

Minutes of the General Board Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2018

6:30 p.m.

In attendance: Randy Johnson, Jenn Rhorer, Amy Jones, Melanie Kelley, Jerry Henderson, Cort Davisson, Bill Baron, Art Littlepage, Jason Kixmiller, Matt Fultz, Darrin Nguyen, Chris Fultz, Shannon Martin, Guests: Doug Lofton, Terri Rogers, Shannon Sedgwick

Matt opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. He lifted Steve Clark in prayer for the shocking news of Max Maxey's passing on Sunday, January 21. The news of Max's death was very sudden and unexpected.

Monthly Question: "If you were to make a "church resolution" this year, what would it be?"

Matt: To worry less about the outcome of everything we are doing. Just keep our heads down and know that, if we've done everything we can do, that is the best that we can do.

Chris: To focus our thoughts on the people who don't have a church home.

Darrin: To continue our focus on the goal at hand and not worry as much.

Doug: To trust the process, and trust that God has a plan that will become apparent as we move through it.

Randy: To expand his circle of communication with those who are here on the Sundays he is able to be at Southport.

Jenn: To focus on outreach.

Amy: To press on. This comes from the relocation meeting held on Saturday, January 20th. Jason read a certain scripture several times that morning, and almost everyone at Amy's table walked away with the determination to "press on".

Shannon S.: To show up and be present at events.

Melanie: To show up and say yes.

Jerry: To know more of what is going on and stay abreast of the current happenings. This comes from the fact that the adult Sunday school class often asks Jerry questions about what is happening with the move.

Shannon M.: To lean on church family more.

Jason: To face the pressure that he felt as a kid growing up in this church when the whole family came to church and participated.

Bill – To try and be outgoing and friendly which is not in his comfort zone. He’s trying to talk to people who are new to the church now as that will be a huge job for all of us in Johnson County.

Cort – To challenge himself Monday through Saturday to invite people to visit our church as he interacts with people throughout the week.

Art – To put himself out there and volunteer for things outside of what his wife volunteers him to do.

Terri: To be patient.

Katrina: To be more deliberate about setting aside time for prayers, including prayers for the church for what we are doing and where we are heading.

Opening Devotion: Melanie

I find myself starting 2018 with transition all around me. On the personal side, my job seems to be in a good place these days, but that has not always been the case in these last few years. With those ups and downs, and my age, I am focusing a lot on what my next chapter might look like. Time that pending transition with a daughter who will be headed to college in 18 months, and turning 18 in just 6 months, I am a bit overwhelmed when I look to what seems like a very up-in-the-air, uncertain future.

Then, we look outside the home and see Southport Christian Church. I know I am not the only member who feels some uncertainty about the future as we enter this year with no new name, yet, and a pending property that seems to have hit a stumbling block. I tend to always see the glass as half full so I am optimistic about our personal future, and the future of this church. I receive a daily email from the Our Daily Bread Ministries. I find their devotions and stories to be very uplifting and positive. As I prepared for this devotion, I found a story about a professional athlete who went through some struggles. His devotion centers on Joshua 1:7-9. I will quote Chapter 9:

[9](#)Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

“After former professional athlete Chris Sanders suffered a career-ending injury, he told a group of military veterans that although he had never experienced combat, “I understand the pressures of transitions.”

Whether it’s the loss of a job, the loss of a marriage, a serious illness, or a financial setback, every major change brings challenges. The former athlete told the soldiers that the key to success when you are transitioning into a new way of living is to reach out and get help.

God told Joshua to “be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go” (Josh. 1:7). God’s words of direction were to be the bedrock of Joshua’s leadership in every situation.

The Lord’s charge and promise to Joshua apply to us as well: “Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (v. 9).

He is with us in every transition.

Let me end with this prayer: Father, we are bringing You our trials and frustrations. You know each and every detail. Please comfort us as only You can, and provide exactly what we need for today. Help us give our unfulfilled expectations to You, trusting that You are working out a plan for us. Amen.

Approval of Minutes

Three sets of Minutes were presented for approval:

1. Minutes of the General Board Meeting, 11/20/17
 - a. Amended on Page 5 regarding feedback of the congregation to vote on new church name.
2. Minutes of the Emergency Budget Board Meeting, 12/7/17
 - a. Amended on Page 4 to reflect one vote in opposition to the budget approval.
3. Minutes of the Congregational Meeting to Approve the 2018 Budget, 12/10/17

Jason moved to approve all 3 sets of Minutes as amended. Art seconded. The vote was taken, and the AYES have it. Motion approved.

New Business

Terri Rogers joined the meeting to discuss a recommendation to cancel the current contract for the church’s IT services. In December, a power surge disabled the router that contains our firewall. Our vendor, My ITindy, was slow to respond and diagnosed the problem through text messages in lieu of an onsite visit. Their diagnosis was correct, but a new router could not be installed for 5 business days. In the meantime, a member of Speedway Christian Church suggested we call AxxcessPC. This company was able to install a new home-type router to get us up and running. AxxcessPC discovered that our firewall had not been updated nor working for two years. As a result of this discovery, and their poor response to our outage, Terri began to investigate alternatives to MyITindy.

Terri identified three vendors for us to consider. All three can provide basic Managed Services which include computer maintenance, updates, anti-virus and malware protection, help desk services and data backups. Each company requires a 12 month contract which is not tied to our current location.

Our coverage requirements include three work stations, one laptop and the scanner/copier that is connected to the network. Additional services or exclusions for all three are as follows:

AxcessPC

- \$375 monthly cost with 12 month contract.
- Required to purchase a minimum of 5 hours per month. The balance of the monthly hours rolls over and can be used for any work including wiring and installation of new equipment.
- Does not provide real-time monitoring of the system. Prefers to check systems on-site once a month.
- Has only worked with two churches.

BD Managed Services

- \$305.05 monthly cost with 12 month contract. Cost includes firewall hardware and software as well as onboarding fee of \$1,200.
- 24/7 support available. Technicians are dispatched when necessary.
- Updates performed monthly via remote.
- Troubleshooting extends beyond basic Managed Services needs and includes email, file, print, network and desktop apps.

IT Indianapolis

- \$400 monthly cost with 12 month contract.
- 24/7 real-time monitoring of systems which provides them ability to correct and respond to issues before downtime occurs.
- Firewall and software subscriptions are additional at approximately \$850 which would roll into the monthly payment.
- A larger staff has instant access to documentation to provide assistance when needed.
- Provides backup and disaster recovery.
- Performs daily Workstation Health Checks to verify that the operation system is working, there is enough disk space and all disks are healthy.

A lengthy discussion on the three companies followed. Issues and questions to consider included the following:

- Real-time monitoring is an important issue to help us avoid the difficult situation we found ourselves in during December's outage.
- AxcessPC does not offer real-time monitoring. IT Indianapolis and BD Managed Services both do offer it.
- BD Managed Services includes firewall protection which we do not currently have.
- We currently pay MyITIndy \$175 per month.
- Matt agrees with Terri's recommendation to cancel the MyITIndy contract. That contract has been reviewed by two attorneys in the church. Both have indicated that it

allows for cancellation with 30 days' notice. We will not cancel until we have a new IT vendor selected and in order.

- The December outage was very hard on all staff. If Terri had to choose, it would be BD Managed Services based on working with them on this process.
- Line item 5066.01 for ACS/Windows Server Support is a separate line from 5067.01 for IT Maintenance. Moving things to the cloud was a good move, and we are now looking to drop one of the licenses in that line that we no longer need.
- To go with BD Managed Services, Cort offered that it will impact our 2018 budget by an additional \$1,560 which was not considered when we put the budget together.
- Doug asked if the \$1,200 onboarding fee can be funded through a replacement restricted fund. Matt indicated that it would be partially out of operations and out of a replacement restricted fund.

Cort made a Motion to terminate the contract with MYITIndy and to engage BD Managed Services. Katrina seconded. Hearing no other discussion, the vote was taken. The AYES HAVE it. Motion approved

Oversight

Oversight is made up of 3 at large members, a secretary, vice chair and chair. At the November meeting, the secretary announced that she was not able to continue with her commitment after this year and will not be able to cover the last two years of her term. Currently, Shelly Sedgwick is Vice Chair with Amy as Chair. After much discussion, Amy and Shelly both volunteered to extend their terms for one additional year. The Secretary has agreed to stay on through end of this June when this year's term ends to provide continuity. A new secretary will be selected for approval when next year's leadership team is voted in.

Randy made a Motion to approve Oversight's recommendation for current chair and vice chair to continue for 2018-2019. Jason seconded. Hearing no further discussion, the vote was taken. The AYES have it. Motion approved.

Oversight -- New Ministry Proposal

When people come to Oversight to discuss a new ministry, it is normally with an idea already in formation, and they present a budget and plan for implementation. Oversight's role is to review the idea and plan and then determine if it is a good fit for the church.

Marcia McKinney came to Oversight asking for consideration of a ministry very much in its infancy and not in formation. The Indiana Youth Group (IYG) is the leading LGBT youth organization with services that are mainly focused on Marion County. IYG is a 501c3 largely funded through grants and the United Way. The Outreach Future Ministries Team is asking that our church, in its new location, become a satellite location for IYG services once we are located in Johnson County. Amy offered the idea that, if we approach this as the fact that we have always been an outreach church, this idea is consistent with what we already do and with our mission and vision. However, in light of our current

status surrounding the move and new ministries, Oversight felt that the Board should hear the team's recommendation on this matter. A lengthy discussion followed with the following details and questions:

- IYG has no official church affiliations. In fact, most youth participating in the program have actually been harmed by previous church experiences.
- Our church will not do the counseling. IYG would provide the services. Only requirement is that, if people from our church want to volunteer, they will have to go through IYG's training program.
- Jim Ream has agreed to head up this ministry if it is felt to be appropriate for our church.
- IYG is excited for this opportunity and are open to however we want to partner with them.
- What happens between now and when we have a new building? The intent would be to introduce ourselves to this group in a transition space which may not be a church environment.
- Bob Shaw has a longstanding relationship with IYG. There are currently two groups in Johnson County. One serves a small group of kids at Center Grove High School. The other serves a small group of gay and lesbian teens. The director of IYG says they are serving a large population of kids from Johnson County. Many of these kids cannot get to the Marion County IYG locations so the need is present in this area.
- Doug commented that it was important for Oversight to bring this to the Board because, if this grows, this has a significant chance of becoming a major defining identity for us in Johnson County. Faith communities will identify us this way. We need to be proactive enough in all of our outreach efforts so that it does not become the only outreach we become known by in the future.
- With approval, Shelly and Amy will work with Renita Shostrand who is Outreach, and Marcia and Jim who will be liaisons for the program.

Randy offered his sincere appreciation to Amy for the gracefulness in the way that she brought this issue to the Board. He made a Motion to approve the partnership with IYG as a ministry of this church. Jenn seconded. Hearing no further discussion, the vote was taken. The AYES have it. Motion approved.

Personnel

Rick Reisinger has agreed to take the open position vacated by Heather Dickerson. His term will expire 6/30/2020. Bill Baron has a one year term. Once Bill's term ends, Personnel will look for two new people to fill 3 year terms.

Update on Church Investment Fund

Matt reported that \$159,388.92 was transferred to Church Extension Fund on January 16, 2018. This amount comes from the remainder of the Verizon Tower proceeds and year-end capital giving, minus the \$10,000 that the Board set aside for the student minister stipend.

Smith Valley Property Update

When the soil engineer rejected our initial soil sample, we had the option to disagree with our assessment of the report or to propose other locations on the site to be tested. Lyle, Scott and Jason met on December 17th and walked the property. Without leaves on the trees, the land appeared different than it did in the Summer time. The soil engineer will come back and do new borings as soon as it is possible. The ground cannot be frozen in order for the boring equipment to be used. If the engineer does the first one or two locations and finds the same issues appearing, he will give us the option of going forward with other locations or stopping. If he does only two and finds the same problems, the engineer tells us that he will not charge us additional fees.

Identity Team

Identity anticipates bringing another name presentation to the board in February. The Team has asked us to think a bit about what happens if a second new name does not pass. Bill Baron praised Kelli Fultz for her hard work on Identity and always being prepared. He urged us to have a media person on board for this new round and promote the proposed name and our new identity to start defining us in our new location.

Jason and Matt suggested that Identity use the same presentation procedure as last time but host smaller meetings like we did when the property was sold. Using that process will give people more time and space to grasp the options and digest the name being presented before a vote is taken.

Kelli wants to find a way to get more people present for the voting process. What else can we do to open up voting and get a maximum participation? We will open the office the week of the vote like we did last time to let people come in before the selected Sunday. We might also look at expanding the voting period to two weeks because of people being gone on Sundays. There is a chance that the vote this time around will be taking place in Mid-March during the weeks of Spring Break.

Financial Review

- Our 2017 Projected Year End was \$4,000 in the black. Actual End of Year was a negative \$3,500. December offerings were barely above average. It was the 5th lowest month of the year. In addition, we had roughly \$1,000 higher than expected expenses.
- Actual End of Year Offerings, both envelope and non-pledge, was \$47,000 below budget. It should be noted that our 2018 budget is set to 2017 actual for non-pledge income.
- DMF contribution for 2017 was \$9,416 paid from Verizon Cell Tower proceeds.
- Staff bonuses were funded by contributions from the congregation. Jerry pointed out that the money for the bonuses is shown as income, but there needs to be some way to show that this money is not offering/income. Elaine believes it needs to appear in the general income.
- Amy McCartt greeted Chris with a hug and a thank you on the Sunday after staff bonuses were distributed. Amy does not get paid when school is not in session. She had not previously been included in staff bonuses here and was greatly appreciative of the generosity.

Horizon Team Leadership Meeting

Matt offered his thanks to the group of 40 individuals from the Horizon leadership teams who met on Saturday morning. Amy felt it was very humbling to see in one place just how many people are working on and committed toward our move. The Emmanuel Church Banta Campus charged us only \$40 to use for their space for the morning. Their minister showed up early and gave up his time to support us. He invited us to look through the space and talked about what works for them. It was encouraging as we think about our future building. The outside of Emmanuel's building does not relay that it is a church, but the inside really defines their programs and worship experiences.

Ministry Reports

ELDERS

Darrin joined the meeting on behalf of Eric. The Elder retreat was held on January 13th. They discussed the expectations for what should happen during church services. Darrin found it helpful to hear about visitations and how to interact with the people being visited. Bill Baron reported that there will be training in July for new incoming elders and refresher sessions for current elders.

Diaconate

Diana was unable to be at the meeting, and there was nothing further to add to her report.

Oversight

Amy asked everyone to keep their ears open for the joint ministry fair being held in the Spring. It will be an opportunity to see current ministries and to look at what's being considered for the future.

Senior Minister

Doug gave an update on the 12. He is confirming with the people who have talked with him on these 12 educational opportunities. This will be 12 different educational based activities taking place between February and August. There will be intergenerational activities and a variety of genres. Doug is encouraged by this process. It is an attempt to bridge the gap that fully connects the current programming and the new programming. This should help people to immediately feel that we are doing a lot for the future.

Youth & Children

Shannon indicated there was nothing further to add to her report.

Other Discussion

Jason took a moment to brag on the Chin Christian Church. They are stepping up and owning the snow removal with a new truck and blade. One member was even spreading the salt by just throwing it around without the use of a spreader. He is so proud of them for taking this on.

Matt reported that he needs to reengage the discussion of in-kind work for payment of janitorial services. Pastor David is back in the U.S. now so that discussion can start again.

Jerry asked about the property insurance fund. People have asked about the back of the church building being very cold. Brewer came out and found that the furnace unit was not safe to be operating. The report was given to the Chin Christian Church, and they are working through channels to get things fixed.

Matt will ask Elaine about how the Year End Giving Statements are being disseminated this year.

Chris reported that there is a property issue with the security alarm. Now, when alarm is set, the beeping doesn't happen in the building. No one can hear the alarm being set which is causing a problem when there are people still working in the church. Doug will look into getting that fixed.

The next meeting is Monday, February 19th. While that is President's Day, the office is open so the meeting will stay on that day. Art volunteered for the opening devotion. Katrina closed us in prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.