

Three Forks Baptist Association

Semi-Annual Meeting

October 16, 2018

Minutes

The Three Forks Baptist Association held their 179th Semi Annual meeting on October 16, 2018 at Cove Creek Baptist Church.

1. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Bud Russell, moderator.
2. The report on the organization of the body was given by Mrs. Jennifer Waldorf, Association clerk. There were 73 messengers and 7 guests in attendance, representing 24 churches.
3. The Treasurer's report was given by Mrs. Pat Dalton, Treasurer. See attached.
4. The Finance Committee Report was given by Mrs. Pat Dalton. See attached. Pat also presented the proposed 2019 budget to the Association. The proposed budget had previously been presented to and approved by the Executive Board of the Association. The proposed budget was submitted for a vote, and was passed by a unanimous voice vote.
5. Mrs. Ellen Norris gave the report for the Committee on Committees and the Nominating Committee. See attached. This report had previously been presented to and approved by the Executive Board of the Association. The Committee on Committees and Nominating Committee report was submitted for a vote, and was passed by a unanimous voice vote.
6. Rev. Garland Honeycutt, Director of Missions, gave the DOM report. See attached
7. Mrs. Jackie Lawrence gave the Missions Development committee report. She highlighted the successful Impact Watauga that was held in September with 9 churches participating in multiple projects. She also reminded that the Appalachian Christmas Outreach Backpack project was still upcoming this year. The Associational goal is to collect 500 backpacks to be distributed in the Appalachian Coalfields regions.
8. The WMU/WINGS report was given by Mrs. Linda Sutton. Linda highlighted the changes that have occurred in WINGS this year, including a new mission and vision statement. Upcoming missions opportunities through WINGS include: Red Box for prison ministry, Nursing Home Christmas gifts through the churches, World Day of Prayer on November 4, and the Pastor and Spouse Christmas meal on December 1 at Mt. Calvary.

9. Mrs. Denise Critcher gave the report for Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. Mrs. Critcher highlighted the fact that 203 decisions for Christ were made through Baptist Children's Homes last year, and that 80% of the children who come through 21 communities of the Children's Homes are unchurched. She mentioned three ways people can help Baptist Children's Homes: through prayer, especially during the BCH week of prayer November 11-18; giving, including the upcoming Thanksgiving offering; and by working with Friends of Children at the individual homes. She particularly mentioned Kennedy Home, which has experienced severe hurricane damage twice in the last two years.
10. Mr. Chris Hughes gave the report for the Baptist State Convention. He thanked the churches for their giving to the Cooperative Program. Ways in which cooperative program money is used include: Immigration ministry centers, campus ministries, new church plants in areas which are considered to be pockets of lostness, evangelism training, including a representative from the State Convention coming to our area in 2019 to train people to share the Gospel using the "three circles" method, disaster relief, particularly in light of the recent destruction from Hurricane Florence, and Baptist Children's Homes.
11. The Association broke into groups for a season of prayer for our churches, for lostness, for our community as a whole, and for communities of faith in our area.
12. Mrs. Brittany Norris led in a time of special music and hymns.
13. Rev. Peter Vandenberg brought the annual message on the topic of sin.
14. The meeting was dismissed in prayer by Rev. David Cooper, vice moderator.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Proposed Budget
January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Church Strengthening Team	\$5,000.00
Missions Team	\$5,000.00
Administrative Team	
- Speakers Honorarium	500.00
- Office Supplies	2,500.00
- Equipment Maintenance	500.00
- Property Insurance	3,000.00
- Utilities	11,500.00
- Building and Grounds	5,500.00
- Postage and Delivery	1,500.00
- New Equipment	1,500.00
- Dues and Meeting Expenses	1,500.00
- Bookkeeping and Review	1,500.00
- Copier	5,000.00
- Miscellaneous Expenses	100.00
- Emergency Reserve Fund	1,800.00
Payroll and Personnel	
- Missionary Salary	37,600.00
- Missionary Housing	13,000.00
- Missionary Insurance	3,000.00
- Missionary Annuity	2,500.00
- Missionary Expense	2,000.00
- Office Manager Salary	18,200.00
- Office Manager Expense	200.00
- Office Manager Appreciation	300.00
- Social Security	5,300.00
Ministry Partnerships	
- WINGS	1,500.00
Total	\$130,000.00

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Church Contributions
January 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018

Beech Valley	127.00
Bethel	4,724.32
Blowing Rock, First	2,166.68
Boone, First	2,333.34
Brushy Fork	2,799.85
Clark's Creek	1,871.43
Cool Springs	0
Cove Creek	964.00
Emmanuel	2,650.00
Greenway	3,139.32
Howard's Creek	385.85
Laurel Fork	3,468.00
Laurel Springs	5,843.05
Mabel	0
Meat Camp	2,330.00
Middle Fork	882.05
Mount Calvary	2,839.97
Mount Vernon	22,764.00
Oak Grove	1,022.00
Perkinsville	9,999.97
Pleasant Grove	1,800.00
Poplar Grove	2,924.60
Proffitt's Grove	900.00
Rich Mountain	0
Rutherwood	5,371.51
Shepherd's Heart	911.00
Shull's Mills	220.50
South Fork	1,644.00
Stony Fork	2,244.00
Tabernacle	1,442.00
Three Forks	932.80
Union	7,506.64
Willow Valley	0
Willow Dale	689.51
Zion Hill	<u>1,055.00</u>
TOTAL CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS	97,952.39

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AND
NOMINATING COMMITTEE JOINT REPORT
Associational Officers and Teams
January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019**

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Moderator _____ Seth Norris (Perkinsville)
Vice-Moderator _____ Travis Suits (Laurel Springs)
Treasurer _____ Pat Dalton (Poplar Grove)
Clerk _____ Jennifer Waldorf (Mount Vernon)
Administrative Team Chair _____ Ben Bolick (Three Forks)
Church Strengthening Team Chair _____ David Cooper (South Fork)
Finance Team Chair _____ Jeffrey Younce (Bethel)
Missions Team Chair _____ Jackie Lawrence (Pleasant Grove)

Boone CC Representative _____ Chuck Campbell (Poplar Grove)
Boone CC Representative _____ Nancy Williams (Boone)
Northern CC Representative _____ Dianne Brown (Howard's Creek)
Northern CC Representative _____ Gary Watson (Tabernacle)
Parkway CC Representative _____ Peter Vandenberg (Rutherfordwood)
Parkway CC Representative _____ Philip Woodring (Stony Fork)
Western CC Representative _____ Mike Smith (Union)
Western CC Representative _____ Mike Grover (Cove Creek)

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Ellen Norris (South Fork) _____ term expiring in 2021
Lowell Younce (Union) _____ term expiring in 2022
Ben Bolick (Three Forks) _____ term expiring in 2023

CHURCH STRENGTHENING TEAM

Rusty Guenther (Blowing Rock) _____ term expiring in 2021
John Mark Brown (Brushy Fork) _____ term expiring in 2022
David Cooper (South Fork) _____ term expiring in 2023

FINANCE TEAM

Darrel Hobbs (Greenway) _____ term expiring in 2021
Leta Council (Mount Vernon) _____ term expiring in 2022
Jeffrey Younce (Bethel) _____ term expiring in 2023

MISSIONS TEAM

George Wright (Mount Calvary) _____ term expiring in 2021
Chris Hughes (Mount Vernon) _____ term expiring in 2022
Jackie Lawrence (Pleasant Grove) _____ term expiring in 2023

EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARY REPORT
2018 Fall Semi-Annual Meeting
Tuesday, October 16, 2018

“Preparation.” That is the word that most accurately describes what’s been happening within the Three Forks Baptist Association during the year 2018.

Organizational Preparation

At the beginning of the year, the association’s executive board launched a bylaws task force, tasked with taking a critical look at our organization structure and government documents, as they sought to answer the question “how can our association more effectively fulfill its mission of equipping churches to fulfill the Great Commission?” Upon the completion of its assignment, the task force offered its recommendations to the executive board at its February meeting. These recommendations included a complete overhaul and streamlining of our organizational structure. The board approved the recommendations, which were later presented and approved by the churches during our Spring Semi-Annual Meeting held with Mount Vernon Baptist Church. By adopting these recommendations at the Spring Meeting, our churches have prepared the way for maximizing our effectiveness as an association. The new organizational structure, along with new leadership, will take effect January 1, 2019.

Equipping Preparation

As part of the new structure, the association will launch a Church Strengthening Team – tasked with bringing churches together for mutual resourcing, fellowship, training, and encouragement. In preparation for this task of equipping our churches, the association partnered with the Baptist State Convention of NC to facilitate an “Associational Assessment” earlier in March. The Associational Council reviewed the analysis of the assessment findings with convention personnel and discovered that the greatest need among our churches is leadership development. A strong emphasis on leadership development for pastors and key lay leaders will be the focus the association in 2019. The Church Strengthening Team will coordinate and lead these equipping efforts.

Mobilizing Preparation

An additional initiative of the new structure is the launching of a Missions Team – tasked with mobilizing churches for mission and ministry in the local region and beyond. The establishment of this team will prepare our churches to focus on and develop mission engagement opportunities for every church within our fellowship. The Missions Team will work to mobilize churches to engage missions locally, regionally, continentally, and globally. In 2019, this team will work alongside of our Church Mobilization Catalyst to mobilize churches to engage pockets of lostness in the High Country (Vilas, Foscoe, Banner Elk, and Boone). In addition to local opportunities, priorities will be established for regional, continental, and global missions.

The question may be asked, “preparation for what? What are we preparing for? Why have we spent so much time this year making these various preparations?”

The answer to that question is quite simple – our future together! I believe that God wants to do great things among and through this association of churches. Furthermore, I believe that by taking the time to intentionally make preparations in the present, God will reward those efforts in the future. I believe that by making preparations to maximize our effectiveness, we will become a strong resource for equipping churches to fulfill the Great Commission!

In addition to making these strategic preparations, the Three Forks Association was able to accomplish the following initiatives in 2018:

- Contracting with a Church Mobilization Catalyst
- Vilas Pocket of Lostness strategy and prayer meetings
- Monthly Pastors Prayer Gatherings
- Summer Vision Luncheons
- Impact Watauga 2018
- Transitional Pastor Training
- Church Revitalization Learning Community

Our association has also walked alongside of our ministry partners, Baptist Campus Ministry of the High Country (BCMHC) and the Christian Outreach Center (COC), during their respective seasons of transition. The dissolution of BCMHC prepares the way for more churches to engage Appalachian State University and other collegiate campuses across the High Country. The COC continues to regularly meet the needs of the food insecure across Watauga County, while the COC task force works to prepare and chart its future. Thank you, churches, for your prayers and support for these ministries!

I could not be more excited about the preparations we've made in 2018. And I am even more excited about the future God has in store for us in 2019 and beyond.

It is a joy to serve alongside of you, as we seek to advance the gospel and the Kingdom, in the mountains and across the globe!

Garland H. Honeycutt
Director of Missions
Three Forks Baptist Association

CHURCH MOBILIZATION CATALYST REPORT
2018 Fall Semi-Annual Meeting
Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Hello there Three Forks Association! Much has happened these past months as I have been working alongside of the Association as your Church Mobilization Catalyst. Three Forks Baptist Association exists to glorify God by serving local churches to fulfill the Great Commission and demonstrate the Great Commandment through *Connecting*, *Equipping* and *Mobilizing* our churches. And our churches have been doing just that!

Our churches are *Connecting* in the Western Watauga Cluster to pray and seek relationship with each other. This began as an effort to pray for and engage the Pocket of Lostness that has been identified in this area as a network of churches. These connecting opportunities will soon be available for our Boone and Foscoe/Banner Elk churches as we seek to find ways to help those churches also pray for and engage the Pockets of Lostness in their areas. Our churches have connected in other ways too. Perkinsville has connected to Shull's Mill and Valley Haven (Avery County) to offer encouragement to those sister churches. Laurel Springs has also connected to Rutherwood and worked with her on the Impact Watauga outreach we had this past summer.

Our churches are *Equipping* by being a part of a training in the 3 Circles evangelism tool, the 4-1-1 discipleship tool and other #NoPlaceLeft initiatives. These churches include Willowdale, Greenway, Perkinsville, Mount Vernon, Three Forks with others scheduled to soon have this kind of training such as Howard's Creek. Spiritual Gift training is available too, which Rutherwood is planning to implement in 2019. Finally, our churches are equipping their lay leadership by meeting as a part of the Residency Church weekly hosted by Perkinsville. The Residency Church is a part of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's EQUIP Network providing seminary hours for its training. Open enrollment begins in January.

Our churches are *Mobilizing* for the sake of the Gospel. One such way is the Impact Watauga outreach. We had nine churches participate in this effort connecting with their community in unique ways. These ways included door to door outreaches, sending mail outs, painting Parkway School, wood cutting, visiting Joy Cove, and providing food for the Impact Watauga Picnic among others. We are so thankful for all those who could participate in Impact Watauga and for all our Three Forks Associational Churches! This is but one-way churches are mobilizing. Our churches are also working with local and regional church planters to continue push back the darkness. Another mobilization effort is the Association's Church Planting connection in Aviemore, Scotland. This year members from Perkinsville, Mount Vernon and even a church in east Tennessee will join in this effort.

Thank you all for allowing me to participate with you as your Church Mobilization Catalyst *Connecting*, *Equipping* and *Mobilizing* you all for Kingdom work! Please contact me if you or your church would like more information on any of the above: travis@3dorksassoc.org.