

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Church Council of First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas met for its regular meeting on Monday, January 18, 2021. Members present: Clark Moreland, Ralph Lea, Mark McKinney, Randy Thornton, Patrick Mayers, Wilma Roberts, Don Hale, Mike Mayer, Berry Simpson, Landon Merritt, Flo Akintunji, Jan West, Linda Freeman, Wes Lewis, Michelle Cobb, Jan West and Kristal Cotton. Jimmy Bridges joined via zoom.

Staff members present: Dr. Darin Wood, Moe Bomer

Chairman Clark Moreland called the meeting to order at 7:02PM. Jayna Hobby opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes from the December 14th, 2020 Council Meeting were approved with corrections. Church conference will be January 31st. Gross receipts for November were \$636,441 which was \$35,846 over budget” for the month” should read “ year to date”.

REPORTS**Senior Pastor – Darin Wood**

Jim Hanson will retire March 31st.

Search committee has been formed.

Surplus projects are in progress.

Kent Street homes are progressing well.

The permit for storage building was received.

Plasma generators in the process of being installed.

Stained glass windows needing repair have been removed, repaired, and replaced.

Network upgrade moving along nicely.

Lottie Moon collection has received \$119,000. It will remain open until the end of January.

A healthy dose of the surplus funds was approved for Impact Midland. Abell Hanger offered a Matching challenge gift for the West Texas Food Bank of \$100,000. The Church contributed \$50,000.

Patrick Payton has conveyed that as much vaccine as is needed in Midland will be available by May 1st.

Garfield project from Michigan Street to Golf Course Road, likely beginning date is October. Garfield will be down to two lanes in front of the church for approximately 36 months.

There will be a recommendation to the Mission committee to start a new church on the north side of Midland. It will be a satellite campus. Benefit to the new church is that structure, clarity, authority, and leadership will already be in place.

There is no building yet. Boundaries for the church building to be Fairgrounds Road to Big Spring Street and north of the loop.

Business Administrator-Moe Bomer

Meeting with staff

First business services team meeting will be January 19th.

Mr. Bomer will begin blocking set times to meet with people who will report to him.

Deacons – Wes Lewis

Have not met since December Church Council

Family assistance helped three families

There are 18 new families needing assignment to deacons. Assignments are in process.

Committee Reports

Chairman's Report – Clark Moreland

Please review ministerial reports and review your charters.

Regular Church conference will be on January 31st.

Church Council will be held on February 15th

Family Ministry – Ginger Schantz

No report

Finance Committee – Mark McKinney

Mr. McKinney presented the December Financial Report. He stated that one thing which is confusing about this report is you see year to date actual gross receipts of \$2,202,607, which is \$546,775 under budget. That is because we recognize the \$600,000 royalty contingency in the month of December. If you look at December only, without the royalty contingency included, you see we have receipts of \$1,023,761 which is \$17,379 over budget, using Current Month Budgeted Receipts of \$1006,382. Total expenditures for December were \$516,759. There was an operating gain of \$507,002 for the month of December. At the end of December, the general fund balance was \$1,438,007 and the capital funds available for projects were \$892,952. Total church assets at the end of December were \$13,053,928. Mr. McKinney reviewed the designated account activity. A motion to accept the monthly financial report passed unanimously.

General Nominating – Randy Thornton

Mike Reeves was nominated for second grade Sunday School and Erin Glasscock for three year old Mission Friends in an email meeting December 5th. Both nominations were approved unanimously.

Maintenance and Expansion - Don Hale

On December 17th there was a planned email meeting to approve downsizing the storage building behind the Kent Street house to 25' by 40' to avoid rezoning.

Jim and staff are moving quickly through surplus projects.

Membership - Ralph Lea, Chair

Membership committee is working with James Ervin to minister to shut ins and nursing home residents. Each member wrote handwritten Christmas cards to about 9 Church members. It was very well received. The committee is considering an outreach project for Valentines.

The Council reviewed the additions and losses to the membership. The additions to the church totaled 1 in December by baptism. We had 5 membership losses (2 by letter; 3 by death). Total active resident members are 3396. A motion to accept the membership report passed unanimously.

Missions - Mike Mayer, Chair

Met January 17th with Rick and Stacy Baccus of Mission Agape joining to tell of the many successes they have experienced over the past year and the many places they were able to serve.

Five requests:

Judea-Dr. Wood brought a motion to support BUA with a work study program with \$40,000 that was to come from MGU and supporting 200 students.

Ends of the Earth-had four motions:

School of the Nations for \$5000 to support a native language movie for the Woloff unreached people group.

Team Dockery-to support them in their efforts to school the missionary's children at the Black Forest Academy for \$5000.

Watch and Pray International Ministries-\$9074 to translate and publish 3 books for new Christians, most who are from Muslim based background.

Frontiers-support Randy Willis salary \$6000.

All from Ends of the Earth MGU for \$25,074.

Christmas outreach helped 116 families.

Personnel - Clark Moreland

Personnel committee met earlier this evening. A sub committee was formed to replace Jim's position. Search committee for associate youth minister is working hard and the search is going very well.

Organizational chart for personnel will be reviewed soon.

Safety and Security- Patrick Mayers

Met by email to discuss and vote to replace the computer in control room and get it going. The computer is in.

Mr. Mayers discussed ongoing review of the governance documents.

There will be a meeting on Wednesday.

Transportation- Scott Daw

Met virtually January 10th. We are reviewing the following:

Master vehicle list and Quarterly Usage Report

Driver list

Charter

Golf cart is out for repair.

Next meeting March 21st

Old Business

None to discuss.

New Business

Lanelle Dean will retire at the end of January.

Patrick Mayers closed in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM

Kristal Cotton, Secretary, 2020-2021

Date Approved

Ministers Monthly Report to Church Council

January 18, 2021

Darin Wood
Senior Pastor

Dear Church Council friends,

Grace and Peace today! Welcome to the new year and the new beginning that it brings!

A BRIEF COVID REPORT

The end of December brought much more COVID among our staff than we had seen before. Among our senior staff, we had three who were out leading up to Christmas Eve and three more who were out under our protocol. Fortunately, by Jan 3, all of us had completed the protocol so we were back to full strength.

As for our future, we're forging ahead with plans of a somewhat normal year ahead. Upwards is still on track to begin in February. Our Golden Marriage Banquet is still on track for Feb 14 as is our Student Impact Weekend for Feb 12-14. Our summer plans are proceeding as if we will have them as planned. We will keep you updated, but it looks good so far.

WELCOME MOE BOMER!

As you well know by now, we called Moe to serve as our Business Administrator. I'm delighted to have Moe to journey with us! Please pray for the Bomers and their transitions in coming to serve Christ with us! As I write to you on January 5th, the Bomers are loading up and heading out. Please pray with me for every aspect of their transition – selling their house in Georgia, settling into the new school for their 11 yr old daughter Sophie, finding new patterns of life here and, of course, Moe's work.

FUTURE STRATEGY

As we begin 2021, we begin with three key elements of our altered strategy:

1. **EVANGELISM** as our chief priority. The message has not and will not change, but the method of delivery must. The staff and I will be working through altered methods of evangelism and how we adapt them into the First family.
2. **DISCIPLESHIP** – We'll be challenging people toward personal discipleship! As a church, we cannot do for people what they will not do for themselves. Thus, we'll be challenging people to take charge of their own discipleship. We'll provide the tools – like a Bible reading plan, a small group study or a self-paced online study.
3. **CONNECTION** outside of our historical patterns. Previously, a full building meant an accomplished mission. Until we get the vaccine more broadly administered, the concept of large group gatherings will be out of reach. We cannot wait until this season passes or we'll look back at this as the moment we went over the falls in a barrel while holding our breath. Zoom classes and online studies can only take us so far. We need to reconsider how we'll form connections and respond accordingly.

FINALLY

While I will not be speaking to this publicly yet, I wanted to share this with you, my council leaders. I learned recently (because of my previous fight with cancer) that I'm in group 1B for receiving the COVID vaccine. Thus, I got a call on Jan 4 to come to the hospital and receive the first portion of it. (I'll receive the other dose on Feb 1.) I struggled with it because I didn't want to jump ahead of others who need it worse. However, after spending significant time in prayer about it, I came to peace with receiving it for two reasons:

- (1) If I get down with COVID, it will hinder my family and slow the work of our church's calling;
- (2) Getting the vaccine will provide evidence of its safety. I've had more than a few people who have emailed me about the dangers of the vaccine and how we need to counsel people NOT to take it. We aren't in the business of dispensing medical advice for anyone nor do we pretend to be. However, if by simply taking a shot I can help people see it's not what they might have believed it to be, it's worth doing.

Serving Christ by serving His people,
Darin

James Ervin **Senior Adult Minister**

Hospital Visits

- Hospital visits are a blessing as we get to minister to people in an environment that is lonely, especially during the pandemic. These visits allow us to get to know our people and develop relationships, and also spend time in prayer. I like to follow up with people once they are dismissed and check on their recovery.

Home Touch Ministry

- We continue to make phone calls and home visits as allowed. We also drop off Sunday School quarterlies to those who ask for the literature.
- In December, we enlisted volunteers to help us deliver poinsettias to our homebound folks. We appreciate their help and the response from our homebound folks has been incredible. I'm thankful we can make this kind gesture during the Christmas season.

Chapel Service

- I planned and led worship for the Chapel Service on December 6. There was no live chapel service on December 13, 20 or 27.

Sunday School

- Attendance for the 55+ division has remained steady but has seen a decline due to the virus surge. Overall, the people who feel comfortable in attending continue to participate.
- Most departments took a three-week break during the holidays, but 4 departments choose to meet each week or some of the Sundays.
- JD and Venita Faircloth have taken the position of Department Director for the Thomas Department.

- Angela Nobles has resigned as a teacher in the David Department, but at the present time, the ladies' classes are meeting with the co-ed class. I have a prospect for a new teacher, and we will work on bringing her on board as more ladies return to in-person SS.

Senior Adult Choir

- Joyful Sound had a short rehearsal schedule for December, but we were able to sing December 6 for the chapel service. We look forward to more people returning as the cases of COVID decline and folks feel more comfortable for in-person rehearsals.

Funerals

- I assisted with the funeral services of Gene Sledge and Roger Spots

High School Senior/Senior Adult Prayer Ministry

- John David, Katy, and I have paired graduating high school seniors up with senior adults who agreed to be a prayer partner for the students during their senior year. We completed this process in November but finished the formal communication in December. Eventually we would like to be able to have an in person gathering and fellowship time, when COVID case numbers decline and more senior adults are comfortable returning to campus.

Cory Brand Minister to Families

*We have continued to hold Family Worship Services in the Fellowship Hall each week.

*We didn't have an FX Live this month due to the holiday schedule but will resume those in January.

*I have continued meeting weekly with a couple for premarital counseling.

*I have continued to contact those who respond during the text invitation through PastorsLine.

*I continued to meet with a discipleship group with 4 young men. One of these men is starting to lead a discipleship group in January (which is the goal of these times together), so he will no longer be meeting with our original group.

*I remain in regular contact with our Adult Sunday School leadership.

*James and I hired a new ministry assistant. Jaylynn White began mid-December and is already acclimating well to her new role. Rhonda will transition to the business office at the beginning of the new year.

*My family and I ended up on stage during the Christmas Eve Candlelight services (which was NOT the original plan, but the Hodges were sick). We also served as candlelighters that night.

*I had a large number of vacation days that were about to expire, so I was able to take a few weeks off at the end of December.

*I enrolled in New Testament 3 with BH Carroll and will begin that course in January.

Church Council Report December 2020

Sunday School

While some adult classes did meet, their low numbers are not reported below.

	12/6/2020	12/13/2020	12/20/2020	12/27/2020
Attendance			Did not meet	Did not meet
Adult 55+	184	188		
Adult	159	135		
Single	27	27		
College	22	26		
Student	71	75		
Children	65	63		
Preschool	74	67		
Other Adults**	31	30		
Total	633	611		

**** Other Adults includes Gatekeepers, Media volunteers and General Officers.**

**For an average of 552 for the 4 weeks of Sunday School
and a 90 day Average of 651**

Other Sunday Activities	12/6/2020	12/13/2020	12/20/2020	12/27/2020
Sunday School Online Views	No Data	40	No Data	No Data
Sunday Night Youth	11	Did not meet	Did not meet	Did not meet

Weekly Activities

	Nov 29-Dec 4	Dec 6-12	Dec 13-18	Dec 20-25
Wednesday Evenings		Did not meet	Did not meet	Did not meet
Mission Friends	35			
GA's & RA's	91			
MidPoint (Youth)	36			
College	18			
Momentum Yes				
Other Groups				
Precept on Precept	20	23	23	
D-Groups	6	18	18	
Total	206	41	41	

**Aaron Hodges
Minister of Music**

On December 13th, we presented a very unique Christmas musical this year virtually. As of Monday, January 4, we have had a total of 1,737 unique views on Facebook totaling an estimated 4100 viewers reached. We had 135 unique views on our church online platform with an estimated reach of 400. We also had 147 views on our Youtube channel with an estimated reach of 350. As I sit here and think about this compared to what we would have had if we would have been able to do it totally in person, I am totally overwhelmed by the door God opened up for us considering all we had to deal with. GOD IS GREAT! A great big thank you goes out to the choir, the orchestra, and Jeff Wash's technical team.

On December 21, I was getting everything ready for Christmas Eve when I started feeling bad so I went and got myself checked for Covid. As you know I was positive. This year was the first year in all my years of ministry to miss Christmas Eve. Thank you to all those who stepped in at the last minute and helped our Christmas Eve service go on without a hitch.

We will begin Choir and Orchestra again on January 6 and Children's choir will begin on January 13.

John-David Culbertson **Student Pastor**

We wrapped up Midpoint (Wednesday nights) on December 9th with one of our largest groups, certainly since the first of the year, we approx. 60 students for our Christmas party. One the 2nd, we completed our fall study, wrapping up with a look at the Christmas story from the perspective of Mary.

We did not have SNDY+ in December. The weeks we had Sunday school, our group was up and down with the overall church.

Sarah and I began to plan adapted reading plans for students and kids of different levels. We evaluated some pre-made systems and took a look at Dr. D's reading plan for the church. We are looking for creative ways to engage students and kids with God's word.

Jeff, Richard, Katy, James, Sarah, and I also continued working on Pray 4 Schools. The idea began back in October with James and me. I went to Richard for some assistance and he encouraged us to partner with them, so we put an idea they had been working through with our idea and combined two different campaigns into one. The media team wanted to do a social media campaign and James and I wanted to do a prayer campaign for Midland schools. We have been working on a campaign called simply, "Pray 4 Schools."

We will be kicking off Pray 4 Schools on January 31st and it will continue through the week before Easter (March 28-Apr. 3). The goal is to get our people to pray for all of the Midland schools on different weeks and to get those willing to engage with the campaign on social media.

I also continued planning for Impact Weekend, still making plans for different levels of participation based on COVID cases and guidelines. I have booked a band and a speaker and began in December working on recruiting small group leaders and host homes (in case we can do a full schedule).

Sarah Arrambide **Minister of Children's Education**

Happy New Year! I pray that God will be honored by everything we say and do in 2021.

Sunday School - This December was quite different than any other in the Children's Ministry. We had in-person Sunday School December 6th and 13th and online Sunday School, on my personal Facebook page, on December 20, 27, and January 3rd.

In December, we also provided "Christmas in a Box" for our families. Included in the box was a book, crafts, and a Christmas Bingo. I delivered several boxes to families who are currently not attending church in person.

Josh and I helped with "The Gift" the first weekend of the month. It was unlike any other we have had, but it was a great one. We had a lot of conversations with people and were able to pray with several.

Josh, my mom, and I participate in the 6PM Christmas Eve service. What a blessing it was to worship the Lord that night.

My family and I enjoyed a joyous, fun Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior! I pray you did, too. I'm looking forward to serving the Lord and the families of FBC in 2021!!

Amy Brand

Minister of Preschool Education

I'd like to start this report out with a huge THANK YOU to the church council for the encouraging note that I received. I'm so blessed to serve with such an incredible team!

*We started December with a couple of really sweet Family Dedication/Parent Commissioning services on the first Sunday of the month. We had a total of 10 families and 13 children who made this significant commitment. Each family was provided with a book on praying for their children, as well as a gift for each child. We also took family pictures in the Chapel Foyer prior to each service.

*I delivered family devotional books to each mom at Midland Fair Havens for them to use with their children during December.

* I have continued to watch for changes in the CDC guidelines for schools and childcare facilities. I continue to work on staffing classrooms with significant volunteer gaps, providing materials for social distancing, smocks, cleaning supplies, and health screenings, and providing teachers and parents with the information and assurances they needed to return.

*While our overall preschool numbers did not vary much during December, we did see an influx of babies in early service and Sunday School classes. Many who participated in the Family Dedication services seemed to feel more comfortable about returning once they were here in person.

*I'm continuing to write a weekly family devotional and pull a preschool coloring page for the FBC @ Home page on our website.

*I am continuing to contact all Preschool volunteers weekly.

*I have reached out to all preschool parents to encourage them to stay connected and to be intentional about disciple-making, even if they are worshipping from home.

*Wednesday night activities, including Mission Friends and Preschool Choir. ended the semester on December 2nd.

*I've maintained contact with all underlying ministries, including CDO, MOPS, MARY, CBS, and CDC. While CDC is under state licensing guidelines, all ministries to preschoolers and their families are abiding by the same procedures for consistency. (Our guidelines are consistent with the state licensing guidelines, so CDC looks very similar in that regard.)

*We have provided Bible study materials for MARY Ministry volunteers to use with children this spring. This has previously been strictly a child-care time.

*We have continued to provide quiet activities for children at each table in the Fellowship Hall. We've set up changing tables in the JAM Room (monitored by staff for cleanliness) and have facilitated the Family Worship services each week.

*Cory and I met with Darin and have agreed to continue the FX Live services once a month this spring.

*I have continued monitoring the governor's orders as well as the CDC guidelines for opening daycare facilities (which also includes churches during this time), including updates as they have become available.

*Both the CDO and CDC programs finished out the semester. We were able to be part of the CDO parade audience!

*Gifts of appreciation were presented to each Sunday morning volunteer, as well as to CDO and CDC teachers and childcare workers.

*We've enjoyed several opportunities to visit with Moe and Jamie Bomer and look forward to the possibility of serving with them!

*We were able to serve at both Christmas Eve services, and while our part was not quite what we planned, we enjoyed the opportunity (and the incredible grace!) that we were given.

As always, let me know if you have any questions about anything in this report, or just anything about the Preschool Ministry in general! I am so thankful to serve all the little ones and their families at FBC, and love being a part of a church that loves families just as much as I do!

Bryan Pinson

Minister of Missions

Missions Ministry Events:

- January 17 – Missions Committee Mtg, Bill Holmes
- February 21 – Missions Committee Mtg, Greg Smith

Missions Ministry Priorities

- Unreached People Groups
- Indigenous Pastoral Training
- Reproducible Church Planting

Impact Midland

The Impact Midland Committee approved \$3,000/monthly for 6 months for a total of \$108,000 for the following ministries that focus on feeding, clothing, and housing people in our community.

- Greater Ideal Baptist Church Food Pantry
- Salvation Army
- Breaking Bread Kitchen
- Mission Agape
- Midland Soup Kitchen
- Midland Baptist Crisis Center

Through the Impact Midland Fund and Vision Fund, \$50,000 was also given to the West Texas Food Bank.

Christmas Gifts

As is our custom, the Missions Committee approved the sending of monetary Christmas gifts to missions partners during the month of December to bless them in special ways.

FirstCares Ministry (Benevolence)

You may have noticed we are beginning to use the name “FirstCares” for our benevolence ministry. We believe this communicates better within our church as well as to the community we are trying to serve what this ministry is really about. It identifies a little bit better who we are (First) but also what we are about (Cares).

Kent Mission Houses

You will notice a lot of work being done to 708 and 710 Kent Mission Houses. 708 was purchased last year and on the inside looks like it did when it was built. 710 has not had much work done to it over the years and still has carpet from one of the previous church parlor remodels 20+ years ago. A lot of work will be done to these two houses over the next few months including exterior and interior paint, new flooring, bathroom/kitchen upgrades, and HVAC upgrades. We hope and pray these homes will bless many missionary families in the years to come. Look for more information as time goes by.

John Elliott

Minister of Activities

- We opened Upward basketball registration on November 2nd. All divisions except 5th/6th grade girls were full in a day and a half. We did reduce the league by at least 100 kids due to Covid and if we continue with the Upward season we will attempt to limit the number of guests at practices and games. As of now, we are proceeding with evaluations to be held in January 2021.
- The Activities Ministry is teaming up with the college Sunday School department and John-David to organize a college ski trip January 3 – 7, 2021 to Angel Fire, NM. It has been over 25 years since the last college ski trip and there are 19 people going.

Mary Schultz

Child Development Center Director

December was a short month of school at FBC-CDC because of our Christmas break, so our staff and students worked hard to wrap up the first semester by the middle of the month, on the 18th.

Kindergarten was originally scheduled to perform their annual Christmas Program on December 10, but because of COVID, it was cancelled. We look forward to this special performance next December.

During chapel time in December, all our CDC students learned about the birth of Jesus. Classroom teachers also reinforced these lessons daily, and our Fine Arts teacher facilitated several crafts that depicted Jesus' birth.

Friday, December 11, our CDC students participated in a school-wide Pajama/Movie Day. Preschoolers and PreK students watched "The Star" and the kindergarteners watched "The Polar Express".

Our last day of school for the first semester was December 18th. Each classroom teacher hosted a Christmas party for their students, followed by Early Release at 12:00 noon.

Jim Hansen

Director of Maintenance

MAINTENANCE:

- Christmas decorations
- Plaque install – music area
- Two boilers repaired – air switch and flow switch
- Change out two faucets C107 in CDC and kitchen
- Touched up door jams – main building
- Stain glass repaired
- Two more boiler repairs – ignitor and Y-Strainer
- Replace tankless water heater in Activity Building
- Repair two water leaks under floor at 2114 Michigan (counseling office)
- Started 708 & 710 Kent upgrades
- Daily work orders

CUSTODIAL:

- CDC E-mist
- All areas E-mist after use
- Clean and disinfect building each day
- Daily work orders
- Clean the kitchen floors
- Strip and wax VCT floor in CDC
- Events for December

1	CDO
	The Gift Cookie Decorating
2	Children's 1 st grade choir reception
	Children's Choir
	GA's and RA's
3	Iron Men Bible Study
	Precept Upon Precept
5	The Gift
6	Baby Dedication
	Church Conference
7	Staff Birthday & Pictures
	Deacons Meeting
8	Executive Committee Meeting
10	CDO
13	Finance Committee Meeting
	Personnel Committee Meeting
	Christmas Musical – virtual
14	Sledge Funeral Service
	Personnel Committee Meeting
	Church Council Meeting
15	Roger Spotts Memorial Service
	M.A.R.Y. Mentoring
17	Iron Men Bible Study
	Stephen Christmas Party
24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service