

BOARD OF STEWARDS MEETING – 20 February 2022

The meeting was opened with prayer.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT TIMES:

Discussion: We had a survey sent out for changing the time of our midweek service from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The survey was open to anyone. It was not just for the congregation. There was a suggestion to make service at 6:30 p.m. Originally, we were trying the 6:00 p.m. time and see how we liked it. Well, everyone got busy and it has just stayed. With moving the Bibb Center, people are still coming but they are late. We are hearing that some people just cannot make the 6:00 service. Back in May, we switched because it is so late getting out at 8:00 p.m. However, those who are driving, especially from Nashville, are having a difficult time getting to church. Chanc is willing to go speak with the families that have specifically stated that the early time is difficult. He will see if 6:30 p.m. will work better. Preston will speak with classes that meet on Wednesday and see if there is a preference.

BENEVOLENCE REQUESTS:

Eddy Stinson is a plumber from Hickman County. He did a lot of work for the church in the past, such as remodeling the bathrooms in Building 100 back in 2014, and also worked for several church families. Unfortunately, he suffered from an aortic aneurysm that burst around Christmas and he has been in the ICU ever since. It is believed that he will no longer be able to work and will be placed on permanent disability. His community is hosting a benefit for his wife on 26 February 2022 to assist with medical bills, etc., and would like to know if we would like to make a one-time contribution to this cause.

Chanc- Last year the board advised the trustees to just take care of benevolence requests from the funds provided. However, this one requires special handling, so it is being brought before the Board of Stewards. We have always shared benevolence requests with the church. However, this is different. He is not a member of our church but he has worked with us closely on our church. Pastor Chanc is personally involved in this situation, so he would like the Board to be the non-biased vote and decide.

Preston – brought up the point as to whether or not this is truly a church issue? IF you are personally related or know this gentleman, then maybe you would go for yourself but not on behalf of the church. There is also something to say that the church should be out there helping people.

Discussion: We are not sure that he is saved but he is from a church family with his father being a preacher. The thought is that through our gift to him, maybe we can have him turn back to the Lord if he has strayed. He has always had a giving mindset and has been honorable. We went to let him know that we love him and care for him

as well. We will send from the church \$250 and then see if any other families would like to donate and add to this. The church would then send out one check for the total amount, so as not to deplete the Benevolence fund. President made a motion for the \$250 from the church. Tom Haviland seconded that motion. It was a unanimous decision to move forward with this.

FAMILY-BASED EDUCATION

Preston – We have a surplus of money in the account. He states that he has been thinking of how to move forward ever since our church has started to lean toward the teaching of our children by our families and the church's role as a guide in that. We, as a church, are taking Sunday school steps toward that as well. We want to emphasize the Bible. We have also discussed this is Ladies and Men's Bible studies the role of the parents in teaching the Bible. In saying this, we do not have any actual support in our large amount of homeschooled families. The majority of the children in our church are homeschooled. My idea is to financially support keeping the kids at home as much as possible by helping parents pay for their homeschool curriculum. This is also true for parents who have their kids in school. If you do not like the science that is being taught in the school and you want to teach something different, then you have the programs through the church to assist with that. We have helped families in the past through benevolence in paying off some debt with the end goal of them being able to stay home and teach their children. However, we want to do more than that and provide a source of teaching materials to alleviate some of those issues. The suggestion is to directly help provide curriculum up to \$500 per student that would go directly to curriculum and not a check to purchase other materials. We, as a church, purchase it so that we are tax-free and make sure it is the correct curriculum. They will have a choice of options through certain publishers and we want to support families in the teaching of their children and their future endeavors.

Chanc – We have these curriculum providers and let us know through the spring so that their curriculum would be available by Fall. We would be able to save on taxes and shipping. These materials would be recycled and reused. The idea is to once your family is done with it, then pass it through the church. We also talked through how someone qualifies for this. We decided just to establish the fund and do this as a group. We would provide certain publishers that we would work with. We would have a cut-off date.

Discussion: People do not realize how expensive homeschooling truly is. The first proposal is for \$500 per child per year. The other proposal is \$500 for the first child and then \$300 after that. Sometimes you can order one subject for the whole family. This is the sticking point. First, do we want to do something? Second, how do we do it? The money we are specifically speaking of is \$65,000 that was given. Based on history and the finance team, we are suggesting tapping into these funds. Scotty recommended that there should be a family amount. Maybe we should have a subcommittee. We could very well say yes or no as a board and then have a subcommittee together. This would go under the Sunday School Program/Education

Program. We will wait for this until next month. This would be for the Family-Based Education. We may need to consider this having its own line item next year. If someone wants to start a Bible study group of some sort, small groups, blacksmithing, etc. then the money should be used for that. We need to get behind small groups for families and others. We are asking you to think about this and let's take this up again next month.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

(Chance/Preston) We are trying to make this more of a Bible Study and not a directed Sunday school. We want to have people know and learn the Bible. Two things with church history, temporarily we see a growth in numbers at the church but overall, this does not stand true. There was no substantial growth with continuing people through the Sunday school program. Where they were seeing that was through solid homes, men-led families. If the dad or parent was involved, then the family was involved. We are saying at this point, is to stop putting so much focus on Sunday school and put it into where we see the growth. We are trying to shift the money and the budget toward what we want to be doing as a church. Now, switching to smaller classrooms, the kids are responding well to just teaching the Bible. It's not all separated but they are learning what the Bible is telling them. This is what we are trying to emphasize. Now, we have a nursery, youth class, middle school class, and then we have adults. The high schoolers are now with the adults. Smaller adult classes lend to more discussions. We have decided to wait for a month and think about these options right now.

The other thing is to support missionaries. With Stephen and Liz getting ready to go to Australia, then I would like our church to support them. They will also be soliciting for their own fund as well, but our church should be supporting missionaries coming out of the church.

We have nothing to vote on but will go over the highlights of the monthly budgets. As of the end of 31 January 2021, we already had 82,000. We are well ahead but that includes the \$65,000 donation. We are well ahead right now. One of the things that we are really focusing on this year is debt reduction. This included the 5th Sunday giving for debt reduction, as well as the designated reduction. We are also considering any budget surpluses that will go toward budget reduction. The finance team met Wednesday night. We will have this professionally looked at. They are going to assist us in setting up the accounting aspects being updated and hopefully more helpful.

Motion was made to dismiss the meeting. Motion was seconded and the motion adjourned after prayer.