

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA  
BOARD OF MINISTRIES  
Minutes  
February 21, 2007

Members attending: Arnetta Barker, Bill Beutler, Sally Burgess, Pam Ensley, Ed Fenton, Corey Fields, Bob Hedberg, Patty Hodge, Joe Kutter, Bob McElroy, Richard McKinsey, Sammy Peck, Dan Pitts, Jan Seagraves, Sharon Trulove, and Matt Sturtevant. Guest: Wendy Willoughby.

At 7:40 p.m. Corey Fields read from an online document, "Fear, the Beginning of Wisdom." The article spoke of fear and concluded that everyone is afraid of something and fear can become our master. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. God is bigger than what keeps us up at night. Corey opened with prayer.

New and Existing Business

*Affirmation of Internet vote:* Ed Fenton announced the following Internet motion: **(1) Approval of the 1/17/07 Board minutes, after correcting the date shown on the minutes to January 17, 2007. Motion carried.**

*Wendy Willoughby presentation:* Wendy proposed that a small group of church members be established to collect information about organizations which request financial assistance from the church. The group would develop criteria for church support, such as ethical considerations, how the organization uses its funds (e.g., administrative costs versus direct services), etc. The information would then be made available to church members. Examples of organizations seeking assistance are World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, Habitat for Humanities, and Compassionate International. Joe Kutter said that sometimes several organizations do the same work. A group like this can compare the different organizations and place the information on the web site as a service to the congregation.

*Update on Alternative Worship Service:* Corey Fields reported that the conneXion team plans to conduct the first mock alternative worship service no later than Sunday, March 11. They recently purchased an acoustic guitar and full CCLI music printing and transposing license. The group developed a worship worksheet for planning services, which will be a community-driven process rather than leader-driven. The team will be empowered to conduct services whether or not Corey is here. They identified pros and cons for using either the parlor or the chapel for services. Asked if the budgeted amount for equipment and supplies will be adequate, Corey responded he expects it will be. The team's plan represents activities for the next several months.

*FBC mortgage campaign for 2007:* The Board discussed how to handle the church's remaining debt for the mortgage. Historically, we have been more successful raising funds for special projects than for operating costs. If we were to obtain a 30-year mortgage of \$450,000 at 6%, it would cost the church \$31,500 annually. A 30-year mortgage would impact the budget more negatively than a final buy-down-the-mortgage campaign, using the experience we gained from the previous two campaigns. **Dan Pitts moved and Bob Hedberg seconded that we authorize a pledge drive to pay off the building and that we appoint a committee to develop a campaign. Motion carried.**

*Sabbatical proposal:* Joe Kutter presented a proposal for a six-week sabbatical to study Baptist roots and literature on spiritual growth to advance his understanding of "Baptist spirituality" and for personal renewal. The schedule for the sabbatical would be May 14-June 30. During this time he would travel to Oxford, England, and to Prague, Czech Republic, as well as study in Topeka. Joe explained that, when he accepted his position at FBC, it had been agreed that he would take a

sabbatical after seven years. On July 4, 2007, he will celebrate his tenth anniversary here. During his proposed sabbatical, he plans to produce a Sunday series or a Wednesday night series. Joe said he anticipates the cost for his sabbatical would be \$4,000-\$6,000, at his own expense. After Board discussion of the value of a sabbatical to both Joe and the church, it was agreed that he should extend the study to eight weeks, beginning the May 1, with Matt Sturtevant and Corey Fields planning services during his absence. It was agreed to create a fund for people who want to contribute to the costs of his sabbatical. **Bob Hedberg moved and Sally Burgess seconded to approve Joe Kutter's plans for a sabbatical, from May 1 through June 30.** He will announce the sabbatical from the pulpit. **Motion carried.**

*Celebration service update:* The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be held on March 11. Only one morning service will be conducted, followed by a buffet meal catered from Aboud's, at a cost of \$12.50 for the meal. Roy Medley will be present and former pastors have been invited.

### Staff Reports

*Joe Kutter* made a report on a colloquium he attended a couple of weeks ago. Twenty-five pastors attended, representing churches with multiple staff, which make significant contributions, and which have varied perspectives. He gave an outline of presentations on stewardship, shared information on worship and communication styles, leadership, and spirituality.

*Matt Sturtevant* gave an update from a Sunday morning conversation with high schoolers. Kevin Cook will be the new high school teacher and Bill Ogle will be the junior high teacher. They will use a team teaching approach and will prepare lessons together.

*Corey Fields* reported the web site is being updated and revised. Christine Stoner, our administrative assistant is very efficient and hard-working. They will be asking people for pictures and stories. He said people have asked how the Board of Ministries can support the conneXion team, and he suggested several ways:

- Encourage the team, pray for them, and stand up for them. They meet weekly and have given up significant personal time during this process so far. When you talk with members of the congregation, focus on what HAS happened, not on what has NOT happened. If the team starts to hear a lot of questions about why the service hasn't started yet, it can lead to burnout and despair. Call them or talk to them in the halls and thank them for their work.
- Anyone on the Board of Ministries is invited to come to a mock service or to a music team rehearsal. This may give a more first-hand view of all the happenings.
- Help keep clear in the minds of the members that this service belongs to the whole church and that everyone needs to take ownership and investment (not just interest) in our evangelism efforts and this new service.
- Help the team look for musicians. If you know someone, make the call and put them in touch with Corey. He needs a lead guitarist with band experience. If you hear a band playing in public, strike up a conversation with them. See who they know and if they would be interested.
- Help the team get supplies for the service through either donating or asking others to donate. They are looking for used furniture items: couches, chairs, tables, lamps, pictures, etc.

### Area Reports

*Recreation:* Sally Burgess said no one has been identified to fill the position of Assistant Recreation Coordinator. They are looking for someone to work with the crafts area. Benny Meyer has been

tremendous helping with the concession stand at Upward Basketball games. Sally added that, with the busy life of the church, the talent show has been put on hold because they could not find a date for it.

*Administration:* The January financial report was distributed as well as the FBC Topeka Foundation report. January receipts were \$8,264.17 less than expenses. Arnetta Barker explained that the church needs to bring in \$50,000/month to maintain the budget. January receipts were only \$47,340.05, and expenses were higher than planned. **Arnetta Barker moved and Bob Hedberg seconded to write a letter authorizing the \$177 monthly payment on the Chitwood loan to be made automatically from FBC's Wachovia account to the FBC Topeka Foundation's Wachovia account. Motion carried.**

*Care:* Jan Seagraves announced a prayer seminar to be held March 30 from 7:00-9:00 and March 31 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Primary leadership will be from congregational staff. Responding to a question, Jan said Care is contacting some people who are leaving the church, but it was recommended people who are their friends contact them directly to learn the reason for leaving.

*Education:* Sammy Peck said she had no report.

*Worship:* Pam Ensley reported the search committee for the music director has reconvened. They have worked on redefining the job description for the position; however, they will not fully complete the revision until they have been given the report developed from the surveys. She added that a more comprehensive Worship Team concept is being developed. Members of the team will be members of the Worship Area, pastors, members of the conneXion team, and others as recruited. The group will meet on March 16 to begin planning themes of worship for the upcoming year.

*Evangelism:* Bob Hedberg noted no schedule had been developed for Board members who meet new members. Ed Fenton distributed the new schedule, noting that he and Dan Pitts will meet new members in February and Sally Burgess and Marti Macchi will meet them in March. Richard McKinsey volunteered to continue meeting new members during the 8:30 service.

*Service:* Bob McElroy said the Parajons had a productive long weekend. He took them to Ottawa to meet with a church group. He said the Parajons are not used to asking for support, and they are forming a national board to help. **Bob is looking for people who want to receive e-mail updates from the Parajons: contact him at [rmcelroy@cox.net](mailto:rmcelroy@cox.net) if you want to be placed on a list for updates.** Bill Beutler added that several who have been using the church van are not able to attend church now.

### Other Business

The March meeting was scheduled during spring break, so it was agreed to move the meeting to March 14. Ed asked Board members to think about whether they want to continue meeting on Wednesday nights.

At 9:35 p.m., with no further business, Joe Kutter closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Norma Phillips, Church Clerk