

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Richmond, Kentucky

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**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING**  
June 26, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mike York, Moderator, at 1:05 p.m., 210 members attending.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The Moderator reminded the members that this is a special called business meeting and only the items on the agenda can be discussed and voted on.

In the absence of the Parliamentarian, the Moderator appointed Joe Elliott Parliamentarian.

Bob LaDeur, Vice Chair of the LifeWay Response Committee, was introduced and in turn introduced the members of the LifeWay Response Committee.

**Motion**

The LifeWay Response Committee moves that as of August 14, 2011, First Baptist Church move to the following Sunday morning schedule:

- 8:15 a.m.      Adult Sunday School with nursery
- 9:30 a.m.      Fully-graded Sunday School and concurrent Worship Services
- 11:00 a.m.     Fully-graded Sunday School and concurrent Worship Services

The recommendations are as follows:

1. Change Sunday School (SS) and Morning Worship Service Schedule
2. Expand parking lot (in progress)
3. Ask the Finance Committee to come up with an on-going plan to reduce/retire debt.

He then reviewed the summary and recommendations of the committee. A complete summary and recommendations is attached at the end of these official minutes.

The LifeWay Response Committee is proposing these changes due to our overcrowding problems causing a minor inconvenience to eclipse the Good News. The purpose of the motion is to provide room for growth. The published schedule with assigned times and locations is a suggestion, but supported by the LifeWay Response Committee.

There were several comments and questions from the members:

**Comment:**      I do not see this as an answer to our problems. We have other more important problems. This change is not necessary in my opinion.

**Comment:** This proposal is for our ability to grow.

**Question:** Several choir members are Sunday School teachers and also sing in the choir. How will that be handled?

**Answer:** That decision will be left to the choir members and the music ministry.

**Question:** How can you change the Sunday School schedule without changing the bylaws?

**Answer:** The Sunday School schedule is not in the bylaws; only the worship schedule.

**Comment:** If we want to be a church of God who seeks God and growth of the kingdom, we do not rely on leaders—it is not about us, but Him being glorified as the Body of Christ.

The Moderator requested that each speaker identify himself by name when speaking.

From the Bylaws: Article 7.1.2: The schedule of the worship services will be determined by the church by majority vote.

**Comment:** It shouldn't matter when/where you worship.

**Comment:** We are not moving the church toward unity.

**Answer:** This plan fits into the unified body as recommended by LifeWay. LifeWay recommended one worship service. However, the sanctuary is not big enough for all. If we add stadium seating in the balcony, it will require double teachers and cost a lot of money, so it is not viable at this time.

**Comment:** You are not thinking to accommodate the seniors, but just the comfort zone of some people. The balcony is not being used. That is a group of rooms not being used.

**Answer:** The committee prayed about this over a year and this is the way God is leading us. We have more than enough space by using the rooms twice. If we fill up all the rooms at 9:30 and 11:00, we can use the balcony rooms at 8:15. That is not expected to happen for 5-6 years. If you look at the original master plan, there are no classrooms in the balcony.

Seniors not able to come at 8:15 can come at 9:30 or 11:00. The Sunday School leaders will look at the situation and work out accommodations for 750.

**Comment:** The older adults need more leeway.

**Answer:** Agree – we need unity

We are now worshipping in two services. We would like to get to one service. Right now the Sunday School classes are being reordered. In God's eyes we are all equal and we are looking for ways to provide the means to reach people.

**Question:** Has every Sunday School teacher been notified?

**Answer:** Yes, this was laid before us in prayer—it just came to us and we met with the Sunday School teachers.

**Comment:** I am not ready to make a decision at this time. I need to think about what God would have us do.

**Question:** With Sunday School at 9:30 and 11:00, what about Kidz Praise? My children are not ready to sit through an entire worship service.

**Answer:** There is a combination Sunday School and Kidz Praise at 9:30 and 11:00 for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The children can attend both.

**Comment:** Thank you to the committee for all the work and prayer done. This is a beginning—not the end all—of the process. We are not spending more money, it's not perfect, but as changes evolve there is an opportunity for growth. With more children in the worship service we can make worship more child friendly. It is not a perfect plan, but it has a chance for growth.

**Comment:** I work in the nursery because I prayed and ask God to send nursery workers and he said, "You go." Many times by myself I have had 16 two-year-olds. We need more workers with our children. They are going to school with unchurched children and need strong teachers to strengthen them to resist the influence of these unchurched children.

**Question:** LifeWay recommended one service. Why won't that work?

**Answer:** The sanctuary should provide seating for 1200. By the LifeWay survey, it provides seating for 1029 which includes seating in the choir, orchestra pit, and fifty seats in the balcony. When you exceed 80% capacity, it is too crowded, so one service is not feasible without the balcony.

Motion to end discussion. Motion seconded. Vote to end was 148 'yes' and 26 'no'. Discussion ended.

Mr. LaDeur restated the motion. 121 in favor of the motion; 75 opposed. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. and closed with prayer by Jeff Prosser.

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.