

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH CONFERENCE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

August 28, 2024

**Call to Order**

Moderator John Smith called the conference to order at 6:24 p.m.

**Business**

Minutes of the May church conference were approved without dissent.

Changes to the church roll. Gurtha Hollon died on August 25. Michael Hawks transferred his membership to Millbrook UMC on September 8. With these changes, church membership is now 1,315.

**Standing Committee Reports**

*Nominating Committee:*

Chair Lynn Loomis provided the following report on Music positions:

- \* Music and Movement: Lynne Loomis, Sherri Henderson.
- \* Pre-K / Kindergarten: Kimberly Taylor, Amy Galvin, Hollis Yelverton.
- \* Orff Instruments and Rhythm Basics: Becky Mercer, Ginger Graves.
- \* Grade School Choir: Rhonda Lowe, Maria Childrey, Diane Ellis, Sarah Catherine Rhodes.
- \* Youth Choir: Rhonda Lowe, Wyatt Yelverton.
- \* Evening Handbells: Anna Anderson.

*Finance Committee:*

Committee Chair Ryan Willis provided the financial numbers for July 2024.

July, 2024 - Total revenue of \$113,540.00 and total expenses of \$143,019.46. Expenses were in excess of revenue by \$29,478.67.

Year To Date - Total revenue of \$905,100.20 and total expenses of \$954,032.65. Expenses in excess of revenue by \$48,932.45.

Comparing 2023 July YTD, Total revenue of \$901,336.34 and Total expenses of \$914,112.85. Expenses in excess of revenue by \$12,776.51.

2024 Carryover is \$306,165.14.

## *Properties Committee*

Committee Chair Bob Bailey reported on the following items:

The committee received a proposal for choir left renovations that was higher than anticipated and exceeded the amount allocated for the work. The proposal identified more extensive repairs that resulted in the higher cost. The committee has not had an opportunity to discuss the proposal, therefore no recommendation was brought to August conference. The committee will consider several options and provide a recommendation to conference at a later date.

Jeff Hobart from the Affinity Group requested the committee consider ways to enhance the appearance around the exterior of the church. The committee agreed to work with the Affinity Group per the understanding the committee will be represented in all projects. Representatives from both have with a city arborist concerning a tree in the back parking lot that is deceased and recommended for removal.

Jeff Hobart provided an overview of the group's responsibilities. The Affinity Group continues to form and is looking for members. The group will identify and prioritize projects, submit recommendations to the committee, and proceed with approved projects.

## **New Business**

### *Finance and Personnel Committees Recommendation Regarding Staff Retirement Accounts*

An accounting discrepancy was discussed in detail during the Conference. Starting in 2015, some staff retirement account contributions were not adjusted for annual salary increases during the first several months of the year. Wayne Hager discovered the issue and determined the church still held the funds that should have been contributed to these retirement accounts. Wayne then made arrangements to transfer the funds into the staff retirement accounts.

However, the Conference will need to approve how to compensate the staff if the contributions that should have been made had earned returns during the relevant time period. The Personnel and Finance Committees' recommended a 15% growth rate for funding staff retirement accounts to address the discrepancy. The recommendation would cost the Church \$25,777.88 and come from Carryover.

The motion from Finance and Personnel Committees was approved unanimously.

## **Announcements**

Dr. Chapman provided four reports:

- \* September 1 is the start of a new year for the Day Missions Fund, so now is the time to submit proposals.
- \* The Stewardship team will be Elizabeth Riley, Allison Strickland, Scott Burton, Laura Rohrbaugh, Bob Talley, Art Jackson.
- \* The Ministerial Education Fund has approved funding first year tuition for Michael Hood to work on a masters in spiritual direction at Loyola Chicago.
- \* The Gaddy lecture and concert series will return on March 28-29 with Kristen Kobez Du Mez. The Ministerial staff is thinking of alternating the Church wide retreat and and Gaddy services each year, with the Gaddy series alternating between lecture and concert.

Dr. Chapman closed the meeting with prayer at 6:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*James E. Vogel, Jr.*

Church Clerk