

First Baptist Church Manchester fbcmct.org
Bi-Monthly Business Meeting October 1, 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. There is a great group of Sunday school teachers currently in place with more volunteers ready to teach. A new adult class led by Brad Heim is well attended.

Men's Ministry

- David Bonham reported. The men are trying to schedule a Christmas caroling night, which will be chosen so it will not conflict with the second weekend in December, when the Cantata is scheduled.

Trustees

- Cheryl Gervasi reported. A successful workday was completed on September 23rd. More indoor tasks need to be completed including some trim work, painting metal doors and a few classrooms also need painting.
- Trees on Hillside Road will need to be trimmed, which happens twice per year. We will keep watch and remove trees in poor condition as the situation changes.

Treasurer

- Donna Murphy presented the October 2023 report, which was provided for member review online and in paper form for those present.
- General Fund amount did not include \$6,020.00 from October 1st giving. Also not listed are \$15,200.00 in expenses to be paid in the coming week.
- Average weekly giving is \$600 .00 below the budget requirement. Bills are paid.
- Individual line items are doing fine.
- \$35,000.00 has been spent on the roof. Insurance money was used for foyer construction.
- If the church had a mortgage, the church would struggle to pay it.
- Retired members are giving less than during previous years when they were still working.
- Membership has been rising slowly.
- Deacons will discuss conducting a physical offering collection.
- Possibly a sermon on giving will be given; the website describes multiple ways to give.
- A tentative budget for 2024 based upon current levels of giving was created, including expenditures for the search committee, and the church could meet such a budget.

OLD BUSINESS

Pastoral Search: Will Hously reported.

- Deacons reviewed lists of nominated church members and presented their recommendations for service on the transition and pastoral search committees.

Pastoral Search Committee:

- Celililon Alteme, Kristin Chen, Matthew Gaul, Willi Harris-Rivera, Stewart Keith, Bob Law, Dan Niedzwiecki, Eric Oliver, Rebecca Powers
- The personnel committee will support the search committee.

Transition Committee:

- David Bonham, Marie Keith, Donna Murphy, Paul Powers, Joan St. Jacques.
- Pastor Lopes and Pastor Saylor will support the search and transition committees.
- Motion by Will Hously, second Allen Keith to establish a Pastor Search Committee consisting of the nine above listed members. Motion passed.
- Motion by Will Hously, second Jose Lopes to establish a Transition Committee consisting of the five above listed members.

The Transition Committee will

- help decide if an interim pastor is needed.
- interview church members to discuss their vision for the church and desirable qualities in the new Pastor. Motion passed.

Motion by Will Hously, second Jose Lopes: Should a vacancy arise, deacons will consult their list of possible member candidates and present a recommendation at a church business meeting. Additions and word changes to the motion were discussed.

Motion to amend the motion by Will Hously, second Jose Lopes, motion passed.

Amended motion: Should a vacancy arise that needs to be filled as identified by the Search Committee or the Transition Committee, deacons will consult their list of possible member candidates and present a recommendation at a church business meeting for approval.

Members voted and passed the amended motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nominations for various church positions were presented for voting. The list was not complete. In addition, a list of members willing to serve in other positions not requiring a vote was presented.
- Where the name "Carol S" was listed in the nominations, the name should read *Carol Adkins*.
- Members voted to accept the nominations.

Motion to adjourn by Jose Lopes, second Rick May, Motion passed. Jose Lopes closed in prayer