

First Baptist Church Keller Deacon Meeting October 15, 2023

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

Staff Members in Attendance on-campus

Scott Knox, Mike Gonzales, Lawrence Duhon, and Gregory Baines.

Deacons in Attendance

A total of 52 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.
2. New Deacon Ordination Process: The tentative New Deacon Training plan was reviewed. The plan is to meet monthly (October 29, November 19, December 3, January 14) followed by the ordination council. The ordination council is TBD at this point based on Pastor Keith's return.

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: Working to assign one new widow – waiting on a response. Please notify Don or Matt if you know American sign language or another foreign language.
3. Physical Services Team – Matt Porter: One project was completed that did not involve a widow, but a church member. Welcome to anyone who wants to join and help.
4. Lord's Supper Ordinance Administration Team – Dennis Lang: Thank you to everyone for volunteering for today's Lord's supper. Jim Roberts has agreed to lead the Ministry team next year. Next service will be in January. Would like to thank Dennis for all of his efforts leading the Lord's Supper team.
5. Baptism Ordinance Team – Kreg Bryant: Four baptisms this morning with a dad and his 3 kids. Thanks to Dwayne Weaver and his wife for helping last week. We are on track to have our 2nd most baptism in a year in the past decade. Thank you to the staff for working through all the construction items to ensure everything is in place for baptisms.
6. Sunday Prayer Team – Perry Leonard: Very blessed by praying with pastors prior to service. Both services are going well and covered at this time. If you would like to come and pray over the pastor prior to the services, contact Perry or Matt Porter.
7. New Member Candidate Visitation Team – Matt Porter: The current list is out on the website updated through the last week of December. The procedure for visitation is included in the handbook. It is expected to contact the new member by phone or email and set up a time to meet in person to welcome them, provide information and answer any questions.
8. Deacon-Led Prayer Team – Chris Norris: If you can help or will be out, please work with Chris to ensure coverage. There are a couple of spots needing to be filled. The schedule is up to date on the website up through Dec 31. Currently working on the 2024 schedule, so let Chris know soon if you want on or off the schedule.

Associate Pastor – Missions & Evangelism Lawrence Duhon: Additional part of the new member orientation is a pastoral connection interview with each new member candidate. This provides an opportunity for the ministerial team to interact with each new member and answer any question or address any holes like veteran or Deacon status prior to orientation. Kicked off “Who is your one” in Sunday School classes with materials and videos to help. We want to ask the Lord to open their hearts when we share the gospel. Two weeks from today (October 28) will be our annual Fall Festival including Trick or Trunk from 5:00-7:00 PM. Visited the church in Maui that we provided some relief funds to in Lahaina. Doing a good job of reaching out and helping with a spiritual influence following the fires there. Returning to Nepal with three other couples on November 2-11. Several new leaders ordained, and additional church planters have been included since the last visit 4 years ago. Nursing homes and widow’s garden continue to go well and appreciative of all the help and volunteers working in those ministries.

Minister – Senior Adults Mike Gonzales: Continuing with GAP activities - include games and crafts. Equipping your family expo (Equipping Your Family for the Unexpected) on October 21st – topics to be covered include estate planning, Medicare, and dementia. October 24th will be Mike’s 1-year anniversary.

Minister - Adults Gregory Baines: Things going well with adult Sunday School. The merge of the 2 young adult classes has gone well and includes about 50 people. The goal would be to plug them into the church community. Had 1st mini lesson on raising up new teachers. The plan is to train and provide new teachers and directors out of this class. October 28th is Men’s Prayer breakfast at 7:00 AM. Register online or in the church foyer. The curriculum for next quarter has been sent off for final preparation.

Senior Pastor Keith Sanders: Pastor provided an update on his status and his appreciation for the prayers of the church and Deacon body. Psalms 103 – calling himself to rehearse the Lord’s blessings in his life. Two great blessings 1) He forgives us all of our iniquities and 2) meets our physical needs. Psalms 23 – He restores our souls and renews our spirit. Please continue to pray for both physical and spiritual endurance and perseverance. The current plan is to return to the pulpit the first Sunday in 2024 and will start 1 Corinthians.

Associate Pastor - Administration Scott Knox:

1. **Finances:** The church remains faithful in giving. The giving to date is similar to that of a last year and the expenses are tracking in line with last year. This time last year we were at 78% of goal. This year we are about 71% of expenses. Normal cycle is to be a little behind early and then the giving catches up towards the end of the year and through end of fiscal year. Do not be too concerned.
2. **North Lot update:** Still on track to plan. Plans for things to be complete next summer. The city has provided conditional occupancy, which allows us to use the parking lot when it is complete. Be in pray about where the Lord leads you in giving for this project.

Deacon Chairman’s Discussion – Matt Porter:

Expect one additional request for Deacon officer nominations for 2024. The nominations will be reviewed by previous Deacon Chairs and the agreed upon officers will be announced at next month’s meeting.

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

Benevolence Fund Balances:

Next Deacon meeting: November 12th at 4:00 PM.

Prayer Requests – Guy Simpson:

Candy Dalton – recovering from injuries suffered from a fall

Robin (Buddy Brown’s brother) – awaiting a heart and kidney transplant

Desert Ridge church – Michael Waldrop has resigned to take some time off and Jason Harris to be voted on to take over as Pastor

Barbara Kirkland – knee replacement on Oct 27th

Closing Prayer by Guy Simpson

Respectfully submitted,

Guy Simpson, Vice-Chair Records