

Yates Baptist Church  
Quarterly Business Meeting  
January 16, 2013  
Minutes

Linda Mercer, Deacon Chair, called the quarterly business meeting of Yates Baptist Church to order on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 6:15 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

Mrs. Mercer submitted the minutes of the quarterly business meeting on October 17, 2012, the annual business meeting on November 18, 2012 and the called business meeting on December 16, 2012 for approval. Since the minutes were available on the church website, a motion was made and seconded to bypass the reading of the minutes. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

Nancy Wooters, Church Clerk, reported the following membership change requests:

- Don and Elizabeth Gordon to Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.
- Bryan Mears to Wake Forest Baptist Church, Wake Forest, N.C.
- Katie Medlin to Macedonia Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C.

A motion was made and seconded to grant these requests. The motion passed.

Sean Fenton, Church Treasurer, presented the preliminary financial report for December 31, 2012 (Attachment 1) and reported that the church ended the year very favorably, with total revenue for the year over the budgeted amount, and expenses under the budgeted amount. An analysis of giving over the past year showed that 20% of the membership accounted for 71% of the income, and that giving was well distributed over the church membership, with no single giving unit contributing more than 4% of the total revenue. There were 281 identified “giving units” in 2012, of which 146 (> 50%) gave \$1,000 or more and accounted for over 95% of the total revenue. The average gift of these 146 givers was \$5,383, which represented a tithe amount higher than the national income average. Mr. Fenton stated that this analysis information was indicative of the good financial health of our church, as well as our geographic area, and he encouraged us to “keep up the good work”.

Gary Stickley reported that the Personnel Committee is working closely with the Yates staff and deacons to ensure the continued smooth operation of the church and to develop a schedule to ensure that all ministerial responsibilities are covered during the time we are without a senior pastor. This schedule has been completed and will be posted on the church website. Mr. Stickley reminded us that in this time of uncertainty, with the added demands of searching for an interim pastor and a senior pastor, and with the increased workload on the staff, that the staff will no doubt feel additional stress to meet the expectations of the congregation and themselves, and their families will feel this stress as well. Mr. Stickley encouraged us to lift our staff up in prayer and whenever possible, “take a to-do rather than leave a to-do”.

Jon Slaton reported that the Interim Pastor Search Committee is working diligently to secure an interim pastor in the very near future. The committee received fourteen recommendations from trustworthy sources, of which seven were determined to be pursuable, and three were considered

very closely. After listening to sermons, conducting personal interviews and checking references, they have narrowed the search down to one candidate, and are in the final stages of the process with him. If all continues to be favorable, the committee plans to present this candidate to the congregation at a called business meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. This person will be responsible for preaching and teaching on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and will also be in the church office a few hours each week for consultation. This person will serve as a “John-the Baptist” type of minister, preparing the way for a smooth transition to a new full-time pastor.

Mike English presented a brief report from the Pastor Search Committee. They have held two meetings to date, the first an organizational meeting, and the second to develop the search process they will follow. The committee plans to make regular monthly reports to the deacons and the church body, and these reports will be available on the church website. The committee welcomes input and recommendations from the congregation.

Andy Cruickshank presented a report from the Facilities Planning Team. Mr. Cruickshank reported that a lot of work had been done since the team began meeting in October, but that there was still a lot of work to do. Handouts were distributed (Attachment 2) which contained some of the information in the presentation, and the entire presentation will be posted on the team’s new blog on the church website ([yateschurch.org/media/facilityplan](http://yateschurch.org/media/facilityplan)). Members will need to log in to access this site. Mr. Cruickshank’s presentation included an overview of the team, the mission statement, the 10-year strategic outlook, the 2-3 year implementation plan for sanctuary improvements, parking lot improvements and deferred facilities maintenance, the three-step process they are following (“where we are”, “where we go”, and “how we get there”), and a detailed report of the findings of the first “where we are” step (see online presentation). During January and February the team will be soliciting input from the staff and congregation through town hall meetings, design workshops, surveys and the blog, and in the March - April timeframe they will develop a preliminary plan and issue an interim report. While the target date for completion of the entire process was initially scheduled for the December 2013, this timeframe may be adjusted as needed to coincide with the arrival of the new senior pastor.

Linda Mercer read a prepared “Safe Sanctuary” statement (Attachment 3) from the deacons regarding a new process they are undertaking to ensure that Yates is a safe sanctuary for “those among us who are considered vulnerable” - our children, youth and adults with special needs. A brief discussion of the spiritual, moral, financial and practical need for this undertaking followed the presentation.

There was no further business, and Mrs. Mercer closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Wooters  
Church Clerk