

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF MINISTRIES

Minutes

May 16, 2007

Members attending: Arnetta Barker, Sally Burgess, Pam Ensley, Ed Fenton, Corey Fields, Bob Hedberg, Patty Hodge, Richard McKinsey, Sammy Peck, Dan Pitts, Jan Seagraves, and Matt Sturtevant. Visitors included Ray Hauke, Ed Peck, Bill Roy, and Melinda Schoemaker of the Staff-Relations Committee; and Becky Crawl and David Harrison of the Search Committee.

At 7:10 p.m., Bob Hedberg gave a devotional from *Jesus Life Coach: Learn from the Best*. Based on the scripture Matthew 13:35, he noted that life changes may require “new stories” or new definitions of the situation. Bob led in prayer.

New and Existing Business

Minutes of April 18, 2007: **Bob Hedberg moved and Patty Hodge seconded to accept the minutes of 4/18/07, as written. Motion carried.**

Recommendation from the Minister of Music Search Committee: **Pam Ensley moved and Bob Hedberg seconded that the church call Charity Rouse to be a candidate for the Minister of Music position.** Pam distributed Charity’s resume, references, a salary proposal, and examples of her work, and the Board reviewed them.

Pam explained that Charity’s name came through Pat Parcels, who had been a good friend of Charity’s mother as a young woman. After Charity expressed interest in the position, Pam shared information about the church and the music program. The Search Committee sent her the results of the worship survey. Senior staff and the Search Committee communicated with her, asked questions about her background and her philosophy, obtained references, and invited her to come to Topeka in April. The purpose of the visit in April was to “audition” her, not to present her as a candidate. Charity worked with the chancel choir and with children and youth groups, but they were not given an opportunity to question her (as this was intended only as an audition). She met with the Search Committee, the Board Moderator, and senior staff over dinner, and responded to questions.

A great deal of discussion followed. Staff indicated they were impressed with Charity and believed she would be a good fit with the worship team. She demonstrated top-notch musical abilities and showed good organizational and communication skills. Her theology of worship was excellent for our church, focusing on music to focus on God. Her ministry credentials are good; she is ordained. Her experience includes a music camp she coordinated. Charity’s current job as music director is in a church smaller than FBC of Topeka, but she has eight years of church experience as a director of music. Her previous ministries have included working with a children’s choir and blending youth and adults into multi-generational choirs and handbell groups. When working with the youth during her first visit, Charity used the opportunity to include all of the youth who attended, in both choral and handbell practice. Those who met her believed she has the capacity to grow with the youth group and to build the children’s and youth groups over time.

The Search Committee was thanked for all their work. Pam responded that all along they had prayed that God would send the right person to FBC.

Motion carried, with one abstention. The Search Committee will ask Charity to come to Topeka on May 31 to work with the chancel choir for the June 3 service. The youth will also be invited to sing with the chancel choir during the service. A question-and-answer period will follow after the chancel choir rehearsal. She will be asked to also sing a solo at that service. In addition to her time with the chancel choir, she will be scheduled to meet with the Board of Ministries and the ConneXion Team, an afternoon open house, and dinner with the Search Committee. A church business meeting will be called following the June 3 worship services.

Staff Reports

Corey Fields submitted a written report, including:

- The Small Group Administration Team distributed surveys to all Sunday School classes on May 6. They are continuing to send out surveys and tabulate the results. The team will use these surveys and the needs they express to brainstorm a strategy for a small group launch in the fall.
- The Evangelism Team met on April 17 to talk in detail about a marketing plan for the fall hard launches. Evangelism will meet on May 22 to continue talking about a practical marketing strategy.
- Six or seven people attended a welcome seminar on April 28, two who joined the church the following Sunday and one who renewed her involvement in the church's ministries.
- The ConneXion Gathering launched on April 22. It has averaged 40-50 people per Sunday. They still need one more guitarist to join the talented musicians.
- Two new Sunday School classes have been established: a branch of the New Horizons class meeting at 8:30 a.m. and (starting May 20) a brand new class led by Doug Jacobs that will meet in the chapel at 11:00 a.m.

Matt Sturtevant submitted a written report, including:

- The Nicaragua team continues to meet. The teamwork and spiritual preparation process is beginning, and they are learning Spanish.
- The first version of the Faith Forest video was presented at the ABW banquet, and the second version will be distributed as part of the hard launch this summer or fall.
- The youth Sunday school is trying to figure how to fit in with the ConneXion Gathering.
- Ten high schoolers and sponsors will attend Passport Mission Camp in Macon, Georgia, on June 15-24. Matt has been coordinating Green Lake Music Camp for July 14-21, along with Daniel Ogle. Amy McLaren has been working with Matt to publicize region camps.
- This will be Matt's last Board meeting until August, due to his travel schedule.

Area Reports

Recreation: They still need an assistant coordinator.

Administration: Arnetta Barker reported April was a very successful month in terms of the church financial statement. Total income was \$57,817.75 (\$204,178.58 since January), and expenses were \$49,344.63 (\$197,972.32 since January), leaving the church with a **positive cumulative balance of \$6,206.26** (compared with -\$874.44 at the same time last year). Arnetta will put a note in the *Star* with this information. She added that there has been successful fund-raising for a number of activities.

This led to a discussion about the need for ministry areas to take fund-raising ideas to the Finance Committee, for recommendations to the Board. Members of the Board agreed, noting this was discussed last month. The Board will pay careful attention to the protocol for fund-raising in the future.

Dan Pitts indicated there is not much progress to report on the FBC mortgage campaign.

Worship: Pam Ensley asked if the Nicaragua lunch had been changed from June 10 to June 3. Dan thought it had been, but will check.

Evangelism: Bob Hedberg commented that a couple of Sundays ago someone saw a woman in a wheelchair who was caught in the expansion joint on the sidewalk near the entrance. He would like to improve accessibility to the church entry. He also noticed the Finance Committee report had commented that its recommendation for use of the Easter offering had not been covered by the Board in its April meeting. **Dan Pitts moved and Corey Fields seconded that the 2006 Easter offering be designated to Evangelism and the 2007 Easter offering be designated to Service.** There was some discussion, as this did not reflect the Finance Committee's recommendation. **The motion and second were withdrawn.** It will be addressed next month.

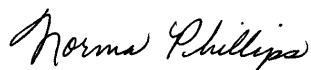
Education: Sammy Peck pointed out that Education is still short of volunteers. Children's church during the 11:00 worship hour may not continue because of a lack of volunteers. Faith Forest also needs volunteers.

Other Business

Ed remarked that people often ask him if it is okay to attend a Board meeting. He assured that anyone is invited to attend Board meetings, as they wish. It is an open meeting.

At 8:55 p.m., with no further business, Corey Fields closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Norma Phillips, Church Clerk