

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Richmond, Kentucky

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING
November 21, 2010

Moderator Greg Powell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall after Pastor Bill Fort led the congregation in prayer.

The agenda was approved as presented in a voice vote with no opposition.

The minutes of the Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Oct. 10 and Oct. 17, 2010, meetings were approved as presented in a voice vote without opposition.

The personnel committee, with the concurrence of the music council and the deacons, recommended that Judy A. Ridings be hired as full-time, interim music director, Chairman Lance Neal said. Passed by voice vote, without opposition.

Bob Seifert, deacon chair, reported that in a 345-to-6 ballot vote, the church approved 15 men to serve three-year terms as deacons, with four named life deacons.

The 15 elected were Daniel Blakeman, Mark Brooks, Tony Calico, Tom Collins, Eric Fuchs, Rick Jones, Kevin Masters, Steve McIntyre, Patrick Miller, Dave Mooney, Mike Parke, Duane Parsons, Brandon Powell, Carl Powell and Tony Tompkins.

He also announced that Brad Gullett had resigned from the deacon body.

Financial Report

Mike Reed, chair of the finance committee presented the September financial report from and then the committee's proposed budget for 2011.

September expenses were \$143,230.02 with receipts of \$135,329.92, a negative difference of \$7,900.10.

However year-to-date receipts and expenses through September were both under budget, expenses – \$1,219,036.32 – give the church a positive balance of \$57,659.15. YTD receipts are up about 7 percent while expenses are down 8 percent from 2009.

Total debt at the end of September was \$3,568,482.23. Monthly debt payments are just over \$27,000, one of the church's greatest expenses.

Designated funds total \$1,131,675.36, including \$885,440.93 in the Building to Glorify fund.

The report was approved by voice vote, without opposition.

2011 Budget

Mr. Reed offered this motion from the committee:

“The Finance Committee proposes a Budget of \$1,947,802.46 be approved for the year 2011.

“The budget has been reviewed, evaluating each ministry of the church. To ensure each ministry is able to meet all goals during the budget year, the Finance Committee proposes the committee have standing authorization of up to \$162,663 of *Building to Glorify* funds if there would be a cash flow shortage. The amount is one-half of the debt service payment to Chase Bank of Kentucky. Withdrawals will only be done, if necessary, to meet the debt service payments for the year.”

A six-page line-by-line budget analysis also was submitted for the members’ review.

Mr. Reed said the committee combined the Building to Glorify withdrawal authorization with the budget proposal because the budget is “a true reflection of what we need” to conduct the church’s ministries. Although the church has successfully managed its cash flow for the past two years, during a general economic downturn, the committee is concerned whether that will be possible if economic difficulties prevail for a third year.

The standing authorization would allow the committee to make the church’s debt payments without coming back to the church for permission if monthly cash flow is insufficient, Mr. Reed said.

Jason Fair called the proposal “an unprecedented request” that should be voted on separately. Members could vote against the withdrawal authorization only by voting against the budget, he pointed out. “Why not have a budget that can stand on its own two legs?” he asked.

Question: Would the withdrawals be loans that would be repaid to *Building to Glorify*?

Answer: The withdrawals would not be loans.

Comment from the congregation: What was this (*Building to Glorify*) money given for, to build a grand, next phase of our building or was it given to glorify God?

Mr. Reed said the finance committee did not feel led to cut ministry programs to make debt payments when more than \$885,000 sits in the *Building to Glorify* fund.

Mr. Fair said the *Building to Glorify* fund should be retained and grown for its originally intended purpose, completing the next phases of the church’s building plan.

Parliamentarian Mike Kettler said a divide-the-question motion would be in order, if any member so desired.

Mr. Fair then offered a motion to divide authorization to withdraw from *Building to Glorify* from the budget motion.

Mr. Reed said, if the question was divided and the withdrawal authorization failed, the committee would have to reconsider its budget proposal.

Sarah Flowers, a budget committee member said, “Every year it’s been cut, cut, cut. People have begun to ask, ‘How much longer are we going to have to cut our (ministry) programs?’” Dipping into the *Building to Glorify* fund to pay on the building debt and provide more money for ministries would be appropriate, she said.

Mr. Fair said he wanted a vote to separate the question so that *Building to Glorify* funds could be used for their intended purpose, construction of the building plan’s second phase.

After a voice vote was ruled indecisive, the moderator asked for a show of hands. The motion to divide the question failed 58-18.

Mr. Reed then went through the budget by departments. The Hispanic ministry, increased from \$7,500 to \$26,000, was among the areas of largest growth. A grant could offset some of that expense, however. The marriage-and-family program is budgeted for \$20,000, although most areas of the budget have been reduced from the previous year.

The original budget motion from the finance committee passed by voice vote, with minimal opposition.

At this point, the moderator pointed out that only eight minutes remained in the time allotted for business meetings, without a motion to extend the session. Such a motion was introduced and passed by voice vote.

Nominating Committee report

Chair Lynn Collins presented the committee’s motion that the Money Counting Committee be moved from the Service Committee section of the church’s organizational structure to the Administration Committee section with three members elected each year to three-year terms on a rotating basis. This is the same format followed by the Personnel, Long Range Planning, Finance and other committees, she said. The motion was passed by vote without opposition. Mrs. Collins said nominations to fill committee vacancies had to wait for approval of the re-organization. Finance Manager Nancy Jo Wallace is the committee’s staff liaison.

A slate of officer and committee members was adopted as presented with a few positions left open, because church members had been asked to fill the positions and were still praying about it, she said.

The slate was approved as presented, with a few changes made during the meeting, by voice vote, without opposition.

Church letters granted

Letters of the following church members were approved by voice vote for transfer:

- Sue Hays, to the First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, Ky.
- Robbie Phelps, to the Salvisa Baptist Church, Salvisa, Ky.

Seminary endorsement

The application of Josh Corum, who has served the church as a youth ministry intern, to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was affirmed by a voice vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the church voted to adjourn the business meeting at 2:36 p.m. Pastor Bill Fort then led the congregation in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

William B. Robinson, Assistant Clerk.