

**Quarterly Church Conference:****Lighting of the Christ Candle and Reading of Scripture—Time of Prayer**

- |     |   |                 |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| 1.  | Establish presence of a quorum of 35 members                          | Jeff Langford   |
| 2.  | Approval of Previous Minutes—April 9, 2017                            | Linda Jones     |
| 3.  | Membership Report   | Linda Jones     |
| 4.  | Financial Report  | Angie McElhaney |
| 5.  | Report from Search Committee—Associate Pastor of<br>Worship and Music | Nick Bartlow    |
| 6.  | Report from Deacon Baptism Team                                       | Drew Kingery    |
| 7.  | Constitutional change re: Deacon Baptism Report                       | Jason Edwards   |
| 8.  | Reports of Standing Committees:                                       |                 |
|     | Leadership Development  | Ben Lassiter    |
|     | Personnel Committee   | Eric Zahnd      |
|     | Financial Stewardship Committee                                       | Angie McElhaney |
|     | Missions Committee  | Jeff Buscher    |
| 9.  | Reports from Organizations:   |                 |
|     | WOM   | Eleanor Speaker |
|     | Deacons   | Drew Kingery    |
|     | Worship and Bible Study Attendance                                    | John Hilton     |
|     | Second Friends  | Brooke Fisher   |
|     | MOPs  | Julia Mees      |
| 10. | Report from Church Council  | Jeff Langford   |
| 11. | Reports from Staff, Volunteer Staff and Team Leaders                  |                 |
| 12. | Unfinished Business   |                 |
| 13. | New Business  |                 |
| 14. | Adjournment   |                 |

# Minutes of the Church Conference

Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Missouri

April 9, 2017

The quarterly Church Conference was held on April 9, 2017, in the Social Room following the 11:00 am worship service. The Christ Candle was lit by Jason Edwards who read from Psalm 23 and led in prayer.

It was established that the required quorum of 35 members was present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the January Church Conference were approved following a motion by Mary Gilliland and Ellen Gregory.

## **APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

The membership report was approved as printed following a motion by Blane Baker and a second by Jeff Langford.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT—*Lyndell Brenton, Treasurer***

Lyndell reported that a total of \$219,000 was given in the first quarter of 2017 compared with \$206,000 for the same timeframe in 2016. That represents a 6% increase in giving even though we did not meet one Sunday due to ice.

Twenty-one percent of the loan for the Leonard Street building has been retired.

The Franklin Street property will be paid off in seven years or less by using funds from Endowment earnings.

Catalyst 3.0 is a 26-month giving program ranging from November 2016 to December 2018. A total of \$78,000 was carried forward from the end of 2016 to 2017.

The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Drew Kingery and a second by Bert Stouffer.

## **AMENDED MOTION FROM CHURCH COUNCIL TO CHANGE CHURCH MODERATOR POSITION—*Greg Duncan***

Greg Duncan presented the following motion from the Church Council:

### **PROPOSAL TO CHANGE MODERATOR ROLE AT CHURCH CONFERENCES**

Originally passed by the Church Council 11.20.16

Originally presented at Church Conference 01.29.17

Amended proposal passed by the Church Council 02.19.17

**To be presented at Church Conference 04.09.17**

ORIGINAL VERSION (included for reference):

It has been the practice of Second Baptist Church to expect the pastor to moderate business meetings or church conferences. This responsibility is itemized in the By-Laws (II.1.C). It is not addressed in the Constitution (which defines Church Conferences in Article VI) or the Operations Manual.

This role has the potential to be at odds with the relationship between pastor and congregation. Conducting any business inherently includes navigating differing opinions, individual emotions and escalating issues. Our current arrangement sometimes requires an unfortunate choice between being a pastor to someone or being an effective moderator.

For the benefit of both the pastor and the congregation, it would seem wise to relieve the pastor of the obligation to moderate business meetings. This allows the pastor to stay separate from the proceedings, and also to engage when needed or appropriate to the conversation.

According to the By-Laws (II.5) the convener of the church council is "selected by the Pastor." It is assumed, therefore, that this person has the trust of the Pastor with regard to facilitating conversations of church business. In many ways, the two roles of convener and moderator are very similar and require the same skills. Presently, the church council convener is on a 3-year rotation.

### **FOR REFERENCE -- 2BC GOVERNING DOCUMENTS**

Constitution: Defines the roles of the officers of the church and describes the process for holding church conferences, but does not address the responsibility or assignment of moderator.

Operations Manual: No mention is made of the church conference moderator.

By-Laws: Included in the responsibilities of the Pastor is "To act as Moderator, when present, at meetings for the transaction of business." (II.1.C) No other mention is made of the church conference moderator.

In the description of the Church Council it is noted that the membership includes "a convener selected by the Pastor." (II.5)

**ORIGINAL PROPOSAL:** Amend the By-Laws so that the job of the Convener of Church Council includes acting as Moderator of church business meetings and conferences. Strike line II.1.C under *Responsibilities of the Pastor*: ~~“To act as Moderator, when present, at meetings for the transaction of business.”~~ Add the following sentence to paragraph 5 *Responsibilities of the Church Council*: “The Convener shall act as Moderator at Church Conferences and meetings for the transaction of business.”

NEW VERSION:

Discussion during January Church Conference led to an apparent consensus that the proposal should blend the two jobs of Conference Moderator and Council Convener into a single position which should be filled similarly to like positions identified in the Bylaws as “Other Leaders.” The following amended proposal accomplishes the original and additional intents, as well as clarifying nomination responsibilities and term limits for the positions.

**AMENDED PROPOSAL:** That a Church Moderator be given the responsibility to moderate meetings for the transaction of business including church conferences and church council meetings. Such moderator to follow the same appointment process as “Other Leaders” and committee members including nomination by the Leadership Development Committee, annual vote, and three-year term limits. The moderator should follow prescribed meeting protocols, neither voting nor influencing the vote.

Bylaws changes required:

- I.3 Election of Other Leaders: The Treasurer, Clerk, Moderator, Trustees of Special Funds, chairpersons and members of standing committees, and similar leaders will be elected at a Church Conference...
  - Strike II.1.C: ~~To act as Moderator, when present, at meetings for the transaction of business.~~
  - Strike phrase from II.5; ~~...plus a convener selected by the Pastor.~~
  - Add II.10: Responsibilities of the Church Moderator
- A. To serve as moderator for the transaction of business including business meetings, church conferences, and church council meetings.  
B. To follow established protocol for such meetings, ensuring a fair and efficient process.  
C. To remain neutral and refrain from voting.
- Add II.6.E: To nominate Other Leaders to serve three year terms including the Treasurer, Clerk, Moderator and Trustees of Special Funds.

IF PASSED...

LDC ACTION REQUIRED

With the implementation of the new position of Church Moderator, it is the responsibility of the LDC to nominate a candidate. (The current council convener, while the logical choice, could not assume this role without a nomination and vote.) It is recommended that the LDC have a nomination ready for consideration at the March meeting, IF the amended proposal is passed.

CHURCH COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Operations Manual Updates\*

Duties of the Church Council:

- Strike ~~“with a convener recommended by the Pastor to guide the discussions and decisions.”~~
- Insert “The Church Moderator is responsible for guiding discussion and decisions.”

Duties of Personnel Committee:

- Strike “Nominate Church Treasurer and Church Clerk

Duties of Leadership Development Committee:

- Add “Nominate Church Treasurer, Church Clerk and Church Moderator

*\*The Operations Manual is the responsibility of the Church Council. Changes require no additional church action.*

Greg clarified that the new moderator position is not considered an officer of the corporation.

David Fulk moved that we delete the words “business meeting”. Ron Whited seconded the motion and it passed with one person voting no.

After some other discussion including the need to change some typing errors, the proposed motion passed with one person voting no. Greg will send the modified copy to the Church Clerk electronically.

## **REPORT FROM SEARCH COMMITTEE—ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC—Nick Bartlow**

The Search Committee is posting for candidates and receiving resumes. There is no end date for this process but progress is being made. They asked for continued prayer and support.

## **COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**—Debbie Lane expressed concern that the entire board of Second Friends had not been involved in meetings with the Personnel Committee and she feels the need for the entire group to meet.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**—The Leadership Development Committee nominated Jeff Langford as the Church Moderator. The motion passed unanimously.

**DEACONS**—Drew Kingery reported that the Easter Egg Hunt was successful thanks to the hard work of Debbie Lane. Approximately 250 attended.

**SECOND FRIENDS**—Marci Driskill announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friends Board is meeting tonight. Steps need to be taken to make sure 2<sup>nd</sup> Friends is fully under the umbrella of the church.

**MIKE LASSITER**—Strengthening Our Serve will involve moving to the community to do things to tie us in to who we are as a church. We will serve in Liberty, and the church and some areas beyond Liberty into the world. It is hoped that 225-250 people will participate. The program includes a bluegrass band and communion at the joint 9:30 worship service. The band will also play at the annual all-church picnic that afternoon.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:** All reports were approved as written and presented following a motion by Larry Jones and a second by Ellen Gregory.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Lyndell thanked Tryst Falls Church for their presentation and gift at the worship service this morning. It was a tender and spiritual moment.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT**—The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Christy Edwards and a second by Tracy Zahnd.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Jones  
Church Clerk

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

July 30, 2017

## New Members:

Last Name	First Name	Start Date	Transferred from
Shoemaker	Jim	4/30/2017	Pleasant Valley Baptist Church
Shoemaker	Lisa	4/30/2017	Pleasant valley Baptist Church
Nash	Alyson	5/7/2017	Countryside Christian Church Pittsburg, KS
Nash	Andrew	5/7/2017	Countryside Christian Church Pittsburg, KS

## Deceased:

Last Name	First Name	Deceased Date	Comment
Murphy	Barbara A.	6/13/2017	
Sneed	Peggy	6/23/2017	

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS  
Church Conference  
July 30, 2017

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Angie McElhaney—Financial Stewardship Committee**

We reviewed and affirmed the recommendation on terms for the Treasurer and Treasurer Elect rotation. We will be taking these terms into consideration as we re-define the Treasurer role.

We are reviewing internal accounting processes and our focus has been on the Miller Management administrative audit results. We are preparing a responses and will provide a report in the third quarter.

**Eric Zahnd--Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee and the Second Friends Preschool Board held a joint meeting on June 26. We had a good discussion geared at minimizing any liability concerns for the church and Second Friends. Among other topics, we discussed staff hiring and reporting protocols, background checks, employee agreements, liability insurance, and budgeting.

The Personnel Committee continues its comprehensive review of church staffing, salaries, and benefits. At its most recent meeting, Committee members received information about Health Reimbursement Accounts from benefits consultant Brad Bukaty.

As reported during the January church conference, following the departure of our church administrator and other staff transitions, the Personnel Committee approved changes to the organization of church's administrative staff job responsibilities and work hours. Those changes included hiring additional administrative staff in part time positions, eliminating the position of church administrator, and changing the duties and title of the discipleship minister to add additional administrative duties.

These changes in organization of the church's administrative staff resulted in net savings of approximately \$55,000 each year in the Catalyst 3 budget for staff compensation.

The Personnel Committee unanimously agreed to utilize approximately 10% of that savings to increase the compensation of the Associate Pastor for Administration and Discipleship in light of the new duties added to that pastor's job responsibilities. The additional compensation brings that position to the average compensation for associate pastors in churches with a similar attendance and budget.

**Mike Lassiter—Missions Committee**

Debriefed Strengthening Our Serve May 7 and determined it was not just worth doing but we should consider this on an annual basis. (See Associate Pastor report from Mike for details of the day)

After exploring ways of continuing receiving religious news we are doing a trial support/membership with the Baptist News Global news organization, an independent [Baptist news agency](#). It was founded in 2014 as a merger of Associated Baptist Press (ABP), and the *Religious Herald*. \$500 per year is the partnership level we chose.  
SEND Initiative commissioning May-July:

...Joe Buhlig Kodiak Baptist Mission for one year.

...Marilyn Buhlig to Kodiak Baptist Mission for two weeks.

...two Student Ministry teams to Bridger S Dakota for our partnership with the Lakota people

...Drew and Carol Kingery, Suzie Goertz, Bill and Becky Gossett, Harold and Gwen Phillips will be traveling to Slovakia with CBF Heartland partnership with the Roma people there.

...Christy Edwards, Loulla Efstathiou, Angie Fuller, Tracy Zahnd, and a nursing student from William Jewell College to Thailand for a trip to explore and strengthen work with women through the Upland Holistic Development Project.

...Karen Rogers and Suzie Goertz for the delivery of one ton of books to the Fellowship of Baptist Educators in Shelby, North Carolina to be sent overseas.

...10 people for the all church trip to Bridger S Dakota.

Financials as of June 30, 2017

**DESIGNATED**

1340	H I Hester Mission Trust	Was added to the other accounts when funds were moved from the MO Baptist Foundation. There is a balance.
2260	Mission Endowment	\$7,521.32
2310	SBC International Missions	\$3,574.46
2330	Mission Fund	\$6,855.03
2335	Team World Vision	\$0
2340	Children's International Missions	\$853.17
2345	Haiti Mission Work	\$15,051.24
2350	S Dakota Mission Work	\$312.37
2355	High Plains Partnership	\$14,382.49
2360	Christmas Store	\$559.15
2365	Second Hope Alternative lending	\$12,851.55
(Note: \$5,000 was the initial deposit with Northland Teachers Credit Union...Total: \$17,851.55)		
2370	Thailand Missions	\$0
4190	School Connections (line item)	\$1,141.09 spent to date
6515	SEND Initiative	\$4,282.20 spent to date

**Mission Trip Opportunities to date:**

January 9-21, 2017	Thailand	2BC-4 (SEND)	WJC-2
May 6, 2017	TWV(Global Water)	2BC-13	
May 7, 2017	Strengthening Our Serve	2BC-227	
May 9, 2017	Tables of Faith	2BC-	
May –June , 2017	Thailand	2BC-4 (SEND)	WJC-1
June	Slovakia	2BC-6 (SEND)	
June	Kodiak Baptist	Joseph Buhlig (SEND)	
June 19-July 2	Kodiak Baptist	Marilyn Buhlig (SEND)	
June 18-23	Students to S Dakota	2BC-11	

June 26-30	Middle School to S Dakota	2BC-15; Crossroads Church-7
July 19-24, 2017	Shelby, NC (SEND)	2BC-2
July 29-Aug 3	All Church to S Dakota (SEND)	2BC-10; 1 <sup>st</sup> Columbia Baptist Church-14

Have been in email conversation with Upland Holistic Development Program in Thailand for a final partnership presentation with Second Baptist Church.

## **ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Drew Kingery—Deacons**

We met this month and discussed several items. We are starting the Deacon nomination process. More information will be coming later. There will be a Deacon nomination committee and I am in the process of putting that together. They will also be working on creating a Deacon handbook.

### **Julia Mees—MOPS**

MOPS had our annual Steering Team retreat in June and is set to start another great year of MOPS@2BC! We will kick the year off with a new member event in August and our first MOPS meeting of the year September 8th! We have a few spots left for new members, so if you know of a mother of children ages 0-Kindergarten, let them know about MOPS and have them fill out the application on the church website! Thank you to all of those who make MOPS possible: Mentor Moms, childcare workers, church staff, and Steering Team volunteers...you help make this ministry what it is and we are so appreciative of all you do! You are making a difference for moms and families in our community!

### **Marcie Driskill—Second Friends**

Under the direction of Brooke Fisher, director, enrollment continues with a few spots left to fill. We are looking forward to another great year for our staff and preschool students!

Second Friends Board has worked with the Personnel Committee to revise the director's job description and all employment agreements.

The Board met with the Personnel Committee on June 26, 2017. The goal of this meeting was to ensure the protection of the church and preschool and to minimize potential liability concerns. As a result of this meeting Second Friends Board is working on revising/refining the procedures for selecting board members, which includes criteria and terms for the members of the board.

### **John Hilton—Worship and Bible Study**

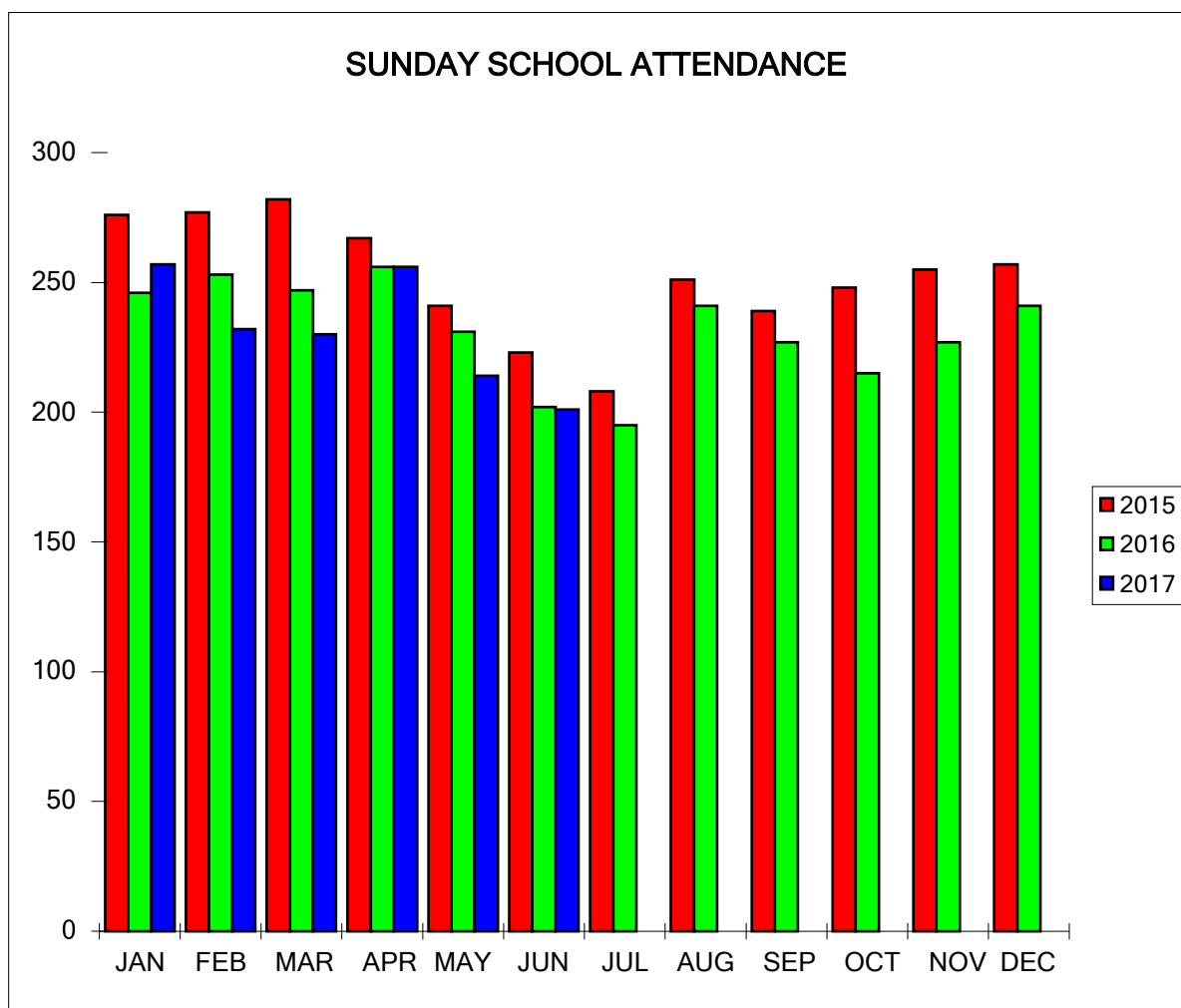
#### Sunday School and Worship Attendance

2nd Quarter Sunday School 2016	230
2nd Quarter Sunday School 2017	224
2nd Quarter Worship 2017	345



## Worship Attendance Report

Date	Welcome Center	8:30	Child Care 8:30	11:00	Child Care 11:00	Totals	Comments
<b>4/2/17</b>	13	67	9	250	15	354	
<b>4/9/17</b>	15	65	8	274	15	377	
<b>4/16/17</b>	13	60	13	415	19	520	Easter
<b>4/23/17</b>	13	58	6	275	21	373	
<b>4/30/17</b>	13	59	12	210	22	306	
<b>5/7/17</b>	13	60	15	281	15	384	Picnic 174 Anniversary one service
<b>5/14/17</b>	12	47	7	293	11	370	
<b>5/21/17</b>	13	65	9	228	14	329	
<b>5/28/17</b>	13	180	9	195	11	287	
<b>6/4/17</b>	13	57	9	210	14	303	
<b>6/11/17</b>	13	60	8	184	11	276	
<b>6/18/17</b>	13	66	9	205	15	308	
<b>6/25/17</b>	13	59	8	205	9	294	
<b>7/2/17</b>	12	59	8	219	11	309	
<b>7/9/17</b>	13	57	11	258	12	351	
<b>7/16/17</b>	13	58	9	239	14	333	
<b>7/23/17</b>	13	45	9	154	11	232	City wide power outage
Total Number of People in 2BC on Sunday mornings during Quarter 2 of 2017							<b>4481</b>
Average Sunday Attendance							<b>345</b>



### **STAFF, VOLUNTEER STAFF AND TEAM LEADERS**

#### **Jason Edwards—Senior Pastor**

- What a wonderful Lenten and Easter Season. Special thanks to David Fulk, Don Brown, Ann Posey, all our musicians and musical groups and our worship planning team for working so hard to craft and lead us in meaningful worship experiences from Ash Wednesday, through Lent and Holy Week.
- Our Evensong services complimented our Lenten/Easter study so well. Thanks to Connie McNeill for shaping these opportunities and for a great Holy Week lunch as well.
- We enjoyed hosting 17 new members in our home at the New Member Dinner on April 30. (with one new family missing from the bunch) It was a great group and a great sign of growing life in our congregation. Thanks also to Cathy Baker and her wonderful New Member Dinner team for always making this a wonderful event.
- I do believe I heard more positive, intergenerational, across the congregation positive reviews about our 174<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration than any other event we've done since I've been here. What a wonderful day of worship! Thanks to Mike Lassiter and his team of great volunteers for so many varied opportunities to serve and for the Event Team for shaping our picnic. Thanks to David Fulk for working with the Blue Grass Band. It was truly a special day and a symbol of our desire to see a missional presence in Liberty for years to come.
- Congratulations to our Graduates and thanks to Charles and the student ministry volunteers for shaping a meaningful Sunday morning experience for our graduates and families.
- The Associate Pastor for Worship and Music Search Committee diligently continues their good work. As this process moves toward its destination I'm so pleased and excited.

- I attended an exceptional workshop with Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend in May. I'm working to implement the individualized action plan created from that experience.
- Thanks to the Leadership Development Committee for a meaningful retreat in June. Important data and implications presented by Greg Mees and Terrell Carter.
- Enjoying in depth study of Jesus' parables as preparation for this latest sermon series.
- Grateful for our 2bc staff and all of the promise I see for our church in the future because of their individual and collective work. We're in a good place.
- Our most recent Thailand team had a wonderful experience in June. I continue to be excited about this growing ministry partnership.
- I'm eager to see the congregational response to the Deacon Baptism Task Force Report. The Task Force has done exceptional work and the implications of it will have a significant effect on our future.
- Harold Phillips will lead a team to foster our Church's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and we've been in the initial phases of that planning as he puts his team together.
- Working with Drew Kingery and Blane Baker on the next year of Deacon Ministry. We are blessed with a wonderful group of Deacons and Deacon Leaders.

What a wonderful Vacation Bible School this month. Please affirm Gwen and her team on the fantastic work and week.

### **Mike Lassiter—Associate Pastor of Community Care and Missions**

-Working with Teams, Staff and Project Leaders Sunday, May 7 we were able to have a Strengthening Our Serve Day to help celebrate our 174<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. While worship attendance may have been more, approximately 225 people participated in the service projects Saturday and after worship. We also had probably our largest number at the 2BC picnic since I have been here. It took a lot of volunteer help and with planning but it was a great day for us with a lot of enthusiasm and energy of serving beginning in Liberty as well as thinking globally. We feel like we accomplished several key pieces...

-Strengthening our presence locally...the majority of the 2 hour projects were local service.

-Providing family friendly service options...all but a few projects were appropriate for parents with children.

-Provide an intergenerational opportunity for church members...all ages were represented in most projects.

-Global strengthening revolved around providing water through in Africa Team World Vision to 13 children for life and packaging 10,000 rice, bean and vitamin packet meals for school children in Haiti.

-The 174<sup>th</sup> celebration also included the all church picnic that was very well attended.

-I spent June 3-23 in Bridger for planning for future engagement on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year of partnering there. A report is coming to Missions Committee and the church about the possibilities for the future.

-Recruiting Wednesday Night Meal teams that will begin August 23.

-Met with Restore Hope representatives from Texas about future mission resources.

-Meeting with the 2BC Green Team and Sustainable Sanctuary for a potential partnership as a host site in the Northland for information sessions about renewable energy and other ways for individuals and businesses to have a greener footprint.

-Working with Norterre development about a partnership for a health and wellness offering to the congregation.

-Planning the Food Truck Sunday August 20 as part of our annual Back to Church Event. provides many meaningful opportunities for growth

and renewal. T

### **Connie McNeill—Associate Pastor of Administration, Discipleship and Equipping**

In July, I enjoyed a few days off and many miles of a road trip vacation. It was fun and renewing. I appreciate all the employment benefits that Second Baptist provides to us. They are very affirming and positive incentives. Thank you.

Second Sessions resume August 23:

Dates for Second Sessions currently planned: I. August 23-Sept 20; II. Sept 27-Oct 25; III. Nov 1-Dec 6; IV. Jan 10-Feb 7; V. April 4-May 9.

There are four options each session. Some options will repeat. In general, the options include a bible study, a spiritual growth opportunity, emotional health and spirituality and a service option.

Sunday mornings will have a number of Featured Class options. Currently, they include: The Reformation, Connections, Generosity is a Mark of a Disciple, The Wonder of Christmas, Half Truths, Speaking of Faith. Other ideas are still floating and forming for adult discipleship.

Your pastoral staff will spend the day in quarterly planning August 15. Our purpose in spending that day together is to develop our next set of objectives and goals prior to the beginning of budget planning in January 2018. This meeting follows our previous quarterly planning conversations led by Jason about vision, mission and dreaming.

We had a turnover in the ministry assistants the end of last year so again, here is a summary of who does what. All of the ministry assistants are part-time. This is a very effective team!

- Ellen-provides support for IT, software and the HUB.
- Pam-pays our bills, orders supplies needed for the church to function and others to do their job, assists in many interactions about the budget and Miller Management Services (MMS) and troubleshoots office operations.
- Janet-gives leadership and produces our print, electronic and social media.
- Dawn-greets and assists church members and guests as they enter the building or call during the week, provides a number of clerical tasks essential to the office and staff functioning effectively and prepares materials needed by various ministries.
- Ken-our newest member is a fulltime employee who is responsible for all the custodial and maintenance needs of the property. He comes to us with many years of experience and having served in a much larger church—both number of families and square footage. If you notice something in the buildings that need attention please let Larry Gregory, Ken or me know. It may be on the “list” or we may have missed it.
- Nicole Louthain and Sammi Marvel: clean childcare area.

Additional folks who serve as volunteer staff or paid by event:

- Roxann Brenton: Wedding Coordinator.
- Kenny and Cheryl Williams: Memorial Service Coordinators.
- Lyndell Brenton: Treasurer.

Volunteer Staff include:

- Cathy Baker: Hospitality.
- Kim Halfhill: Equipping.
- Larry Gregory: Property Manager.

The Baptist New Global board met here for three days in the later part of May. They are one of our national partners in CBF life. Volunteers and staff were outstanding in extending hospitality. Cathy Baker and her leadership continue to move our level of hospitality to new and improved levels.

My contribution on May 6 for the World Vision 6K was to stay out of their way and to photograph the event. It was heartwarming to see such good participation from Second Baptist and to have so many win or place in the top 3 of their age groups. Our own Dolores Forman was the oldest participant and she finished--not last by the way!

I had the privilege of meeting with Jack Lewis as he worked on his God and Country badge for Cub Scouts. We easily determined this was best done over pancakes.

### **Larry Gregory—Property Manager**

Wilson House: Ken Personett is the point person for this property and he does a great job caring for it. New sewer line is in but some landscaping still needs to take place to make it look good. Ken replaced one of the bathroom faucets recently. Please tell Ken thanks!

Franklin House: Les Weirich is the point person for this property and he is also doing a great job caring for it. Les has even taken on cutting the grass. Please tell Les thanks!

Leonard Building: Mike Lassiter is the point person for this property and, again, he is doing a great job. This building and its contents are quite the challenge! Please tell Mike thanks!

Linda and Greg Greason are now the care takers for the grounds around the church. They had a work day on June 24th. Good turnout of volunteers and quality work was done that day. Please tell Linda and Greg thanks!

The bulbs in the Sanctuary chandelier globes all were out recently. On June 30th, Kenny Williams, Drew Kingery, Ken Slater and Larry Gregory lowered both chandeliers, cleaned and replaced all the bulbs. The bulbs inside the globes are now LED bulbs.

A new computer network server has been purchased and installed at the church. The old server was around 8 years old and did a great job for us. New PCs have also been purchased and installed for Dawn's station and Brooke's station.

Connie McNeill, Ellen Gregory and Larry Gregory are working on bids for a new phone system. We are looking at new alternative technology options to the old hard wire version of phone systems.

It is indeed a good new chapter for the church to have Ken Slater as our new custodial/maintenance employee. Ken is competent and knowledgeable, not to mention that he is a good guy. I hope you have met him and if you have not, please introduce yourself to him and welcome him to our great block of God's green earth.

Last summer one of the HVAC units on the roof of the Sanctuary went down and both compressors in it went out. A second unit had one of the compressors go out as well. The bid to get them back in business was over \$8k and the budget in 2016 was not able to absorb that cost. So we limped through the rest of the year on 2½ good units. The work to restore these units has just been completed, so unless something else goes wrong, we should be able to tackle the summer with a full compliment of HVAC units.

Connie McNeill, Ken Slater and Larry Gregory are working with US Engineering, our HVAC contract company, to craft a new contract for service on the HVAC equipment. Ken brings experience to the position he fills that will aid the church in preventative maintenance as well as cutting costs for repairs the church encounters.

### **Kim Halfhill—Director of Equipping**

Team SERVE hosted Chatterbox Communion in April, June, and July, as an informal time of fellowship (with cookies) after worship on Communion Sundays. This monthly event serves as another opportunity to foster new connections and ongoing friendships among the congregation.

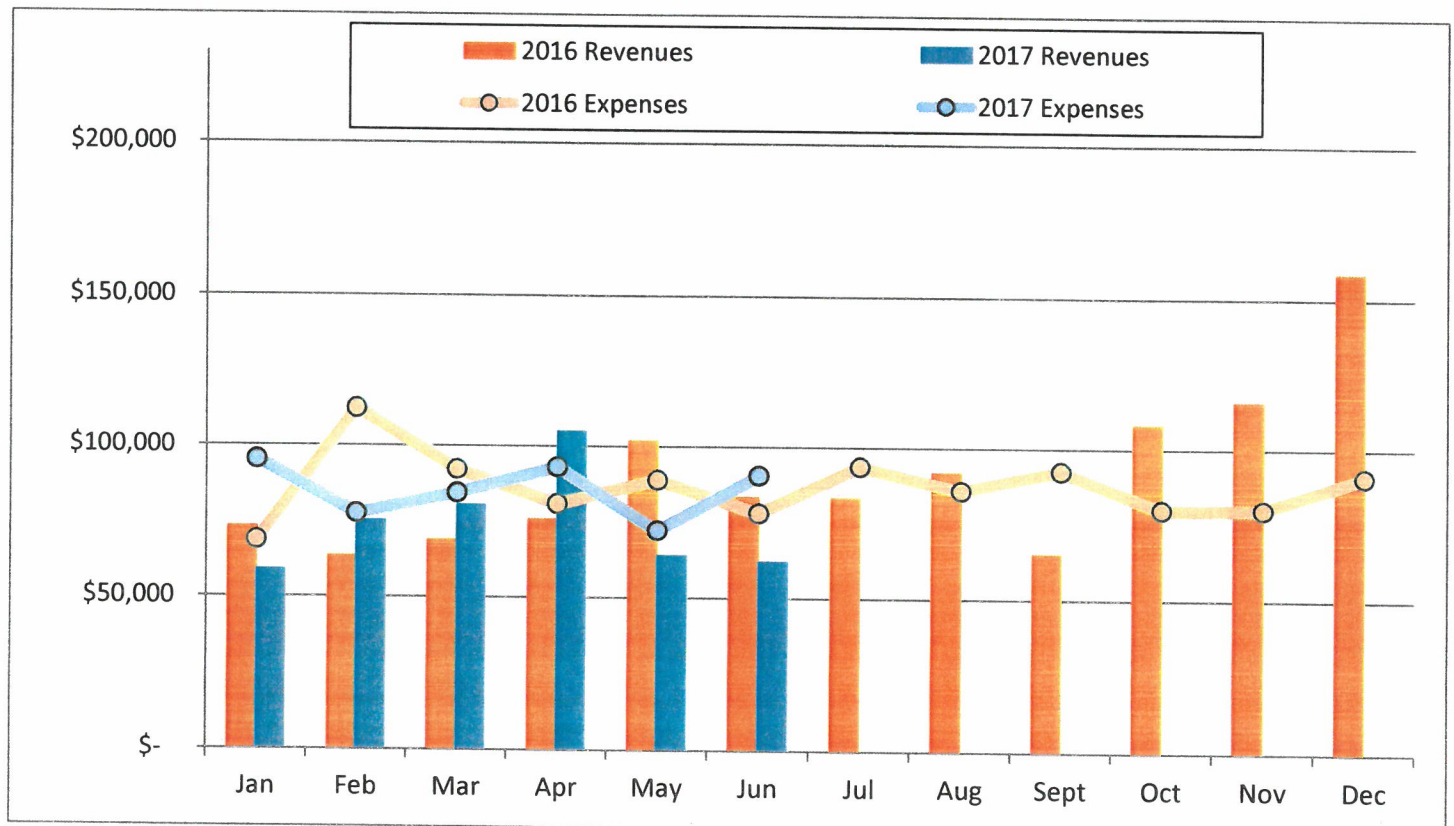
Over the past few months, Team SERVE has assisted other teams within the church in filling ministry needs by providing customized reports generated from AssessME. This is an exciting step forward!

**Second Baptist Church**  
**Church Revenues & Expense Comparison from Operations**  
**For the Period Ended 6/30/2017**

	2016 Weeks	2017 Weeks	2016 Revenues	2017 Revenues	2016 Expenses	2017 Expenses
January	5	5	\$ 73,335	\$ 58,922	\$ 68,712	\$ 95,367
February	4	4	63,467	75,386	112,429	77,672
March	4	4	68,851	80,657	92,314	84,500
April	4	5	76,011	105,014	81,161	93,169
May	5	4	101,942	64,099	89,160	72,317
June	4	4	83,556	62,287	78,241	90,677
July	5	5	83,446		93,810	
August	4	4	91,923		86,035	
September	4	4	65,245		92,616	
October	5	5	108,113		80,121	
November	4	4	115,702		80,222	
December	4	5	158,569		91,046	
YTD Totals	26	26	\$ 467,161	\$ 446,365	\$ 522,018	\$ 513,702
Totals	52	26	\$ 1,090,159	\$ 446,365	\$ 1,045,868	\$ 513,702

Weekly Average

\$ 17,968	\$ 17,168	\$ 20,078	\$ 19,758
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**Second Baptist Church Deacons  
Baptism Task Force  
REPORT and RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Approved by Deacons: March 12, 2017  
Approved by Church Council: May 21, 2017  
Presented to Church Conference: July 30, 2017*



**PART 1: REPORT**

**BACKGROUND**

Recognizing the central role baptism plays in our personal and collective faith, and acknowledging the questions many in our church have regarding the place of baptism in our community of faith, the deacons of Second Baptist Church first undertook a study of the subject at their annual retreat in February, 2014. Central to the study was a presentation given by Mark Wingfield, Associate Pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, and a book by John Tyler called “Baptism – We’ve Got It Right and Wrong.” The book study and discussion continued over a number of months and resulted in a consensus that everyone in the church needed a similar opportunity to explore this important subject in depth.

A task force of active deacons was appointed with the charge to create a deacon-led church-wide program for study and conversation. The task force was built to represent a cross section of the congregation including a diversity of ages and personal faith backgrounds. Members were Becky Gossett (Deacon chair during the initial study), Rolland Yoakum, Amy Duncan, Mark Hilton, Chris Sizemore, Debbie Lane, Blane Baker, and Greg Duncan (chair).

**PROCESS – The Work of the Task Force**

In our initial meetings, we identified three key questions we believed should be central to the dialogue:

1. What is the relationship between baptism and Christian faith (personal and public)?
2. What does Second Baptist church believe about baptism, and why?
3. What is the relationship between baptism and church membership?

We further identified characteristics that would be goals of the process. We committed to facilitating a deacon-led church-wide conversation about baptism that:

- Was accessible to all who wished to participate or to have a voice, valuing and encouraging expression of personal experiences.
- Raised questions, offered ample opportunity for exploration, moved toward consensus, and provided for resolution.
- Renewed individual and corporate enthusiasm for baptism as an essential part of the Christian faith.
- Generated a deeper understanding of the roles of baptism for the individual and for the faith community. (In relation to personal faith, church membership, discipleship, etc.)
- Resulted in better and more meaningful relationships across the demographics of our church.
- Provided an ongoing way for our church to articulate what we believe about baptism.

Among the activities we undertook as part of putting together this church-wide experience were sharing of our personal baptism stories, re-reading and discussing the Tyler book, studying related materials, and talking with other churches who had worked on similar conversations. It became apparent that a truly meaningful and comprehensive “conversation” would need to have multiple components to allow for differing levels of interest, expertise, experience, and even opinions represented by our diverse congregation.

Gradually, a framework began to emerge for a multi-faceted program that would span several weeks and provide a variety of opportunities for engagement and types of study/discussion. The project was given the title “BAPTISM: A Conversation | *Exploring Our Beliefs Together.*”

#### PROCESS – The Church-Wide Conversation

Seven key components made up the program offered to the congregation. Additionally, we made a webpage available to provide for additional details and interaction, as well as to post videos of the events for those who could not attend. With assistance from office staff we utilized all the church’s channels to promote the overall program and each component individually.

1. **Survey.** With assistance from the expert team responsible for the church’s ongoing survey project, we drafted important questions concerning baptism experiences and beliefs. These questions were included in a larger survey fielded in the spring of 2016, and allowed us not only to learn respondents’ thoughts, but also to gain insights from correlating the data with the demographics of the survey.
2. **Sunday lunch and speaker.** Dubbed “Let’s Start the Conversation” this event was a hosted all-church lunch on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. It was scheduled following a morning worship service to encourage the greatest possible attendance. The speaker was Mark Wingfield, who had helped the deacons begin their own study of baptism. Mark’s charge was to provide context for the overall baptism conversations and to introduce the three key questions identified above. Approximately 100+ people participated.



3. **All-church Bible study.** We felt strongly that a conversation about baptism should include in-depth Bible study and so we tapped David May, Professor of New Testament at Central Seminary to develop a three-week curriculum on the subject. David delivered the first two weeks to a joint Bible study session (in lieu of individual classes) on September 25<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. On the third week, Bible study classes met individually and were encouraged to use Dr. May's curriculum to complete the study. Approximately 80 people participated.
4. **All-church book study.** Knowing the value the deacons found in studying the Tyler book, we wanted a similar experience to be available to everyone as part of this process. Sherry McGlaughlin, Pastor of Blue Ridge Boulevard Christian Church and former minister of education at Second Baptist, led a three-week book study on Wednesday nights beginning on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The study was the primary adult offering on these weeks and approximately 50 people participated.
5. **Baptism stories.** The task force began each of our meetings with a different member sharing his or her personal baptism story. Hearing the variety in our own stories and the meaningfulness each person's baptism carried, we knew we wanted to replicate this experience as part of the offering to the whole church. We invited anyone to share a personal baptism story in 500 words or less. We also solicited baptism stories from people representing a variety of faith journeys. The stories were published online, in Sunday morning worship guides, and as handouts in other church meetings and gathering spaces.
6. **Reflection sessions.** An interesting part of building a program like this is not knowing how it will be received or what sorts of responses it might elicit. To provide for this unknown outcome we built in a series of "reflection" sessions to allow for unscripted conversations to take place. There was no agenda for these sessions, and the objective was simply to be sure the conversation was complete. Three sessions were offered on October 12<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> with approximately 20 people participating.
7. **Assessment.** Critical to any program such as this is the time and effort spent to determine its effectiveness and to articulate observations and possible actions. We asked the entire deacon body to assist the task force in this regard by not only participating, but also by helping us summarize the experiences. Subsequently, the task force has worked to put together this comprehensive report for the benefit of the deacon body, the congregation, and our staff.

## **PART 2: RECOMMENDATIONS**

We have distilled our data and observations into four recommendations that we believe to be representative of our church regarding baptism. Not all require change. Even as societal views of church evolve and our own attendance grows in diversity, it appears that the significance of baptism can and should remain strong. It seems neither necessary nor appropriate to lessen the importance our church places on believer's baptism by immersion. Quite the contrary. At the same time, the application of a specific type of baptism as a qualification for membership no longer appears to be consistent with our church's view of general Baptist principles or of membership.

### **1. Believer's baptism by immersion is part of our Baptist heritage and should remain our singular practice at Second Baptist Church.**

Summary: Anyone making a profession of faith at Second Baptist should follow the full example of Jesus and be baptized by immersion. This should be the only form of baptism offered at our church because it is consistent with our heritage as Baptists, our understanding of scripture, and our constitution. Though the act of baptism doesn't provide salvation, it is an act of scriptural obedience.

Action: No specification action is required since this recommendation does not represent a change. However, it would seem appropriate that one or more qualified persons be asked to author a corresponding statement that could be placed on the church's website and provided to individuals who seek more information about the church's beliefs and practices regarding baptism. Ideally, such a statement would be in the broader context of an explanation of the historic Baptist principles to which our church subscribes.

### **2. Baptism by immersion should be separated from the definition or requirement of membership at Second Baptist Church.**

Summary: Church membership as we know it is a practical matter of the modern church. It is important and should hold legitimate responsibilities and value (see recommendation #4). Based on Philippians 2:11, it should be open to all those who "confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Those joining by new profession of faith should be baptized by immersion as is the practice of our church (see recommendation #1). Those coming by statement of membership in another Christian church should affirm their profession of faith and the present meaningfulness of their baptismal experience. Recognizing that baptism on its own is not salvific, nor is it an initiation act, a second baptism, while being made available, should not be a requirement.

Just as our communion table is open to all those who profess belief in Jesus, so too should be our membership. We should neither deny the validity of an individual's Christian experience, nor deny membership based on that experience, particularly given the wide variety of approaches to baptism throughout the centuries of Christianity. In short, we should clearly place more importance on the repentance of sin and faith in Christ than on a mode of baptism.

Action: Section V, paragraph 1 of the Constitution must be changed to reflect this recommendation. We recommend that the pastor, with input from this task force, draft appropriate language for a revised membership policy, and that the church council propose such changes for church vote.

### **3. The experience of baptism at Second Baptist Church should be strengthened and enhanced.**

Summary: By design, the ordinance of baptism is both intensely personal and highly public. In both regards additional work is warranted to ensure that each candidate for baptism at Second Baptist

Church has a deeply meaningful experience and that each baptism that takes place is significant for those who witness it.

Action: While no specific change is required, we recommend that the ministerial staff undertake an intentional review of the experience of baptism (both individual and corporate) with the goal of finding ways to strengthen and enhance it for all.

**4. The value of membership at Second Baptist Church should be better defined and communicated to clearly articulate expectations, responsibilities and benefits.**

Summary: Becoming a member of a local church seems to hold decreasing importance in the view of many attenders. The line between associating with a church and being an official member of that church is blurred, if not practically gone. If membership can be separated from hurdles of qualification (see recommendation #2), the decision to join with Second Baptist Church can be given new meaning and definition.

Action: On its own, this recommendation does not require a specific change. However, we suggest that the pastor appoint a small, staff-led team to study how to make membership at Second Baptist Church more valuable and significant.

**CLOSING**

In fulfillment of our appointment to the Deacon Task Force on Baptism, we are providing this summary and recommendations to the church body for discussion and action. We are each grateful for the opportunity to participate in this important process which speaks to issues at the very core of our Christian faith. It has been meaningful to us as individuals and has strengthened our sense of place at Second Baptist Church.

Respectfully,

Becky Gossett	Rolland Yoakum
Amy Duncan	Mark Hilton
Chris Sizemore	Debbie Lane
Blane Baker	Greg Duncan (chair)

### **Motion from Church Council:**

**Recommendation two of the Deacon Baptism Task Force Report stated that “baptism by immersion should be separated from the definition or requirement of membership at Second Baptist Church. The report asked that Article V of the Church Constitution be changed to reflect this recommendation. The task force recommended that the Senior Pastor, with input from the Baptism Task Force, draft appropriate language for a revised membership policy and that the Church Council propose such changes for a church vote.**

**In response to this recommendation, Church Council has unanimously voted to affirm the following change to Article V of the Church Constitution, pending the church’s approval of the Baptism Task Force’s report and recommendations. Below you will find Article V of the Church Constitution in its current form followed by the Church Council’s recommended change.**

**Here is the Church Constitution, Article V as it is now:**

#### **Article V: Membership**

1. Any person may become a candidate for membership in this Church. All such candidates will be presented at a regular Church Conference for approval by a majority of members present in one of the following ways:
  - a. By professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, embracing the views of faith and practice held by this Church, and being baptized by immersion.
  - b. By promise of a letter of transfer from another Baptist church
  - c. By statement of membership in another Christian church following a conversion experience and baptism by immersion.
2. Every member of the Church is entitled to vote at all elections and upon all questions submitted to the Church in Regular or Special Church Conferences, provided the member is present.
3. Membership is terminated in any of the following ways:
  - a. Death.
  - b. Transfer by letter to another church of like faith.
  - c. Transfer by certificate of membership when requested by a church of another faith.
  - d. Removal by action of the membership at a Church Conference.

Letters of transfer to other churches can be approved by a majority of members present at any Church Conference. An individual can be removed from membership by vote of a two-thirds majority of members present at any Church Conference.

**The Church Council moves that the Church approve the following change to the membership policy of Second Baptist Church. Proposed changes are highlighted.**

#### **Article V: Membership**

1. Any person may become a candidate for membership in this Church. All such candidates will be presented at a regular Church Conference for approval by a majority of members present in one of the following ways:
  - a. By professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, embracing the views of faith and practice held by this Church, and being baptized by immersion.

- b. By reaffirmation of a previous profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and an affirmation of the present meaningfulness of a personal Christian baptismal experience.
  - c. By promise of a letter of transfer from another Baptist church
  - d. By statement of membership in another Christian church including a conversion experience and baptism.
- 2. Every member of the Church is entitled to vote at all elections and upon all questions submitted to the Church in Regular or Special Church Conferences, provided the member is present.
- 3. Membership is terminated in any of the following ways:
  - a. Death.
  - b. Transfer by letter to another church of like faith.
  - c. Transfer by certificate of membership when requested by a church of another faith.
  - d. Removal by action of the membership at a Church Conference.

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