**Three Forks Baptist Association**

181st Semi Annual Meeting

Brushy Fork Baptist Church

October 26, 2021

Meeting Notes

The Three Forks Baptist Association held their Semi-Annual meeting on October 26, 2021 at Brushy Fork Baptist Church. There were a total of 45 messengers and an additional 17 guests in attendance at the meeting, with further messengers and guests joining via Facebook Live.

After music, provided by Kent Garver of Brushy Fork, David Cooper, Moderator, called the meeting to order, and thanked John Mark Brown, Brushy Fork’s pastor, and the congregation of Brushy Fork, for hosting the meeting.

Chuck Campbell, vice moderator, shared the theme and scripture for the evening. The theme for the evening was “Together With All the Saints”. The theme verse was Ephesians 3:18 “may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God’s love.”

**Agency Reports**

AppFaith Health – Larry Lawhon gave the report for AppFaith Health. This is a partnership between Appalachian Regional Healthcare, Watauga Medical Center, and local faith groups. Patients can sign release forms which allow their pastors or other faith leaders to be contacted by the chaplains regarding health information, as directed by the patient. This allows faith leaders to make visits to the patient and/or encourage congregations to be in prayer for them. AppFaith Health can also partner with churches for local community outreach projects, as well as a transportation program to assist people in getting to and from physician appointments.

Baptist Children’s Homes – Lewis Smith gave the report for Baptist Children’s Homes. He stated their thankfulness for the generosity of Southern Baptist Churches. Included in the report was a video recounting how over $105,000 was raised through Bike for Hope. Lewis also stressed that November is the annual Thanksgiving offering for BCH. The goal this year is $1.5 million. He also shared a video about a resident of Baptist Children’s Homes who was saved during her time there, and will soon be starting college.

NC Baptist Foundation – Allen Schuyler gave the report for NCBF. His report emphasized estate planning. The 2021 written report can be found in the 2021 Book of Reports.

Baptist Hospital – Brian Davis gave the report for Baptist Hospital, now Atrium Wake Forest Baptist. He emphasized the Mother’s Day offering and the Baptist Minister’s Subsidy. The full report can be found in the 2021 Book of Reports.

**Recognition of Pastors**

Wesley Smith, DOM, then recognized pastors new to the Association since the last meeting. Those pastors are Tim Dockery of Rutherwood Baptist Church and Mike McElhaney of Emmanuel. After recognition of the two new pastors, Wesley invited all pastors in attendance to stand and be recognized, in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month.

Kent Garver led the gathering in a congregational hymn.

**Agency Reports**

Baptists on Mission – Richard Brunson gave the report for Baptists on Mission. He emphasized rebuild centers, dental and health buses, and disaster relief.

Baptist Retirement Homes – Keith Dixon gave the report for Baptist Retirement Homes. He emphasized the 3.5 million spent last year in benevolent care. The full report can be found in the 2021 Book of Reports

NC Baptist Aging Ministry – Angie Gregg gave the report for Baptist Aging Ministry. She emphasized the newly developed call center and the smoke alarm ministry. The full report can be found in the 2021 Book of Reports

Regional Great Commission Catalyst Team – Steve Harris gave the report for the Regional Great Commission Catalyst Team. This is a new structure, implemented by the new Executive Director, Todd Unzicker. The purpose of this team is the bring state convention resources directly to the churches, and to help the churches with missions mobilization. Steve is the member of the team serving Western North Carolina.

IMB – Lisa Taylor gave the report for the International Missions Board. Lisa is a Boone native who is serving in Peru. She emphasized the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative program, and how these initiatives fund international missionaries.

Southeastern – Chris Thompson gave the report for Southeastern Seminary. He emphasized how the seminary is benefitted by Cooperative Program donations, and how churches can partner with Southeastern to provide education within the local church, and free courses offered by the Seminary.

Moderator David Cooper remarked that it was good to be able to take a look at what we are all able to do together through the Association and State Convention, and that we should all be encouraged by the cooperation.

**Association Reports**

Darrell Hobbs, Finance Team Chair, gave the Treasurers and Finance reports. The Association currently has $117,635.37 in checking and $10,387.65 in reserve.

The proposed budget for 2022 was presented and was approved by a show of hands.

Darrell informed the gathering that there would be a new process in place for developing the 2023 budget. Instead of the finance team determining the budget, each working team will request the amount they feel they will need to accomplish their goals for the year. The finance team will then develop the budget based on those requests. It was also noted that as an association whose income is based solely on donations, that we do not spend according to the budget, but according to receipts, and that adjustments might need to be made to any approved budget if donation amounts did not cover the budget.

Ben Bolick, Administrative Team Chair, presented the nominating report for the 2022 teams. It was noted that in addition to the three-person team structure that is currently being used, an alternative position had been added for each team. This alternate would not be an active member of the team, and would only begin serving if an active member had to leave the team for any reason. It was also noted that three of the alternate positions were still vacant, as well as an active position on the finance team. The report was passed with a show of hands, along with approval for the Administrative Team to fill the vacant positions without further voting by the Association at large.

George Wright, Mission Team member, presented the Mission Team report. He let those gathered know that backpacks and Bibles were available for those who wanted to take them for Appalachian Christmas Outreach. He also asked the churches to let the Association know what mission opportunities they were involved in, particularly if they were willing to let others join them.

Wesley Smith gave the Church Strengthening Report. The Church Strengthening team has not met in person for the past year, but they did make funds available to any pastor who wished to attend the Disciple Making Conference. There have also been two student conferences this past year, and another is being planned for next Spring.

Wesley Smith also gave the Directors Report. He highlighted the fact that we are reconnecting as an Association. He also encouraged churches to let the Association know they would like the Association to facilitate working together within the church clusters. He also reported that the Pastor conferences and Bill Warren Prayer Time have been meeting at the Associational office, and he hopes that these continue to grow.

Copies of all Associational reports can be found in the 2021 Book of Reports.

After a time of music, Wesley gave the sermon for the evening on the text from Ephesians 3:18, emphasizing the importance of unity.

David Cooper thanked the Association for their attendance at the meeting, and announced that the date of the Spring 2022 meeting will be April 16. The meeting will be held at Watauga High School, with a Special presentation from Phil Neighbors and music by Chosen Road. The theme for the meeting will be “A Light on the Mountain: Celebrating God’s Blessings since 1790.”