

First Baptist Church Conference, Neosho, MO
November 8, 2023

Lynn Jenkins thanked everyone for coming to the Annual Church Conference of First Baptist Church. He then called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. He asked Pastor Marcus to lead in prayer.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Lynn instructed church members to review the minutes of the church conference from November 9, 2022 as well as the special called church conferences on February 15 and June 25, 2023. Time was allowed for everyone to do so. There were no questions. A motion was made by Phil Wise to approve the minutes as read. KC Jones seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved. No one opposed.

Nominating Committee Report – James Shallenburger, chairman, stated it was an honor to work with the Nominating Committee. On behalf of this committee, he presented the names of the general officers, program/ministry leaders, and Shoal Creek Association representatives. He made a motion they be accepted. These names were listed in the church conference package, green page. No second was required. The nominees were approved by everyone saying yes.

Election of Deacons, and Elders - James presented the nominees for elders and deacons. He explained the ballot as well as the voting requirements. Seventy-five percent approval is required for both deacons and elders. Everyone who was eligible to vote were given time to vote for the Board of Elders nominees, which were Rob Brown and Kevin Eads, as well the deacon nominees, which were Jay Boice and Kevin Hoskins. The ballots were then collected by John Ball and Jeff VanSickle and counted by them also. All nominees were elected by the required percentage needed.

Election of new Nominating Committee members – Pastor Marcus presented the names of Cindy Brown and Jon Branscum as new members of the Nominating Committee. No motion or 2nd was required. They were approved by everyone saying aye.

Old Business – None.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Budget Proposal – Gary Massey briefly reviewed the Budget Report and Escrow Accounts. He stated if anyone had any questions regarding the reports he would be happy to answer their questions. He also stated the elders had made the decision to purchase a CD for \$300,000. He next reviewed the 2024 proposed budget. Total mission giving will be approximately 14% of the total budget. A marriage conference is being planned to take place in October 2024, which will be a Friday/Saturday event. The attendance goal for this event will be 100 couples. This will be a new budget item – Marriage Conference. The Music Worship budget is being reduced because it was separated from Technical, which is a new line item. This budget will be \$6500 for improvements. Employee Tax budget is being reduced to \$2500 due to reduced support staff. Security budget will be increased by \$3200 due to the need for a new computer. The Building Insurance is being increased by \$7473 in anticipation of an increase in the premium.

The total budget for 2024 will see an increase of \$10.45%. Gary stated this will be a challenge. At this time, the giving to general fund is slightly ahead of the budget. Kevin Hoskins pointed out that using a custodial service, which is a new line item, is another reason for a reduction in the Support Staff Budget. Lynn asked that a motion be made to approve the 2024 proposed budget. Lawrence Follmer made the motion. KC Jones seconded the motion, and the budget was approved.

Membership Role Update – Pastor Marcus presented the Membership Roll Update, which is included in the conference meeting packet, white sheet. He stated that people who have not been baptized are not listed as new members. Dustin Kibler made a motion to accept the updated membership role. Jim Cummins seconded the motion. The motion was approved by everyone saying aye.

Board of Elders Report – Lynn Jenkins presented the report on behalf of the elders. This report is included in the church conference packet, salmon colored sheet. He highlighted developing a Long-Range Maintenance plan, which helps with developing the future budget. He stated that Steve Kelly and himself have worked on an Emergency Action Plan for situations like floods, electrical problems, and water, etc. He pointed out the outreach activities, which have taken place in the community, and other major activities which were accomplished this year.

Steve Kelly and Lynn Jenkins will be going off the elder board at the end of the year. Gary Massey will be chairman in 2024.

Staff Expectations for the Coming Year - Next Generation Pastor Jeremy Kurth shared his vision for the coming year. He stated the youth are currently studying the book of Ephesians. In January they will break into small groups. He stated that parents need to recognize teachable moments as they spend time with their children.

Stephen Evans, Director of Communications/Pastoral Care, stated that some of his goals for the coming year are to make contacts with visitors who filled out the Connection Cards, streamline social media, develop a five-year plan to update the sound system, lighting upgrade in the sanctuary, and to streamline communication.

Adjournment – The church conference was adjourned. Gary Massey closed in prayer.

