

First Baptist Church
Joint Meeting of Leadership Council and Pastoral Relations Committee
June 20, 2018

Members present: Carolyn Cross (Board of Education), Wynn Davies (Board of Outreach), Carla Eakins (Church Clerk), Bill Fiore (Moderator), Sue Lutter (Board of Deacons), and Brooke Siddell (Pastoral Relations Committee)

Absent: Paul Chotlos (Board of Trustees), Nancy Emmert (Pastoral Relations Committee) and Tom Kersten (Vice Moderator)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Moderator Bill Fiore.

1. Review of Minutes of May 29, 2018 Meeting

The minutes of the May 29 meeting were approved as distributed.

2. Discussion of Impending Issues

a. Saying farewell to Mark

It was decided that a small committee should be appointed to plan an appropriate celebration of Mark's ministry. We selected four names to approach to serve on the committee (names withheld to allow them to be asked properly). Bill will review this list with Mark, and if he agrees, Bill will ask them if they are willing to serve. The discernment team will no longer be involved.

b. How and how often to communicate with the congregation

After discussion, committee members decided that the minutes of each meeting will be shared with the congregation by email, and copies will be available in the gathering space. Carla Eakins will send the minutes to committee members for their review, and after they are approved, they will be sent to Blanca for distribution. Periodic listening sessions will be scheduled so that members of the congregations can provide suggestions to the committee. A questionnaire will be distributed to provide an opportunity for members to share their views. Bill Fiore agreed to publish periodic updates in *The Visitor*.

3. Formulating Our Discernment Process

Wynn Davies briefly reviewed the email message he had sent to committee members. He suggested a number of possible questions that could be considered during the process and collectively we agreed that developing those kinds of details would be best handled after the congregation approves our request to hire a consultant (that request will be the subject of the July 8th listening session) and the consultant is onboard.

When Marie Onwubuariri met with the committee on May 29, she mentioned the possibility of calling an Interim Minister who would help with the transition to begin the process. The committee's goal is to begin the process immediately and to be at or near the end of the process at the end of the year. Committee members did, however, agree that some professional help in the form of a consultant would be a good idea. Committee members agreed that a listening session to present this plan to the congregation will be held on July 8 immediately after the service. This session will focus only on the suggestion of hiring a consultant to assist in the discernment process.

In discussing development of a questionnaire, it was suggested that committee members review the sample questionnaire from the Hartford Institute for Religion Research and send their suggestions for

which questions should be included in our questionnaire to Brooke, who will develop a possible questionnaire for our use.

4. Discussion of Meeting Schedule for the Future

The first listening session to discuss hiring a consultant will be held on July 8 immediately after the service. The next meeting of the committee will be held on July 11 at 1:00 pm in the conference room.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Eakins, Church Clerk