

Vienna Baptist Church  
Church Council / Budget Council  
Monday, June 2, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Church Council Chair Tom Johnson and Pastor in the Interim, Randy Ashcraft opened with prayer.

**Attendance:**

The following persons were in attendance: Diana Amsbaugh, Andrea Harvey, Hank Dunn, Bob Grena, John Campbell, Randy Ashcraft, CJ Redden-Liotta, Harry Dorcus, Debbie Dorcus, Debby Ruth, Rob Ruth, Mike Pauley, Nancy Curtis, Lee Curtis, Anne Daniel, Dianne Hannum, Ginny Richardson, Tom Johnson, James Collins, Lynn Collins, Judy Campbell, Ward Kay, Lewis Dozier, Sheila Hodges, Linda Gooding, Susan Stiles, Art Leighton, Andy Griffin, Sylvia Linke, Rosalyn Dozier.

**Getting Started:**

Before specific budget work was begun, Church Council Chair, Tom Johnson primed our task by noting that in looking at our historical financial records for the past 5 years expenses have gone down a little bit, but revenue has gone down much more. He also reminded us that although the Endowment Fund has committed to pay for a new roof on the educational building and to finance a new pastor's moving expenses, we should not expect to overcommit the Endowment Fund.

James Collins, chair of Financial Admin added his recommendation that as budget items were discussed, any groups spending money from New Restricted Funds to supplement their budgeted amounts, should make that known as part of the discussion.

As he was unable to attend, Ron Aprahamian, chair of Personnel submitted written options and alternatives to reduce our budget or supplement our deficits. (See attached document.)

**2014-2015 Budget Discussion:**

The Council deliberated over four (4) hours and went through the budget requests line-by-line. Extensive discussion was held and changes were made to the on-line budget documents in real time thanks to Office Manager, CJ Redden-Liotta. Consensus was reached on a final budget with a \$132,352.00 shortfall. Details of that budget are attached in a separate document.

Summary of some discussion items is itemized below:

*Pledging and Giving*

Previous to this meeting 19 Council members have pledged the amount of \$210,000. A grand total of 58 pledges have been received for a total of \$460,240. The median pledge (entity #29) is \$4800.

As of last year's Budget Council meeting a total of \$495,647 had been pledged and the final pledging total was 66 pledges totaling \$502,000. The median pledge last year was \$4800 – exactly the same as this year.

Five (5) families who pledged last year have not pledged so far this year. There are six (6) new pledging entities.

Expected Non-pledged giving for 2014-2015 budgeting purposes has been extrapolated to be \$93,553 -- a much more reasonable number than last year's \$200,000.

James Collins, chair of Financial Admin indicated that more comparisons of last year's and this year's pledging and giving will take place. He plans to write a letter to all non-pledging families or persons noting that the church still hopes to receive their financial support -- even without a formal pledge.

### *Missions*

Mission specifics have not been broken down at this time. Missions will be budgeted as 10% of the expected General Fund income. Once the budget has been accepted and the total known, the Missions Committee will figure out the budget for their line items.

### *New Senior Pastor*

The Personnel Committee submitted an "estimate/placeholder" budget for the new senior pastor. As no negotiations have as yet been held, these are simply the high-end numbers within which the negotiations can take place. (See attached document.) It seemed to be the consensus and hope of the majority of the Council that final negotiated salary would be less than the high-end placeholder number. It was also noted that a new senior pastor will not be in place on day one (July 1 2014) of this budget year and therefore the actual dollar amount (of whatever the final salary ends up being) would be less for the first year.

Ward Kay noted that moving costs had been included in the Personnel committee's bottom-line numbers for the senior pastor. As the Endowment Fund has agreed to pay moving costs, James Collins moved and it was seconded that those funds (\$14,000) be removed from the budget line item.

Lewis Dozier, Treasurer, suggested that, per a conversation with Ron Aprahamian, Personnel chair, any housing support offered to the new pastor not be allocated to that person in one lump sum, but rather parceled out, perhaps on a monthly basis, so that Endowment Funds could continue making interest and be able to be counted as liquid assets in the Endowment. This idea will be undertaken by the Endowment Trustees when the time comes.

Although there is a separate line item (Acct 009006) for office continuing education, it was agreed to leave the senior pastor continuing education request separate from that and a part of the senior pastor package for the time being.

### *Music Ministry*

As CJ Redden-Liotta serves as both Music Director and Office Manager, his salary and benefits are combined on line 006001 for the purposes of receiving only one pay check. The delineation is \$32,000 for Music Director and \$20,000 for Office Manager. Lee Curtis moved, and it was seconded, to accept the requested budget for the Music Arts Team without further discussion.

CJ noted that he has spent almost \$11,000 in restricted funds to fund the church's music ministry this year. This was mostly to pay for singers and instrumentalists. It is unknown whether or not we will have this level of restricted giving to this ministry. It was noted that it would be better if all giving was to the General Fund rather to certain restricted areas, particularly if giving to

particulars negatively affected General Fund giving. (In this particular circumstance, CJ was able to report that General Fund giving had not been affected.)

#### *Education / Adult Division*

There was some discussion regarding funding of the Young Adult Ministry which pays part of the facilitator's salary, while only 3 members of our church are involved. Several Council members noted that it was our only ministry to this age group and one place any new members of this age could plug in. This item was, therefore, left in the budget. It was suggested that perhaps this could be funded out of Missions, but this would need to be taken up with that committee.

#### *Outreach Ministry*

Rob Ruth indicated that he felt Church Hostess and Recreation Committee (which is currently not functioning) should not be grouped into the Outreach Ministry. No action was taken on this recommendation.

After much discussion the budget for Community Outreach was settled at \$12,500, slightly higher than originally requested. Council members affirmed the need for a good Outreach program by voting for the higher dollar amount. When asked, Pastor in the Interim, Randy Ashcraft said that we had made great strides in the past couple of years and that we should build on the relationships made. Mike Pauley, also a member of the Outreach Committee, indicated that the committee was working on ways to appeal to adults as well as children.

#### *Budget Conclusion*

After 4 hours of discussion (not all items of discussion have been included in the above notes) and fine tuning several budget line items, the Council came to a consensus on a budget of \$798,000.00. (It is a forgone conclusion that this figure will change before the business meeting at which the budget is voted upon.)

However, the budget has a shortfall of \$132,352.00. James Collins, chair of Financial Admin said that he would be working with the Endowment Fund trustees to find the best and most efficient and effective way of using some of those funds to supplement revenues this year; and would bring this to the congregation at the next Business Meeting on June 29. It was affirmed that the Endowment is, in fact, the church's money and should be used to help the church out of a difficult situation, with the knowledge that this cannot go on forever and that we will need to become entirely self-sufficient without relying on the Endowment as soon as possible. James was encouraged to make sure that the entire congregation is aware of this situation and given a chance to help makeup this shortfall before the Endowment is tapped.

#### **Next Business Meeting:**

The next regularly called Business Meeting will be Sunday, June 29 after worship.

#### **Next Church Council Meeting:**

The next Council meeting was not scheduled at this time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Campbell  
Council Co-Recording Secretary