

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 Lytle transferred their membership to St. Phillip's Episcopal Church in Southport on May 15. 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: The conference approved a request to replace carpet in the church office at a cost of \$19,735.66. Eddie Sasser reported that the committee approved \$1,525.40 for patching and restriping the parking lot, and \$4,444.82 to repair and clean out the cooling tower. Sunrise Construction completed repairs in the sanctuary for \$4,900. A pump in the boiler room was replaced for \$1,684.94. Replacement of the air handler and chiller is expected to start in June. Concrete samples for the front steps should arrive next week, and repair work is expected to begin three weeks thereafter. The job is expected to require eight weeks. Concrete was chosen because stone was approximately five times more expensive.

Stewardship Committee: Allison Strickland expressed thanks to all who pledged to the 2023 campaign. Final numbers as of March 12 were 166 pledges totaling \$1.251 million, just short of the amount needed for pledges to cover at least 80 percent 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 cushion is almost \$237,804.03.

First-quarter financials were strong, with average monthly revenue for the first three months of \$148,000. April revenue decreased \$40,000 compared to March, and April expenses exceeded March expenses by almost \$17,000. However, Sam noted that April expenses included first-quarter missions payments totaling \$23,000 and approximately \$10,000 to cover 4 percent across-the-board salary increases for all staff, retroactive to January. When those items are subtracted from April totals, expenses for April were actually below the average monthly expenses during the first quarter.

Sam presented technical corrections to the final budget for 2023 that are included in his report, which were endorsed by the diaconate and unanimously approved by conference.

Dream Team: Mary Nash Rusher reported the team has been on hiatus the past seven weeks but is continuing to build on prior work and is revisiting facilities assessments. In addition to reconnecting with New City Design, the team is also talking to other churches and groups who have worked with other churches engaged in similar visioning projects.

Trustees: Jeff Hobart reported that an estate settlement agreement was reached and signed, with no change to the amount donated to FBC. Jeff also reported that the proposal from IQ Contracting for the work on the front steps has been signed.

### Announcements

Dennis Ellis provided an update on the sound system in the sanctuary. We are currently working with the vendor to obtain an updated quoted.

In closing remarks, Dr. Chapman noted that Palm Sunday, an award-winning short film produced by FBC member Patrick Nichols, will be shown June 21 at FBC. The evening will include a meal and conversation. Dr. Chapman also noted that FBC will be sharing an intern from Duke Divinity School with Hayes Barton and Forest Hills Baptist churches. The student will spend five hours at FBC every three weeks.

Dr. Chapman provided an update on continuing efforts to contract with off-duty Raleigh police officers to provide security for some church events. Because RPD continues to experience a shortage of officers, private options also will be explored.

Dr. Chapman shared that fall planning during the summer months will focus on bringing us closer to pre-pandemic levels of engagement.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*James E. Vogel, Jr.*

Church Clerk