

First Baptist Church, July 9 2017

Council of Stewards Meeting

Call to Order: 5:35

Members present: Casey Campbell, David Crook, Harold Gragg, Lindsay Jackson, Lynn Meinershagen, Will Smith, Donna Wagner

Opening Prayer Lynn Meinershagen

Devotion: Donna Wagner- Proverbs 16:3

Approval of June 2017 Minutes

Lynn Meinershagen made a motion to approve, Harold Gragg 2nd, minutes approved

Congregational members who would like to speak to the council:

Vickie Dunn- did not attend

Betty Davison: Has questions that would like to have answers regarding gossip that needs be settled. What is the problem? We have lost our youth pastor and now our children's pastor. I had high hopes for what our church could accomplish and now it seems like the church is a mess.

Marvin Davison: I have been a member since 1957. I look at the church as one body and every limb makes a difference. When one limb is hurt it hurts everyone- right now it is because we don't have enough information. The more information we have the less hurt we have. If we try to "hide" stuff then rumors start and hurt happens

Questions from Marvin: Who suggested Jeanette's sabbatical? Why? Was the sabbatical with or without pay? What were the problems that Jeanette shared with the council that could be shared? *(Questions were deferred to the Jeanette- → the letter given the congregation was not intended for anyone except Pastor and council. A different letter was going to be written at the time of her exit. Regarding the sabbatical- she thought it came from pastor and that she took it very serious but she came back with a clear image from God about it being time to go. Jeanette wants to leave well and will not be going to another church. She does not want to be a cranky, naggy person in the church that makes everyone miserable.)*

We need a chance to speak our peace so that we don't have rumors and things to don't get out of line. My purpose is to clear things up right now. We should change rules about getting on the agenda 10 days in advance.

Why do you think the moral is so low? (for both the staff and the church as a whole)

We need the budget updates- weekly giving and the regular attendance. People give because of the need and they need to know what the needs are in order to give.

Appearances are important. Council is too secretive. Whatever happens with Pastor affects all of us. Whatever you do affects all of us.

Linda Ogle: Not here to upset or anger anyone. This church has been a big part of John and Linda's life. They love this church and have been here through thick and thin.

How are Pastor and Jeanette's vision different? (Pastor says he would like an answer to that question, too). Is there a problem with women in leadership? (No) Is there a problem with Jeanette's ministry? (No)

We aren't just losing Jeanette, but also Gary, too → big loss. There are amazing things going in the children's wing and with many great leaders.

Regarding giving... some tithe regularly but when they see numbers down they give above and beyond.

It is sad that we have lost the Townsends, Garrett, and now Jeanette and Gary. The staff used to be such a great team. What happened? We aren't good at thanking each other, celebrating, and encouraging each other? We can't be jealous and envious → John 4:16 Let's do better and encouraging and lifting up

Transparency- what are the church's needs, what the church is doing and where the church is going

Communication- among members, among council, among staff

We have the right to read letters of resignations → please review bi-laws or do something so that this is something that can happen

A woman (not well known to Linda) called and asked what is going on. The woman said that she is leaving and 4 other couples are going with her. Linda asked this woman to give us time and the woman agreed to give the church until August.

Linda Schowengerdt: I don't think I have had any questions answered. We are being too polite. People are angry that specific things have been said and done. We need to get this tension resolved. I would like a congregational meeting to get this all out in the open.

Casey Campbell and Lindsay Jackson will meet with Linda to further discuss this and set it meeting up.

TEAM REPORTS

- **PERSONNEL**
 - Youth Pastor search update
 - Talked about a specific candidate
 - developed/revised a questionnaire for this candidate
 - posted the position in regional papers
- **FINANCE**
 - Donna Wagner made a motion to approve the salary breakdown, Lynn Meinershage 2nd, motion approved
 - \$37,600 Salary,
 - \$12,000 Housing
 - \$2,4000 Retirement
 - No budget line item is over at this point but giving is down. Reserves are below \$150,000
 - Pastor is working with Seth to reduce his hours to compensate for the overages in the hours earlier in the years
 - Changes in accounting software
- **BUILDING and GROUNDS**
 - Karen McCoy- new employee – an excellent addition
 - David Lamb- retired – will be greatly missed
 - Using college students this summer to do projects (waxing floors, cleaning carpets, cleaning AC units)
 - Ovens will be installed at end of July
 - Miscellaneous items have also been completed
 - Green room construction begins July 17 and other fire code issues to be completed by the end of July

Moved to Closed Session @ 6:30

Next Council Meeting Sunday: August 13, 2017 at 5:30 pm

ADJOURNMENT 8:02 pm

