

First Baptist Church, Bloomington, IL
Annual Congregational Business Meeting
Sunday, May 7, 2023

In-Person and on-line following the 10:00 AM Worship Service

Moderator Mary Jo Douglass opened the meeting at 11:10 a.m. with prayer. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes – Beverly Jennings made a motion to approve the February 5, 2023, Congregational Business Meeting minutes. Al Strauch seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED.

Church Clerk Report – A written report is on page 4 in the 2022-2023 Annual Business Report of the First Baptist Church...

Treasurer Glen Wetzel - Glen presented the 2022 year end report. The year as a whole was stable. There are two parts to this report. The first is the Statement of Activities.

- Total income: \$364,195.53
- Total expense: \$345,910.48
- Surplus: \$ 18,285.05

We still have not received the \$12,000 to \$15,000 bill for the 2022 roof repairs, so when that arrives it will cut into the surplus, leaving around \$5,000. The second part is the Statement of Financial Position.

- Checking Account Balance: \$142,993.99 which is an increase of about \$11,000.
- Savings and Investments: \$475,982.76 which is a drop of about \$83,000, due to the up and downs of the stock market.
- Total Assets: \$618,976.75 which is a drop of about \$72,000.

This year, the January and February offerings were over budget, but in March they were down. The year-to-date offerings are still over budget. The Baird account has been stable the last few months.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on proposed Constitutional Changes - The committee consisted of Al Azinger, Carissa Haning, Pastor Brian Hastings, Melissa Larson, and Al Strauch. Al Strauch introduced the committee and presented the amendments to be voted upon. Paper ballots were passed out to members for voting on the constitutional changes. The ballot listed all four amended articles and a place to vote individually for each one. Members on-line could text their vote to Al Strauch at 309-830-1036. All amendments were read with an explanation and an opportunity for discussion after each one. The vote was at the end of the reading and discussion of all amendments. The Ad Hoc committee presented the following proposed amendments to the Constitution of First Baptist Church, Bloomington.

Article V: Membership, Sections 1, 2, 3, & 4. These are: Church Fellowship; Admission to Membership; Active/Inactive Members and Dismissal; and Responsibilities of Membership. Al Strauch explained the rationale in recommending the changes to Article V: Membership. The purpose in reviewing the Membership Article was in large part due to our ability to connect with people in ways outside in-person worship and fellowship. This capability allows people outside the local community to take part in our activities. While reviewing Article V, the committee felt additional changes to the Article would be beneficial for clarity and understanding and they have recommended some changes. Instead of identifying members as resident and non-resident, they now

will be identified as active or inactive members. The Church Clerk and Financial Secretary will review the active/inactive status of all members at the end of the year, and will report to the Board and Pastor any who have changed status.

Article VI: Officers; Section 3- Duties; Sub Section B, C, and D.

Subsection B: The proposed change is to include the annual review by the Vice Moderator of the Board-adopted policy on records retention and to correct a typo in the word Manual.

Subsection C: The proposed change is to align the members wording to match with Article V, Section 3 and for the Church Clerk not counting inactive members for the purposes of voting or statistical purposes.

Subsection D: For the Treasurer, the proposed change is to remove pay by check, because we now make electronic transfers of some regular payments.

Article X: Meetings; Section 2; Sub Section B. Add the word Business in the Sub Section heading. Change November to December for the listing of dates for the quarterly meetings.

Article XII; Section 1 The word “active” will replace the word “resident.”

After the changes to each amendment were read, Mary Jo, moderator, declared that the recommendations were coming from committee, so no second was needed. If adopted, the amendments would take effect at the close of this meeting and as specified in the Constitution of First Baptist Church, Bloomington.

There were no questions or discussion from the congregation. David Greenfield thanked the committee for their work. Ballots were passed out. Nathan Jennings, Beverly Jennings and Joyce Topping were appointed tellers. After counting the votes cast, it was found that a majority were in the affirmative for each of the amendments proposed. Each of the four amendments was adopted unanimously with 44 votes cast.

Mary Jo thanked Facilitator Al Strauch and his committee for their diligence and hard work on the amendments.

Election of officers and Committee Chairpersons: The Nominating Committee was chaired by Al Strauch. Committee members were Jay Hartzler, Paul Lawrence, Bea Olson, and Janie Rempel. The committee asked the presiding chairs to serve an additional one-year term, while work continues on leadership and structure. New representatives have been asked to serve on the Pastoral Relations Committee for a three year term. The names presented by Nominating Committee for one year terms were:

- Christian Education – Nathan Jennings
- Church Growth – Jan Hazekamp
- Family Care – Beverly Jennings & Sharon Wetzel (Co-chairs)
- Missions – Becky Strack
- Pastoral Relations – Ashley Benton & Carolyn Wetzel
- Trustees – Nick Rude
- Vice-Moderator – Al Strauch
- Worship – Joyce Benton

There were no nominations from the floor for any of the positions. A voice vote was taken and the slate was unanimously elected.

The committee thanked these individuals for their dedicated service:

- Lesley Sutton – Co-chair of Christian Education
- David Greenfield – Pastoral Relations, Chair
- Paul Baker – Pastoral Relations committee

Christian Education Report – Nathan Jennings reported that it has been a productive spring and the committee is preparing for summer. Graduation Sunday will be June 11th and Vacation Bible School will be August 6th – 10th with a theme of Food Trucks. Children and youth are encouraged to attend Lake Springfield Baptist Camp and the church will pay 50% of their fees. They are looking for children and adults to participate in the Summer Reading Program, and the committee is thinking about a program where individuals could share their art or talent and help others learn how to do it. The Gen-on trip for High School Students to West Virginia is the first week in August. The kayaking group led by Jennifer Devine and friends will meet again this summer.

LOGOS Report – Michelle Wiggins reported on the past year of LOGOS. It ran from mid-September to April 14th. The theme was Sharing Our Faith, and they tried to make more opportunities for individuals to share their faith with others. She reported that there were 29 youth representing 17 families. 85% of the families had a parent involved in LOGOS, and of the 57 adults working in LOGOS, two thirds do not have children involved in the program. There were 9 guests on Friendsgiving and 6 other friends visited at other times.

Missions Report – Becky Strack reported that the committee continues to give support to University Baptist Foundation/Judson/Agape at ISU. They offer financial support to PATH, Recycling Furniture for Families, Faith in Action, Home Sweet Home Ministries, and Marc First, and they provide hands-on support to Sugar Creek Elementary School. Other out-reach programs of our church are the Koinonia Class cooking for Safe Harbor once a month and the Prayer Shawl ministry.

Worship Report – Joyce Benton thanked everyone for their involvement and help with worship services. She announced that we will worship outdoors on the first Sunday of June, July, August, and September. In case of rain, the outdoor service will be held on the second Sunday of the month. On July 2nd, there will be a picnic following worship. Pastor Brian Hastings (who was back today, following his heart attack last week) said it was a privilege to work with each committee. We gather to worship but are sent out into the world. He thanked the congregation for the love and support that has been shown to him and Gabrielle.

Pastor Brian Hastings closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Joyce Topping,
Church Clerk