

Annual Report 2017

First Baptist Church Regina, SK Annual General Meeting March 18, 2018, 12:30

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First Baptist Church
Annual General Meeting
March 18, 2018, 12:30 pm
AGENDA

1. Call to Order - Collin Carbno
2. Devotional and Prayer - Joel Russell-McLean
 - a. The Church Covenant
3. Consent Agenda: **MOTION**
 - b. Parliamentarian - **MOTION** to appoint Reid Robinson as parliamentarian for this meeting.
 - c. Meeting Agenda - **MOTION** to approve today's meeting agenda
 - d. 2017 Congregational Meeting Minutes - **MOTION** to approve the 2017 Congregational Meeting Minutes
4. Report of Chair of Diaconate - Collin Carbno
5. Report of Lead Pastor - Joel Russell-MacLean
6. Treasurer's Report - Kevin Rich
 - a. **MOTION** to receive the 2017 audited report
7. Reports
 - a. **MOTION** to receive new FBC members - Collin Carbno
 - b. **MOTION** to approve Brenda Ziolkowski as new Board Member / Deacon - Collin Carbno
 - c. Commission Reports - **MOTION** to receive and file Commission Reports
 - d. Missions Commissions: Lebanese Partnership Opportunity.
8. Church Health Initiative
9. Adjournment
 - a. **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting

A covenant of Fellowship of First Baptist Church Regina, Saskatchewan

We, members of First Baptist Church, Regina, covenant together to walk with Christ and each other in fellowship of holy love, to gather together regularly for united worship, to look to God daily for grace and guidance, to search the scriptures for understanding of the Christian way of life, to serve God and each other in love and humility.

We will recognize the worth of each individual within our community, regardless of age or circumstances, recognizing that we are all precious in God's sight.

We will uphold each other in prayer and will offer kindness, forgiveness and mercy to each other as Christ has offered to us.

We will give cheerfully of our time, talents and finances so that God's work would prosper in this place.

We will recognize Christ's presence in every aspect of our lives and will seek to honour Him in all that we say and do - at church, in our homes, and at our places of employment. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will seek to follow Christ throughout our lives.

“What does the Lord require of you, but to seek justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

First Baptist Church Congregational Meeting

Lower Hall, November 19, 2017, 12:30 pm

1. Meeting Called to Order - 12:30pmRosemary Ward
2. Devotional and PrayerJoel Russell-MacLean
3. Consent Agenda:Rosemary Ward
 - a. Parliamentarian - MOTION to appoint Reid Robinson as parliamentarian for this meeting.
 - b. Meeting Agenda - MOTION to approve today's meeting agenda
 - c. 2017 AGM Minutes - MOTION to approve the 2017 AGM Meeting Minutes

Moved: Bryden Yeo; Seconded: Carol Hepting. Carried

4. Business arising from the minutes. None.

5. Reports

- a. Lead Pastor's Report (verbal)Joel Russell-MacLean
 - Thank you for the opportunity to minister to this unique church. Thanks to Deacons, John Nelson, George McKenzie.
 - Continuing to work on M-Div.
 - How do we make the diaconate a place of joy, where people are renewed?
 - Continuing to be a people of prayer
 - Encouraging baptism - Christmas Eve will include a service of baptism

- b. Chair of the diaconate (verbal)Rosemary Ward
 - Last meeting that Rosemary will chair
 - Honour to serve; gain far more than given;
 - Any one of us could do this job; anyone should do this job!
 - Change is not optional but it can be chosen
 - Sam Breakey is a church health consultant with the CBWC.

c. NominationsRosemary Ward

MOTION to approve Kevin Rich as TreasurerMoved: Derrick Bellows

Seconded: Brenda Ziolkowski.

Carried

MOTION to reappoint Lauren Snook, Rosemary Ward and Eleanor Russell as deacons *

Moved: Marilyn Phillips

Seconded: Jim Ellemers, Carried

6. 2018 Budget.....Derrick Bellows

Derrick made a presentation on reviewing the 2017 financial notes and changes

- Maintained core ministries
- Struggled in some areas
- October 21 - 25 church leaders met to consider 2018 budget as tool for ministry

Budget Principles

- Balanced operations budget
- Based on offerings/dedicated income; considering re-allocating spending based on priorities
- Allocate non-offering income (rentals) to restricted reserves
- 5 reserves: benevolent, bond debt, building, DULF, organ
- Align finances as a tool to achieve FBC ministry

Create realistic budget for 2018

MOTION to approve the 2018 budget as presentedMoved: Shirley Carbo

Seconded: John Hilmer

Carried

Discussion:

Clarification: description of “Other income”: Open Door Society use of premises, John Nelson’s community choir use of premises, wages for organist transferred from Ruth Nelson Organ Reserve Fund

Len Pauls: does the interest from reserve funds go back into reserve funds?

Answer: Yes.

John Hilmer: what interest rate are we paying to CBWC? Derrick indicated about 4%

Len Pauls: clarification on Missions Commission amount: doesn’t seem that it is much, but it includes a substantial reduction of the money we are paying back to YFC, so in actuality the money allocated to missions projects has actually increased

Explanation of Personnel Line Item: allocation for an additional staff member.

7. Other Business

- a. Missions CommissionsMarilyn Phillips
refugee initiative sponsorship policy document

Discussion: The Missions Commission has created a Refugee Sponsorship Policy document that has been approved in principle by the Diaconate. Marilyn wished to bring this to the congregation’s attention and suggested that it may become part of the going forward of the church in the coming years, especially as it relates Sam Breakey’s initiative with the church.

- b. Consultant - Sam BreakeyJoel Russell-MacLean

Sam Breakey, Church Health Strategist with CBWC, will work with FBC Regina to help us as a church understand where we’re at, and the opportunities ahead so that we can develop a shared focus as the church. Information will come out in the Newsletter, online and from the pulpit. Process will involve a survey, townhall meeting followed by a leadership meeting.

- c. Meals Together.....Rosemary Ward

Rosemary noted all the different types of meal-related events that the church and asked whether, as a congregation, we want to continue BBQs and other summertime events

Discussion: Fran Haug - reason it started was that we lost touch with each other during the summer months

Esther Wiens - was surprised and concerned that the donations at the event don’t always cover the cost.

Rob Sentis - was introduced to the church through the BBQ

John Nelson - good way to connect; John questioned the idea that the donations didn’t cover costs; it does at their house.

Annabel Robinson - noted that she met people at the BBQs that she wouldn’t have otherwise.

- 8. Adjournment - MOTION to adjourn the meeting 1:50pm. Moved: Reade Holtslander
Carried

* motion made at end of meeting but recorded thus for clarity

Report of the Lead Pastor

Every week something happens that reveals that God is at work around us and through us. Our worship and prayer times are very meaningful. There is great teaching for all ages. Every week I hear new stories about how we are helping each other. What encourages me most is when we in word and deed say that Jesus Christ is our Lord, and is with us through the Holy Spirit, all while knowing he is also in the Father's presence for our sake.

Some highlights from the past year:

- A busy Missions Commission: drove local support for Healing Hearts as they rebuilt their inner city workshop, held a weekend seminar with Indigenous Christians, and ran an African luncheon fundraiser for the crisis in South Sudan (to name a few).
- Great opportunities for fellowship and relationship at our many well attended meals and our fall retreat.
- The youth group continued to grow under Chris Senger's leadership. Three took part in the CBWC's week long "Serve" event. Three young people were baptized.
- The organ received new oboe pipes and a major electrical upgrade.
- The Finance Committee, tellers, and Barb Ellemers transformed our financial operations and church administration from June onwards with many hours of hard work and with wisdom.
- The 125th Anniversary bond fundraising campaign surpassed the original goal by nearly \$100,000, while we simultaneously maintained a healthy balance in our operating account from start to finish.
- As a result we have a strong group with a good understanding of our operations and can focus our efforts on discipleship and growth in the coming years.

Transitions:

- After twelve years serving this congregation, Rev. Dr Mark McKim accepted a call to FBC in St Marys, ON. Dr McKim preached a farewell sermon on April 23, calling this congregation to remain faithful to Jesus Christ as Lord. Dr McKim's legacy here is one of clear and solid Christian preaching and teaching.
- This spring, Krista Johnstone left First Baptist for another job opportunity after 9 years of overseeing our finances and many other administrative tasks.

Internal challenges:

- Visitation and children's programs did not receive as much attention as in previous years.
- Our policies and procedures are based on having active Commissions, well connected to the Board/Diaconate, but few Commissions are functioning with chairs and a group of people.

Goals for the coming year:

- To see the church health initiative move us closer to a shared focus and renewed ministry.
- To come up with lots of ideas for ministry and outreach that make sense for us because of who God has made us to be, and to try a few.
- To encourage and nurture our ability to speak to one another and others about Jesus.
- To make a decision about further pastoral staff.
- To increase the opportunities for discipleship for people at all stages of life.
- To renew our organizational structure and make sure there is strong back and forth communication, accountability, and engagement between the Board/Diaconate and people responsible for specific ministries.

Thanks to all our staff, to John Nelson, Norma Holtlander, Chris Senger, George McKenzie, Mark Anderson, and Christa Walsh, for their prayers, their love of God, and their ministry.

Thanks to Derrick Bellows after ten years as Treasurer. He not only took on this heavy workload and responsibility and made sure it was always done, he did it with openness and patience, year after year when no one else came forward. He concluded his term by wrapping up the redemption of the church bonds and moving our operations into the black.

And my thanks to the Diaconate chaired last year by Rosemary Ward for their prayer, patience, and wisdom.

Yours,

Rev. Joel Russell-MacLean

Report of the Chair of the Diaconate

The diaconate is given authority over all aspects of the business of the Church and works in cooperation with pastors over all aspects of the ministry of the Church. We are a group of 5-15 deacons chosen from and elected by the congregation. We meet monthly with one or more of the pastors and at least twice yearly with the greater leadership of the congregation as well as being in touch personally or by phone individually with the entire congregation.

2017 highlights

- The end of the year saw Vi Maeers retire from the diaconate. Currently serving members are: Rosemary Ward (Past Chair), Collin Carbno (Chair), Ron Phillips (Vice Chair), Laureen Snook (Secretary), Eleanor Russell, newer members Tiffany Lai and Barry Lyons, and new member Brenda Ziolkowski starting in 2018. To all of these people, a great vote of thanks for the crucial contribution they have made! We look forward to adding more members soon!
- Transition to new accounting firm for church financial requirements (with the resignation of Krista) and amazing work done by the Finance and Audit committee.
- Transition by Finance and Audit committee from Bonds to a mortgage loan from CBWC and raising of more than \$150K in 2017 to reduce the mortgage.
- Farewell Party for Mark McKim for 12 years of faithful service to FBC!
- Spring Clean-up of the Church
- Volunteers stepping up to handle filing and organization of church files.
- Hiring of Chris Singer with the Youth Group - and youth group remaining strong.
- Establishment of monthly church newsletter with volunteers! Continued savings in paper and printing costs.
- Congregational movement towards a visitation initiative... seminar about visitation.
- Eleanor Russell's organization of food management teams! Much needed and appreciated.
- Careful monitoring and stewardship of resources combined with faithful giving by the congregation have enabled us to end the year with a significant surplus budget.

We are well situated to consider new directions in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Ward (Past Chair) / Collin Carbno (Chair)

Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer's Report - 2017

First Baptist Church is active in a great many ministries and has finances that are more complicated than most churches. In addition to financing the normal day-to-day activities (operating expenses) necessary for our church life, we had significant long-term debt (capital expenses) from the major church building refurbishment in 1991. As well, there are a number of restricted reserves dedicated to specific purposes. We had a very good financial year in 2017. Overall revenue was higher, mostly due to bond fundraising, and expenses were lower than 2016. We had an operating surplus of about \$13,500. The 125th Anniversary Fundraiser concluded with more than \$220,000 raised. We completed payout of mature bonds. Detailed financial information follows in the audit but highlights are presented below.

Operations

Church leadership manages operating expenses of the Commissions. The Personnel Commission accounted for about 58% of the operating budget in 2017. It is important to remember that salaries paid out of Personnel support ministries identified in the other commissions. Property, Administration and Missions also have significant budgets. It is noteworthy that while most commissions had reduced spending, outreach spending was maintained and accounts for about 15% of expenditures. This is one indicator of a healthy Christian community. We had no debt on the Operating Line of Credit during the year, for the first time in more than a decade.

Bonds

In 1990, members made a significant decision to refurbish the church building that was 80 years old. We spent about \$1,700,000 to create the building that we worship in today. The money for this work was raised through borrowing, most of it through bonds sold to church members who were committed to this congregation and the building. Since 2007, our debt has been internal to bond holders. At year-end all outstanding bonds debt were paid. The successful 125th Anniversary Fundraiser raised more than \$220,000 and this allowed us to manage the residual debt of \$290,000 through a loan with the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada. We now make monthly payments against both principle and interest to that loan.

Restricted Reserves

2017 was the first year in establishing restricted reserves for special long term financial items.

The Benevolent Fund is for special financial aid to individuals. It is administered by pastoral staff with accountability to the Diaconate. This is not part of our approved budget and donations are requested when the fund is low. There is generally about

\$1000 to \$2000 in support provided from this fund. The fund had about \$2,200 at year end.

The Building Fund is for larger capital expense related to building repair. There were no projects undertaken in 2017. The fund had about \$15,000 at year-end.

The Organ Fund is for expenses related to the organ. This is a relatively new fund and has had significant donations through estate bequests. The fund had about \$95,200 at year-end.

Double Up Legacy Fund was created a number of years ago to hold funds to support special outreach projects from our church that were not part of the annual budget. The main source of money to this fund is intended to be from estates and special gifts. The fund had about \$13,000 at year-end.

General

For the first time in more than a decade we completed a full year without using the Operating Line of Credit. That means we maintained a positive balance in our cash account all through 2017 and didn't pay interest on short term debt.

About 15% of revenue are from property use, not donations. The largest is the facility agreement with Regina Youth for Christ who pay market value rent of the Youth Centre. We do return about 38% of that rent as part of our missions support to their ministry.

Through 2017 there were many changes in the management of FBC financials. Krista Johnstone resigned early in the year to pursue other career options. The Board decided to consolidate responsibility and outsource bookkeeping, and through a competitive process selected Shelly Pippin CPA as the company to do bookkeeping. Shelly and her staff are very familiar with and provide services to churches and charities, and the transition was very successful. Kevin Rich joined the committee and along with Marv Fuller, Gloria Toews and Murray Wolfe worked hard to ensure that our financials were properly managed through a busy year. I thank them for their commitment and hard work. I also thank the Diaconate, Commissions and staff for their diligence in managing the financial resources entrusted to them. Especially, I thank you as the family of First Baptist who continue to provide the finances for the work of our church.

This is my last report as Treasurer. I have enjoyed the time I have been Treasurer and appreciate the commitment and support of many people who have been involved with church finances over the years. With Kevin Rich taking on the role of Treasurer, and the stability of the Finance and Audit Committee I am confident that our church is secure going forward.

Respectfully submitted, Derrick Bellows, Treasurer

Music Ministry

“To offer a divine encounter through the spiritual gift of music and the arts whereby lives are changed.”(author unknown)

The Music Ministry of First Baptist Church exists to enhance the worship, Christian Education and the spiritual experiences of our church family and beyond! As a church family we have much to be thankful for in terms of our “gifts of music”. People of all ages, abilities and interests participate in our music and arts programme to build up this church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and vitality.

I wish to give special recognition and thanks to the Sanctuary Choir for their faithfulness and dedication. This group maintains an EXTRA-ordinary and demanding schedule, accomplishing tasks with both grace and NOTABLE HEART! For this to occur requires the understanding and support of family and friends.

Thank you to all those who share their special music/arts gifts:

MINISTRIES

Exaltation Singers

Sanctuary Choir

JuBELLation Ringers

Gifts of Music

LEADERSHIP

John Nelson & Christa Walsh

John Nelson/Christa Walsh/Mark Anderson

John Nelson

FBC family/Community Guest musicians

First Baptist Church is also very fortunate to have two most gracious musicians contributing to our overall worship experience together, Christa Walsh (church accompanist) and Mark Anderson (organist). Their ministry is greatly appreciated, as are their commitment, dedication, and support! I consider it a wonderful privilege to work as a music ministry team with such gracious and generous colleagues and friends!

Highlights for 2017

- Easter Alleluia concert
- Christmas Glory Concert, an especially moving experience
Good Friday Joint Service combined choir
- Installation of oboe stop on our organ, thanks to a very generous donation by Dr. Walter Ellis.
- Generous donation to the Organ Memorial Fund from the estate of Ruth Nelson.

Nurturing and maintaining a valued music ministry programme over my 32 years at FBC, has become most challenging over the past many years. North American churches like ours face cultural influences that present almost overwhelming challenges, especially when it comes to sustaining a valued music ministry programme. The average size of church choirs in North America is said to hover between a membership of 8-14 singers.

Though we face such challenges, I hold fast to Martin Luther's saying, "Second to the Word of God, Music deserves highest praise." I am grateful for the support, encouragement and value that the congregation of First Baptist Church has placed upon the Gift of Music.

My responsibilities this past year included ongoing responsibilities in Music Ministry and Achievers' Luncheon Ministry, worship planning, preaching opportunities, administrative duties, additional visitation, along with various community responsibilities (Luther College High School, Sask. Choral Federation, Vivace Choral Ensemble, and planning for the Joint Good Friday Service).

As we reflect back upon 2017, may it be said that our gifts of music were more than mere ART or entertainment, but were experienced as notable music offerings shared from the HEART! After all, "Ministry in its true essence is relationship", and our lives and ministry have been enriched by the bonds of love that we share together on our journey of faith! Thank you all for your love and support over these past 32 years. May God continue to bless us richly as we seek His leading for what is going to be a hope filled brighter future.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. John Nelson, Associate Pastor

Achievers' Luncheon

An enthusiastic and faithful group of “young at heart” individuals attend our ACHIEVERS' LUNCHEON ministry on the fourth Thursday of the months of Sept.-Nov./ Jan.-Apr.! Our Achievers, those people who are 55+ years of age, continue to support this LUNCHEON with encouraging numbers from a low of 38, to a high of 50+. Each luncheon radiates a heartwarming array of warm fellowship, fabulous fun, AND fantastic food served by our one and only FBC Chef extraordinaire, Dean Gilchrist!

This “small group” ministry offers a programme with special guest speakers (Eleanor Friesen, Carolyn Ward, Jennifer Holtslander, and others), a time of devotion, announcements, humour, and prayer. Each speaker has shared their Journey of Life, many times resulting in both tears, but also refreshing laughter.

The ACHIEVERS' LUNCHEON ministry thanks the church for its support of this ministry experience. Personally, I count it a rich privilege fulfilling my role as pastoral liaison to this JOY (Just Older Youth)-FUL group of amazing people!!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. John Nelson
Associate Pastor

The Achievers' Bible Study

We meet on alternate Wednesdays in the Board Room at 10:00 AM. We start with a short time of prayer followed by the study. Currently we are studying the book of the Acts of the Apostles.

We start with reading the passage, followed by questions I prepare, and questions from the various participants. Everyone is free to participate...and they do. We have some interesting discussions. We represent two generations of seniors.

It is open to age 50+ seniors. However, I am sure if you are younger and free at that time you would be welcome.

First Baptist Place Chaplaincy

The chaplain from FBP is currently a member of FBC, affirmed by the FBP executive and the FBC Diaconate. I am responsible for the Wednesday evening chapel services and for finding accompanists for the hymn sing before the message.

Because I live in the building, I am called on to visit some tenants at their requests, to pray at meals, and have a couple of requests for funeral services.

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Holtslander

Missions Commission Report

Commission Members (active): Esther Wiens, Len Pauls, Wayne Wyatt, Marilyn Phillips

The Missions Commission exists to provide:

- vision
- guidance
- encouragement

...for our involvement as a church in both local and global missions.

This involvement includes:

- financial
- relational
- practical support

Highlights of 2017:

The 2017 budget:	Original (Jan.)	Revised (Nov.)
Canadian Baptist Mission Projects	\$2,000.00	3,000.00
Local Missions Projects	5,000.00	5,500.00
Youth for Christ	20,490.00	17,374.00
Katepwa Lake Camp	3,500.00	4,100.00
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (U of R)	3,550.00	4,150.00
Indigenous Event	451.00	
	\$34,540.00	34,575.00

The first two items were used as matching funds for mission projects (local and global).

Our local missions project, the “Healing Hearts Shop Rebuilding” project, was held in the Spring. (Their shop and its contents had been destroyed by fire.) FBC members raised \$2,830 and other Healing Hearts Partners raised an additional \$6,579. With our \$5,000 matching budget, a total of \$14,409 was given, of which \$7,830 was from FBC. The additional \$500 in our revised local missions budget went to an indigenous missionary couple with Healing Hearts, Nick & Vivian Helliwell.

Our global missions project was a Sudan famine fundraiser. A luncheon was held April 30, with CBM’s Gordon King speaking very effectively at both the morning service and the luncheon. Ken & Wendy Doerksen, CBM Field Staff in Rwanda, also spoke briefly

about their work. The delicious meal was African/Canadian, with the main course provided by our African families, and salads and desserts by others. About 110 people attended, and \$7015 was raised for famine relief, to which our \$2,000 matching budget was added, for a total of \$9,015! (An additional \$200 was contributed for the meal.)

Canada Day Outreach - A proposal by Bill Silver to hand out Gideon scriptures in Victoria Park was changed to serving lemonade and offering scriptures at the church front steps. Four people from FBC participated.

A Refugee Sponsorship Policy was drafted by our commission and approved in principle by the Deacons. However, implementation was put on hold due to the vision/direction process to be undertaken in early 2018.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Phillips, Chair

Congregational Care Commission Report

1. Visitation: Thanks to the members of our congregation who faithfully visit and phone those who have difficulty getting out. We appreciate your commitment and compassion. We would like to strengthen this ministry in the next year.

2. Service of Remembrance: In December we had a quiet, contemplative service for those who are facing struggles or grieving the loss of loved ones. In that service we also honoured those from our congregation who died in the last year. It was a time of worship and support.

3. A Time for Friends: Thanks to Eleanor Russell for her willingness to manage the schedule of volunteers for this important ministry. It is a wonderful opportunity for members of our church family to build relationships as they work together and also provides a warm welcome to newcomers.

4. Congregational Meals: Thanks to all the teams for managing our congregational meals. We tried something new with our Christmas brunch and it was a resounding success!

5. Kitchen: Thanks to Esther Guernsey for looking after the inventory in our kitchen. She is the one that makes sure that we never run out of coffee!

We will be having another spring cleaning bee in the church kitchen. Why don't you come and join us? We have lots of laughs while we clean.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Hepting

Christian Education Commission Report

When I agreed to become a Diaconate member and now Diaconate chair position, I decided I would step back from running an active CE Commission. We were having difficulty getting folks to serve on the CE commission and when they agreed, rarely were they interested in the full range of activities that the CE commission had historically handled. The CE commission had a rather broad mandate with adult learning for life, youth ministries, and some community building activities (retreats, kick off Sunday, and Sunday school picnic).

In response to the difficulty in CE commission we have gone to an informal coordinator system. Ron Phillips and others have stepped forward to manage the learning for life activities. Nursery, Godly play, and Oasis are being handled by a combination of volunteers, and folks standing in as coordinators. My big thank you to those of you that have taken on these efforts. Oasis in particular has been struggling for volunteers, and considerable volunteer hunting and leading has fallen upon Joel. Ideally Oasis should be split into two groups as the present group has a large range of ages and abilities, that makes leading it difficult. Despite these challenges, volunteers have been coming forth and the Nursery, Godly Play and Oasis have been running a fairly full program. As you are aware the youth group leadership has been taken over by Chris Senger, and we are grateful! Thanks Chris! Chris was hired on a one year contract. Community building activities have been handled by volunteers, and Diaconate members that stepped forward for particular events. Notable successes in this area: church picnic on Willow Island, a kick off Sunday, Christmas Lunch event, and KLC fall retreat! Again a big thank you to those that stepped forward for these events!

At the Diaconate level there is discussion about "Commissions" and "Coordinators", and how best to handle the issues has begun, and the Diaconate has set one of its goals for 2018 to rethink which commissions we should have and their scope, and which activities could be handled by coordinators, and how these activities would be best coordinated through the Diaconate and best financed. Although a lot of ideas have been discussed, as a Diaconate we haven't had the time, nor the insight and agreement yet on the best way forward. Your prayers and support for us is welcomed.

In light of this, here is some of the information from the coordinators working indirectly with CE Commission.

Learning for life - Ron Phillips

Learning For Life exists to allow adults to learn more about the Christian faith, and to interact with one another around important issues of faith and discipleship. It takes place Sunday mornings from 9:30 am. to 10:30 am. During 2017 we offered:

Studies in the Gospel of Luke, with Annabel Robinson

- A study of N.T. Wright's, "The Day the Revolution Began", with Annabel Robinson
- "Introduction to the Bible", with Derrick Bellows and Rosemary Ward
- "The Reformation", with Mark Anderson
- "Life-Shaping Books", with Reid Robinson, Esther Wiens, Brenda Beckman-Long, and Ron Phillips
- During Tuesday evenings in the summer, Collin Carbno offered studies in the Gospel of John

Youth Group - Chris Senger

Youth group this year has been successful in a large part due to the strong foundation of community and relationships that were fostered in previous years. We have had a strong turnout of youth each week and have averaged between 16 and 20 participants. Students are committed to the group and obviously feel safe, welcomed, and engaged in participating in this program. Each month's events are structured around creating space for community and relationship, while also challenging youth to think about their faith and focus on how that is reflected in actions.

There are many areas that have potential to improve with the youth program in our desire to see growth in discipleship, leadership, knowledge, faith, and personal and spiritual transformation at First Baptist Church. Traditional youth models encourage young adults to build relationships with the youth, thereby encouraging a mentorship relationship between sponsor and youth. I believe that model, along with parental involvement would strengthen our Ministry's hope of encouraging youth to have a stronger relationship with Christ.

This is a very exciting program, and one that continues to take shape in how it can best partner with the vision of the church, while meeting the unique needs of those who participate in this group.

Membership Report

Decrease
 4 Deceased
 3 Transfers

Increase
 5 by transfer or experience
 3 by baptism

Total active resident membership December 31, 2017: 206