

# **First Baptist Church Keller Deacon Meeting**

## **March 14, 2021**

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

### **Staff Members in Attendance via Zoom**

Keith Sanders, Jack Gatewood, Ted Eaton, Gregory Baines, Bradley Shook, Tyler Sulfridge, Matt Perkinson, Tony Richmond, Andrew Young and Chris Parker.

### **Deacons in Attendance**

A total of 51 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. Dick Chase opened the meeting in prayer. Keith Arnett prayed for the FBCK Pastors and staff. Tom reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

### **Voting upon Deacon Officers for 2021**

Chairman Tom Pessing stated that the Deacons need to vote on Ron Shields, deacon candidate, to be an active deacon at FBCK. Deacons voted unanimously for Ron Shields to be an active deacon at FBCK. Ron Shields name will be brought to the church at the next Business Meeting to be voted on by the FBCK members.

### **Senior Pastor Keith Sanders**

1. March, the Month of Encouragement: 1 Thessalonians 5:11— “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.” FBCK has tried very hard to encourage one another over the past year. We need to go hard to the finish line, not quite there yet due to COVID. ¼ of current membership is still not participating either in person or by Zoom. Just want to reach out to those folks and encourage them, love them. 1 Thessalonians 5:12— “But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you.”
2. Jack Gatewood Retirement: Jack has worked diligently the last 20 years. Will celebrate his retirement along with wife, Janie, later on in the spring.
3. Encouragement letter received from Mike Faubel, FBCK member on Guatemala mission trip. Clean and complete a renovated building to be used as a clinic for missionary physical therapists and people wanted to dedicate the building “Keller Clinic.” Mike and other FBCK mission trip members recommended the name of “Clinicus O Deo Gloria” instead. Okay with Pastor Keith. 1<sup>st</sup> mission trip in a long time. Also have a team (Trantham’s) going to Kenya.
4. Harvest Christian Academy (HCA) Update: FBCK voted 95% to have at FBCK campus. Originally plan was to have portables leased and also used for Sunday School classes in the fall and sublease to HCA. City of Keller has not said no to having the portables but there will be added many extras. It will be cost prohibitive and return to plan when FBCK had one Sunday School. FBCK to lease some space in middle school to accommodate Sunday School classes. Will be reaching out to school to see if FBCK can still lease space at the school. FBCK has the space to accommodate HCA’s high school students in the building and may cause some scheduling problems. HCS is scheduled to open in August, 2021.
5. Financial Update: good report, still ahead of last year’s pace, still ahead of budget, well underspent of budget, good cash flow, pushing up against that ceiling of six-month maximum reserves—currently have 5½ months of cash reserves. Favorable position and FBCK has been able to help out mission’s areas, some of them startups. FBCK members have been very faithful. Working on 2021-2022 budget,

might have a slight increase which includes HCA expenses but will be offset by their rental agreement income.

6. March 24<sup>th</sup> Reopening – all Wednesday night activities to start up; RA's, GA's, WAK, Choir practice, meal (pre-packaged meals from local restaurants at 5 p.m.). Looking at Vacation Bible School for the time being and looking forward to a date in the future to go back to the way it used to be. Pray for more workers for Vacation Bible School (VBS). VBS is tentatively scheduled for the first or second week of June.
7. Easter Services – April 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. worship services no on-campus Sunday School. Will use the sanctuary, and the break-out rooms—gym, and loft for the services. Members are encouraged to use one of the break-out rooms for the anticipated guests. Child-care will be provided same as always.
8. Widow's Garden – Jessie Street, next week to start in earnest to put up about 40 raised beds of garden plots, 10 feet by 40 feet each, use ¼ of the 2/3's acre available. Rob Porter is master gardener and is leading a lot of the effort. Several master gardeners are on the committee. Encourage people to help out with the labor. Lumber is scheduled to arrive on Thursday, March 25th.
9. Hickerson House, Benny Miller House – Hickerson house was torn down last week. Benny Miller house to be torn down next week. Next step is to build a metal storage building approved by the city north of the church in the next month.
10. Jack Gatewood Retirement – a date for the reception will be scheduled. Not in plans to fill that position. Going to divide up Jack's work to the five pastors for about a year. Jack's salary will not be in the 2021-2022 budget. Long term will be to have a person to fill a position with a minister.
11. Associate Pastor of Administration Search – really good news, a candidate will be flying the week of 3/29 for a period of three days visiting staff, committees and interviews.
12. COVID – staff looks at two primary statistics: Tarrant County hospitalization rate and death rate. A great improvement in the last 9 weeks (January 6 to March 14), both rates going down pretty rapidly. No actual date is scheduled to go back to normal operations at FBCK. Many members getting vaccinated and are coming back the past two weeks. Interim phase of better seating is being planned before going all the way back.
13. Vision Plan update – since portables will not be available, Pastor led meetings last week to review next phase of Vision Plan. Original plan was to roll out Phase 2 in September, 2020 but due to COVID, Phase was tabled for a year. Schedule for next phase is about a 3-year schedule. FBCK has internal rules that Vision fund has to accrue 50% of projected costs. FBCK has about \$1.5 million towards the 50% against a \$6-8 million project. The current building we are in cost \$6,245,000 (less than \$140.00 per square foot and projected cost is estimated to be doubled per increases in building materials). It will probably take 18 months to build the new building. If all goes well, looking at 3 years downstream. Will be looking to work with a local architect for the new building. FBCK has all the land it needs for the next 10 years. Building campaign may start in September 2021 for the next phase. Haven't had a campaign here for several years.
14. Personnel Committee – Rob Eisenman has led the video team so well and so much all year. Personnel Committee has given him a new title of Director of Media.

#### **Updates from Associate Pastors:**

1. Jack Gatewood – active church membership is 1900 and only 657 are church members. 461 adults do not belong to a Sunday School. Of the 2,001 Sunday School members, 308 who were active in Sunday School before COVID hit have not come back to Sunday School. 2,708 people belong to church and/or Sunday School. FBCK has added 34 new church members since COVID hit. Sunday School is averaging now 47% of what the number was last year, numbers are going up. 200 adults on Zoom every week for Sunday School. Students are 71% versus last year and these numbers are remaining steady. Children/pre-school are averaging 52%. Parents are little bit more concerned or cautious with their

children coming to church. Averaging about 650 people per week on-campus and 200 on Zoom for a total of 850. FBCK collected 225 pairs of reading glasses for On Board Ministry to take to Kenya with 190 that were never opened out of their package.

2. Tony Richmond – grateful to the people that responded to the Month of Encouragement cards that were put out on the tables today. Cards were also placed in the Sunday School folders so that these people will be reached with a word of encouragement. If Deacons know of someone that needs encouragement, please let office know and they will follow up. Teaching adult discipleship class for 6 weeks starting on 3/24 on emotions and having a biblical view of emotions—anxiety, depression and things like that.
3. Matt Perkinson – thanks to those serving on the Offertory Prayer Support team—doing a phenomenal job leading us in prayer, Scripture reading. Worship ministries gearing up for the start-up on 3/24 for sanctuary choir rehearsal, worship arts for kids, middle school bells and the rest of the programs. Student music ministry, choirs and other bells will begin on 3/28. Will have a local student mini choir tour for June 18-20 on campus. April 2, Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m., congregational singing and special vocal ensemble, partake of the Lord’s Supper, and child-care will be available. Easter Sunday, vocal ensemble, strings and percussion from orchestra, and congregational singing. Doing Holy Week, daily video series that chronicle the events that lead to Jesus’ crucifixion, and how Jesus’ power and purpose was on display throughout those events. Video links will be sent out daily through mass Email, on church website and pushed through social media sites.
4. Bradley Shook – Both Ms. Mingold and Bradberry have done a great job keeping in touch with child care employees and team. Everything is ready to roll for March 24<sup>th</sup> reopening for babies through pre-k activities. Preparing for Easter and child care will be provided for all three services for babies through pre-k. VBS is scheduled for June 7 though June 10. Reviewing list of VBS volunteers from last year and a table will be set up on March 21<sup>st</sup> for recruiting workers. Table will remain till the end of April. Start registering children for VBS on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. Andrew Young –weekly discipleship classes back on 3/24. “Equip” on 3/24 and pre-teen ministry on 3/28. Graduate recognition on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Looking forward to VBS and camp happenings in the summer. Students continue to come back.
6. Ted Eaton – Princess Cruise Lines has sent notice that they cancelled cruises through June 2021. Cruise to British Isles was planned and 20 FBCK people were listed to go on that cruise. In the process to get refunds back, Cruise Lines said it will up to 90 days to get refunds. Everything is a go for the Steamboat cruise scheduled in August 2021 down the Columbia River. Trip to Branson is booked for the first week of October.
7. Tyler Sulfridge – “Route 56” will start 3/28. Bible Drill will be on campus for one week on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Appreciate Deborah Stovall for all her effort with Bible Drill.
8. Gregory Baines – Working with student band to get ready for Wednesday and Sunday evening activities. Need for help as video monitors in overflow rooms especially for Easter services. Requesting virtual sign-up sheet for those rooms for worship services.
9. Chris Parker -- nothing to add.

#### **Deacon Chairman’s Discussion:**

1. Chairman Tom Pessing received a motion from Ricky Baker and a second from Ray Ellerman to approve the January 2021 Deacon Meeting minutes without changes. Passed unanimously.
2. Questions?
  - a. Kreg Bryant -- Who is staff liaison for Harvest Christian Academy to their governess board? Short term liaison has not been determined. Long term liaison probably be the Executive Pastor for Administration. Suggestion is to choose someone from this body to help—building’s type person. Jim Flick -- we probably need to get someone to interface with them. Details are being worked out now that the portables will not be used and HCA will be in-house.

Discussions will be on going and this will be addressed in the very near future. Was there any discussion about having an FBCK member on their academic board? There was some talk about having a representative on HCA's board to keep track of what is going on with HCA. Currently has not been pursued but will be discussed in the future. Lou Srencik comment -- There are several retired principals in FBCK and they may be an asset in the academic area if that is the direction FBCK wants to go.

- b. Randy Richmond – Where will the HCA offices be now that the portables are not going to happen? Jim Flick stated that it has not been determined. Tom Pessing said that they are looking at the Annex house to use as offices.
- c. What did Keller require that it was so cost prohibitive? Tom Pessing—sprinkler system in portables, dedicated fire lane be built. Jim Flick—city was inflexible beyond the 180 days versus a 3-year agreement for the portables.
- d. Russ Adams—Executive Pastor Search committee requested special prayer time for this committee. Latest candidate is really excellent.

### **Benevolence Fund Balances**

1. Deacon Benevolence = \$21,506.00
2. Deacon Widows Benevolence = \$18,232.00
3. Several items came up for church members and FBCK provided money to pay for requests. Also, some items came up for non-church members and FBCK helped out.

### **Ministry Teams – Matt Porter**

1. New Member Candidate Visitation Team – Jim Sabey went to one deacon rotation for the time being. The list on website has to be updated and sent to Tom Pessing for inclusion on website. One deacon per week.
2. Offertory Prayer Support Team – Matt Porter advised Bruce Robidou of the three Services on Easter. Bruce stated that if a deacon would like to pray in the services, let him know.
3. Hospital Visitation Team – Matt Porter said that Guy Simpson is building a map of the volunteers and hospital locations when we start up.
4. Widows Team – Don Johnston, thanked everyone for their service and the most recent widow has been assigned. Currently up-to-date.
5. Physical Services Team – Matt Porter said that there are quite a few projects going on. If any widows have needs, contact David McReynolds.
6. Lord's Supper Ordinance Administration Team – Lord's Supper on Good Friday. Dennis Lang will do like last time, the little packets for the four venues. Video to be used on how to open the individual packets.
7. Baptism Ordinance Team – Kreg Bryant said that there are no scheduled baptisms for the next month.
8. Sunday Prayer Team – Perry Leonard said to be committed to be faithful.

### **Prayer Requests – Lou Srencik**

Prayer time included prayers for widows, deacons, FBCK staff, our nation, VBS volunteers, associate pastor of administration, FBCK members affected by February winter weather and unity in the church.

### **Closing Prayer by Lou Srencik**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lou Srencik, Vice Chair of Records