

Regular Deacons Meeting
August 26, 1990

Members Present: Stan Smith, Robert W. Talbert, Barry Adams, Clifton Alsbrooks, Bill Barton, Dean Blissit, Raleigh Daniel, Bill Dean, Tim Hasty, Jim Patterson, Ronnie Rogers, Cap Smith, Harri Whitehurst.

Staff Present: Jim King, Jack Hasty, Phillip Hare, Don Hebert.

Chairman Stan Smith called the meeting to order. The devotional was given by Dean Blissit. The opening prayer was led by Cap Smith.

The minutes of the July 29, 1990 meeting were approved.

Committee Reports:

Baptism: No report

Christian Greeting: Ronnie Rogers led discussion on how to ensure that all four doors were covered for the 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

Collection and Audit: Barry Adams emphasized that members of counting teams needed to be present to count, get a substitute, or contact the captain of their counting team. About eight people will be needed to collect the offering during each worship service during the renovation period. The captain of the counting team should take the offerings from the 8:45 a.m. service and place them in the vault after the early service.

Hospital Visitation: No Report

Lord's Supper: No Report

New Members: Jim Patterson reported that we have had 85 new members this year. Eleven people joined the church last Sunday (August 19, 1990). Jim Patterson and his committee reported on the current status of the Deacon Family Ministry Plan. The following problems and recommendations were reported:

Problems:

- 1) Each deacon has too many families
- 2) Most church members don't know who their deacon is
- 3) Not good communication between members, church office, and deacons.
- 4) Some visits not being made promptly or are not being reported to church office.
- 5) Delinquent visits have still not been reported to the church office.

Recommendations:

- 1) Only perform crisis type ministry due to large number of families.
- 2) Send a personal type letter to each church family to inform them of their deacon.
- 3) The church office will notify the deacon as soon as possible if a crisis or illness occurs and vice-versa.
- 4) The Church Office will continue to send out new member letters. Visits should be within three weeks or sooner if possible.
- 5) If visits are not made within three weeks, someone else will be assigned to make the visit.

Social: No Report

Staff Reports:

Don Hebert: "Welcome to youth group week and weekend" was this past week. Thirty-eight young people were in youth group on Wednesday night. There seems to be a big influx of young people. Twenty-nine young people went on the trip to Six Flags. Of the 29 young people, five were new 7th graders and 5 were new prospects. Tonight, August 26, 1990, 46 parents and teenagers attended a parent-youth fellowship. Beginning next Sunday evening at 6:00 a 7 week series will begin on "Christians Confronting the Cults." It is important for young people and adults to attend these series. The church picnic will be held on Sunday, September 30, 1990 at the ORA Site. On September 28th and 29th the young people will be going to North Carolina on a raft and rail trip. On Saturday, October 13, 1990, a county wide youth rally will be held at our church. The rally is sponsored by the Aiken Baptist Youth Ministers. Pat Hurley will be the keynote speaker.

Phillip Hare: Sixty-five children ages 3 years through 6th grade enrolled in children's choirs during the enrollment party. Thirteen ladies and two men will be working with these choirs. Information about children's choirs was sent to 120 prospects. Tonight was "Welcome Youth Night." Twenty-seven young people were in youth choir tonight and six of these were new 7th graders. The youth choir will be the service choir for the 8:45 a.m. worship service. Three new members have joined the adult choir. The Senior Adult choir and handbell choir will begin on September 5, 1990. Several church members will attend a music conference at White Oak on September 13-15, 1990.

Jack Hasty: Last Wednesday 40 leaders and children were in Mission Friends - 35 leaders and girls were in G.A.'s - 28 leaders and boys were in R.A.'s. Nine R.A.'s and leaders attended R. A. Camp this summer. Eighteen Senior Adults went to Asheville. WE will continue to have the blood pressure check each month. Sixty-four people were present at the last meeting of the Sunshine Club. Sunday School attendance average 481 for August 1990 vs. 469 for August 1989. Everyone needs to be present to visit on Monday nights.

OLD BUSINESS: A pastor's evaluation committee was appointed at our last meeting. This committee will report at the September 1990 deacons meeting.

Everyone please try to be present to help take up the offering on Sunday mornings.

NEW BUSINESS: Continue to use the existing scripture reading and prayer schedule at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The guest reception will be held only after the 11:00 a.m. service.

Pastor's Comments: Jim announced that the next cycle of CWT would begin on September 10 with a kick off banquet. This cycle will end on December 10, 1990 (13 Monday nights). Jim feels that CWT has been one of the main reasons for growth in the number of baptisms. Plenty of equippers are now available to help with CWT training. On September 9 Shirley Hasty will begin teaching a six weeks class for new members. The In Covenant book will be used to teach the new members about church doctrine. Linda King will also teach a class about orientation to our church. After the new year begins, Ollie Baughman will be teaching a survival class for new Christians. Jim expressed a concern that we are seeing an increase in number of new members but no real increase in Sunday School, giving, or general church activity. In the future a seminar will be taught dealing with responsible Christian financial management.

Jim attended the meeting in Atlanta this past weekend. He attended so that he might be able to present options to the church. He said it was refreshing to attend a meeting where everyone had the same goals and everyone was treated with respect. About 300 people were expected for this meeting but over 3,000 attended. At least 50% were lay people. Over 150 people from South Carolina attended. Some of the larger churches in our state were represented. The following is Jim's view of the different groups within our church:

- 1) A very large number of members are apathetic. All they know is what they read in the paper.
- 2) The next largest group could be called marginally committed and trusting. These individuals feel that they are not touched by denominational conflict.
- 3) The next group would be the deacons, leaders, and former leaders who are concerned with the impact on our church.

- 4) The next group would be the WMU and those concerned about missions. They don't want to harm the missionaries on the field.
- 5) The next group would be the politically fundamental. There are few if any of these people in our church.
- 6) The next group are those who actively read all the literature and publications and want to do something about this conflict. This group wants to take action.
- 7) Finally, a pastor who is tired of promoting a program that he can no longer support.

Currently, the fundamentalist leadership in our convention wants our money but not our input. Currently women and minorities are being mistreated by the mission boards. This has the WMU very upset. Currently no single women are being appointed by the board.

A new organization is now in place for those who want to channel their money in a different direction. This organization is the Baptist Cooperative Mission Program, Inc. This is a new organization based in Georgia. They will dispense funds as designated by a specific church or the church may give undesignated funds. A steering committee will decide how to use these undesignated funds to support current missions or begin new programs.

Our church is faced with several options.

- 1) Continue to send 20.5% of our annual budget through the current Cooperative Program. Of this 20.5%, 60% stays in South Carolina to support Baptist causes. The other 40% goes to the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.
- 2) Of the 205.5% given, continue to give 60% to our state causes and designate the other 40% to specific causes within the current cooperative program.
- 3) Finally, we could send this 40% to the newly formed Baptist Cooperative Mission Program, Inc. These could be designated or undesignated gifts.

This new program could begin to receive funds by October 1, 1990.

What will be the backlash against this new program? Some people will say that we are holding the missionaries as hostages. Jim feels that the Cooperative Program will never be what it once was. Jim sees the need to elect a denominational relations committee to study our church's position and to make recommendations to our church. Raleigh Daniel asked the pastor what will be the reaction of the current executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention? Jim said their reaction will be loud and ugly. They will say that it will hurt missions.

Only one dollar has to go to the Cooperative Program in order for a church to remain a voting member of the Convention. Nobody really wants to leave the Southern Baptist Convention. Currently most of the money goes to the bureaucracy not to the missionaries. This will effect the current seminaries but

Jim feels that for all practical purposes they are already dead. This new group also discussed the possibility of producing alternative literature.

We will need to do a lot of education of our congregation on this matter. Several items of literature are available on this matter. One item is a publication entitled, The Takeover. Jim wants to have an open forum on a Sunday night or a Wednesday night to discuss this matter. Our decision will effect the 1991 church budget. We will continue to give the 60% of our cooperative program 20.5% to the state missions. We could figure the present given to home and foreign missions and designate it. We could take the remaining difference and use it for local missions projects.

Raleigh Daniel made a motion that the deacon executive committee appoint a Denominational Relations Committee. The make up of this committee shall be as follows:

- a) Two active deacons, b) two members active in the WMU, c) three members of the Finance Committee of which one shall be the chairman, one involved in missions, and one other, d) two at large members one of which should be involved with Sunday School leadership. The purpose of this nine member committee will be to study our current relationship with the with the Southern Baptist Convention and to become informed about the newly formed Baptist Cooperative Mission Program, Inc. This committee shall work with the Finance Committee in preparation of the 1991 budget and such other business relations to our participation in the above mentioned organizations. After study, discussion, and prayer they shall make a recommendation to the church.

A second to the motion was made by Ronnie Rogers. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of all present.

Jim does not want to disturb the momentum of the church but feels that we need to discuss this matter openly. Stan Smith asked the deacons for their input and especially their prayers on this matter.

The motion to adjourn was made by Jim Patterson. The meeting was closed with prayer by Jack Hasty.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Talbert, Clerk