

# Yates Baptist Church

## Quarterly Business Meeting

Sunday, October 27, 2024

Sam Haithcock called the meeting to order with prayer at 11:58.

Richard Poindexter gave a report from the finance committee.

- Recognized members of the finance committee.
- Focus this year has been trying to bring expenses in line with the income. We are doing better this year. The 2025 budget will be presented at the business meeting on November 17.
- If you have comments for the finance committee, you can speak to any of the members mentioned earlier.

Winslow Carter gave a report from the House and Grounds committee.

- Thanks for participation on workday on September 28. There was a lot of work done.
- We have two storage sheds with some wood materials. These are available for people who can use it (plyboard, studs, etc.).
- We have forwarded our budget recommendations to the finance committee. We have identified things that must be done, and some places where we can reduce expenses.
- The church van and bus are in bad condition, and we're recommending that they not be used except locally. We are working with finance committee to determine what should be done.
- We have one quarter remaining. We are trying to be responsible with our spending for the remainder of the year.

It was noted that we have a placeholder each month for committee reports, but not every committee always needs to have a report.

There was a report from Sam Haithcock about the deacons' listening sessions with the church.

- Yates has been around for 146 years. A lot has been done through this church. In August and September had listening sessions Brian Forman and colleagues with CBF. We have received a report from Brian based on notes from this meeting. That report will be hosted online today or tomorrow. What did we notice from the report.

- The people of Yates feel a deep connection to the church.
- There are concerns about the church remaining relevant as the world changes.
- There is a deep sense of loss from losing members recently.
- There's a feeling that the church doesn't have a clear direction.
- There's a deep desire to be a healthy church. Maybe it's not clear what that means to us.
- People know that we have a vision statement, but it's not always clear how this is connected to things that get done.
- It's not clear how we welcome new people to the church.
- We are missing some age groups in our congregation.
- Some additional observations by Brian Forman.
  - The church has a strong dedication to and love for the music program.
  - There is a sense of connection within small Sunday School groups.
  - There is concern for how we can share the good we do in Yates with the community around us.
  - The routines and rhythms of being involved in church have changed. Most of our impact isn't what we do on Sunday mornings.
  - It's easy to think of finances as critical measures of how the church is doing, but there are other ways to measure church impact. For example, our live stream touches lots of people each week.
  - Our committees and leadership structures may sometimes hamper what we're trying to do, rather than facilitate it.
  - Covid has fatigued people. We have fewer volunteers and staff now.
- Deacons will continue to work on this information (report) and get it into a form that's clear to everyone.
- We're planning for more opportunities to sit down together as a church and to continue to think about the issues that are important to us and what we can be doing.
- Our goal as a church is to make disciples, to teach them and to serve the people around us. This is a recurring theme in the items identified in the report.
- Additional remarks were invited from the congregation:
  - *Will the report from Brian be on the website tomorrow?*  
Yes.
  - *Does this report have all the comments, or has it been summarized by Brian?*  
This isn't certain, but items that come up repeatedly, are probably most important.

- *We've gone through this process before, and some things get dropped as we get tired. I don't want to see that happen again. It would be helpful to see all the things that were said by anybody in these listening sessions, rather than a summary that reflects a person's opinion.*

Brian had to take all the responses and figure out how to categorize them.

The deacons did some of this as well and we didn't always come up with the same categories. We have a listing of every statement that was said in every group.

- The raw data we have is notes that were taken during the meeting. It's not a transcript of everything that was said.
- *Where will this be posted on the website?*  
I'm assuming this will be on Realm. We could also post a summary of what's in the full report.
- A deacon reported efforts to try to work with the collected data. One thing that stood out is that it's obvious that people were interested in a more Biblical approach for Bible studies. It would be good for people to be able to see what kinds of things people commented on. It's not easy to organize these into categories, but it would be good to get an idea of what people think.

Note that copies of the minutes from the last two quarterly meetings have been printed and distributed. We will approve these at our next meeting on Nov 17.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25