

Three Forks Baptist Association

Semi-Annual Meeting

April 24, 2018

Minutes

The 178th Semi Annual meeting of the Three Forks Baptist Association was held April 24, 2018 at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. The moderator, Rev. Bud Russell, welcome those assembled. Jimmy Finch, Mt. Vernon music minister, and Judith Aguilar, Mt. Vernon Hispanic Ministry leader, led the Mt. Vernon Hispanic choir in song. Following this time of worship Rev. Travis Burt opened the meeting with a scripture reading of Isaiah 43:19 and prayer.

Mrs. Jennifer Waldorf, clerk, gave the report on the organization of the body for the evening. There were 81 messengers and 26 guests in attendance, representing 23 of our association churches.

Mrs. Pat Dalton, treasurer, next gave the treasurer's report. On behalf of the Association, Pat expressed gratitude for the continued financial support of the member churches. During the financial report Pat drew particular attention to the fact that the income and expense report for 2017 stated that the Association's net income for the year was -\$18,80.41. She explained that this number was somewhat misleading, due to the fact that \$26,368.77 past due taxes were paid to the IRS during 2017. Most of this money came from the emergency reserve account which had been accumulated primarily for the purpose of paying these taxes. When this amount is removed from the expenses for the year Three Forks Baptist Association actually ended the year with a net income of \$7,534.36 and currently has \$90,734.65 in the general operating fund.

Rev. Russell recognized Rev. Rusty Guenther of First Baptist Church Blowing Rock to give the Constitution and By-laws task force update. Rev. Guenther first thanked the Association for entrusting the task force with the responsibility of the constitution and by-laws changes. The changes were not just tweaking what was already there, but building upon a historic calling in a way that will guide the association into the future. Under the current constitution, the association requires 186 volunteers to be fully "staffed", so the association has seldom operated with all positions filled. What was needed was a document that would allow churches to look to the future, make it easier to partner together, and encourage more churches to be involved. The task force feels that the proposed Constitution and By-laws will accomplish this.

As the proposed new Constitution and by-laws was recommended by the Constitution and By-Laws Task Force, a committee of the association, and was previously approved by the Executive Council the motion to approve did not need a second. The floor was opened for questions or comments regarding the proposed changes. Hearing none a vote was called. The new constitution and by-laws were passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ellen Norris gave the Nominating Committee and Committee on Committees report. Given that the new Constitution changes the term of service for officers and committee members for the association to a January 1 – December 31 term of service as opposed to an April meeting to April meeting term of service, the Committees and Nominating Committees have requested that those currently serving in Association roles extend their service until the end of the year when the new terms will begin. Recommendations for persons to fill the committee vacancies will be presented to the Association in October.

These changes were proposed by a standing committee and therefore needed no second. The recommendations were passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Rev. Garland Honeycutt, Three Forks Baptist Association's Director of Missions gave the DOM report. He recognized new pastors who had joined association churches since the October meeting. He also challenged the association as leaders to be on mission and to be boldly serious in witnessing. We need to be reaching those in communities who are close to us, but not close to God.

Rev. Honeycutt then announced a new resource which will soon be available to our Association churches. The Association will be contracting with a Church Mobilization Catalyst to equip and mobilize our churches to get out of the pews and be on mission. This will be a two year partnership, funded by the Baptist State Convention through a strategic partnership, and from offerings through the North Carolina Missions Offering. This means there will be no impact on the Three Forks Baptist Association's operating budget to fund this contract. The Church Mobilization Catalyst will be Rev. Travis Burt. Rev. Burt has served as a missionary with IMB for eight years. He also has worked closely with Baptist Campus Ministries for the last several years, and has served at the Missions Pastor for Mt. Vernon Baptist Church.

The floor was opened for questions and comments regarding this new position. Rev. David Cooper of South Fork Baptist Church spoke a word of affirmation over the decision to contract with Travis to mobilize churches to reach the lostness that is all around us. Rev. John Mark Brown of Brushy Fork Baptist Church asked Rev. Burt if he would be able to meet with the churches and give them recommendations specific to their church to assist them in engaging

the lostness in their particular areas. Rev. Burt stated that he would be able to do this, and that during his first month he would be contacting many of the pastors in the association and starting to have these types of conversations with them.

Rev. Honeycutt then asked the pastors to come forward to commission Travis in his new role as Church Mobilization Catalyst. Rev. Charlie Martin of Bethel Baptist Church led the group in prayer over Rev. Burt.

Rev. Honeycutt also recognized Christian Outreach Center Director Larry Woodrow for his ten years of dedication to the COC. Larry will be retiring at the end of April. Rev. Honeycutt expressed gratitude on behalf of the entire association for both Larry and for First Baptist Church of Boone and their pastor, Rev. Roy Dobyns for their willingness to provide the physical location for the work of the COC.

May Bouboulis has been named as an interim director of the Christian Outreach Center. A task force will be formed to come alongside May and help ensure that this ministry has a successful future.

Rev. Honeycutt then asked the group to break into smaller groups for prayer, specifically to pray for the lost in our community and that the Association and its member churches would be engaged in reaching the lost of our community. Following this time of prayer Rev. Roy Dobyns of First Baptist Church of Boone made those gathered aware of a prayer concern within their church family. Rev. Curtis Privette, a college minister at First Baptist Church and his wife Sarah recently lost a newborn child. Rev. Dobyns led those gathered in prayer for the Privette family.

Rev. Mike Puckett, Executive Director of Baptist Campus Ministries of the High Country gave the message for the evening. Rev. Puckett spoke of the three Pockets of Lostness in Watauga County, as identified by the North American Mission Board. These geographic areas within our county contain a high concentration (at least 70% or higher) of people who have no relationship with Jesus. Rev. Puckett encouraged the churches and individuals present to be aware of the people in our community who may be far from God, and to be deliberate in doing something about it. He encouraged those gathered to:

1. Pray specifically for people they know who may be far from God.
2. Train to be able to share the Gospel more effectively
3. Engage those who are lost

Mike Townsend dismissed the meeting with prayer.