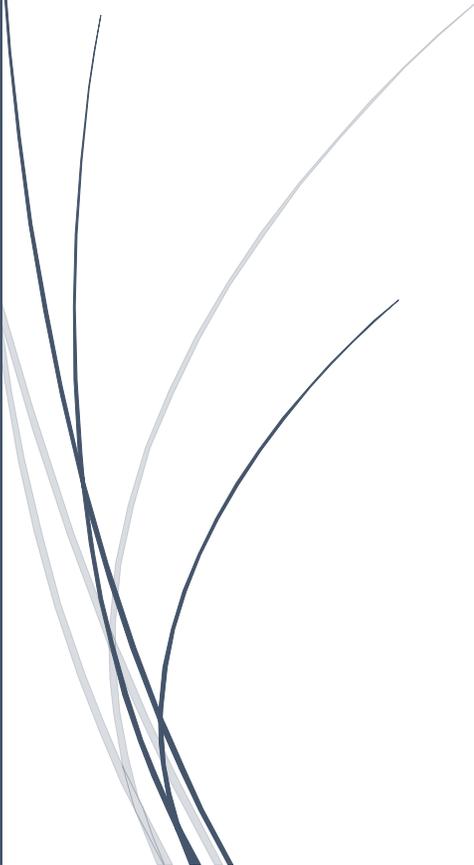


1/19/2021

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANNAPOLIS

Annual Church Business Meeting



Reverend Louis J. Boston, Pastor  
31 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

# 2021 ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

January 19, 2021

## AGENDA

*NOTE: The moderator should not or presume to propose to influence any item on the agenda or in further discussion. If he/she wishes to testify, he/she must relinquish the chair before making comments.*

Hymn: "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

Scripture: Proverbs 16: 17-21

Prayer: Deacon Robert Hector, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Hymn: Last Stanza

### Adoption of Virtual Sanding Rules

- I. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Approval Minutes from Previous Meeting
- III. In Memoriam
  - Lloyd Richards*
  - Charles Jackson*
  - Mildred Trotter*
  - Marion Howard*
  - Jerome Lyles*
  - Irlene Belt*
  - Bernice Whitehead*
  - Tollie Vann*
  - Marybell Simms*
  - Robert Eades*
  - Mildred Hardy*
  - Beatrice Felton*
- IV. Required Reports
- V. Special Orders
- VI. Unfinished Business
- VII. New Business

Announcements

Adjournment

First Baptist Church of Annapolis, Inc.  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Minutes of the Annual Church Business Meeting  
Held on January 21, 2020

The Annual Church Business meeting convened at 7:14 p.m. in the sanctuary with Reverend Louis J. Boston presiding.

Devotions

Hymn: "Hold to God's Unchanging Hands" AAHH Hymn No. 404  
Scripture: Psalms 125 – Deacon Charles E. Gross  
Prayer: Deacon Robert Hector  
Hymn: Last Stanza

**I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

It was moved by Dea. Robert Hector to accept the agenda. Deacon Rudy Ross seconded the motion.

**II. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

After the reading of the minutes by Sister Cecile Jackson, it was moved and seconded that the minutes be received and adopted after minor typographical errors.

**V. IN MEMORIAM – 2019**

*Sister Doris Austin*  
*Brother Augustine Spruill*  
*Sister Georgia Pettigrew*  
*Sister Evelyn Lewis*

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business from the previous meeting.

**IV. REQUIRED MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS/OTHERS:**

**A. There was No Action from the following Ministries:**

Ministry of Christian Education – report submitted by Deac. Vancie Hackett  
Church Clerk- submitted by Sister Cecile Jackson  
Ministry of Deacons - submitted by Deacon Fred Foreman  
Ministry of Deaconesses - submitted by Deaconess Tryphina James  
Superintendent of the Church School - submitted by Sister Nekeidra Everett  
Ministry of Music - Brother Keith Rowel  
Maintenance Committee  
Auditing Committee

Other Reports Submitted:

Laymen's Ministry

Hospitality

Outreach Ministry

Scholarship Committee

Usher Ministry

Women's Ministry

Sister Mary Pinckney

Brother Clarence James

Sister Enid Collison-Lee

Sister Yvonne Jones

Sister Rosemary Simms

**B. Constitution and ByLaws Committee – report submitted by Bro. George Mc Neal**

The committee proposed a new amendment to allow all standing committees and ministries to have electronic meetings to conduct and transact the business of the committees and ministries, providing specific conditions are met. Bro. Mc Neal reviewed the entire conditions pertaining to the new amendment. There were several comments with regards to clarification and purpose of the amendment, which Bro. Mc Neal explained. Individuals questioned the necessity for the amendment and the possible adverse effect of discouraging people from coming to the church. After a robust round of discussion, a motion was made to approve and accept the amendment.

**C. Trustee Report-Submitted by Trustee Denise Smith**

Sis. Smith discussed routine maintenance and business conducted during the year.

- Sis. Smith thanked all those who helped in the past. She shared with us the struggle she had with keeping the annex and the sanctuary clean. There are 2 major semi-annual clean-up projects planned (which include: polishing the pews and organizing the storage areas, etc.), as well as ongoing daily and weekly cleaning of the sanctuary and annex. While the custodian (J. Lindsey) regularly cleans the church, more help on a regular basis is needed. She would like to the congregation to step-up and volunteer to assist with cleanup.
- We received another grant from MD for additional equipment, we have not gotten it yet, but expect it to arrive soon.

Our current priorities:

- Our sanctuary is 35 years old and is need of repair. Problems with the boiler, which is on it's last legs. Our HVAC professional is preparing a proposal that will tie-in with the replacement of the furnace in the back of the sanctuary, which will save us some money. We are going to have to address it, it will be the only source of heat in the lower level of the annex.
- We discovered foundation/structural issues near the ladies room in the annex. Not sure how serious it is, but we will have a professional to

assess the problems. If the problem cannot be fixed from the inside, the need may occur for an outer wall excavation. This is probably going to be a costly project. Because this could lead to health problems, this issue needs to be addressed.

- There is major leaking in the gutter and roof area over the ramp door.
- Another contractor provided an acceptable solution with replacing the flat roof, which has been an ongoing problem.
- Other issues include replacing van and replacing the bathroom stalls on way down on the list.

The major issue with these projects is finances. She showed detailed statistics, with regards to the income received in previous years. While this year was less than projected, the lack of incoming funds but didn't hurt us much because of a carrier of \$10,000.

Our major expenses were salary, administration, benefits, insurance, followed by the cost of church operations and maintenance/property and equipment.

Given what we know we must fix, the maintenance/property and equipment will probably double.

Per Sis. Smith, "We are really looking to the church to decide what they want to do with the church. It's your church, if you want to keep it here and keep it going, we are going to have to do a better job with our tithes and offerings and supplemented where we can with fundraising. We've talked about fundraising for several years and we have not moved forward.

Per Sis. Smith, "As the chair of the trustees and with discussion with the other trustees, we are going to take care of the church and there are many things that we must do first. I'm giving you all advance notice that at some point in time, your vouchers may be turned down. Not what we want to do, but we can only extend the funds that the church brings in...so if they don't come in, we're not going to spend it. unless there are dire circumstances, we are not going are not going to go to our savings. There are certain funds we can't legally touch, so in order for us to operate, we are going to have to show our commitment to the church. She then asked for questions and suggestions:

- One suggestion is charge for Candlelight service, which would help recoup the funds we spend to host the event.
- Every organization have a day or sponsor an activity to raise funds.
- More activities and fundraisers to bring more people in the church.

#### **D. Treasury Report**

A detailed report was given by Trustee Denise Smith. In summary, our PNC account, which is our primary operating account, had a beginning balance of \$15,627.23 and receipts of \$314,718.50, and there were no transfers made from other accounts. Our disbursements were \$319,444.57, leaving us with an ending balance of \$10,901.16. We have a savings account with a beginning balance of \$68,798.05 It accrued \$139.27 of interest and the ending balance is \$68,937.32 The Essex Bank CD, which is for the parsonage is \$140,545.54.

#### **E. Budget Report** - presented by Sis. Denise Smith

We proposed going up \$28,000. There was some shifting in areas, but mainly because of the addition of a small salary for an assistant pastor.

There was a question asking if the allocation of funds to the Women's and Laymen's ministry is necessary and needed.

Her response, "the committee tried to keep the budget for some ministries, based on what the committee did the previous year, but I am sorely disappointed in our budget process. We asked ministries to realistically develop their budget and get it in on time. After discussion with the other trustees, what we planned to deny funds to any ministry that didn't submit required documentation on time. The Finance committee mulled it over, and there are several ministries that actually require a budget. We are accountable to the congregation for the money that we spend. This wouldn't happen in the business world. It's disrespectful if we can't show the church what we want to do with the money they are allowing us to spend".

She would not like to see this process continue. If you do not submit a budget and required documentation showing how you are spending the church's funds, your ministry should not receive church funding.

There were several questions/comments

- If "seed money" is needed for fundraising efforts, does that require a need to submit budget. The answer is yes. Every organization that spends money must have a budget.
- The comment was made that there is a lack of accountable within the church, which is problematic.
- How is notification made for submitting a budget? Per Sis. Smith, it's announced Sunday mornings, placed in the bulletins, notification in ministry boxes, as well as emailed to ministry leads.
- What were the criteria for adjustments in the submitted budget? Sis. Smith was unable to answer that question.

Motion was made and moved to accept the budget as presented. There were no objections.

- F. Pulpit 2019 Report** – Reverend Louis J. Boston  
Reverend Boston's report is on file and available for review.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Assistant Pastor Position:**

Sis. Smith led the discussion. Bro. Kidd raised the question about the inclusion of funds into the budget for an assistant pastor. "Our approach is that it is a starting point, but it may be all that we can afford", per Sis. Smith.

We had 8 applicants, which the committee narrowed down to four.

We went through a process of wanting to hear them preach. Normally we would have gone out to them, but the committee decided to invite them here to preach. Three have visited at the time this meeting was held.

The question was asked why the congregation was not notified when applicants appeared?

Per Sis. Smith, "The committee wanted to have a feel of their preaching, but preaching is just a part of skills and abilities needed; Rev Boston has stressed this. An assistant pastor will operate as Pastor Boston right-hand man and he will be expected to help Pastor Boston get the church ready for when Pastor Boston steps down and the church will have to hire a new pastor".

Per Sis. Smith, "As a part of the process, the pulpit committee is required to narrow the recommendations down to 1 or 2 candidates, which will be refer to Rev. Boston. At that point, Rev will conduct interviews and will he is the one who decides who he wants to recommend to the church for confirmation, not the committee. Preparation for this event is very important, specifically with regards to our budget, which will be severely impacted. So, if we think our budget is strapped right now, it's really going to be strapped once we have to pay for a new pastor."

Sis. Smith named the four remaining candidates: Rev. Blair Alexander, Rev. Rashid Singletary, Rev. Keith Rowel and Bishop J.R. Pinckney.

After a robust round of discussions

- Is Rev. Pinckney, who is a Pastor of another church, willing to step down to become Assistant Pastor to our church?
- Will the church be notified when the next candidate preaches...Yes

- One candidate is not a Baptist, will that be an issue? No, he just has to become a Baptist.
- Is there a timeline? No particular date is set, but the plan is to move as quickly as possible.

In closing, per Sis. Smith: "We shared that information with you and we are asking that you not share this information outside of this meeting."

### **B. What's the status of Boston Commons:**

Sis. Denise Smith led the discussions. The units are Section-8 under Anne Arundel County housing commission. Once the management company collects all the required documents, they send them to the housing commission for process. Their process is long, requiring an extensive amount of documentation. The process is challenging and time consuming. Two residents moved in before Christmas. We have 4 more applicants in the pipeline; 2 more are expected to be approved shortly. We hope that all units will be occupied by end of February.

From the BCDC Board, once all units are occupied and the Management Company determines the income stream, BCDC will meet with the treasurer of the church to start a repayment schedule. This would be repayment of funds that the church fronted to BCDC for the project. Sis. Smith will let the church know when that has started.

### **C. Nominating Committee:** Deaconess Deborah McClure, Chairperson

The following slate was submitted for consideration and approval from the congregation:

**Trustee:** (3 Yr term)- Bro. Russell Pinckney, Sis. Stephanie Holland,  
and Sis. Cynthia Travis

(1 year term) Bro. George Mc Neal

**Church Clerk:** (2 Yr term) – Sis. Cecile Jackson

**Finance Committee:** (2 Year term) – Sis. Jamaine Chisholm, Bro. Jamie Boston, Sis. Quasette Crowner, Sis. Stephanie Holland, Bro. Clarence James, Sis. Denise Smith and Deacon Wallace Williams.

**Christian Education:** (2 Year term) - Deaconess Vancie Hackett

**Building Maintenance and Expansion:** (2 Year term) Bro. Jesse Smith, Chairperson

**Nominating Committee:** (2 Year term) – Deaconess Deborah McClure, Sis. Brenda Nick, Sis. Kim Gray, Sis. Rosemary Simms, Bro. Oscar Kidd, Bro. Augustus McGowan and Dea. Rudy Ross.

With no additional nominations from the floor and no objections, Bro. George Mc Neal made a motion to accept all the positions as presented. The motion was seconded by the church membership body. No one opposed.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bro Clarence James. The meeting was closed by with prayer from Dea. Charles Gross

Respectfully submitted,

Cecile Jackson

Church Clerk