

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH CONFERENCE OF THE  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA  
January 18, 2023

**Call to Order**

Dr. Chris Chapman led us in prayer. Moderator Dennis Ellis called conference to order at 6:20 p.m.

**Business**

December's conference minutes were approved by unanimous vote, with one minor correction. The record of attendance is for Sunday school, not worship. Dr. Chapman clarified that attendance numbers for worship were kept prior to the pandemic.

Dennis mentioned the updated organizational handbook.

Mary Anne Jobe died on Dec. 26, 2022, decreasing membership to 1,329.

Dennis presented the ministerial housing allowances that require approval by conference. The vote passed unanimously.

**Standing Committee Reports**

*Trustees:* Ryan Willis presented the annual report for 2022. The board considered two matters in 2022, both voted on in church conference. Three lots in Garner sold for \$20,000 each. The sale closed on March 9, 2022, with net proceeds of \$52,980 designated to the Capital Repair and Replacement Designated Account. The second matter was the designation of the Marvin Mann gift of \$2,000,000 for "property maintenance and capital improvements." The Trustees recommended a 50/50 split of the gift -- \$1,000,000 for repairs identified and allocated during the 2023 calendar year, and \$1,000,000 to be held in a designated account for future capital improvements. Ryan noted that this will be reviewed annually by Church Conference.

*Properties Committee:* Eddie Sasser reported on the members joining and departing the committee and shared what was accomplished in 2022. Eddie also mentioned that a meeting was scheduled for January 19 to discuss repairing the front steps.

*Music Committee:* Chris gave the report from Warren. A copy of the report was provided.

*Finance Committee:* Sam Ewell provided a report on behalf of the Finance Committee. For the month of December, revenue exceeded expenses by \$14,713.40. Even so, for the year, expenses exceeded revenues by \$19,741.56. The shortfall will be covered by the carryover balance. Sam noted that these numbers are preliminary and that final figures will be available for our February meeting.

- Charles Gayle
- Linda Carothers

For the Properties Committee, Jerry Dudek will complete the unexpired term of Bill Loomis. These nominations were approved.

*Ad-Hoc Sound System:* Dennis Ellis reported that the work group met in December and is reviewing options with the vendors that conducted the acoustic study and provided equipment quotes. There are concerns with the placement of the two large speakers in the sanctuary, so the request is for a rendering of what these will look like in the sanctuary.

Question: Are the speakers in the choir loft included in the quote? Dennis Ellis confirmed that these will be included.

*Art Banner Project:* Jeff Hobart provided a recap of where we have been and where we are going. The banner will be placed on the wall facing McDowell Street. It will be 30 feet wide and 12 feet tall. Jeff mentioned that according to DOT, more than 44,000 cars drive past First Baptist Church on McDowell Street every weekday.

Jeff explained that the banner will express to the outside world that there's something going on inside the walls of First Baptist. Banner artist Max Dowdle will be introduced at a breakfast celebration on Feb. 12.

Dr. Chapman gave closing remarks and noted the ordination service for Michael Hood will be Sunday, Jan. 22 at 5 p.m. He also noted that this is the first time in at least 14 years that First Baptist Church has conducted a service of ordination.

Dr. Chapman noted that all committees need to meet and elect chairs. He announced that staff is revisiting security, greeters, and the possible return of RPD presence, though behind the scenes. There may also be the possibility of private security assistance.

Dr. Chapman closed conference with a prayer. Conference adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Church Clerk

Warren Howell