

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH CONFERENCE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

March 26, 2025

Call to Order

Moderator Kimberly Taylor called the conference to order at 6:22 p.m.

Business

Minutes of the church conference were approved without dissent.

Church clerk Teresa Teague gave the membership report. Jay Foster joined the membership via baptism on Sunday, March 16. Carolyn Smith died on Sunday, March 16. The membership as of March 26 was 1,311.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Committee chair Ryan Willis gave a review of the financials. February 2025 total revenue was \$156,131.77; total expenses were \$130,239.50. Revenue in excess of expenses was \$25,892.27.

The Committee approved the first-quarter missions payments, which are \$23,000+ per quarter. The Committee also received a request from the Properties Committee on behalf of the Landscaping Team. The Committee approved \$2,250 for several landscaping projects at the church.

Properties Committee

Maria Childrey reported on the choir loft improvements. The City of Raleigh has received the application for a permit, and we should know the decision by Friday, March 28.

The Properties Committee also approved \$2,250 for several landscaping projects around the church parking lot, the front of the church, and in the garth. Some of the projects include:

Parking lot: apply specific fertilizers and mulch around trees

State parking lot: trim bushes and clear brush

Garth: various work in the plant beds and improving the bench seating.

Wayne Haeger commented that the removal of two oak trees and the playground tree that has been in the works for a while will be completed on March 27.

Nominating Committee

Committee chair Karen Poteat presented a list of committee, council, and Sunday School leadership nominees for the next year (Attachment A). The Nominating Committee has filled all but

two slots (on the Social and Finance Committees) and hopes to fill the remaining spots within the next week. The list of nominees was approved without dissent.

Dream Team

Chair Mary Nash Rusher gave an update on the Team's work since spring of 2024. In May 2024, the Church Conference approved the Dream Team's proposal that we join a cohort of churches in the Triangle (Sympara) to work towards improving the affordable housing crisis. After several months of fits and starts, the Dream Team ultimately decided this group would not be a good fit for us as a partner. The Team members continue to look for ways our church can work with other organizations to become an ever more vital part of our community, and welcome all ideas from the members. Ms. Rusher ended the report by mentioning that Edenton Street Methodist Church has just finished a similar process to the one we completed, and has a new strategic plan on their website; their goals align very closely with ours. ESMC has a new minister who is very interested in collaborating with community groups in pursuit of similar ministries, and the Dream Team as well as Dr. Chapman has been in contact with him.

New Business

Ms. Taylor reminded the members that there will be no Church Conference in April due to Holy Week activities. The next Conference will be May 28, 2025.

Comments from Dr. Chapman

Dr. Chapman reiterated that he has met with Edenton Street Methodist Church's new pastor, Kevin Baker. Mr. Baker has a significant interest in history and community partnership, and is very energetic in his interest in working with other organizations in our community.

Dr. Chapman mentioned that he is preaching at the Easter sunrise service at the Capitol this year (for the first time since 2014.) He also reminded the Conference of the Gaddy lectures during the coming weekend, featuring Dr. Kristin Kobes Du Mez (author of *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation.*)

Dr. Chapman reported on a Church Council meeting earlier in the week at which two Day Fund requests were approved. The requests were for two different projects which will be completed in the same trip to Honduras. There will be a complete report on these approved requests at the May Church Conference meeting.

Dr. Chapman's final announcement concerned a decision by the Worship Committee. Going forward, the Worship Committee will be using actual (gluten-free) bread at every communion service.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Church Clerk

Positions for Sept 25 thru Aug 26

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES COUNCIL	STUDENT MINISTRIES COUNCIL	ADULT MINISTRIES COUNCIL
Shirley Hobson	Matthew Taylor	Jane Kelley
Holly Ivel	Jesse Vogel	Holly Ivel
Amy Galvan	Janie Carothers	Elizabeth Riley
Becky Mercer	Lacey Pegram	Jen Foster
Lacey Pegram	Tyler Jones	Cara Lynn Vogel
Hope Phillips	Claire Willmschen	Anna Anderson
Anza Harker	Margaret Barham	
Elizabeth Riley		

MUSIC MINISTRIES COUNCIL	WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL COUNCIL	ITC BOARD
Carolyn Dickens	Elizabeth Riley	Elizabeth Riley
Jamie Vogel	Sarah Collins	Lauren Bradley
Anna Anderson bells	Sarah Catherine Rhodes	Leah Filomena
Amy Galvan		
Matthew Taylor		
John Hite		

Sunday School Directors	
Sunday School Director	Ginger Graves
Asst. Sunday School Director	Lin Carter
Preschool Director	Myra Brickell, Shirley Hobson
Elementary Sunday School Director	Karen Poteat
Youth Sunday School Director	open

Sunday School Class	Teachers
Connections	Lin Carter, Tonya Carter, Johnny Liverman, Lou Anne Liverman
Everette Miller Friendship	Class will find. Steve Austin, Bob Bailey, Laura Maness
Formations	Rebecca Sasser & Steve Brown, Chuck Underwood
Grains of Sand	Leah Filomena, Jeff Mercer, Hollis Yelverton, Wyatt Yelverton
John Hiott Fellowship	Bob Bailey
Pathfinders	Matt Bullard, Sam Carothers, Nancye Gaj, Hayden James, Chuck Nichols, Mary Powell Rhodes
Scriptural Serendipity	John Shell
Sharing Thoughts	Self Taught
The Journey	Anne Bullard, Stan Crocker, Sue Crocker, Amy Galvan, Robert Ponton, Teresa Teague
The Wilderness	Jessica Helms
Unity	David Guzman
Japanese	Tomoko Chubachi

Positions that Roll Over in January

Committee terms are 3 years

Class of '28

WORSHIP	Anne Tunstall
	Catherine Dukeck
	Rebecca Sasser
HOSPITALITY	Bob Bailey
	Wade Sasser
	Jay Carothers
DENOMINATIONAL RELATIONS	Carolyn Dickens
	Nancy Philips
SOCIAL	Mary Burnette
	Janie Carothers
	<i>open</i>
COMMUNITY MINISTRY	Elizabeth Riley
	Holly Ivel
	Derek Foster
PERSONNEL	Beth Jones
	Jeff Hobart
FINANCE	Will Poteat
	Matt Strickland
	<i>open</i>
PROPERTIES	Sterling Brickell
	John Baldwin
	Sheilia Jordan
TRUSTEES	Hollis Yelverton
	Jess Helms
	Mary Nash Rusher

Class of 2026 (1 year term)

And Also with 'Cue Board	Anne Cooke
	Elizabeth Riley
	Karen Poteat