

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

Sunday, May 6, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President April Zdanis at 11:36 am. Ted led devotions.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the April Council meeting minutes.

Correspondence

Received information from Acts 4 Ministry for donation; no action was taken.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Christian Education

Lessons about the sermon as well as activities continue for the children with Mary Rose. Lynn Fairchild continues to use children's Bibles and David C. Cook curriculum for her Pre-K class. Ted Durley is leading the adult bible study on the Gospel of Luke using information from N. T. Wright and all are welcome to join Sundays at 8:45 am. Mary and Lynn will be working together on Children's Sunday with children taking part throughout the service.

Pastoral Search Committee

Pastor Mike gave his impression of the top things to look for in a new pastor and suggested to not settle for the first candidate. FBC should decide on a particular preaching style they are looking for; inform them of a small congregation but with lots of pastoral needs; seek someone who is accepting of the children as is during service time. Let God lead us through this process.

Finance/Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and accepted as presented. Lynn noted that FBC Scholarship Fund balance is at \$3,596.41, which should not be exceeded by the Scholarship Committee. It was asked that a Fellowship Fund balance be given at the next meeting.

Worship

Pentecost Sunday will be held May 20, with red candles decorating the sanctuary and congregants wearing red; Lynn and Kara will be decorating the sanctuary for Pentecost. The service on June 3 will include children dedications and baptisms. Memorial Day Services in Plymouth on May 27 will be held at First Congregational Church of Plymouth with an 11 am dedication ceremony with the reading of the Gettysburg Address on the Green; no parade will take place from the Plymouth Green. Although First Congregational Church of Plymouth offered to switch summer months of worship with us, Council decided to leave it the way it has been with July being at FBC and August at FCC.

Congregational Care

Continue to be in prayer for our shut-ins as well as those on our prayer list. Baptism Classes are being held with 3 candidates. Baptism and Dedication Sunday will be held on June 3. Children's Sunday and Scholarship Presentation will be held on Sunday, June 10, with a potluck picnic following service.

Property

The appraisal firm of Calciano & Stern appraised the parsonage at \$150,000. Michael Ganem Associates LLC, a realtor in the Terryville Chamber, was contacted about selling the parsonage and suggested listed it for \$149,999; the contract would be for 90 days and his fee would be 6%. When the parsonage is sold, it is agreed that monies be set aside for Housing Allowance for a future minister. Ted contacted Superior Lawn Service, another Terryville Chamber member, about removal

and cleanup of a fallen tree and tree removal and backfill at the parsonage which may cost up to \$3,000. Ted has begun mowing the church properties. A side door bar mechanism was added to the Fellowship Hall for emergency egress; the door will be locked during service. New keys will be made and distributed. It was suggested a magnetic sign be placed on the door to direct those seeking entrance to use the front door to the sanctuary.

### Outreach

During the month of May, we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing as our mission offering; this collection is used to support mission work and missionaries throughout the world. The Spring Clothing Giveaway is scheduled for May 25-26; drop off clothing at the Gaines House. Back to School offering for Plymouth/Terryville children in need will be taken during the summer.

### Music

Choir rehearsal is on Friday evenings. On Baptism Sunday and Children's Sunday the children will be joining in the singing. The Pre-K class will sing the Praise Hymn on Children's Sunday.

### Scholarship

Elaine Fiermonte volunteered to become a member and Chair Scholarship Committee. The committee will get together to decide the recipients for the Waterbury scholarships and the FBC Scholarship. Lynn presented the information in the scholarship manual on how the FBC Scholarship Committee is set up. Theresa will be sending out packets of information to Committee members. There was discussion around the FBC Scholarship and it was decided that it will remain the same for this year's applicants, but a Business Meeting of the congregation should be made for any future changes. Lynn will provide Theresa will any updates for the FBC Scholarship manual.

### Pastor

- Pastor Mike has been officially sworn in as a Judge for the State of Connecticut as of May 4 and no longer officially a pastor of FBC. Pastor Mike shared his transition plan with FBC. Pastor Mike and other pulpit supply will continue to preach until a new interim minister is found. Ted will be in touch with Dr. Riggs for the request of another interim minister and pulpit supply. Please contact the church office with any pastoral needs or concerns during the interim period. Members of the congregation will have to fill in the gaps, especially visiting shut-ins, until another interim minister is found.
- The First Congregational Church of Plymouth interim minister has offered their support in any way they can be helpful.
- Classes for 3 candidates for Baptism are being held; while the class was informal it was also informative. Pastor Mike shared how thoughtful the children were in answering and asking questions.
- Pastor Mike will be submitting his receipts through May 4 to the Treasurer.
- Pastor Mike passed around the calendar for any updates.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Thomaston Savings Bank Grant Application is due no later than June 30. It was suggested an update in technology for both the church and groups who use the church be applied for as our church is behind in technology. Ted will need help in putting the information together on the request of a smart board.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to allocate from First Baptist Church Scholarship Fund one \$500 scholarship for a Terryville High School student and one \$500 scholarship for a Thomaston High School student and request an essay topic related to faith for next year with the intent of growing the scholarship for our members and at the same time reaching out to the community. This will be brought to the congregation at the next Business Meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to enter into a contract with Michael Ganem Associates LLC for the sale of the parsonage, seconded, discussed, and amended to: A motion was made to enter into a contract with Michael Ganem Associates LLC for the sale of the parsonage with any proceeds to go into a Housing Allowance Fund, seconded, and unanimously passed.

A motion was made to contract with Superior Lawn Service for up to \$3,000 worth of work for tree removal and back fill at the parsonage, seconded, and unanimously passed.

Lynn was looking for an official Seal; Pastor Mike will follow up.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to adjourn at 1:50 pm. Mary Rose volunteered to lead devotions at the next meeting. No date for the next meeting was confirmed due to the first and second Sundays in June being busy.

Respectfully submitted,

*Caroline B. Fairchild*  
Secretary

Present: Pastor Michael Wu, Rosalie Beals, Theodore (Ted) Durley, Caroline (Lynn) Fairchild, Joel Fairchild, Elaine Fiermonte, Mary , Rose, April Zdanis; Absent: Tonya DiBella, Elizabeth Salerno

*These minutes will be approved at the next meeting.*

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

Sunday, May 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President April Zdanis at 11:46 am.

Ted previously emailed members copies of additional paperwork from the realtor from the bidders which brought further discussion. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the offer of \$169,500 with candidate #1 and move forward with the realtor on the sale of the parsonage.

Tree removal and yard repair at the parsonage may or may not be needed depending on the new owner of the parsonage. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to use Capital Funds for the possible tree removal and repair to the yard at the parsonage with the understanding that funds will be returned to the Capital Fund upon the sale of said parsonage.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to apply to the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation for a security panic bar for the sanctuary door, motion cameras for the door bells, and a Windows 10 laptop for monitoring the doors, thus revoking the application of smart board equipment this time.

There is a need to have 2 or 3 large print bulletins each Sunday for those needing assistance. This will be communicated to the Administrative Assistant so they are available at services.

Although previously agreed that July and August shared services with First Congregational Church of Plymouth would remain the same, there was discussion that this may not be in our best interest while searching for another interim minister. A motion was made, seconded, and passed for the summer of 2018 that First Baptist Church (FBC) and First Congregational Church of Plymouth (FCC) exchange meeting houses with FBC visiting FCC in July and the FCC visiting FBC in August. Ted will be in contact with Tom Doyle of FCC for FCC approval. Once approved by FCC, it will be necessary to get the word out early in bulletins, newsletter, and website regarding the exchange of meeting houses for the summer months.

With the Administrative Assistant's necessary time off in July, Mary indicated that she would be willing to fill in for preparing the bulletins and newsletter depending on her school schedule. It will be necessary to have signs on the FBC doors indicating where worship is taking place during July services. Ted will seek music talent for the first week of August when our Minister of Music will be unavailable.

It was discussed that The Honorable Michael Wu will be our pulpit supply on June 10 for Children's Sunday and Scholarship presentations; we wish him well for serving as our interim minister.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Caroline B. Fairchild*  
Secretary

Present: Rosalie Beals, Tonya DiBella, Theodore (Ted) Durley, Caroline (Lynn) Fairchild, Joel Fairchild, Mary Rose, April Zdanis; Absent: Elaine Fiermonte, Elizabeth Salerno

*These minutes will be approved at the next meeting.*