

***First Baptist Church***  
***Annual General Meeting Minutes***  
***Live in the Lower Hall***  
***March 19, 2023 - 12:00***

1. **Call to Order** - 12:30 Derrick Bellows  
Reminder that only FBC members vote on Motions presented.  
Quorum determined by visual accounting.  
It was noted that two more motions are required on today's Agenda; 1) approve the four Officers of the Board, and 2) approve the Active Role. These will be added to the Consent Agenda.
  
2. **The Church Covenant & Prayer** - Pastor Joel
  
3. **Consent Agenda:**  
**MOTION:**  
That we approve today's meeting agenda  
That we approve the minutes of the November, 2022 congregational meeting  
**Moved:** Hilary Ryan      **Seconded:** John Hilmer      **CARRIED**
  
4. **Board Chair Report:** Ron Phillips as Past-Chair  
Ron's report, presented as printed in Annual Report, recounts the activities of the Board during 2022. Special thanks to out-going Board members Tiffany Stafford -Lai and Barry Lyons for their years of service. Thanks also to Ron for his extended years of leadership.  
  
**MOTION:** That we approve officers of the Board: Derrick Bellows, chair; Brenda Ziolkowski, secretary; Kevin Rich, Treasurer. The position of Vice Chair is vacant.  
**MOTION:** Annabel Robinson      **Seconded:** Bonnie Astring-Winter      **CARRIED**
  
5. **Clerk's Report:**  
A question was raised with regard to the whereabouts of "archived" membership lists. Historically they were sent to the Provincial Archives. They are now kept on file here on the church computer system. The Membership Directory is also listed in the Church Trac program, available to all.  
  
**MOTION:** Move that we approve the active membership role, as presented by Church Clerk, Rosemary Ward in the Annual Report.  
**Moved:** Rosemary Ward      **Seconded:** Norm Latham      **CARRIED**

6. **Treasurer's Report:** Derrick Bellows (Treas. Kevin Rich Absent)

- It was reported that 2022 was good year, all things considered.
- S. Pippin, CPA Prof. Corp. continues to provide bookkeeping services
- Operating surplus of 25K to start 2023
- Loan payments toward our internal loan from the Organ fund ongoing.
- CEBA government loan on schedule to be repaid in full by Dec. 31/23
- Building fund sitting at \$2500 after several large projects were funded
- Legacy Fund (DULF) has \$17.2K funded from estates and special gifts
- Benevolent Fund currently sits at approx. \$700

Assorted charts and graphs were presented to show revenue sources, operating expenses, monthly offerings for 2021 and 2022. The Annual Report contains a detailed financial statement for further reference .

**MOTION: That we receive the 2022 audited church financial statements**

**Moved:** Bryan Orthner **Seconded:** Laureen Snook **CARRIED**

7. **Associate Pastors' Reports:**

Cheryl - Cheryl reported gratitude for her position here and pleasure in carrying out the programs for which she's responsible. She is especially grateful to Kayely, to whom it fell to keep things going throughout the Covid Disconnect. Many of us - and particularly Cheryl - are thrilled to see a front pew FULL for Sunday's Children's Moments. The kids are happy to be together and seem to understand that FBC is a safe place.

Some new things were offered this year for Shrove Tuesday. Besides pancakes, the families gathered for an evening of "Messy Church", which involved active and hands-on learning activities for the kids as well as social opportunities for the grownups in the crowd. Attendance was encouraging. A good time seems to have been had by all. And Cheryl is looking forward to trying a similar family event around Pentecost.

Cheryl's principal program responsibilities include the Nursery, the Godly Play and the OASIS Sunday morning programs. She has recruited volunteers to run the Nursery and Godly Play while she teaches the OASIS children herself. Other groups within the church for which Cheryl bears some responsibility include the new "Spiritual Formation" group.

Comment: John Hilmer recalls having 2 children in the front pew one Sunday in 2004. He's so glad to see the pew FULL now!

Louise - Louise joined the staff as Interim Choir Director in September. She reports a great deal of pleasure in working with the choir and planning special music events.

The Christmas Concert she and the choir prepared went well. Preparations for an Easter music presentation, slated for April 2, are well under way.

Louise is thankful for the many volunteers who do their part to keep our music program active... our pianist, Calla Dawn Brooks, Mark Anderson and Xavier Russell-MacLean, on the organ, JuBELLation, those who provide solos, myriad volunteers on the sound system and Zoom equipment, folks who put on the receptions we enjoy post concert, and the many advisors to whom Louise is welcome to turn as needed.

The retirement of Mark Anderson after his many decades as organist, teacher and friend is an event we anticipate with a sense of loss. He will be deeply missed. At the same time, we share his joy in the opportunity to move on to the next steps of his journey.

It should be noted that written reports from the other staff members - Kayley Rich, Chris Senger and Esther Gurnsey can be found in the Annual Report.

#### **8. Organ Committee Report** Roger Bellows, chair

The organ committee consists of Roger, Mark Anderson, Xavier and Joel Russell-MacLean and Lauren Snook. Roger has worked for several months to determine what routes are available to us in considering ongoing plans for organ music in First Baptist Church.

Roger began his report by reminding us that our organ is 110 years old. This accounts for the state it's in! It has deteriorated to the point where it has become challenging to play and more challenging to repair. We have heard the strange lingering noises and the keys that don't respond when struck.

We all see the organ console in the choir loft. What we don't see is the hundreds of pipes behind the loft. These pipes are crammed into tight, dark places, which adds to the difficulty of effecting repairs on it. They are connected to wooden wind chests, cracked with age. There are complex ductwork and fragile, outdated, obsolete electrical connections involved in the mechanisms.

There is an Easter Music Concert coming up soon and the committee is hoping to have enough quick fixes completed in time for the organ to participate in our Easter season.

Possible solutions were put forward.

1. **Refurbish** the instrument. This would involve replacing numerous components and making repairs on parts not replaced. Major components would have to be moved.

2. **Replace** our organ with a 'new-to-us' one from another church. The committee is exploring this option.

Both options are complicated and costly. The exact cost is not known at this point - nor is the timeline. It's possible that volunteers could help with some of this work, but there would need to be professionals in the field overseeing the project.

At the moment, it looks as though the Organ Fund is healthy. Our hope is that it is sufficiently healthy! NOTE: A new organ would cost 700-800K. Not an option.

Q: Where is the money? Our organ fund has been loaned out internally.

A: The organ fund will be repaid in time. The money is a small part of our concerns. First we need to find and get the replacement organ installed.

Q: Are we looking at digital sound system at all?

A: We have considered whether digital sound will give us the sound we want.

9. **Lead Pastor's Report** - Joel Russel MacLean

Music: - Leadership for services in place to end of summer

- Currently have an interested applicant for organ position
- Louise Krueger is pleased to continue as interim choir director another year
- Calla Dawn has agreed to continue to work with her, as accompanist

Thanks to Kayley, Cheryl, Louise and Calla Dawn for the work they've done to keep the music coming.

Plans are in the works for a May 7 farewell service and lunch for Mark Anderson, retiring from the organ console after some thirty years of service. We'll also miss his Learning for Life classes, his sense of humour and his friendship. All the best Mark!

Thanks also to Esther for her work with our email, website, newsletters and other admin details.

The Youth Group, under the leadership of Chris Senger is enjoying their gatherings, and growing closer relationships among themselves and with God. We pray for Chris in this ministry and in his work with the students at Luther High School.

Covid has shown us how fragile "Strategic Plans" can be. We see God here in our midst as we learn to deal with unexpected challenges. Joel is grateful for the stability provided for our church, in the wake of unstable times and our shifting culture. God has put people and resources in place. We want to sustain these ministries. That comes at a cost, but

Joel sees people here committed to praying for our church, committed to giving generously and committed to serving their community. Recent guests from the CBWC Kurios program, in a prayer walk through the community, saw much evidence of First Baptist Church's vision to be "thriving evangelism in the heart of Regina". He recalled how church leadership of the past made the visionary choice to stay in the city centre at a time when many other churches were rebuilding on the outskirts of the city.

## 10. **Other Business**

1. **Missions:** Marilyn Phillips presented a brief report on the activities of the Mission Commission in 2022. Support for CBM has continued. Our contributions to Katepwa Lake camp were increased, and now that there is an IVCF leader in place here in the city again, there are plans to provide \$3,000 to support that position. The commission was able to disperse most of their budget of \$40,000.
2. **Comments:**
  - The organ committee was commended. It was pointed out that we are shifting from gas-driven cars to electric vehicles. We could make a similar shift in our thinking and move from a pipe organ to a digital replacement...
  - Our Zoom broadcasts don't provide a sense of the size of the congregation, as the camera points straight up the centre of the sanctuary, where fewer people are sitting.
  - We tend to sit on the outer edges of the sanctuary because we can hear better out there!
3. **Closing Remarks from the Chair:**

Special thank you to all the volunteers, most of whom were at this meeting.  
Thanks to Marg Fuller's Kitchen team for a great lunch. Donations still accepted!  
And thank you to Joel - the glue that holds us together!

## 11. **Adjournment:**

**MOTION: to adjourn**

**Moved:** Hilary Ryan