

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH CONFERENCE OF THE  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA  
May 24, 2023

**Call to Order**

Dr. Chris Chapman led us in prayer. Moderator Dennis Ellis called the conference to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Business**

Minutes of the March church conference were approved by unanimous vote.

Changes to the church roll were reported as follows: Kay Blakely died May 7. Dot Broughton died April 13, and Dorothy Sizemore died April 4. Becky and Sam Lyle transferred their membership to St. Phillip's Episcopal Church in Southport on May 15 and Alex Thompson transferred his membership to the Summit Church on May 15. With those changes, membership stands at 1,316.

**Standing Committee Reports**

*Properties Committee:* Eddie Sasser reported on the re-stripped parking lot and surface patching of holes for \$1,525.40, and repairs and clean out of the cooling tower for \$4,444.82. Sunrise Construction completed repairs in the sanctuary for \$4,900. A pump in the boiler room was replaced for \$1,684.94, and a request to replace carpet in the church office for \$19,735.66 which will come to conference on Wednesday. Replacement of the air handler and chiller is expected to start in June. Concrete samples for the front steps will be arriving next week, with work expected to start three weeks later. The job is expected to require 8 weeks to complete. Stone was approximately five times more expensive.

*Stewardship Committee:* Allison Strickland expressed thanks to all who pledged in the 2023 campaign. Final numbers as of March 12 were 166 pledges totaling \$1.251M, just short of the amount needed for pledges to cover at least 80% of the preliminary budget of \$1,608,329.

*Finance Committee:* Sam Ewell reported that revenues have exceeded expenses by almost \$11,831.57 this year. Added to the \$225,972.46 carryover from 2022, the current amount is \$237,804.03.

First quarter financials were strong, with an average monthly revenue for the first three months of \$148,000. April revenue decreased \$40,000 compared to March, resulting in April expenses exceeding March expenses by almost \$17,000. However, first quarter missions payments totaling \$23,000 were made in April. Adjustments to salaries for the first quarter were also made in April, reflecting 4% across the board increases for all staff. These adjustments totaled approximately \$10,000 for the first quarter. When subtracted from April expenses, normal

monthly expenses for April were actually below the average monthly expenses during the first quarter.

Sam presented a technical correction to the final budget for 2023 included in his report, which was endorsed by the Diaconate, and unanimously approved by conference.

*Dream Team:* Mary Nash Rusher reported the team has been on hiatus the past 7 weeks due to the birth of grandchildren and a marriage. The team is continuing to build on prior work, and reconnecting with facilities assessments. In addition to reconnecting with New City Design, the team is also talking to the churches and groups who work with other churches. These conversations are ongoing.

*Trustees:* Jeff Hobart reported that a settlement agreement was reached and signed, with no impact to the original gift. Additionally, the proposal from IQ Contracting has been signed.

### **Announcements**

Dennis Ellis provided an update on the sound system in the sanctuary. The team is currently working with the selected vendor to obtain an updated quote.

In closing remarks, Dr. Chapman noted Patrick Nichols' film and the Columbia University award, showing June 21 at FBC, along with a meal and conversation. Dr. Chapman also noted an intern that FBC will be sharing with Hayes Barton and Forest Hills. The Duke Divinity School student will spend five hours at FBC every three weeks.

Dr. Chapman provided an update on continuing efforts to hire an officer. RPD continues to experience shortages to the tune of 100 officers, and it was discovered that prior requests did not actually post. Private options will also be explored.

Lastly, Dr. Chapman shared that fall planning taking place during the summer months will focus on bringing us closer to pre-pandemic life at First Baptist Raleigh.

Dr. Chapman closed the conference with a prayer at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Church Clerk