

First Baptist Church Keller Deacon Meeting November 12, 2023

Meeting was conducted on-campus at First Baptist Church Keller (FBCK) and via Zoom Meeting.

Staff Members in Attendance on-campus or on Zoom

Keith Sanders, Tony Richmond, Lawrence Duhon, Scott Knox, and Gregory Baines.

Deacons in Attendance

A total of 48 deacons signed in on-campus and on Zoom for the meeting.

Call to Order, Welcome Remarks

1. Chairman Matt Porter called the meeting to order, welcomed the deacons and staff, and thanked them for attending the meeting. Matt opened the meeting in prayer. The Deacon body broke into individual rooms to pray for each of the pastors. Deacons attending the meeting via Zoom prayed for pastors not in attendance on campus.
2. 2024 Deacon Officer Vote: The incoming 2024 Deacon Officers were introduced and unanimously approved by the Deacon body. The Deacon officers will be Guy Simpson, Chairman; Dan Trantham, Vice Chairman of Ministry Teams, and Jim Sabey, Vice Chairman of Records.
3. New Deacon Ordination Process: The New Deacon Training is underway. The first of 4 trainings session occurred on October 29th and included training on a year in the life of a Deacon. The next meeting is planned for November 19th.

Ministry Teams – Matt Porter:

1. Hospital Visitation Team – Ron Shields: Blessing that not many members are in the hospital at this point. Visits continue to be made.
2. Widows Team – Don Johnston: Assigned the most recent widow. She is deaf, so this will be a new to our ministry. Working to assign two new widows. We lost Winston Frost in the last weeks, so will be looking to assign Nancy to a Deacon. Still waiting on a response for the other widow.
3. Physical Services Team – Matt Porter: No new issues. Welcome to anyone who wants to join and help.
4. Lord's Supper Ordinance Administration Team – Matt Porter: Watch your emails for the next Lord's supper announcement.
5. Baptism Ordinance Team – Jon Taylor: All is going well with the team.
6. Sunday Prayer Team – Matt Porter: The system worked very well when Casey came to guest preach, so thank you to the team for having everything very well taken care of.
7. New Member Candidate Visitation Team – Jim Sabey: Keep an eye on your email. Amie Thoms will send an email with the information on Tuesday. Sometimes this email will go to junk mail. Always looking for additional team members to welcome new members of the family. As Jim will be taking on Vice Chairman role, please pray about taking over for Jim in leading this ministry team.

8. Deacon-Led Prayer Team – Chris Norris: A few changes to the current schedule, so just be aware. Currently working on the 2024 schedule, so let Chris know soon if you want to be on or off the schedule.

Associate Pastor – Missions & Evangelism Lawrence Duhon: Just back from mission trip to Nepal. Not impacted by the earthquake but will be sending some aid to some of the churches that were. Prayed with pastor, assistant pastors, and members in four different locations. They were able to ordain several Deacons and assistant pastors in three locations and baptize 12 members in the river. The pastors are struggling with severe economic crises and governmental persecution against Christians, so this was a much-needed trip that hadn't occurred in the last four years. This was Lawrence's 11th trip to Nepal. Lawrence's father-in-law passed away this week after battling cancer for 2.5 years. His funeral will be on Saturday at 2:00. Thank you to all who have been praying for him and the family. Fall festival went well for over 1000 people that came through the doors. We had over 120 volunteers. The Gideons were able to hand out over 200 New Testaments and also hand out tracts allowing the Gospel to be spread. This week is Operation Christmas Child national collection week. We could use more volunteers if you are able to work during the day.

Minister - Adults Gregory Baines: Things are going well with adult Sunday School. Finishing up the first part of 1 Kings then planning to start the second part of 1 Kings in the first quarter 2024. Thank you for prayers for the new merger of the young adult Sunday School classes. The Lord continues to bring in new members. Will be wrapping up the Pillars of Truth series on Spiritual disciplines this Wednesday night. After Thanksgiving, Tony will be teaching a session on Work as Worship. Focusing on young and older professionals in the workplace.

Senior Pastor Keith Sanders: Pastor provided an update on his stroke that occurred while driving 2 weeks ago. He was unable to speak. The speech therapist that was working with him on his speech is no longer necessary due to full recovery. Pastor remains on schedule to start back in the pulpit at the start of January. He is very appreciative of Tony, Casey, and Scott for filling in and is very appreciative of all of our staff. All Sundays are covered till he returns in January. Continue praying for his stamina and physical and mental restoration as he plans to start back in the office half days.

Associate Pastor – Family Ministry Tony Richmond:

1. **Sunday messages:** Just completed the series in James this morning and will have 2 Sundays of Psalms, then 4 Sundays of advent (love, peace, hope and Joy).
2. **Congregational Bible Reading:** Implementing a special Bible reading plan over the book of Luke. The plan is to read 1 chapter of Luke starting December 1st. There are 24 chapters, so will be able to read through the entire book of Luke through the month of December before Christmas. This will be posted on social media within the church. Also posting some scripture reading from those chapters.
3. **Sunday School curriculum:** Started in 1 Kings in June and will be starting the 2nd part of 1 Kings in December, January and February. Then in March, April and May we will be in the book of Galatians.
4. **Church Membership:** Continuing to add members to the church as evidenced when we have several new members introduced to the church the morning Casey preached. We had the Member Matters breakfast this morning and had 6 come to hear about the church.

5. Plan for the Pulpit: The plan is for Pastor Keith to deliver the State of the Church address at the first of the year. All of the staff have been involved in keeping the church running very smoothly. Please continue to send emails and words of thanks and encouragement to the staff.

Associate Pastor - Administration Scott Knox:

1. Finances: The church remains faithful in giving. We ended the month last month ahead of where we were last year. We remain behind on the current planned budget but will have a better idea of where we stand after the month of December. Please pray about additional giving to the North Lot development. We have been so blessed in the past and have not asked for additional contribution, but if you feel led to contribute additionally it would be very appreciated.
2. North Lot update: Parking lot is getting close to pouring concrete. Then 28 days for the lot to cure before use. The parking lot is targeted to add about 100 new spots. We have added a new people mover cart that has been into service. Still on track to plan for the North Lot. No significant delays to date. The plan is to be complete in late spring or early summer. Planning to put up steel in late November. From a building perspective, we are about 20% complete.

Deacon Chairman's Discussion – Matt Porter:

October 2023 Deacon Meeting Minutes - The October 2023 Deacon Meeting minutes were passed unanimously.

Benevolence Fund Balances:

Widow Benevolence: \$8416

Deacon Benevolence: \$1575

Next Deacon meeting: December 9th at 11:30 (Banquet).

Cecil Hill – Please talk to your Sunday School classes about looking for ways to volunteer within the church. Opportunities include greeters and handing out bulletins before each service.

Prayer Requests – Guy Simpson:

Carol West – recently diagnosed with Lymphoma. Additional follow up this week.

Dwane Weaver – thyroid biopsy

Buddy Thomas – complication and injuries after falling out bed

Diane Dean – Parkinson disease is worsening

Closing Prayer by Guy Simpson

Respectfully submitted,

Guy Simpson, Vice-Chair Records