

# MINUTES OF THE CHURCH CONFERENCE OF THE

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

MAY 26, 2021

This meeting was opened at 5:32pm with a brief prayer by Matt Bullard.

### Call to Order

Matt Bullard brought the May 26<sup>th</sup> 2021 conference to order and opened it with a prayer at 5:32pm.

### Standing Committee Reports

**Finance Committee:** Chair Matt Strickland presented the report. For April we had revenues of \$76,021.78 and expenses of \$121,633.63 for a loss of \$45,611.85. Year-to-date revenue is \$504,766.54 and expenses are \$410,490.54 for a surplus of \$94,276.00. Matt spoke with Wayne Hager, Dr. Chapman, and the Finance Committee about the loss. This is a normal dip we have every year. Finance will be keeping an eye on this. Revenue for 2021 is below 2020, but with 2021 expenses also lower than 2020, we're \$16,000 better off than last year. The surplus carryover from previous years is \$139,303.46; for a combined surplus of \$233,579.46. We're still in a strong cash position and should be able to weather this dip.

Finance has received several requests from the Properties Committee. \$1,433.25 was requested to fix the can lights in the sanctuary. The can lights were faulty, so we had those fixed. Properties also requested substantial funds for painting and repairs in the Clothing Ministry. Finance also approved a cost overrun of \$3,880. The painting and repairs look very good. Thanks to Properties Committee and Wayne Hager for getting this done.

Finance recommended that first-quarter mission payments of \$22,389.25 be made, and they were.

Finance Committee affirms that there's adequate funds for the upcoming moving expenses of the Music Minister. Church Council has approved a grant for an art installation project, which will have some annual costs. Finance Committee and deacons are recommending the addition of an additional line item of \$2,000 for installation and commissioning of art.

### Business

The March 24, 2021 minutes were approved.

At our last church conference on March 24, 2021, church membership was 1334. With the death of Jeff Elliott on March 27<sup>th</sup>, membership as of May 26, 2021 is 1333.

### More Committee Reports

**Music Minister Search Committee:** JD Rhodes, chairperson of the Music Minister Search Committee, said we will get three separate bids to move Warren and Maureen Howell from Kentucky. A motion came from the committee to approve moving expenses for Howells. Motion passed.

**Grant and Budget Request:** Jeff Hobart, asked for approval of the request to the Capital Campaign Mission Fund, and some additional funding, for an art project. The committee is made up of Jeff Hobart, Nancye Gaj, Mary Hauser, and Chuck Underwood.

## Why an art project?

- To identify FBC to our growing downtown community.
- To allow FBC to proclaim the identity, purpose, and beliefs of our church.
- To allow FBC to reach out to the art community to open the doors to say we're a welcoming church.
- Open the doors to possibly new collaborations and relationships with visual art organizations.
- Encourage and support the involvement of our church members in more creative endeavors through our church.

The banner will be located on the wall about 30 feet above where the vans are parked. It will be 30' x 12' and vinyl (billboard material). There similar banners above some stores in the Village District. To hold the banner, you would need a frame, permanently attached to the wall, with hooks or grommets for attaching the banner. We want it to be eye catching, convey a message, and be tastefully done. If approved, an advisory group will be selected to oversee selecting and installed the banners. We would ask local artists to submit their resumes, qualifications, and portfolios for consideration. The advisory group along with the staff would select the finalist. The artist would be commissioned to create a work to be copied onto a banner and installed. Once installed the artist would receive \$1000. The artist retains the artwork, but we would retain the ability to use the image. We've talked with several art organizations including Triangle ArtWorks, Visual Art Exchange, and United Arts Council. Frame (\$5135), printing and installation of the banner (\$800), and the \$1000 paid to the artist would come to a total cost of \$6,935. The City of Raleigh permits temporary artwork—artwork that can be taken down or changed out. A new banner would cost about \$3000—a \$1000 to the artist and a little over \$2000 to remove the old banner and print and install the new banner.

A long discussion ensued about project. We hope to have the first banner installed about six months after forming the advisory board. The art just needs to be proportional, so it can be blown up to the desired size. The banner will be made with a long-lasting material. We plan to refresh image from time-to-time. The banners we put up last year have drawn interest. Questions/concerns were raised about visibility of banners from passing traffic, the dumpsters and vans being distracting, ... It was noted that nothing on that side of the church identifies the church.

A motion was made to table the proposal and seconded. It failed to pass. Motion to approve the grant of \$5,000 and the addition of a \$2,000 budget line item passed.

There is a lengthy and thoughtful document on the committee's discussion and thoughts that will be shared with Wayne Hager for posting on our church website. A link to the document will be put in the Rose Window and Leah Reed will write an article.

*Facilities/Visioning:* Mary Nash Rusher—The Dream Team—Focusing hard on discerning who it is that God is calling us to be, and how we can best engage the congregation in the conversation. A lot of what the team is doing is information gathering. We have talked with other churches who have been thinking about this question. For some churches it is about how to stay alive. For other churches is an inquiry about wanting to be more of an active player, almost always in a downtown setting. How to bring community into their church? How to take their church out into the community? The discussion involves the building, but it's really about who we as a church want to be. Two years ago, Campbell Law School and Campbell University talked with us about parking. The COVID pause has resulted in Campbell telling us they are still interested in discussing collaborating on using our space. But they are no longer interested as a co-developer. They are not able to put a lot of money into a building that would be a parking deck. It is freeing for us. Talking with Center for Congregational Health about meaningful ways to move forward to engage the congregation in this conversation. Not expecting Campbell's position to change soon.

**Properties Committee:** Derek Foster noted that the can lights in sanctuary must be fixed from time-to-time as they wear out. Cost overages on Clothing Ministry were due to overlooking painting the area going to the back stairs that lead up to the sanctuary. Sunrise Construction also painted two front doors to the sanctuary and an exterior door to the Clothing Ministry. They are wooden doors that need to be repainted occasionally. \$800 for painting those three doors. We had a flooding issue on Palm Sunday. Heavy rains flooded the streets, which due to some drainage issues, resulted in water going into an electrical vault and conduit. To fix things power had to be turned off to the building. \$2784.90 was spent on these repairs. Hopefully we have solved that flooding issue. The city has also finally addressed the street drainage problems, which should help. We are still getting several estimates on repairs to the front steps. Three-fold project:

1. Fixing the crumbling stones, for safety.
2. The porous steps allow water to seep, sometimes into the Clothing Ministry. Want to waterproof.
3. Aesthetics is also an issue. There are three or four stone types with some concrete mixed in. We'll try to make it look more uniform.

Hopefully we'll have a proposal by the end of the summer.

**Nominating Committee:** Margaret Barham, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented Sunday School vacant positions.

### **Adult Sunday School**

SS Director: Holly Ivel

Brewer Johnson: Francis Brooks, contact person; Susan Kimball, Nancy Philips, and Brenda Mullins teachers

Community Table: unsure of their status, but Emily Johnson is the contact person

Everett Miller Friendship Class: Brenda Snead, contact person

Formations: Maria Childrey contact person, Rebecca Sasser teacher

Grains of Sand: Jeff Mercer contact person

John Hiott Fellowship: Linville Roach contact person

Journey: Jen Foster contact person, Austin Conners, Ann Bullard, and Robert Ponton as teachers

Pathfinders: Chuck Nichols and Hayden James as teachers, Dawn Raynor as substitute

Sharing Thoughts: Debbie and Royce Willmschen

Scriptural Serendipity: John Shell and Tara Mann as contacts

Unity: Randy Tucker contact person

Wilderness: Jessica Helms teacher

### **Youth Sunday School**

SS director: Karen Poteat

6<sup>th</sup> grade: Margaret Barham and Dennis Ellis

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade: JD Rhodes and Kimberly Taylor

9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, which will likely be combined: Mary Nash Rusher, Chuck Underwood, Alison Strickland, and Matt Strickland

### **Preschool and Children**

Preschool directors: Myra Brickell and Shirley Hobson

Babies and crawlers: John Hobson and Melanie Stahmer

Toddlers: Mike Dare, Nancy Gaj first semester, Marianna Burnette second semester

Twos and threes: Diane Ellis, Andy Archer, Laura Archer

Pre-kindergarten: Charles Gale, two open slots

## Grade School

Meg Dare, director, reported that we have three slots filled for the 2021-2022 school year. 1st-2nd: Robin Willis and Divine Kumah, one open slot. 3rd-5th: Lynn Loomis, Ryan Willis, and Derek Foster.

Nominating is recruiting for at least three more slots. It has been a struggle to fill positions for several years, with Lynn Lingafelt even having to teach a class. If we can't fill these slots, we may have to revisit how we do Sunday School.

Positions unanimously confirmed.

## Food Trailer Ministry

Rebecca Sasser from Community Ministries reported on the Food Trailer Ministry. FBC gets 20% of the profits from private events and 40% of the profits from lunch. From January 1 through March 31, FBC received \$674.85 from private events and \$153.08 from lunch sales, for a total of \$827.93. That money was used to pay for free meals to members of the community. Helen Wright Center meal dates are February, June 1, July 1, August 5, September 2, and October 1; with about 20 meals each time.

The Clothing Ministry team is working on feeding the clients when they return. Hopefully the profits and FBC's portion will increase as COVID restrictions are lifted.

EMS meals came from a special offering totaling \$1245, used for three feedings.

## Trustees

A unanimous recommendation comes from the Trustees.

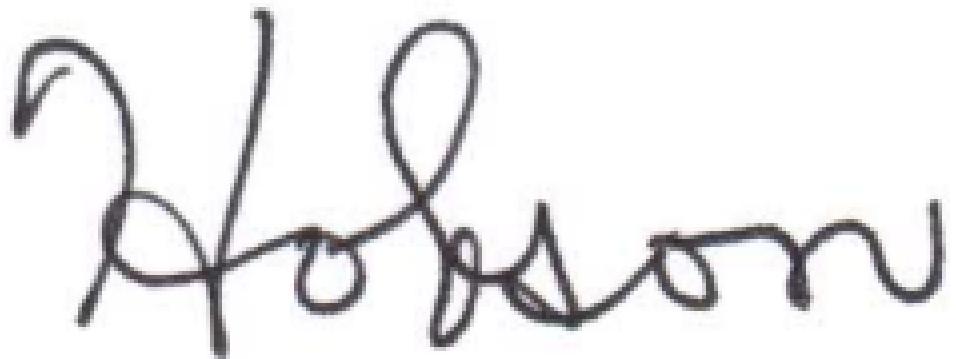
Robert Henry Lewis died 12/25/2015 and left a generous gift to FBC. Half was left to the maintenance endowment fund and the other half to the Capital Campaign. The first distribution came in after the Capital Campaign had ended. Church conference in December 2016 voted to have additional gifts to the Capital Campaign to be split evenly between the Capital Repair and Replacement Account and Twenty-First Century Capital Campaign Surplus for Missions Account. Tom Childrey, acting as spokesperson for the Lewis family, requested that the initial \$500,000 be split with \$250,000 to the maintenance fund and \$250,000 to create a music endowment fund in Bob's name. The final portion has come in and slightly exceeds \$500,000. The family has requested these funds go to Day Mission Fund. The conference approved this request.

Dr. Chris Chapman gave some remarks. We're phasing back into things, including returning to in-person worship. We're looking at returning to in-person Sunday School in phases, both for adult and children. We are talking through things with the Risk Management Committee, chaired by Ron Maness and including Sam Ewell, John Baldwin, Hollis Yelverton, and Alice Marshbanks. We'll have all the info in print soon. Please continue to wear masks inside in all common spaces, particularly since we have unvaccinated children, youth, and adults. Classes, if comfortable, may return in June. Classes may choose whether to use masks in their classrooms. We will also renew the bus ministry. Vaccinated choir members can rehearse and sing without a mask. We're incredibly grateful for this team. There's still much to be worked out and decided. Lynn Lingafelt is working with children and Michael Hood with youth on returning to in-person activities. We're going to be hybrid for a while. We need to be mindful of the potential to become fragmented.

Matt Bullard encouraged us to contact anyone who presented or him with questions or further discussion, since we cannot mill around after the meeting to discuss things.

Dr. Chapman closed conference with prayer. Ended at 6:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, rounded loop for the 'J' and a smaller loop for the 'n'. The 'o' is a simple vertical stroke.A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Al Johnson". The signature is cursive and includes a small 'A' at the beginning. The 'l' in "Johnson" has a vertical line extending upwards from the main loop.

Church Clerk

Church Conference  
Wednesday, May 26, 2021  
5:30 pm

1. Approval of the minutes of March Church Conference
2. Changes in the church roll
3. Reports
  - a. Properties – Derek Foster
  - b. Art Project – Jeff Hobart
  - c. Finance – Matt Strickland
  - d. Nominating – Margaret Barham
  - e. Food Trailer Ministry – Rebecca Sasser
  - f. Dream team – Mary Nash Rusher
4. Trustees' recommendation regarding Robert Lewis bequest
5. Closing – Chris Chapman



# *First Baptist Church*

99 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

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(919) 832-4485 ♦ Fax (919) 832-6726 ♦ [www.fbcraleigh.org](http://www.fbcraleigh.org)

## CHANGES IN CHURCH ROLL **Church Conference** **May 26, 2021**

**Death:** **Jeff Elliott**, 22 West Grove Point Drive, Garner, NC 27527, died on Saturday, March 27, 2021.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>3/24/21</b>	<b>1334</b>
Members Received		
Transfers		
Deaths	1	
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>5/26/21</b>	<b>1333</b>









Date : 05/08/2021

Time : 12:01:05 PM

First Baptist Church

Revenues & Expenses - FBC RAL 2021\*\* DETAILED

Fund: CONTRI-GEN FUND

January to April 2021

Page : 5

Accounts	January Actual (This Year)	February Actual (This Year)	March Actual (This Year)	April Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)	Annual Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget/Actual (This Year)	Annual Budget Remaining (This Year)	% of Annual Budget Used (This Year)
006683 - BULLETIN COVERS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$466.68	\$1,400.00	0.00 %
006684 - CONTINGENCY (PASTOR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$166.68	\$500.00	0.00 %
<b>Total OFFICE EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$3,434.79</b>	<b>\$779.50</b>	<b>\$3,518.62</b>	<b>\$6,875.95</b>	<b>\$14,608.86</b>	<b>\$11,682.32</b>	<b>\$42,800.00</b>	<b>(\$342.18)</b>	<b>\$28,191.14</b>	<b>34.13 %</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$98,152.85</b>	<b>\$90,742.13</b>	<b>\$99,961.93</b>	<b>\$121,633.63</b>	<b>\$410,490.54</b>	<b>\$488,427.15</b>	<b>\$1,452,080.00</b>	<b>\$73,536.06</b>	<b>\$1,041,589.46</b>	<b>28.27 %</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$97,771.80</b>	<b>\$42,607.01</b>	<b>(\$490.96)</b>	<b>(\$45,611.85)</b>	<b>\$94,276.00</b>	<b>\$77,963.32</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$94,275.92</b>	<b>(\$94,276.00)</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>