continue with weekly e-news and newsletters made available each quarter. Chairwoman also described the variety of ways in which the congregation is now able to gather and to in-person.

COVID TASK FORCE REPORT

Brad Wall, Outgoing Deacon Chairman

Mr. Wall reviewed the meetings of the Task Force, which immediately recognized that the church's By-Laws do not allow for remote meeting for the purpose of conducting congregational business. Knowing that the online church conferences conducted since March 2020 do not fit within the current By-Laws, a subcommittee was formed to consider amendments that would allow for virtual meetings for church conferences, standing committees, and worship services in the event of future emergencies. Two decisions were reached: 1) to ratify all actions taken at the virtual church conferences since March 2020, and 2) to recommend a series of By-Laws amendments to cover future contingencies.

An updated By-Laws packet will be emailed to the membership that states how a decision regarding an emergency situation that requires virtual meetings is reached, how voting terms are defined, and what attendance is required for decisions to be made. A vote to ratify these amendments will be conducted at the December church conference.

Questions about the proposed revisions can be directed to Mr. Wall, Shannon Childs, Matt Messick, Janice Newsome, Dave Worsley, Robb Wells, and Alan Sherouse.

On behalf of the Task Force and with the approval of the Diaconate, Mr. Wall brought the following motion:

MOTION comes on behalf of the Diaconate to ratify the approved motions and business carried on at church conferences during the interim period of March 2020 through June 2021.

The motion was approved.

COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT BY THE PASTOR

Alan Sherouse

The pastor recognized that the deacons have honored Brad Wall's leadership with the purchase of Adirondack chairs for the church lawn. As a personal expression of his appreciation, Pastor Sherouse also presented Mr. Wall with artwork by Jan Richardson.

The meeting closed with prayer.