

First Baptist Church Manchester fbcmct.org  
Bi-Monthly Business Meeting April 7, 2024

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

- Treasurer, Donna Murphy gave the April 2024 report, which was provided for member review online and in paper form for those present.
- General Fund amount did not include April 7th giving of \$13,502.00.
- Average weekly giving was about \$8.00 below the required amount for each week.
- The weekly requirement will need to be increased to \$9,129.03. The increase will accommodate the higher insurance cost of \$33,248.00 for 2024.
- Two insurance payments will be made, one in April when the company states that the remainder is due.
- Philadelphia Insurance is the church's new company as of April 4, 2024
- For about 3 years our premiums will be higher, until the church goes through a time with no additional claims.
- The new insurance deductible will be \$25,000.00.
- Annie Armstrong offering this year was \$6,391.00.

MOTION by Donna Murphy, second Cheryl Gervasi to increase the insurance line item to \$33,350.00. Motion passed.

Trustees, Cheryl Gervasi reported. A workday is set for April 13, 2024.

- Fence repairs need to be completed.
- Playground items need to be cleared out, since they do not meet insurance requirements.

#### BUSINESS:

- Pastor Search Committee, Kristen Chen reported.  
The pastor position has been posted on some sites and resumes have been received.  
The committee will begin setting up and conducting interviews.
- Transition Team, Paul Powers reported. Members are reminded that they can contact the transition team with questions at [FBCMTransitionTeam@gmail.com](mailto:FBCMTransitionTeam@gmail.com).  
-The transition team is working with Pastor Saylor, Pastor Jose, the search committee, and other church members to facilitate the retirement of Pastor Saylor. The team is

addressing tasks of the church that have fallen to Pastor Saylor, or that he has voluntarily taken on, which the new pastor should not be expected to complete.

-A Book of Ministries for the church is in the process of being updated.

- MOTION by Transition Team, second Matt Gaul: In an effort to accommodate people with nut allergies, the church will strive to have a nut conscious environment and asks that people not bring food with nuts into the church effective May 1, 2024.

Motion passed.

Discussion: The motion reflects a request rather than a policy.

-A few people have gone to the emergency room from church due to allergic reactions in the past.

-The Safety Committee will coordinate placement of signs regarding the use of food without nuts in the kitchen and other locations in the church.

-Cheryl Gervasi will ask the insurance company for appropriate wording that could be used in church documents and in signs.

-Whenever church functions are announced which involve food, reminders will be given to only bring nut-free items.

-The May 1, 2024, start date was chosen to allow ministries to remove any food items stored at the church that contain nuts.

- MOTION by Transition Team, second Will Housley, to form a Liaison group of skilled and willing members to coordinate communication between First Baptist Church Manchester and Living Hope Deaf Church. The group would help to establish mutual expectations, determine the status of insurance, a church constitution, and other items. Decisions will be documented in writing. Motion passed.

MOTION by Donna Murphy, second Paul Powers to recommend Cheryl Gervasi, Leslie Law and Katie Bonham to the Living Hope Deaf Church Liaison group. Motion passed.

- MOTION by Transition Team, second Rick Murphy, to find skilled and willing volunteers to reinstate the technology team that will coordinate the technology assets of FBCM, excluding the band, choir, stage and A/V assets. Motion passed.
- MOTION by Will Housley, second Rick Murphy to allow the church to sign an agreement to participate in the Connecticut Baptist Association, previously known as the Western Baptist Association. Motion passed.

MOTION by Pastor Search Committee, second Will Housley, to add Tracy Copeland to the search committee. Motion passed.

- Safety Committee, Will Housley have reported. AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training has been completed with 3 members of the safety committee. Training is required to use the AED.

MOTION by Safety Committee, second Jose Lopes to spend no more than \$2,500.00 to purchase a Zole defibrillator and cabinet, with maintenance assigned to the safety team. Motion passed.

The location of the AED is to be determined. Replacement batteries cost \$200 and replacement pads cost \$140.00. Replacements are required every 5 years if unused. However, pads are replaced after each use.

- The Child Safety Policy needs to be submitted to the new insurance company.

A revised policy was presented for review. Current volunteers in child ministries would be grandfathered in.

Reference checks and an optional personal interview were added for volunteers joining a ministry. Volunteers would be required to read the policy and sign a form.

Differences in the revised policy included a revision of the 6-month rule to state that the person must be a regular, involved attender before serving in a child ministry, rather than be a member for 6 months.

-The unrelated adult rule for teaching was revised to allow married couples to teach elementary school and youth classes.

MOTION by Cheryl Gervasi, second Will Housley to approve the presented Child Protection Policy, effective immediately. Motion passed.

MOTION by Cheryl Gervasi, second Tanya Gaul to establish a group of members including Kristin Chen, Tanya Gaul, and Cheryl Gervasi to make requisite changes in the Child Protection Policy to meet insurance requirements. Motion passed.

- The Trustees will talk to the leaders of the Student Launch Initiative (SLI) regarding clearing out the SLI room before a walkthrough of the insurance company happens. Cheryl Gervasi will report back to the next business meeting about the discussion. Concerns about chemicals stored in the church were discussed.

Motion to adjourn, Jose Lopes, Second Will Housley. Motion passed.

Will Housley closed in prayer.