

First Baptist Church

September 20, 2014

Present: Mark McKim, Joel Russell-MacLean, Esther Wiens, Annabel Robinson, Martha Pauls, Heather Holtslander, John Hillmer
Regrets: Murray Wolfe

1. Annabel led us in prayer.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

Two items need to be added:

5e. CHAT seminar

6g. Autumn congregational meeting

Moved that we approve the agenda with additions.

Moved by Esther, seconded by Martha.

Carried

3. Approval of minutes

Moved that we approve the minutes from June 21, 2014.

Moved by Martha, seconded by Esther.

Carried

Moved that we approve the notes from August 20, 2014.

Moved by Esther, seconded by Martha.

Carried

4. Business arising from the minutes.

None.

5. Report of the Chair

a. Reply to proposal from Planned Giving Committee

Moved that,

Whereas we affirm and thank the Planned Giving Committee for its extensive work, and in particular for the various seminars it has arranged, and for the idea of an annual spring financial campaign which has been adopted and successfully implemented, which is something we foresee continuing, and

Whereas we are grateful and humbled that, this spring, simply by making the financial need known to God's people and then relying on the Holy Spirit to speak to them, without repeated announcements or any pressure, the amount needed for replenishing the bond redemption fund was greatly exceeded, and

Whereas we agree with the Planned Giving Committee that there needs to be continued teaching from the pulpit on stewardship in the "holistic, big picture" sense that all of our lives belong to God, and that we agree that such preaching should be tied, where feasible, with specific needs, be these financial, the work of the nominating committee, or some specific project, and

Whereas we have heard the concern which the Planned Giving Committee has expressed about the need for at least one or more outwardly focused projects in order for us to be a healthy congregation, and we are giving prayerful consideration to this, and

Whereas as a diaconate we do not feel that "Free and Joyous" or any other highly structured financial campaign will be well-received or accepted by most members of FBC, and that this approach might very well work in some churches, but we do not feel it is a good fit for us, and that such approaches do not seem to have a particularly good history within CBWC churches in general,

After extensive discussion by the entire diaconate, we have decided not to proceed with the "Free and Joyous" program.

Moved by John , seconded by Esther.

Carried

We discussed the desire for the Diaconate to be more involved in spiritual matters and pastoral care of the congregation, and less with financial matters.

b. Youth Centre roof

The Youth Centre roof has been completed.

Action: The Secretary will send a thank you note to Mavis Olesen for all the work that has been accomplished this summer.

c. Ideas from Joel

i. Adam Driscoll

He has been approached about being involved in Learning for Life about developing leadership in the church, and his response was enthusiastic. He and his associates proposed developing a curriculum and delivering it with a team.

There was a short discussion about pros and cons and several questions emerged that Joel, Annabel, and Mark will pursue with a meeting with Adam.

ii. Angela Fraser

She has been doing hospital visitation with people who have no denominational affiliation. She has been approached by the hospitals to be a non-denominational chaplain because she is not ordained by any particular denomination. She is looking for financial support.

There was a discussion about how First Baptist could be involved

iii. Knox-Met Invitation

They would like to have us get involved in a discussion about a book that deals with churches' involvement in their communities, together with other churches.

d. Diaconate page on the website.

We have been asked to publish the minutes of the Diaconate on the website.

There was discussion about whether we want a whole "Deacons" section on the website with articles and pictures, or just a place to publicly file the minutes.

e. CHAT Seminar

With Paul Pearce, about preparing for retirement. There is a committee planning the event, to be held on Nov. 1.

There was discussion about promoting and involvement in the event.

6. Pastor's Report

a. Update on Governance

The Governance Advisory Committee will meet next week to discuss the details of setting up the new structure.

b. Values Document

The Loving God with Our Hearts piece was sent out yesterday. We haven't had a chance to look at it, so it is suggested that we put this on the agenda for our next meeting.

Moved that we table this until our next meeting.

Moved by John, seconded by Martha.

Carried.

c. Congregational Retreat?

i. Do we plan one?

ii. What kind of topic?

Possibility of Part II of our planning document. Or another topic.

Something so we involve the congregation in discussion and planning.

Moved that we table this until our next meeting.

Moved by John, seconded by Martha.

Carried.

d. Sermon discussion opportunity

This will be started shortly on Tuesday evenings, scheduled so it does not conflict with bell ringers, and so that people can take advantage of the TNT.

e. Meeting of Commission chairs, GAC, deacons and pastoral staff regarding governance.

To also give an opportunity for Commission chairs to share what they are doing.

f. Lenten devotional.

There was discussion about the best way to have the most congregational participation in the creation of the devotional for this year.

g. Congregational meeting

November 23 is recommended.

There was discussion about how to promote good congregational participation.

Moved that we have the congregational meeting on November 23, 2014.

Moved by Esther, seconded by John.

Carried

7. Other Business

A letter from a congregant was discussed.

8. Dates of next meetings: 3rd Saturdays (October 18, November 15, December 20)

9. Joel closed in prayer.

10. Adjournment

Moved to adjourn at 12:23

Moved by Heather

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Holtslander, Secretary