

First Baptist Church Keller Deacon Meeting

October 10, 2021

Meeting was conducted on-campus at First Baptist Church Keller (FBCK) and via Zoom Meeting.

Staff Members in Attendance on-campus and via Zoom

Keith Sanders, Ted Eaton, Lawrence Duhon, Tyler Sulfridge, Scott Knox, Andrew Young, Bradley Shook, and Chris Parker.

Deacons in Attendance

A total of 57 deacons signed in on-campus and on Zoom for the meeting.

Call to Order, Welcome Remarks

Chairman Tom Pessing called the meeting to order, welcomed the deacons and staff, and thanked them for attending the meeting. Tom Pessing opened the meeting in prayer. Deacons prayed for the FBCK Pastors and staff in breakout classrooms.

Senior Pastor Keith Sanders:

1. **Review Plan for the North Lot Phase 2 Development, Andrew Oxley:** Restated that Master Plan is a living document. Will continue to develop the Master Plan as phases are taken. Three options were presented to staff and they discussed pros and cons of each option. One phase of the Master Plan is developing the west side of Jessie Street for a new 1200 to 1500 seat worship venue or sanctuary. Includes a common area for connections to other areas in building, i.e., hospitality area. Building includes a two-story adult classroom building, fellowship and kitchen area and a two-story children's education area. Development of parking lot at southwest corner of Jessie Street and Lorine Street; will not close Jessie Street but use a sky bridge to connect new building with existing structure. The other phase of the Master Plan is the north block development which includes a large storage building for the people-mover carts, fieldhouse, rest rooms, covered playground, open-air pavilion, football and baseball fields. Idea is to develop this area like a park. Widows garden is also included in north block development.
2. **"What is the Gospel?" Chapter 2, God the Righteous Creator:** Pastor Keith led a review of the chapter 2. Aim is that every person who reads it at the end of it will be able to clearly articulate the Gospel message. Chapter 1 had a very simple formula: God, Man, Christ's Response. Chapter 2 is about the assumptions of God; God the Creator; God the Holy and Righteous One. Homework assignment for November 14 is chapter 3.
3. **Southern Baptist Texas Convention (SBTC):** Meeting in San Antonio attended by 20 Texas pastors of the major donors to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). Met with new Executive Director, Dr. Nathan Lorrick who replaced Dr. Jim Richards. Listening session and topics discussed were what is going on with the SBC. There are some things going on at the National level that are of great concern. The latest is what is going on with the SBC Executive Committee. Last year, motion was made on the floor concerning some charges of sexual abuse that had happened in some churches in the SBC. The Executive Committee was charged with investigating these abuses and there is some concern that they were not thoroughly investigated and vetted. So, the motion was made for an internal investigation on how those things were handled. The specific motion was made that the Executive Committee would waive their attorney/client privilege. Meaning that all these investigations would be made public and open. And it is Pastor Sanders' opinion that such a lack of trust in recent years because the SBC leadership that many of these meetings have been secret, under the umbrella of non-disclosure

agreements and client/attorney privilege. Basically, the messengers have grown tired of that and they want things to be done out front in the open, so that all know what is said and done. Unfortunately, the Executive Committee voted not to do that against the expressed wishes of the motion. How this is to be rectified is to be determined. Pastor Sanders stated that he thinks that this will have huge ramifications on the SBC especially come next summer in California. Pastor Sanders stated he is not looking for problems and not looking for a split but there is a real chance that that can happen. Some Texas Pastors wrote an open letter to the Executive Committee pleading with them to obey the will of the messengers which is how the SBC is supposed to function. That the messengers at the top of the pyramid and those below them answer to them and if they don't abide by that then the SBC will cease to exist as a convention as Pastor Sanders knows. Pastor Sanders is hopeful that they will do the right thing. There are a lot of reasons why the Executive Committee is doing this—namely it has to with insurance. Lawyers are in committee meetings protecting the interest of the denomination and the lawyers give their opinion but ultimately it is upon the committee to do what they think is right. The Executive Committee has been told that their liability coverage will be nullified if they don't keep that client/attorney privilege. Pastor Sanders stated that he doesn't see that happening and I know it's risky but sometimes you have to do the right thing even if it is risky. Right now, FBCK is giving 5% to the Cooperative Program and Pastor Sanders stated that his pastor friends are circumventing the Cooperative Program and giving directly to entities—seminaries, missions organizations that they want to support and circumventing the SBC Executive Committee this past year and reserve the right to do it in the future. Question was asked if Pastor Sanders considers the Executive Committee stance as a red line. Pastor Sanders responded that it is a line in the sand that FBCK will have to take some action. Every Southern Baptist church has at least one vote. FBCK can send 10 messengers to the SBC and Pastor Sanders plans on attending the 2022 SBC.

4. Eschatology Conference, Sunday, October 31 – Wednesday November 3: Dr. Michael Waldrup will lead the conference. Dr. Waldrup will preach in two services on Sunday morning and a Sunday evening service and then a Monday through Wednesday night evening service.
5. Offertory Collection (passing the plates): No plan to change from what FBCK is doing right now which is working well. Plan is to publicize drop-off points for offerings.
6. Church Member needs: Pastor Sanders announced that there are FBCK members that need help in getting to Doctor appointments. Contact Pastor Sanders if any deacon can help.

Associate Pastor – Administration Scott Knox:

1. Financial Update: Scott Knox stated that the Lord continues to bless the finances. FBCK is about \$200,000 up from last year which was a record year of giving. FBCK is a little behind in the budget but expenses have been significantly below budget. FBCK has about six months cash reserve. Harvest Christian Academy (HCA) is utilizing about 28 rooms on campus, 234 students, have 28 on wait list.
2. Committee Work: Buildings & Grounds Committee continuing to work on the roof with contractor and insurance adjuster. A reinspection of the building is scheduled for 10/26 for a final number for the roof and hopefully to start working on the roof as soon as possible. Personnel Committee working on Employee Handbook. Question was asked if the Buildings & Grounds Committee is looking at the lack of lighting in the north parking lot. David Meyers is talking with electric contractor about adding additional lighting for the area. Question was asked about the restriping of the parking spots on the east side of the church. Scott is working with city on what needs to be done to get it restriped.

Associate Pastor – Missions & Evangelism Lawrence Duhon: FBCK kicked-off *Operation Christmas Child* this morning. A team returned from Kenya mission trip in late September. A team is going in November to Kenya

with On Board Ministry headed by Dan and Tonya Trantham. Later this month Lawrence will be meeting with a church planter.

Minister – Children’s & Preschool Ministries Bradley Shook: Going well for Children’s Ministry especially on Sunday mornings with over 100 volunteers that serve on a weekly rotation schedule. About 125 children attend Sunday morning covering all three hours of time. Faith Hale is taking the lead on *Advent Art Display* for this year. Deadline for submissions of art displays is December 5th. Advent resources will be made available to parents of young children for the advent season. Advent Guides are also available for pickup on a first-come first-served basis. Family Game night is scheduled for Friday, November 5th, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Minister – Student Ministry Andrew Young: Bible Drill began last week. Route 56, pre-teen ministry, and College Ministry are going well. Planning for upcoming Mission Trips for projects out of state and locally.

Minister – Senior Adults Ted Eaton: Computer Seminar on October 21st, Ron Eisenmann and Gregory Baines leading the seminar. Had a very good trip to Branson. Ted is retiring at the end of the year.

Pastoral Intern – Christopher Parker: FBCK Golf Tournament went very well. Steven Cooks and his team came in first place. Next month calling the church to a week of fasting and praying. Videos from the Pastors will be made available during that week. Sunday School classes will also be involved.

Deacon Chairman’s Discussion – Tom Pessing:

1. Chairman Tom Pessing received a motion from Jon Taylor and a second from Buddy Linder to approve the September 2021 Deacon Meeting minutes. Passed unanimously.
2. Tom introduced and welcomed Steven Cooks to the deacons as this is his first time, he has attended a meeting.
3. Widows Banquet, Saturday December 11th at 11:30 a.m. – Deacon’s Website has instructions and timeline on what deacons need to do. Tom working with caterers and was shocked by the quotes received.
4. Widows Christmas Gift – Widow’s gifts will be funded by the Deacon’s Widow’s Benevolence Fund. Deacon Officer’s wives are working on the Widow’s gifts. Procedure on when to pick up Widow’s gifts will be forthcoming.
5. Deacon Officer Selection Process Update – Thanks to the deacons that submitted nominations. Thursday, October 14th, the committee will review the nominations. Nominees will be brought to deacons at the November Deacon Meeting.
6. Serving the Lord’s Supper:
 - a. Deacons required for each Sunday service:
 - i. 8:30 Service – 32
 - ii. 11:00 service – 30
 - iii. Total number of deacons required (excluding the deacon officers) – 58
 - b. There are 89 active deacons at FBCK
 - c. There were 34 deacons signed up to serve this morning
 - d. 15 deacons served in both services—not good.
 - e. Less than half of the 89 active deacons served
 - f. From the Deacons Handbook, -- Ministry Team: Lord’s Supper Ordinance:
 - i. Setup Team size: 8 to 10 members would ensure good coverage and minimize time to complete tasks – Saturday

- ii. Lord's Supper Service Team: All deacons. Encourage all deacons to plan on serving in next Lord's Supper

Benevolence Fund Balances:

1. Deacon Benevolence = \$13,869.00.
2. Deacon Widows Benevolence = \$22,116.00.

Ministry Teams – Matt Porter:

1. New Member Candidate Visitation Team – Jim Sabey – team is doing great. Schedule has been posted on Deacon's Website. Some new members still don't want to meet in-person, want just an Email or phone call. Deacon basket has pamphlets for handing out to new members when visiting in homes. Amie Thoms sends out notes on Tuesdays of new members information
2. Deacon-Led Prayer Team – Bruce Robidou thanked deacons who are signed up and if there is anyone who wants to do this, please contact Bruce. Bruce will plan out new schedule through the first quarter of next year. Reminder to all deacons who pray to pray for the tithes and offerings.
3. Hospital Visitation Team – Guy Simpson stated team is making calls and visiting patients. COVID guidelines are still in force. Recommended calling hospitals for visitation rules. Looking for a few more deacons to join the team, especially the south and downtown Fort Worth areas.
4. Widows Team – Don Johnston, exciting time as we will have five widows that will need assigning after attending New Member's Orientation this month. Two widows this week will qualify for deacon assignment as they have reached 60 years of age. If any deacon knows Jannette Nunley, please contact Don as he is having difficulty contacting her.
5. Physical Services Team – No report.
6. Lord's Supper Ordinance Administration Team – Appreciate all those that helped with October Lord's Supper Observance. Will observe Lord's Supper again in December.
7. Baptism Ordinance Team – Kreg Bryant stated a lot of have Baptisms of late and Baptism is scheduled for next week. FBCK staff will be have a rotating schedule for upcoming Baptisms.
8. Information Technology Team – No report.
9. Sunday Prayer Team – Perry Leonard stated they are in good shape with deacons helping. Could use a little help at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Prayer Requests – Lou Srencik: Prayer time included special prayer for Rylan Pruitt (Carroll and Anita Pruitt's grandson), 5, in St. Jude's Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee with an aggressive cancerous brain tumor. Prayers for widows, deacons, deacon wives and families, Wednesday Night Prayer Listing, Sunday School Prayer Listings and FBCK Staff.

Closing Prayer by Lou Srencik

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Srencik, Vice Chair of Records