

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH CONFERENCE OF THE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Call to Order

Matt Bullard brought the November 17th 2021 conference to order.

Business

The October 27th minutes were approved. Church membership was 1330 at that conference. Lost to death was Marion Johnson on October 28th. Our membership is now 1329.

Standing Committee Reports

Dream Team: Chair Mary Nash Rusher gave the report. We had a session last week with four community members: Brian Ralph, Peace University President; Tasha Smith, a social worker at Olds Elementary School and Washington Elementary School; Emily Sexton, owner of Flourish Market; and Yvette Holmes, CEO of Southeast Raleigh Promise. We asked this group, from their perspective, what was the greatest need in our community. Tasha was focused on the needs of children—daily needs of food, clothing, shelter, mentoring, companionship, ...; partnering with other groups. Dr. Ralph gave us some interesting statistics on their student population; and how important higher education is. Emily shared her mental health journey and pointed out the many mental health needs she sees in many people around us. Yvette said affordable housing was needed, not just a place to sleep but also a safe place to be and have access to services. We followed this up with the question of how a place like this could help. They were drooling over having this kind of space that people could come to. Tasha focused on after-school programs, mentoring, tutoring, and access to WiFi. Dr. Ralph talked about child-care. Yvette also focused on housing and services for houses. Emily reminded us of our economic power, that the way we spend our dollars can be as helpful to people in need as what we give away for free. Rose Window has a summary of our first session together. Future Rose Windows will have more summaries. On Wednesday December 8th will we have another group exercise with the Center for Congregational Health about mapping our skills and talents.

Properties Committee: Chair Derek Foster gave the report. Cooling tower work for \$6,098.38. Replaced a valve on a chiller to pass inspection for \$2,532.09. Painting in the preschool suite is almost done and will be completed at Thanksgiving. The part for the air handler didn't fit, so we're waiting on a new part. The new tables and playground equipment haven't arrived yet. Still awaiting an updated estimate from the acoustics company. Followed up with both companies about their front steps repair estimates and the large differences in their estimates. Have ruled out the granite option because it's simply too expensive for our maintenance budget. Ran both options by Don Kline and he's confident with the remaining contractor. They would replace the top landing and any broken steps with concrete dyed to match the existing steps. Optimistically we think the project could be done by Easter. We're concerned about the stability, so we'll have a structural engineer review things at the same time. We expect additional costs due to unknowns with our 150-year-old steps and some items outside the scope of this project. We are hoping for contract proposals at our next conference.

Finance Committee: Chair Matt Strickland gave the report. Revenues for October were \$73,036.45 and expenses were \$127,797.38, resulting in a loss for the month of \$54,760.93. Expenses were up to due to full staffing and third-quarter missions payments. Year-to-date revenues are \$1,051,630.84 and expenses are \$1,099,286.03 for a deficit of \$47,655.19. This combined with the carryover from previous years of \$139,719.96 gives us \$92,064.77 in

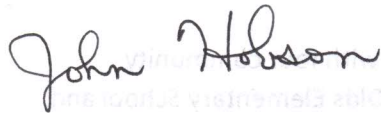
cash. Our cash surplus (including carryover) ballooned to almost \$280,000 in the first quarter. Finances are a bit lower than previous Octobers, but the numbers for November are looking better. We remain hopeful for a strong December. Finance approved \$2,532.09 for replacement of a faulty chiller relief valve.

Closing

Chris Chapman commented on Toy Joy—an incredible and innovative effort adapting to COVID. The Stewardship Campaign is going on, thanks to Chuck Underwood and Matt and Alice Strickland. You should have received the mailing by now. Grateful for Jamie Petty's words about stewardship, as well as for other speakers on stewardship. We are going to have an in-person Hanging of the Greens service. Compare this service to last year's virtual service, not to previous in-person normal years. There is still much we cannot do safely. The Social Committee is trying to figure out how we can safely do a reception. The two most risky things with COVID transmission seem to be eating and singing. Please make your own decision about attending. The service will be recorded. It will not be zoomed live but will be recorded and then edited to improve the online experience. He closed us with a prayer.

Conference adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hobson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "H".

Church Clerk



First Baptist Church

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CHANGES IN CHURCH ROLL Church Conference November 17, 2021

Death: **Marion Johnson**, 208 Groveland Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27605, died October 28, 2021.

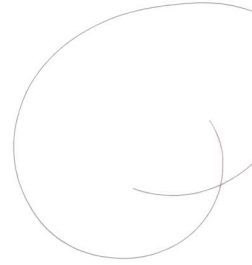
MEMBERSHIP	10/27/21	1330
Members Received		
Transfers		
Deaths	1	
MEMBERSHIP	11/17//21	1329

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

DEACONS MEETING, NOVEMBER 14, 2021

CHURCH CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 17, 2021



I. Review Financials

A. MTD

Total Rev = \$73,036.45

Total Exp = \$127,797.38

Loss = \$54,760.93

B. YTD

Total Rev = \$1,051,630.84

Total Exp = \$1,099,286.03

Loss = \$47,655.19

Carry Over = \$139,719.46 - \$47,655.19= **\$92,064.77**

C. Commentary

As you may recall, we began FY2021 with a surplus of \$139,719.46 that ballooned to nearly \$280,000 with strong first quarter giving. That surplus now stands at \$92,064.77. A strong first quarter, a healthy carryover from FY19 & 2FY20 and good expense management has been the reason we have done so well this year. However, revenues continue to lag from last years' numbers by nearly \$40,000 and expenses will continue to rise as we are now at full staff. We sent out an appeal letter and video last month and included an additional appeal with the recent 3rd quarter statements. It seems to be working so far. Looking ahead to the November numbers, revenue is up and we are running in the black for the month. We still need strong end-of year giving to rebuild our surplus and put us in a good financial position as we head into FY22.

II. Properties Committee Request

A. The Properties Committee requested \$2,532.09 to replace the faulty discharge relief valve on the chiller. The Finance Committee approved this request.