

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH CONFERENCE OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 16, 2022**

Call to Order

Dr. Chris Chapman led us in prayer. Cara Lynn Vogel called conference to order at 6:30pm.

Business

October's conference minutes were approved without changes or corrections. Membership was 1329 at October's conference. Since then, Janice Good died on October 31 and Scott Burton joined by profession of faith on November 13. Membership remains 1329.

Question: Are numbers being kept on attendance?

Answer: Yes, detailed numbers were kept pre-COVID and we've just started to track those numbers again. They're not quite a complete as we try to track the various ways members are meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

Properties Committee: Chair Eddie Sasser gave the report. No actions to be taken this month. The HVAC and dehumidifier system in the Clothing Ministry was replaced. An HVAC unit in the choir loft was also repaired. A cooling tower motor was replaced. A contactor board went out and was replaced. We've ordered a VFD (Variable Frequency Drive) and expect it to arrive in about 30 weeks. This will help reduce wear and tear on the motor. The feed to the choir monitor (speaker) was rewired to get it working. The Edenton Street side balcony sanctuary speaker has failed. No repair or replacement is planned until the Sound System committee finishes its review. We are very close to having a contract to fix the front steps. We just need the price (of the repairs). The committee met with the HVAC folks and are getting pricing on repairs. It will be hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars, with a 20- to 30-week lead time. We will hopefully vote on that next month.

Question: What's the ballpark on this month's HVAC work?

Answer: The cooling tower motor was about \$10,000 and the VFD was \$8,000 to \$9,000. Not sure about the new board.

Finance Committee: Chairperson Matt Strickland gave the report. Total revenue for October was \$73,241.67. Total expenses were \$133,565.81 for a loss of \$60,324.14. Year-to-date revenue is \$1,210,879.71 and year-to-date expenses are \$1,226,414.34 for a net loss for the year of \$15,534.63. Combined with the carryover of \$272,553.48 from previous years gives us a cash position of \$257,018.85. This is similar to last year, when we were about \$50,000 in the red last year at this time. We are still in decent shape and have plenty of cash. Revenue is down 3% compared to the FY22 budget while expenses are down 2%. Revenues have been strong—up \$159,248.87 or 15% from last year. But expenses are up from last year—\$127,128.31 or 12%. The rise in expenses was expected with inflation and a full staff. We are also having more in-person activities, which increase costs. Fortunately we have a much larger carryover than last year. But we don't want to deplete that carryover fund. Statements will be going out soon. If you can catch up or make an end-of-year gift, that would be very helpful. The committee is cautious, but not overly concerned.

The committee approved requests from the Properties Committee of \$7,376.00 for a variable frequency device for the cooling tower motor to prolong the life of the motors, which cost about \$10K.

Matt thanked Finance Committee members Art Jackson and Brenda Mullins whose terms end this year, as does Matt's term. For next year, Sam Ewell was elected chair, Ann Rollins vice-chair, and Laura Archer, who is the current secretary, will continue as secretary. An assistant secretary is still needed.

Stewardship Committee: Matt Strickland gave the report. The tentative budget is 5.7% more than last year-- \$1,608,329.00. The finance committee will bring the final budget to conference once we pledge 80% of the general fund line of \$1,583,079.00, which is \$1,266,463.20. Please prayerfully consider your pledge. You should receive pledge materials during the week of Thanksgiving. Matt thanked Alison Strickland and Chuck Underwood who are also on the steward committee and have done the lion's share of the work. Matt also thanked Libby Barnes who was the muse behind the stewardship theme and will give the first inspirational message for the budget during worship on Sunday.

Dream Team: Mary Nash Rusher gave the report. Historical spending, with a lot of help from Wayne Hager, was reviewed. It's difficult to split the expenses. Some expenses are sanctuary only, but most—especially the large repairs—apply to both the educational building and the sanctuary.

2018: \$176,000

2019: \$177,000; \$147,000 without sanctuary floor

2020: \$256,000

2021: \$279,000

2022: \$326,000; \$93,000 without sanctuary steam pipes. This does not include some recent expenses.

Total: \$1,215,000; about \$1.1 million without the sanctuary items

Previous planning thought future expenses with keeping things as they are with patches and repairs might run around \$350,000 per year, which based on the actual expenses was a pretty good estimate.

Still trying to get estimates of what the other options might cost. Continuing to meet with others who might use this space during the week. Continuing to work on the mission vision and values. Have received some good feedback.

The team is composed of John Baldwin, Matt Bullard, Nancye Gaj, Zach Padget, Anthony Petty, Pam Powell, Sarah Catherine Rhodes, Mary Nash Rusher, Rebecca Sasser, Sarah Woodard, and Ben Yerxa.

Trustees: Chair Ryan Willis presented a proposal for the extremely generous \$2,000,000 gift from the Marvin Mann estate, which asked that it to be used "for its property maintenance or capital improvements." The Trustees prayerfully considered how to use this gift. The Trustees talked with relevant committees, Wayne Hager, and Tara Mann, Marvin Mann's daughter. Discussed splitting the funds between maintenance and future costs from our Dream Team work. The trustees recommend taking \$1,000,000 of these funds to address current building repairs and maintenance needs, with an emphasis on ensuring the long-term viability of the sanctuary. The properties committee would have twelve months beginning 2023-01-01. Any money remaining after 2023-12-31 would be combined with the other \$1,000,000 into a future building fund. The \$2,000,000 would go into a separate interest-bearing account.

Question: Would the interest go back into the fund?

Answer: Yes.

Suggestion: How about dollars either spent or obligated by end-of-the-year?

Answer: That was the intention of the motion.

Question: The \$1,000,000 is primarily directed toward the sanctuary. Is that decision up to the properties committee as to how those funds are used? Does it come up for a vote in church conference?

Answer: It's a recommendation to focus in on sanctuary maintenance, but not an obligation. This doesn't limit the

properties committee if they feel a project is necessary for the overall benefit of the church. It's up to the properties committee to decide the best usage.

Motion passed.

Toy Joy: Anne Cooke gave a report on Toy Joy 2022. 273 families with 661 children were signed up online with the help of WCSS (Wake County Social Services). The extra stockings and books were taken to Interact by Alison Strickland. Our youth sorted over 2,000 books into age groups. One WMU group run by Robbie Puckett assembled wrapping kits with paper, tape, bows, Candy was collected by the church in September. The 39ers removed tags from the stockings. Prayer squares were provided by the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Japanese Ministry stuffed the stockings. Owen Fulk, a freshman at NCSU, worked with the NCSU Spanish Club to get volunteer translators. Children created Christmas cards. Lots of donations of toys and money to buy toys. Volunteers on Friday setup things. About 120 volunteers participated on Saturday to run Toy Joy. Donations allowed giving a \$30 Food Lion gift card to each family. Lynn Lingafelt organized a hospitality booth to great guests as they left. She was assisted by Asher and Ryder Helms. A heart-warming message from Noel Tucker, who has always been a strong supporter of Toy Joy, was read about her Toy Joy experience this year. Cara Lynn Vogel also shared a comment from one of her students about Toy Joy: how it was a really cool place and everybody was so sweet.

Ad-Hoc Sound System: Dennis Ellis gave the report. We're working with an acoustic engineering firm and the vendor who previously gave us a detailed quote. We've also been speaking with another church who have faced similar issues and done some upgrades. Quality, aesthetics, and price will all be considerations. The committee has no further details or recommendations at this time.

Church Council: Dr. Chris Chapman presented the report on Day Mission Fund activity. There was \$16,208.40 available for the 2021-09-01 through 2022-08-31 fiscal year

- 2022-03-04: \$5,000 emergency help in Ukraine. CBF has received over \$800,000 for relief in Ukraine.
- 2022-04-26: \$5,000 for Sharefish in Honduras
- \$6,208.40 remained in unused funds

For 2022-09-01 through 2023-08-31 there is \$18,180.45 available. Combined with the \$6,208.40 in unused funds gives a total amount of \$24,388.85 that can be distributed.

- 2022-09-26:
 - \$750 for CROP Walk
 - \$1,204 for CBF Project Ruth Food Boxes (for relief in Ukraine)
- 2022-11-10:
 - \$3,500 for house construction in Honduras through Monte de Horeb Ministries (requested by John Baldwin and Steve Brown)
 - \$5,000 for renovation of a former First Presbyterian Church, Ahoskie building so that it can function as a community center (requested by Anna Anderson). The total cost of the project is \$56,830.
 - \$8,000 for a building project in El Carrizo, Honduras through Sharefish (request by Dennis Ellis)

This leaves \$5,934.85 that can still be spent this fiscal year.

Surplus funds from a previous capital campaign were split between building maintenance and mission grants. There is \$9,307.93 left for mission grants. A request was made for \$5,000 to help with repurposing a building of the former First Presbyterian Church in Ahoskie. Conference approved the request.

Dr. Chapman closed conference with a prayer. Conference adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully submitted, Church Clerk



First Baptist Church
Church Conference
Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Welcome

Church Conference Minutes from October 2022

Changes to Membership

Reports

Properties

Finance

Stewardship

Dream Team

Trustees

Updates

Toy Joy

Sound System AdHoc

Capital Surplus Small Grant Award

Dr. Chapman

Adjourn