

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CHURCH CONFERENCE OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 23, 2022**

Call to Order

Cara Lynn Vogel called the conference to order at 6:17pm.

Business

The January 26th minutes were approved. Membership was 1331 at January's conference. Anna and LaCount Anderson joined from another church and Katie Beasley transferred to another church. Katie's transfer was approved. Our membership stands at 1332.

Standing Committee Reports

Properties Committee: Charles Petty gave the report. The steam pipes in the sanctuary have eroded/corroded/burst/leaked. Steam and hot water have been leaking for a long time. Tri South Mechanical has been contracted to replace that steam pipe. The work is complicated and expensive and was to have started yesterday, but the project foreman has been called to active duty. Work on the two-and-a-half-week project is now expected to start on April 18. There will be some disruption in the Clothing Ministry. Having reduced sanctuary heat available in April probably won't be an issue.

Work on the front steps will be disruptive. There is enormous deterioration and the steps are unsafe in spots. We have a preliminary contract with IQ Construction and are awaiting the final contract. Two weeks ago, five people meet, four of which were engineers, one of which was a hired structural engineer. They crawled around and under the steps. It looks like the catacombs, built with brick and mortar in 1858. They used the best materials and workmanship they had at that time. All 4 engineers signed off on the structure being solid and stable. Whatever we do is not going to make it collapse. They suggested putting screw jacks under each of the brick arches as a precautionary measure. Project will start right after June 17, because of weddings that must be worked around. This leaves about five months before the next wedding. It will be about a six-week job. It will look nice aesthetically. We are not changing the appearance. We should have no historical issues as we are only making repairs. We want to add two scuppers to two weep holes. These extensions are being added so the water doesn't run down the wall. This change will be run by the historical commission. If not approved, we won't add the scuppers.

Finance Committee: Chairperson Matt Strickland gave the report. Total revenue for January was \$182,170.50. Expenses were \$99,429.59 for a net of \$82,740.91. We have a combined carryover of \$355,294.39—\$82,740.91 from January along with \$272,553.48 from previous years. This gives us a very strong cash position. We're very thankful for the congregation's faithful giving and the staff's faithful stewardship of our expenses.

There was one request to fix a boiler that was tripping a breaker, which was deemed an emergency and approved by Properties Chairperson Eddie Sasser and Finance Committee Chairperson Matt Strickland. Both committees were notified. The cost was \$2,136.07.

The Finance Committee voted to recommend setting the floating cap on the Capital Repair and Replacement Fund at \$500,000; an amount we cannot exceed. This recommendation was approved by the conference.

Dream Team: Chairperson Mary Nash Rusher gave the report. We're gearing up for last congregational effort, a forward-looking session. To maximize participation, it will be held during the Sunday School hour. Information from all previous sessions is on the FBC website. An article in the N&O appeared on churches finding new life.

Trustees: Ryan Willis gave the report. The Trustees recommend the sale of three vacant lots from an estate gift, located in Garner, near the intersection of I-40 and Jones Sausage Road. The area was to be developed into a subdivision, but this never occurred. These lots and several others have sitting undeveloped for years. Beginning in 2020 Wake County assessed a value of \$500 to each lot, resulting in taxes needing to be paid on the lots. The trustees engaged a real-estate agent to facilitate selling the lots. A builder has been buying up lots in the area and approached our relator, with some lots recently sold between \$12,000 and \$15,000 and other lots sold for around \$22,000. A buyer has offered \$20,000 per lot for a total of \$60,000. The Trustees think this is a fair value. The Deacons also recommend we sell the lots. This gift was not designated, so the trustees request the proceeds be designated to the Capital Repair and Replacement Fund. The sale was approved.

Wayne Hager also mentioned that the church has seven cemetery plots at Montlawn that the trustees have been trying to sell for a few years. At one point we were willing to entertain offers for half their retail value. If interested, please contact Wayne.

Closing

Pastor Chris Chapman gave closing remarks. Leah Reed returns on Sunday (from maternity leave). Questions have been asked about masks. Staff and Risk Management are discussing and will have an announcement soon, perhaps even tomorrow. Hope and pray the good trends continue. Closed with prayer.

Conference adjourned at 6:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Church Clerk