

First Baptist Church Manchester fbcmct.org
Bi-Monthly Business Meeting February 4, 2024

Members attended in person and via Zoom. Pastor Saylor opened in prayer.

Members voted to accept the minutes from the December 2023 business meeting.

A calendar of church events was available on the church website.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Treasurer, Donna Murphy gave the February 2024 report, which was provided for member review online and in paper for those present.

- General Fund amount did not include February 4th giving and has approximately \$34,000.
- Tithes are \$2,000 over the budget to date
- Jan 14th offering was after the morning service was canceled due to inclement weather Jan 7.
- Line 360B flowers is already over budget because the December poinsettia bill came in January
- The church insurance company will be changing and the new rate is projected to be from \$25,000-\$40,000.

Trustees, Cheryl Gervasi reported. The church will remain covered through the current insurance company until April 3, 2024. Many churches have recently made claims due to natural disasters, similar to FBCM. The church insurance has three components: liability, workers compensation, and property. In the future the church may use the Guide One company for all three insurance needs, but it may be possible that different companies would be used to cover each part separately. Costs and benefits will determine how coverage is managed in the future.

- Workdays will be established soon for jobs inside the building including painting.
- Additional projects will be determined after an insurance representative conducts a walk through the building and property. One necessary change includes a soft ground cover for the playground, such as wood chips.

Ghana Church update, Pastor Saylor reported. Pastor Joshua's mother passed away so he has been traveling back and forth to Ghana. Attendance at the Ghana services have been fluctuating. The clothes that were shipped to Ghana arrived safely.

Safety Committee, Rick Murphy reported. Two people from the safety committee are in the foyer during Sunday services. Outside doors to the church are locked at 12:00 on Sundays and after Wednesday night programs have concluded.

- Ministries meeting on Mon, Tues, and Thursday through Saturday should delegate a member to lock the doors when programs have concluded.

-CPR course will be conducted February 17th. Let Will Housley know if you would like to be certified.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Ministry List will include four new groups in the future: Usher/Greeter, Safety Committee, Pastor Transition Team and Pastor Search Committee.

2. Transition Team, Paul Powers reported. A congregational vision survey was sent to members on Jan 16, 2024, consisting of questions to gather information about what members would like to see in a new pastor and the current and future impressions of FBCM. An initial review of results has been completed, with some common themes about the church and peoples' hopes for the new pastor. Many thoughtful responses were given, with 88 surveys completed, which was about 50 percent of church members. Additional surveys were submitted after the last count.
 - Conversations will be conducted during group meetings on Feb 28th during the Sunday school hour. Information from the conversations and surveys will be used to create snapshots of the church vision and pastor profile. The snapshots are planned to be available for review by the Pastor Search committee by mid March.

3. Pastor Search Committee, Kristen Chen reported. The committee members have been meeting on a regular basis and have received training from the BCNE (Baptist Convention of New England). An area profile has been completed.
 - Two members stepped down and the deacons are helping to fill the spots, considering gender balance. 8 to 9 members is considered an ideal number for the committee.

4. Deacons, Bob Law reported. Pauline Cuffe has been identified as a possible candidate for serving on the Pastor Search committee.
 - A motion from Committee to add Pauline Cuffe to the Pastor Search Committee was passed unanimously.
 - Motion by Paul Powers, second Cindy Todd: If deacons find another person to serve on the Pastor Search Committee, the member may begin serving immediately rather than waiting until being officially approved at the next business meeting.
 Motion passed unanimously.

5. Nominating Committee. Leslie Law was nominated as a co-chair of the Vacation Bible School committee. Motion passed unanimously. VBS will be June 24-28, 2024

6. Pastor Saylor suggested posting positive comments on the Church Facebook page to encourage prospective visitors.

7. Rick Murphy volunteered to be in charge of taking new photographs for the church online directory.

8. Darryn Witzgall will begin soliciting brief bios from members to be shared in the church bulletin and possibly online. He will create a template for members to complete which he would publish.

Motion to adjourn Bob Law, Second Rick May. Motion passed.

Rich Murphy closed in prayer