

Carmel Baptist Church Annual Church Meeting, May 18, 2022, 6:30 pm in the Worship Center

Moderator Chris Thomas called the Annual Church Meeting of Carmel Baptist Church to order at 6:32pm. He explained that Committee Reports would be presented, the floor would be opened for questions and then any new business. Mr. Thomas explained that the vote on Motions presented would be postponed until Sunday services on May 22, 2022, when the church body could vote both in person and online. Votes will be tallied after 5pm on May 22nd.

Pastor David Bass began the meeting with welcome and prayer. Pastor Bass thanked attendees and those who had volunteered in various roles of leadership throughout the last year.

Minutes from the last annual church meeting held on May 19, 2021, and the last special called meeting held on October 27, 2021, were summarized. No additions or corrections were made, and the minutes were made part of the record by unanimous consent. *

The Family Ministry Report was presented. Per the 2016 Bylaws change, there is no vote to approve new members. Since the last business meeting (May 19, 2021):

- 16 members passed away
- 64 members were removed (including those leaving for church plants)
- 64 baptisms
- 118 members were added
- 70 (approximately) are in process of church membership

Pastor Alex Kennedy was called to address removal from membership under Article 3, §§ 1 and 6 of the Bylaws. Two members were removed from membership under those Articles, and the Carmel Position Papers section on Marriage (p.3).

Elder Selection Committee:

Pastor Alex presented a Motion on behalf of the Elder Selection Committee. Nominations were made for Godly men to join the Elder Leadership Team. The Committee prays and fast for the election of Elders.

Motion: The Elder Selection committee moves that the following actions be taken for the Elder Leadership team: that Porter Speakman and Pete Mallowney be approved to serve four year terms, and that David Bass, David Dixon and Justin Taylor be approved for two year terms.

Mr. Thomas explained that the Motion comes from Committee and does not require a second. He opened the floor for discussion. Receiving no discussion, Mr. Thomas called for a vote and the Motion was approved. *

* Mr. Thomas acknowledged that no votes were to be taken at the meeting and asked that any votes called for during this meeting (including but not limited to the vote on the approval of the Minutes from the prior meeting and the Motion presented by the Elder Selection Committee), be disregarded.

Deacon Selection Committee:

Matt McDermid, Chair, was called to address deacon nominations. The following Motion was presented:

Motion: The Deacon Selection Committee moves that the church affirm the following men to serve on the deacon fellowship for three year terms: Matt Dye, Josh Fox, Jeff Higgins, Ron Johnson, Kevin Mosteller, Austin Murray, Clay Porter, Chris Schoderbek, Rock Schulz, Ron Stalcup and Stuart Wilson.

Mr. Thomas stated no second is required as the Motion comes from Committee and he called for questions. Hearing no discussion, the vote was continued to Sunday, May 22nd.

Elder Leadership Team:

Don Hoover was called to make a Motion on behalf of the ELT.

Motion: The Elder Leadership Team moves that Bill Bazemore, Elizabeth Dockery and Lyn Blackmon be approved to serve three year terms on the Nominating and Governance Committee, and that Hema Hopper remain as chair for 2022-23 year.

Mr. Thomas stated no second is required as the Motion comes from Committee and he called for questions. Hearing no discussion, the vote was continued to Sunday, May 22nd.

Nominating & Governance Committee:

Kevin Warren presented two slides that showed existing committee members and new members to be added to each committee starting August 1, 2022. This information is also available at carmelleader.org. Mr. Warren thanked those committee members that serve so well.

Motion: The Nominating & Governance Committee moves that the new committee members, committee chairs and presiding officers be elected to serve on their respective committees for the term indicated.

Mr. Thomas stated no second is required as the Motion comes from Committee and he called for questions.

Q: On the Personnel and Property Committees, why are there uneven numbers of committee members with different incoming classes?

Mr. Warren stated that only the vacancies are filled. Not all committees need the same number of members, and the purpose is to make sure there are enough members in those positions.

Hearing no more questions, Mr. Thomas continued the vote to Sunday, May 22nd.

Elder Leadership Team:

Don Hoover stated that the ELT has discerned that a few existing committees no longer fulfill their purpose. The ELT recommended dissolving one committee (to free up its members for other areas of service) and moving one committee to a ministry team (to clarify the mission and objectives of its members).

Pastor Bass was called to explain the reasons for these proposed changes:

1. The Property and Asset Committee – the Church has a full-time facilities team and a committee is no longer needed. The Bylaws will need to be updated to reflect this change; and
2. WEE School Committee – the WEE School has restructured its leadership with two division directors (Alexis Sholley and Missy Stiokas), with one pastoral supervisor, Patrick McCrory. The WEE School Committee does not need to be involved in the running of the school but should be a ministry team with a focus on engaging WEE School families. The precedent for taking this action is with the ministry team that became the GO team.

Pastor Bass presented slides to show the proposed changes to the Bylaws in Article 4, § 6, para. 2 (Committees), and Article 6 (Carmel Christian School). Pastor Bass read the handout that included the proposed redlined changes to the Bylaws under these Articles. The proposed changes included removal of any reference to the Property and Asset Committee and the WEE School Committee under Article 4, § 6, para. 2. The proposed changes further removed any reference to the WEE School Committee, the WEE School Head of School, and the “Carmel Christian School ministries.”

Pastor Bass explained that any Motion to amend the Bylaws must go to the Nominating and Governance Committee for review and will then come back to the congregation for a vote at the next church meeting. Until that time, the Property and Asset Management Committee and the WEE School Committee will continue to function.

Don Hoover presented these Motions:

Motion 1: The Elder Leadership Team moves that the Property and Asset Management Committee be dissolved and that article IV of Carmel’s bylaws be updated to reflect that change.

Mr. Thomas opened the floor for discussion:

Q: How will changes in assets be made in the absence of a Property and Asset Management Committee?

Pastor Bass stated that he and Tim Wishon meet with the facilities team and no single person has authority to make decisions regarding the Church’s property. To the extent money is spent, oversight is required.

Mr. Thomas further stated that authority exists to create *ad hoc* committees to handle particular needs that may arise.

Motion 2: The Elder Leadership Team moves that the WEE School Committee transition to a Ministry Team and that articles IV and VI of Carmel's bylaws be updated to reflect that change.

Mr. Thomas called for questions. Hearing no questions, he stated that any Motions requiring Bylaw changes are tabled and go to the N&G Committee to review for consistency. That review will be reported to the ELT, at which time the Motions will be brought back before the Church at the next annual meeting or special called meeting.

Finance Committee:

Henry Siler, Vice Chair, stated that the Church has a nice surplus as no debt service payments or payments to Operations and Sinking Fund were made during Covid-19 due to unknown impact. The following questions were raised:

Q: What is the Operating and Sinking Fund?

Mr. Siler stated this fund keeps the building up and running and provides for upkeep to items such as the air conditioning.

Q: What is the total debt amount?

Approx. \$7M

Q: What is the projected date of payoff?

2029

Motion 1: The Finance Committee moves that the first \$500,000 of any surplus for the 2021-2022 fiscal year be assigned to the Operations Sinking Fund and the remaining amount to be paid toward the loan with South state Bank. Should the surplus exceed \$1,000,000 then one-half would be assigned to the Operations Sinking Fund and one-half paid toward the loan with South State Bank.

Mr. Thomas stated no second is required as the Motion comes from Committee and he called for further questions.

Q: What is the rate on the loan?

3.25%

Q: Can you please repeat again the amount of the current debt and the projected date we will be debt-free?

We have two types of debt: 1) What we owe South State Bank; and 2) what we owe ourselves. Current total debt is approx. \$7M and projected payoff of debt owed to us and to South State Bank is 2029.

Mr. Thomas continued the vote on the Motion to Sunday, May 22nd.

Mr. Siler presented the Budget for Carmel Christian School. The revenue for 2022-23 is \$14,629,100 which is a 4.2% increase from 2021-22. The tuition was increased to account for the salary increases.

Q: What is the tuition for CCS for 2022-23?

Kindergarten - \$10,400
Lower School - \$11,850
Middle School - \$14,200
Upper School - \$15,500

Mr. Siler stated the projected income for the Church for 2022-23 is \$10,445,000, which is mostly comprised of tithes and offerings (in the amount of \$8,850,000). This represents a 6.6% increase from 2021-22.

Motion 2: The Budget Preparation Committee makes the motion that the Church approve a budget of \$27,522,165 for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Mr. Thomas opened the floor for discussion. Hearing no questions, the vote on the Motion was continued to Sunday, May 22nd.

Mr. Thomas stated that the Property Committee had nothing to report. Reports for the following committees can be found online at carmelleader.org:

Go Team
Carmel Christian School Board
Nominating & Governance Committee
Carmel Education Foundation
Personnel Committee
Audit Committee
WEE School Committee
Deacon Fellowship

Mr. Thomas opened the floor for additional questions and any new business.

Q: How many baptisms from the past year represent children and how many represent adults?

Tim Wishon and Brad Ferguson did not have those breakdowns at this time but stated they would get those numbers.

Q: What is driving the increase in expenses in the worship expense category?

The Church has started recording the songs that Justin Taylor writes and that the congregation sings so that the congregation can access and learn them. This represents a \$20,000 increase in expenses.

Hearing no more questions, Mr. Thomas continued the meeting Sunday, May 22nd where votes will be made by paper ballot and online until 5pm. Votes will be tallied after 5pm on Sunday, May 22nd.

Pastor Bass was called to dismiss. He thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded the congregation that Sunday, May 22nd was also Celebration Sunday.

Pastor Bass closed in prayer at 7:21pm.

May 22, 2022:

The MOTIONS presented on May 18, 2022 at the Annual Church Meeting were presented for a vote on Sunday, May 22, 2022. All MOTIONS passed with the following vote tally:

For	Against	
23	93.93	
2	%	15 6.07% Minutes
24	99.60	
6	%	1 0.40% Nominating & Governance
24	99.19	
5	%	2 0.81% Elder Selection Committee
24	99.19	
5	%	2 0.81% Elder Leadership Team
		Deacon Selection
24	99.19	
5	%	2 0.81% Committee
24	99.19	
5	%	2 0.81% Finance Committee
24	99.19	
5	%	2 0.81% Budget Prep Committee

Respectfully Submitted,

Haley Mathews Jonas, Church Clerk