

General Board Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. – Youth Building

ATTENDING

In person:

Pam Jones, Chair
Carol Madere, Chair-elect
Debbie Poché
Charlene Landry

Rev. Dr. David Chisham, Sr. Minister
Dak McInnis, Treasurer
Shelly Cody

By teleconference:

Ray Acardo
Mary Thompson

Ann Landry
Beverly Tipton

ABSENT

Tony Fatta

ALSO ATTENDING Jo Craddock, Admin. Asst.

OPENING

Pam Jones called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and Charlene Landry offered a devotion on acceptance.

MINUTES

The minutes from the January 23, 2020 General Board meeting were introduced by Debbie Poché. Mary Thompson moved, with second by Carol Madere, that the minutes be accepted, and the motion carried.

FINANCIALS

Dak McInnis reviewed the financial report (attached), and the discussion of the financial committee at its most recent meeting. The Board noted that the endowment balance does not reflect the most recent market activity, and David Chisham noted that the general fund balance reflects income and expenses are running as anticipated, since \$15K was the beginning year balance, and the March 4 balance is \$15,420.

COMMITTEES

There were no written committee reports to be received into the record. Jo Craddock confirmed to the Board that the Elder chair election had been conducted via mail and concluded with Charlene Landry receiving approval to continue as Elder chair.

Rev. Chisham reported that he and Judy Lester, chair of Outreach, had been in communication regarding responses to the coronavirus crisis. Evangelism has had one response to working on that committee, so far. Mary Thompson then volunteered to work on Evangelism Committee. Property continues with David, Charles Riddle, and Jo Craddock. Other than usual maintenance and cleaning (re-baiting of rodent traps, and listing of ballast issues for eventual electrical call-out), there was no action to report. Pam Jones brought up the issue of key management, particularly locking janitorial closets due to cleaning and sanitizing needs, and asked that those closets be re-keyed away from the widely-used key.

PERSONNEL Rev. Chisham reported that a nursery worker (Regan Kelly) had been hired, and he was quite excited to have her aboard when LSU closed campus, and her parents called her home. Without nursery needs at present, it is not an issue, and we hope to call her back when the situation normalizes.

NEW BUSINESS A review of the 2020 Committee Assignments and needs was conducted:

Worship Committee - headed by Nancy Fatta

Outreach Committee - headed by Judy Lester

Education - Each educational group (adults, youth, children) are being run by their volunteer leaders, selecting curriculum, etc.

Personnel Committee - to be staffed by Carol Madere

Evangelism Committee - adding Mary Thompson and Dak McInnis

Nominating Committee - to be staffed by Carol Madere

Memorials Committee - to be staffed by Pam Jones

Safe Church Committee - to be staffed by Pam Jones

Shared space contracts and agreement with several outside groups were reviewed by Rev. Chisham, noting most had cancelled meetings for the interim, at least, and some (Berean Co-op and Homeschool Choir) for the remainder of the year, and advised some rental negotiations may affect the budget.

Otherwise, The Japanese language school has asked for use of an additional classroom in the Youth Building for high schoolers. The use of the Worship & Wonder space was granted, with a \$10 per session increase in their fees.

OTHER BUSINESS Dak McInnis shared a letter to the editor published in this date's edition of the *Baton Rouge Advocate*, and moved that the church, through the Board, create and pass a resolution thanking the Runnels for their contributions to the greater Baton Rouge community in the area of education over these past many years. Rev. Chisham will draft the resolution and it will be distributed via email for Board review and consideration. Carol Madere seconded the motion, and it was approved.

MINISTER'S REPORT Rev. Chisham reported on the latest guidelines issued regarding the coronavirus crisis and the impacts on the church community. All church gatherings on campus have been suspended. He'd hoped to be able to hold multiple brief services when the guidelines suggested fewer than 50 in attendance, but at 10 or fewer, this is unsustainable. The Japanese School and all 12-step groups have been contacted and advised that these guidelines are expected to be followed. Further, self-cleaning and sanitizing meeting areas is expected. Supplies are being provided, at present.

The Easter Cantata and children's Easter Party are, at minimum, postponed until sometime during the Easter season. The Easter lily order has been revised, and we will order only the number of lilies reserved by March 30. If there is an easing of the guidelines by Holy Week/Easter, we may be able to reinstate some events.

The pastoral emphasis has turned to reaching out to those already isolating, either voluntarily or based on their residences. The newsletter currently being laid out will outline the change of schedules, and begin offering spiritual resources for home use. The new website is going live this week, with dedicated pages to online worship resources, including mini-services. Rev. Chisham is putting together with video input from congregation members, music with our choir director and organist, etc. Rev. Chisham encouraged sharing of ideas and resources to address these extenuating circumstances.

BENEDICTION Rev. Chisham offered prayer for the world, the church, those present and needs expressed, following which the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Poché, Secretary
by Jo Craddock, Admin. Ass't.