

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Church Council of First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas met for its regular meeting on Monday, December 17th, 2018. The meeting was held at Dr. Darin Wood's home. Members present were: Clark Butts, Andy Cobb, Charlotte Cooke, Randy Cotton, Tom Hanna, Jayna Hobby, Dr. Richard Jolly, Ralph Lea, Patrick Mayers, Clark Moreland, Kim Ortega, April Paris, Toni Redman, K'Lynn Roberts, Ginger Schantz, Jason Sims, Perry Taylor, and Tracye Vaughn.

Staff members present: Larry Grimes and Dr. Darin Wood.

Chairman Richard Jolly called the meeting to order at 7:23 PM. He asked for prayer requests. Prayer was offered.

The minutes were **approved as amended**.

REPORTS

Senior Pastor - Darin Wood

Dr. Wood welcomed everyone to their home and expressed gratitude to the Council. He reported he was very satisfied with *The Gift*, particularly with the teamwork the ministry team and church members exhibited. He reported that visitors made 25 decisions for Christ, and several guests returned to church on Sunday night. Dr. Wood said the goal of the project wasn't just about meeting a need; it was about building relationships. Dr. Wood said a few church members had expressed concern that *The Gift* was too geared towards adults, but that for most guests it was a unique experience that they appreciated. Looking forward, the ministerial team is planning a Spring follow-up outreach (before Easter); more details will be shared soon. Dr. Wood said he is encouraged by the church's enthusiasm for missions in general.

Discussion then occurred about trends in Sunday school and worship attendance. Dr. Wood said preschool visitors have been up, but noted that fewer families with school-aged children and senior adults are attending worship. There was also conversation about the possibility of moving Sunday school classrooms to accommodate members who have mobility impairments, as well as the feasibility of creating another secure corridor for children's classrooms.

Business Administrator - Larry Grimes

Mr. Grimes mentioned that with *The Gift*, 700 gifts were given, 115 families were served, and 250 church members volunteered. He too expressed delight at the church's involvement and teamwork with ministers, as well as the good reports he received from visitors about their experience.

Mr. Grimes then asked Patrick Mayers to report on the Refine Sunday school class. Mr. Mayers said their class focuses on mid-career people who are either long-time singles or are recently divorced with kids. He noted that divorce typically drives people away from church, and Refine is offering these people a place to plug back in. He said they had good attendance at their Christmas party, and things are going well.

Richard Jolly asked committee members to review the Ministerial reports. (See attached report.) He also mentioned staff birthdays and passed around cards.

Deacons - Andy Cobb

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Deacons met on December 10th, and reports were delivered by committee and ministry team leaders. Mr. Cobb reminded the Council that staff have been invited to deacons' meetings; this past meeting, Cory and Amy Brand gave a report on their recent work, and at the next meeting, Sarah Arrambide will attend. Deacon accountability partners have been formed, and the list is going to be mailed out soon. Finally, Mr. Cobb noted the Deacon retreat at the Great House in Junction was coming up soon. Dr. Jolly asked if transportation was needed.

Committee Reports

Chairman's Report - Richard Jolly

Dr. Jolly said that Church directories were being distributed, and though there were a few complaints, most members were pleased with it, especially with the electronic version. He also noted that in the previous church conference, the proposal from the Surplus Committee had been approved.

He asked Council members to read a letter from Jim Hansen about his plan to better regulate key fobs and access cards for the building, and requested they speak in Sunday school classes, committees, Bible studies, etc., about this initiative. He noted that certain fobs only work with certain doors, and that the fobs for the CDC and CDO have already been identified. Dr. Jolly said that the purpose of this initiative is not to limit members using the building, but to keep better records on who has access. Discussion occurred about when the church opens on Sunday afternoons.

Missions - Mike Mayer

Mr. Mayer reported that the Missions Committee met the previous afternoon. He gave thanks for the \$260K contribution the Surplus Committee made to "Missions Gifts Unspecified." He noted the Committee sent out 61 Christmas gift checks, totaling \$12,200. He then reported on a request to help a Cuban pastor travel to Oregon, as well as a request to help fund Lauren Hanna's mission trip to go to Zambia.

Child Care - Ginger Schantz

No report. The committee will meet in January.

Finance - Tom Hanna

Mr. Hanna said the Finance Committee met the previous day, and presented the November 2018 financial report. He noted that salaries and benefits had decreased to 53% of the total budget, from 55% the previous month, and were continuing to decline as expected. A motion to accept the financial report **passed unanimously**.

General Nominating - K'Lynn Roberts

No report. The committee will meet in January.

Maintenance and Expansion - Clark Butts

No report. The committee will meet in January.

Membership - Ralph Lea

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Mr. Lea reminded Council about the Bodybuilding initiative started in the Membership Committee. He said *The Gift* was an example of the entire church coming together to focus on a singular mission. He said class directors and leaders need to encourage Sunday school members to become members of the church as well and attend services. Mr. Lea said developing mentor relationships is also important in this initiative. He said the committee would meet again in February.

Council then reviewed the additions and losses to the membership. The additions to the church totaled fifteen (three by baptism; twelve by letter), with thirteen membership losses (six by death; seven by letter, with all but one outside the city). The additions will be voted on at the January 2019 Church Conference. Total active resident members are 2,979. A motion to accept the membership report **passed unanimously**.

Personnel – Richard Jolly

Mr. Jolly reported that housing allowance forms had been approved. The Personnel Committee also approved the current organizational chart. He said all supervisory positions are currently filled, but some housekeeping positions are still open. Finally, he said the committee is looking at employee handbook.

Transportation – Perry Taylor

No report. The committee will meet in January.

Safety and Security Committee – Randy Cotton

Mr. Cotton reported that the S&S Committee would meet the following Wednesday. In their November meeting, they talked to Sarah and Amy to talk about vetting children's workers. The committee approved the current training videos. The committee also discussed security needs for the Missions building, and it was decided that Brian Pinson would submit recommendations to the committee. Mr. Cotton said the committee also received a budget update and report about contracts for video surveillance and door security from Dwayne Garnett. Several small changes were recommended to the specification sheet, and it was then approved by the Committee. Mr. Garnett will revise the specification sheet and begin the process of bidding out to local companies by December 1, 2018 with the bids requested back by January 11, 2019.

Mr. Cotton then said the church staff and law enforcement drills will happen early in 2019, and that the PPE Hazard Analysis information was not yet available for review.

Next, he noted that the committee heard recommendations for purchasing insurance for staff traveling internationally. The committee reviewed and approved the guidelines, and then submitted them to Brian Pinson for use on future trips. Mr. Cotton said Wes Lewis is building an orientation program for travel safety and security; Mr. Lewis is also writing a Gatekeeper Manual.

The committee is investigating additional safe rooms besides the command center and prayer room.

Finally, Mr. Cotton said the CDC and CDO were working on additional safety and security measures, and that Shannon Merritt would report on discussions with the CDC director at the December meeting.

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New Business

Dr. Wood announced an upcoming event in February: "Footprints in February." Starting on the afternoon February 3rd, and then continuing for the next four Sunday nights, he would lead conversations aimed at mentoring and developing leaders. The event would take place in the Fellowship Hall. Two interviews will take place each Sunday night, formed around themes like dealing with change, loss, calling, and perseverance. Then conversations would take place at roundtables afterwards. Mr. Cotton said committee service develops these relationships as well.

Dr. Jolly then reminded everyone about plans to speak with individual Sunday school classes and Bible studies about the role and purpose of Church Council. He said they should speak with directors about the best time to schedule, and limit their remarks to five minutes. He also encouraged Council to allow members a chance to give feedback or ask questions. He asked Council members to contact him if they want to volunteer to speak to additional classes besides their own. Discussion occurred about a lack of knowledge among the church about what Council does or who serves on it. Further discussion took place about volunteers on Sunday morning also needing someone from Council to speak to them.

Kim Ortega closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.



Clark Moreland, Secretary, 2018-19

Date Approved