

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH CONFERENCE OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
August 30, 2023

Call to Order

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

Business

Minutes of the May church conference were approved by a unanimous vote. Changes to the church roll were reported as follows: Danny Thomerson died May 28, Nancy Edwards died June 22, Harold Stuart died July 20, and Fannie Memory Mitchell died August 21. With those changes, membership stands at 1,312.

Standing Committee Reports

Properties Committee: Wayne Hager reported the front steps are nearing completion, likely within a week or two. Repairs to the second steam return system (Edenton Street side) are complete, along with replacement of carpet. Chillers will be replaced within the next couple of months, while air handlers will be scheduled for cooler weather, likely in October or November. There is approximately \$90,000 in contingency for the air handlers. The fire control panel is no longer repairable, and a quote for replacement is coming. The panel is still functioning, but one component is not working correctly, and this will be an emergency repair.

Finance Committee: Ann Rollins noted that this report summarizes revenues and expenses for the three-month period since the last conference in May. During May and June, expenses outpaced revenues; however, revenues beat expenses in July. Through July, 2023 expenses outpaced revenues by approximately \$12,000 after disbursement of quarterly missions payments. Another shortfall is anticipated for August, but revenues are expected to pick up in the fall.

Ann reported work is underway to present a proposed budget for 2024 to the diaconate at the October meeting. Two matters were presented to the conference. One proposes to modify the bylaws to allow signature by another trustee or one that is appointed. The second recommends paying for the front steps from the Mann bequest, of which the remaining amount is approximately \$150,000. Both were approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee: Lynn Loomis reported the committee will resume its meetings in September. Sunday School positions have been filled, and the focus will now turn to committee assignments. The conference approved a list of Sunday school teachers for 2023-24 read by Lynn.

Announcements

Dennis Ellis reported that proposals have been reviewed for replacing the sound system in the sanctuary. There is consensus on the proposal, and the revised quote is now in hand, but review and approval by Properties and Finance are needed before the proposal comes to the conference for a vote.

Beth Jones reported on the food truck. Income received for the past three months was \$2,882.60 in May, \$2,153.88 in June, and \$2,113.20 in July. The food truck gave away 571 meals during the period, primarily to Habitat for Humanity volunteers and guests of the Clothing Ministry. Catering has helped boost income, and Beth issued a call for volunteers.

This year's CROP Walk will start and end in the FBC parking lot. The charity has asked that the food truck serve lunch that day. The church will receive 20 percent of the proceeds, as it does for private catering events. The conference approved a motion to donate FBC's percentage to the CROP Walk.

Dennis Ellis shared that he has enrolled in the master of divinity program at Campbell Divinity. He thanked everyone for their prayers and support.

Dr. Chapman announced that Anita Jackson has agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee, and a motion to add her to the committee was unanimously approved.

The pastor also noted that the Dream Team continues to explore possible directions for future ministry at FBC and hopes to have more to share soon.

Dr. Chapman noted that staff shortages at the Raleigh Police Department continue to hamper the church's effort to provide security regularly on Sunday mornings. He said the church has been able to recruit officers for Wednesday evenings and during hours of Clothing Ministry operation. He said it may become

necessary to pursue private security in order to have a presence on a consistent basis.

Dr. Chapman offered a closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Vogel, Jr.
Church Clerk