

First Baptist Church, Bloomington, IL
Quarterly Congregational Business Meeting Minutes
Sunday, December 8, 2024, following the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Moderator Al Strauch gave the opening prayer. A quorum of at least 35 was present. Those watching online were invited to text Pastor Brian at 1-920-924-6857 if they had questions or comments. Al thanked the committees and teams who have done so much so far this year with all the opportunities to connect us with each other and the community.

Vice Moderator Mary Jo Douglass thanked the congregation for our support with the Stewardship Campaign. As Chair of the Nominating Service Team, she encouraged us to consider needed leadership roles in the upcoming year in the areas of Treasurer or Chairs of Human Resources, Spiritual Formation, or Stewardship.

Clerk (Debbie Stumm)

- On October 23 was the death of long-time member Nannette Swanson Tanaka
- Following their baptisms on June 23, the Church Board recommended Anne Benton and Jesshu Chadalavada for membership in our church. So, as Church Clerk I made a motion to receive Anne and Jesshu into membership of our church. Helen Ogar seconded. **MOTION APPROVED.** Welcome Anne and Jesshu!

Treasurer (Glen Wetzel)

- Glen reviewed the October financial statement and gave it a "catsup face." Offerings were about \$27,000 behind budget through September, but October made up about \$12,000 of that (\$36,000 vs. \$24,000 budget). Year-to-date offerings of about \$230,000 vs. \$245,000 budget narrowed the gap. November offerings were also good, and offerings usually shine in December.
- Year-to-date expenses of about \$277,000 vs. \$320,000 budget were under budget about \$43,000
- Year-to-date income - expenses was \$12,444.39 vs. - \$39,263.04 budget
- The checking account balance at the beginning of the year was \$155,963.33, and at the end of October was \$118,199.57. \$70,000 of the beginning balance was used to start a CD at Busey Bank which has earned \$2,117.11 in interest. \$100,000 was taken from our Baird account to start a Treasury Bond to give Sharing the Blessings a more secure source of income. Total assets at the beginning of the year were \$766,140.36 and at the end of October were \$794,656.43.
- Glen asked for questions – none
- Glen thanked Debbie for the reports and the congregation for faithful giving and pledges

Stewardship (Aaron Haning)

- Pledge cards for 2025 and printed copies of the narrative budgets are available
- Aaron presented on the screen and handed out printed copies of a Summary of Income and Expense History and 2025 Budget Projection
- 36 pledge cards for 2025 have been received so far for a total of \$173,520 (average of \$4,820 per pledge)
- 14 who pledged in 2024 \$79,460 have not yet pledged for 2025
- Adding those numbers together would give 50 pledges for \$252,980 (average of \$5,060 per pledge)
- Adding an estimate of \$40,000 from those who give but do not pledge and \$1,000 for loose offerings would give a total of \$293,980
- Adding other income such as farm and building use would give a total of \$335,980
- \$335,980 - \$404,029 Annual Budget for 2025 = - \$68,049.
- Actual expenses for 2020 through October 2024 have been an average of 10% less than budgeted
- Pastor Brian thanked Aaron for his fantastic and detailed work
- Al thanked Aaron, Glen, and Debbie for their calculations, time, and energy
- Al also expressed gratitude for the funds the church receives from those who generously give through their wills

- At the Church Board meeting Thursday, the Board will look further at the budget and is always working to narrow deficit budgets
- Al asked for questions:
 1. Pastor Brian asked if the 14 not heard from includes those who have died/left/moved. Debbie answered they do not.
 2. Joyce Benton asked if there will be follow-up with the 14. Debbie answered a letter will be sent to them asking if they would like to pledge. Pastor Brian said we could also include an announcement on Sunday mornings and on the website giving the congregation opportunities to pledge.
 3. Al Azinger asked why the Baird account balance was down. Glen answered \$100,00 was used to start a Treasury Bond.

Pastoral Relations (Fred Moore)

- Fred stated the purpose of the Pastoral Relations Service Team is “to be an advocate for fostering constructive communication between the congregation and its pastoral leadership. It assists in helping the congregation understand its responsibility for the pastoral leadership’s professional and personal well-being.”
- Fred wanted us to recognize Pastor Brian has been elected as Regional Vice President of the Great Rivers Region and that November 11 was Pastor Brian's 25th anniversary of ordination
- In 2012 the Church Board approved a sabbatical policy for rest and renewal through study. Pastor Brian is eligible, has written a proposal, and has requested a sabbatical which Pastoral Relations and the Church Board have approved for 3 months beginning in May of 2025. Cheri Grizzard has agreed to take the pulpit during this sabbatical time.
- Fred asked for questions – none

Other Reports

- Al for David Greenfield of the Worship Committee reminded us our Christmas Eve Worship Service will be at 5:30 p.m. with a light reception to follow. The service will also be livestreamed. Devotional booklets for Christmas through Epiphany will be available.
- Becky Strack for Outreach Committee which has 4 teams reported: ABWM meets the second Monday of the month September-November and March-May and is definitely an intergenerational Small Group from 2 1/2 years old through 100. Connecting the Community has offered fireside chats, and there will be a caroling opportunity next Sunday. Feeding the Soul has fed us through stewardship dinners, Meet & Eats, and memorial service dinners. Sharing the Blessings praise: Of the over 100 Great Rivers Region churches, we are #12 in our financial support.
- Michelle Wiggins thanked all those who donated at the chili cook-off and other ways we financially support the youth. There will be a team of 9 going to the Green Lake SKWIM event of worship, skiing, and swimming.
- Pastor Brian thanked the staff, leaders, and committee chairs, and he is excited about the new intergenerational LOGOS worship, study, and dinner schedule ministry. Nathan Jennings, Beverly Jennings, and Michelle Wiggins (Spiritual Formation) are working on expanding our Sunday morning ministry before worship for adults and youth.

Al is excited about the amazing things being done by the amazing people in our congregation. He invited the congregation to reach out to Church Board members or committee chairs if we have questions from today. Pastor Brian gave the closing prayer at 12:07 p.m.

Submitted,
Debbie Stumm, Clerk