

Quarterly Business Meeting

October 29, 2023

Pastor Thomas welcomed everyone, led us in singing “Nothing But the Blood” and prayed to open the meeting.

Elder Jeff Smith asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 30 meeting. Todd Holthaus made the motion/ second by Ryan Decker – passed by voice vote.

Jeff Smith went on to discuss membership. There are 115 members on the role attending Risen Hope, and they welcomed 15 new members today – those 130 names will officially move to Risen Hope’s membership roster as of January 2024. Scott Paulson has requested to be removed from membership; he is getting married in November, will be living in Birmingham AL and is joining a church there. Jim Capaldo made the motion/second by Brian Bennett – voice vote passed.

Tom Raville and Jennifer Becker have met with elders who heard their testimonies – motion made by Dennis Cromwell/second by Penny Bennett to receive them as members, passed unanimously by voice vote; the membership covenant was read together as a congregation.

Elder Leigh Tange gave the financial update, mentioning that this is the first quarterly meeting separate from Risen Hope – they had their own meeting/election today. Faith Baptist’s actual income thru Sept was \$745K/actual expenses were \$719K; income exceeded expenses by \$26K. Risen Hope’s actual income was thru Sept was \$403K/actual expenses were \$447K; negative \$44K which is better than expected negative of \$55K. Leigh reported that we’re doing as well as expected – the budget was built expecting that expenses would exceed income, with the hope that by year’s end it would match or exceed. Risen Hope’s giving is up 14%, but remains less than average for the 12 month need. The elders are optimistic, but RH will start the year with major expenses, and there may be need for FB to help. The portion of Share funds designated for RH will go back to RH; Faith Baptist will also pay Risen Hope’s January lease payment (\$22K) out of our reserve fund, allowing them to better meet the rest of their expenses. The last quarter will be closely monitored and the body will be kept apprised of further actions. Shannon Begeman asked if RH was aware of these plans – Leigh confirmed that was the case. Rick Boeder asked what Faith’s reserve balance is at this time: as of Sept it is \$210,000 in CD, \$45,000 in money market fund – basically 250,000.

Elder Todd Holthaus explained the ballot. Ryan Decker and Jeff Smith are coming off Elder board, Max Masters and Matt Thompson are on the ballot for approval; Ann Born is on the ballot for approval as church clerk; and for approval for the Financial Review Committee: Ben Jones for 1 yr term, Rich Oksol for 2 yr term, Mike Stroh for 3yr term. For the Nominating team, Suzy Jones and Deb Weller are on the ballot; Suzy Jones was elected for that position. The rest of the above mentioned were all approved.

Angela Myers gave an update for Children’s Ministry/Youth. VBS was a wonderful success mainly due to the number of volunteers. She also recognized and thanked her teams, mentioning that the Youth team is really investing in the students organically, not just when it’s on calendar. There is much growth –

33% more went to camp than expected. Wed night has grown as well – another class will be added for 5 yr olds. Sunday's 2nd service children's church is also growing and needs more help. The youth loft upstairs was expanded with staging and seating areas; Angela is very happy with the outcome.

Pastor Thomas expressed it has been a joy to welcome Pastor Mike and work with him, especially on the total revamp of the church website. *Church Plant Media* was used to do the transition of our site. It is now easier to update, is a great resource for our church and for new people. We are seeing many new faces on Sunday mornings – 20 attended the just-completed Faith Explored class. Thomas also introduced FBF Connect – new church phone app available for both apple and android. He demonstrated a few features – requesting prayer, youth updates, past sermon series, donations, watch the Sunday service, etc. A Church directory has been a major request from members– this will also be on the app, and allows people to specify how much info they want to make available – name, phone, email, etc. For security, only those registered with a password will have access to the directory. Go to FaithSF.com/app to download the app

Pastor Dave Vilhauer reported on Adult ministry – Faith U has seen an 11% increase in attendance from 2020 – he expressed thanks to the adult teachers, because of them we are able to offer good classes. Women's Bible studies have exploded – 86% increase over last year. Men's bible study is also growing. Faith groups are up to 19 groups, 2 more than last yr – 200 participants, which is 2/3 of our membership, great to have that many involved. Next week should see the completion of the parking lot/landscaping project; we've had a week and a half in rain delays. Heating/cooling roof top units are at the end of life – new units are on order, hope to have installed by Feb/March.

Pastor Dave announced he plans to retire on June 30, 2024 – he has given 21 years of full-time service at FBF. Todd Holthaus thanked Dave for all of his service; the elders went up front to pray for Pastor Dave.

Pastor Mike started his report reading Heb 13:8 and expressed loving being here at this wonderful church. We have godly, wise, mature elders who are committed to God's word, staff who love to serve the church, a warm committed church family, and unity – which is a blessing from God. They have seen God's faithfulness in many ways, and thanked us for welcoming him and his family, it's been a joyful transition; however, transition equals unease – which means there is a lot to think about, and work on. But even though the church changes, Jesus does not ever change, and that will carry us through any transition – we will trust Him for the great things in store. Pastor Mike called us to pray fervently for the church, the elders, and Pastor Dave V as transition continues.

Elder Ryan Decker also reminded us about the transition of Pastor Dana's retirement/Pastor Mike's arrival and how blessed we are with the leadership in this church; then gave the opportunity for anyone to share praises/examples of God working:

- Kathy Runion shared that in the five weeks since her husband Daryl passed away, brothers/sisters here have supported her in many ways
- Judy Fucht thanked Pastor Dave for being a rock for FB - all he has done does not go unnoticed
- Suzy and Ben Jones started a new faith group a couple weeks ago; they have been blessed to do it and stressed how important Faith's small group ministry is.

- Patrick Reynolds vividly remembers a devotional book that Pastor Dave gave their family and how it impacted them; he is grateful to be a recipient of Dave's ministry at FB
- Jim Capaldo shared that he had just returned from Ukraine and that our support has been such an encouragement to them. There are many there serving people with gospel passion, and many people are coming to faith in Ukraine. He said you could feel the faith, and asked for prayer for missionaries who are serving in dangerous, war-torn places.
- Lois Tim recently sold her home/moved to an apartment and she is grateful for the Faith members who helped move her out and move her in.
- Rudy Carey shared that he is refreshed just by being present at church, and he's very grateful for Pastor Mike.

Pastor Thomas closed the meeting by leading us in singing "There is One Gospel".

Respectfully submitted by Ann Born, Church Clerk