

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Richmond, Kentucky

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING
November 16, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Lance Neal, Moderator, at 1:05 p.m., 105 members attending.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the September 21, October 5, and October 12 business meetings were approved as presented.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Lance Neal, Moderator, since there was no one from Finance to present the report.

Mr. Neal used a PowerPoint presentation to report the current financial situation of First Baptist Church. Year-to-date budget receipts are \$63,000 shy of budget plan which is 97-98% of plan. A rule of thumb is to attain 95% of plan, so this has been an excellent year so far. Our expenses year-to-date have a surplus of \$107,266.85. Compared to 2007, 2008 is 109% above 2007.

Motion by the Finance Committee to approve the report as presented.

Motion passed.

Mr. Neal then presented the 2009 budget continuing to use a PowerPoint presentation. The budget was presented in the following areas:

Missions	\$ 257,577.14
Program Ministries	\$ 229,309.75
Administration	\$ 279,947.00
Personnel	\$ 918,231.28
Debt Service	\$ 246,413.16
Total Budget	\$1,931,478.33

This is a 5.7% increase over the 2008 budget, but is still less than the 2007 budget.

Motion by the Finance Committee that the budget for 2009 be approved.

Question: Please clarify how the Cooperative Program amount is determined.

Answer: We take the total budget before any amounts are entered for Co-operative, Association and Local Mission Programs, subtract from that the following: debt service, equipment, one-time capital expenses, and other mission ministry line items. (This is the first year we have had to include debt service.)

Ten percent of the above amount is allocated to the Co-operative Program.

Three percent of the above amount is allocated to Association Missions.

Two percent of the above amount is Allocated to Church Missions.

Comment: The percentage shown on the executive summary for Personnel is larger than previously because this is the first year we have been at full staff.

Alan Engle, Vice Chair of Personnel, discussed the personnel section of the budget after asking staff members to leave the meeting during the discussion. The Personnel Committee tries to keep the personnel expenditures under 50% of the budget. Last year there were no raises for the personnel. This year we have a 5.7% increase in personnel expenditures. This is mostly a cost of living increase for the staff.

Question: How many staff members are there?

Answer: 6 senior staff, 6 program staff, and 10 support staff. Some program and staff positions are part-time.

Motion to adopt the 2009 budget passed.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached at the end of the official minutes.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE by Vivian Bowles

Ms. Bowles presented the changes to the bylaws as previously distributed to the church membership.

7.1.4 In emergency situations an Exception of Use Request will require approval by any two of the following: (1) Deacon Chair *or* Deacon Vice Chair and (2) the Pastor *or* Church Administrator.
Stands approved as presented.

7.5.5 Absentee voting is only permissible at meetings requiring a quorum of 10% or more of resident members and only on "in favor" or "against" issues for which discussion and amendments are not in order.

7.5.5.1 Absentee vote can only be made on an official church paper ballot. (Phone calls and electronic methods are unacceptable.)

7.5.5.2 Ballots must be received by the church in a sealed envelope signed on the outside of the envelope by the voting member for the purpose of accounting for all absentee ballots. Ballots must be received by the time of the actual vote.

7.5.5.3 Ballots will be available when announcement of the actual date of voting is given to the church from the pulpit.

There were several questions and comments on section 7.55, primarily pertaining to absentee voting and are summarized below:

Question: Why don't we allow absentee voting on all questions, not just those that require a quorum of 10% or more of resident membership?

Chris Hager
Answer: Keith Stinson: If we open it to all church meetings, it would include committee meetings and that is not feasible. Strongly recommend we not open absentee ballots to all meetings, a person would not be able to make an informed decision since the question up for vote could change due to discussion and/or amendments, etc.

Comment: Concerning 7.5.5.1: Please note that in the past I have received phone calls and emails asking that I cast an absentee vote for persons, which I have done. If this passes, please do not call or email me asking me to cast an absentee vote for you because I will not be able to do so.
Marsha Elliott (Staff)
Also, putting the absentee ballots in an envelope is an unnecessary expense.

Comment: I suggest you put the ballot online in a PDF format so it can be downloaded. A person could print it out, vote, and then deliver or mail it to the church office.
Eric Fuchs

Comment: You don't need a special envelope, just generic envelopes that can be purchased at a discount store.

Comment: Robert's Rules of Order is a guide. What the church puts in the bylaws overrules Robert's Rules of Order.
R. Landers
(Staff)

Comment: It is not feasible to have absentee voting on any proposal which allows for discussion and/or amendments because the original proposal can change to have a different meaning.
Bill Robinson

Comment: In regular committee meetings things are brought up, discussed and voted on with no delay. The process bogs down if we keep to written ballots.
Brandon Powell

Comment: Keep in mind that we are not voting today. We are only discussing and making changes for the vote on December 7.
Lance Neal
Moderator

Mike Kettler, Parliamentarian, was asked to explain the purpose of the meeting today and how the process works. "We are finalizing the proposal to go before the church on December 7. This group can amend the wording. The wording must be germane to the subject—this proposed amendment deals only with absentee ballots. We must not change the wording to affect other procedures (such as election of deacons which is a different procedure and dealt with in a different part of the bylaws)."

Comment: With clarification, this only fits for votes requiring a 10% of resident members quorum.
Mickey Ballard
(Staff)

Comment: This is a fuzzy and grey procedure that the church has allowed for a long time. We have only had absentee ballots on votes requiring a 10% of resident members quorum.
Mike Kettler
Parliamentarian

Chris Hager moved that 7.5.5 be changed to read: "Absentee voting is permissible at meetings of resident members and only on in favor or against issues for which discussion and amendments are not in order."
Motion seconded.

Comment: This doesn't allow absentee voting on any item that has discussion.

Comment: Section 1.3 says, “Every member shall be given equal right to participate in all activities of the church. Every member of the church is entitled to vote at all elections and on all issues submitted to the church in business session, provided the member is present or provision has been made for absentee balloting.”
Eric Fuchs

In the light of Section 1.3 Mr. Hager withdrew his motion. The second to the motion was also withdrawn.

Comment: We as church members are given a right to vote on the budget. This is about
Lynn Collins commitment. We are asked to come to a meeting, discuss, and vote.

Call for question.

Section 7.5.5 (including 7.5.5.1, 7.5.5.2, 7.5.5.3) was approved as presented.

Motion that 8.2.2 be changed to read: “Any proposed non-budget expenditure under \$10,000 must first receive approval from the Finance Committee before being voted on in a business meeting of the church.”

Motion seconded.

Comment: Even though we are giving the Finance Committee discretion for non-budget
R. Landers expenditures under \$10,000, Section 8.3.5 requires the Finance Committee to
(Staff) keep the church informed of all aspects of church finance.

Motion passed 19 to 14.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT distributed with agenda

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT not available

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT not available

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES REPORT not available

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Church Letter:

Ashley Gabbard Darland from Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, KY

Katherine Treadway from White Hall Baptist Church, Richmond, KY

John & Melanie Ward from Union City Baptist Church, Richmond, KY

James Whitaker from Kirksville Baptist Church, Richmond, KY

Letters granted.

Other Correspondence

None

Carl Powell, Chairman of Deacons, reported on the vote for deacon recommendation. Approve – 350; Disapprove - 4

Motion to accept report passed.

Ron Boyd stated that although we say we are giving 10% to world missions, after we deduct the debt service, capital expenditure, and other missions, we are actually only giving 7% to world missions. He urged the church to work toward actually giving a full 10% of total budget to world missions in coming years.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Nancy Garriott, Church Clerk

Explanation of Phases

Detailed report is attached at the end of the official minutes.

A verbal or written report was presented at the business meeting. A summary is contained in the minutes. The complete/detailed report is on file with the clerk's minutes. Available in the Church Office during normal business hours.

Filed with the Clerk. Attached at the end of these minutes.

Report was not presented at the Business Meeting. A copy of the entire report is attached at the end of the minutes distributed to attendees.