

First Baptist Church Manchester fbcmct.org  
Bi-Monthly Business Meeting Aug 13, 2023

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

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

### MINISTRY REPORTS

Sunday School, Jerry Adkins reported. The first Sunday of the new year will be September 3rd. About half of the teachers have already been contacted about serving in the coming year.

Treasurer, Donna Murphy presented the August 2023 report, which was provided for member review online and in paper form for those present.

- \$1,600 in invoices are not reflected in the report.
- Offering of \$13,871.00, including Faith Street, was collected August 13.
- General Fund amount did not include August 13th giving.
- \$60,000 was moved to the money market account.
- Average weekly giving is \$493 .00 below the budget requirement since June. Bills are paid.
- \$9,500.00 remains from insurance money from water damage.
- Employee retention tax credit was available to the church since during the pandemic, the government had ordered limited services. \$42,784.00 was received. The auditor was given a ten percent fee for his services related to applying for the tax credit.
- Designated accounts are doing well, except the Youth line needs to be revised.
- The TARC line-item name has been changed to ARC.
- Servpro reported that their money went to the insurance company. Trustee Cheryl Jervasi will check into this.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jose Lopes reported that the Youth did a great deal of fundraising and the missions committee contributed to the youth mission trip expenses. Crosswalk summer camp cost \$2,000 for chaperones to attend, which the church pays for.

The Back to School Bash will include a cost of \$10 per member attending and \$5 for non-member friends. The Bash costs between \$500-\$800.

Motion by Will Hously to increase the Youth line item by \$1,000.00, second Bob Law. Motion passed.

2. The treasurer recommended that line items reflect a realistic amount needed, so the church knows how much money ministries require. If members wish to purchase items for a

ministry, receipts should be submitted and donations can be made to the specific ministry to cover the cost, if members wish to donate.

3. Awana ministry, Ben Nasman reported. Awana children's weekday ministry emphasizing Bible learning and outreach will start this fall. Members are hoping for ten students in each of the three age groups. \$2,000 would be needed to start the ministry, which would purchase student handbooks, uniforms, awards and other curriculum items. Handbooks are purchased in bundles of 5 or 10, while uniforms are purchased separately.

The plan is to let parents of member children know the amount needed to fund their child's participation in the program, so they can decide to give as they are led.

A small registration fee is being considered for community participants to encourage continued participation.

Motion by Ben Nasman, second Leslie Law to set an Awana line item with \$2,000.00.  
Motion passed.

4. Pastor Transition plan: A document "Preparing for Pastoral Transition" was made available for members to review. Will Hously reported. The church constitution only gives information about establishing a search committee, with limited detail.

- Pastor Saylor has not given an exact retirement date and is willing to stay on until a new pastor is found. An interim pastor typically identifies issues needing attention and helps to prepare the church for welcoming a new pastor.
- The transition plan includes two committees. One is a transition team including five members and a search committee with nine members. Specifics of the make up and assigned tasks of the committee members were outlined in the transition document. This was placed online for member review. The hope was to have a list of members to be considered for both committees ready for the church to vote on at the October business meeting.
- Motion by Will Hously, second John St. Jacques to approve the transition process outlined in the "Preparing for Pastoral Transition" document, forming two committees. Deacons would review names of recommended members for the committees before presenting at the next available business meeting.
- Discussion: Deacons and the personnel committee will pray over the list of names that church members submit for serving on the two committees. Deacons will speak to people recommended before a final list of names is given to the church for approval.
- Alternates for the two committees may be considered in case the situation of a chosen member changes. A checklist with topics and questions for each possible candidate for the two committees may be formulated and used.

- First interviews of pastoral candidates will probably be virtual. Then church members on the search committee will later travel to meet the pastors and hear them preach live.
  
- The possibility of postponing deacon elections until November or December was discussed to avoid interfering with the formation of the two pastoral committees.
- Members of both pastoral committees will conduct interviews of church members to determine traits we would like in a new pastor and the direction our church should go.
  
- In the future the church constitution could be revised to include guidelines for a pastor search process.
- Motion to approve the process for calling a new pastor as outlined in the “Preparing for Pastoral Transition” document passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Rick May, second, Leslie Law . Motion passed.

Bob Law closed in prayer