

JBA General Board Minutes

January 30, 2020

The meeting was brought to order by Rev. Steve Roy, the JBA Moderator. Pastor Steve shared some thoughts from Colossians 1:24-29 on the supremacy of Christ and his centrality to our faith. These verses are clear that as believers, since we belong to Jesus, we will suffer. We should expect suffering as part of the body of Christ because he suffered as well. And, as we live and minister as Christ did, we can have joy in the midst of these season of suffering.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Associational Secretary, Tonya Grice. The minutes were approved.

Old Business

The Jobs for Life training event that was postponed last fall began in January with three students and mentors. The goal of the program is to help the under/unemployed find suitable jobs.

Associational Missionary Report

Dr. Kelton Hinton updated on the multi-housing and missional communities across the Association. We have identified seven pockets of lostness within the county and 67% of those people are unchurched. There is a huge opportunity for the local churches to reach them.

The southern region Pastor's Network has been meeting for a while now. The pastors are enjoying the fellowship and encouragement the group provides. With idea sharing, many of the participating pastors are trying new ministries in their communities.

JCC Campus Ministries is going well. There is a need for a new Bible Study at the Clayton Campus with the BioTech class. Also, a new International study group is forming. We continue to receive support for meals from our local women's groups. We are appreciative of the many years of their support.

Pastors and their spouses are invited to attend this year's Christmas Party on Dec. 6th at Stevens Chapel in Smithfield.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of our JBA Treasurer Shirley Pike, we reviewed the proposed budget for 2019-2020 that will be presented at the Fall Meeting. No discussion.

Senior Adult Report

The Fall Senior Adult Rally was held Sept. 10th at Princeton Baptist and went very well. Hocutt has accepted an invitation to host the Spring Rally next year. More info will be coming soon.

Associational Council Report

The Council heard from Pastor Jason Brulet who will be planting a church in the Flowers Community this coming January. Jason has been sent out from Hephzibah Baptist in Wendell. They will be meeting at The Farm on Hwy 42. Shine Community Church has a vision to network with and alongside the existing JBA churches in the area to reach the lost in their community. The Council will be presenting Jason and requesting that we formally work with him.

Missions Development

Jason presented to the Board the new church plant, Shine Community Church. After encouraging discussion from the members present, a motion was made to recognize them into the JBA fellowship. It was seconded and approved.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed in prayer and adjourned.

Associational Missions Strategist Report to the JBA General Board

(January 30, 2020)

Fellowship Opportunities offered this last quarter

- Southern Regional Pastor's Meetings (1st Tuesday of each month)
- JBA Pastor's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday of each month)
- Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer (11/4/19) at Carter's Chapel
- Pastors & Wives Christmas Banquet (12/6/18) Steven's Chapel Baptist

Upcoming this quarter:

- Southern Regional Pastor's Meetings (1st Tuesday of each month)
- Northern Regional Pastor's Meeting (2nd Tuesday of each month)
- JBA Pastor's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday of each month)
- Pastors/Deacons & Spouses Banquet (3/20/20) --(JoCo Ag Bldg)
- "Bi-Vocational Retreat" (4/3-4) –Caraway
- JBA Senior Adult Rally (4/28/20) – Hocutt Baptist Church

Leadership Development and Training Opportunities offered this last quarter

- "Moving Members into Active Service" (Oct Pastor's Conf.)
- "Background Checks are NOT Enough!" (Cheryl Markland) (Nov Pastor's Conf.)

Upcoming this quarter:

- "Worship Ministry in the Smaller Membership Church" (Kenny Lamm) (1/21) (Jan Pastor's Conf.)
- "NCBAM—Call Center Pilot Program" (1/27)
- "Creating a Missional Movement" (Mike Shipman) (2/18) (Feb Pastor's Fellowship)
- Potential & New Associational Missions Strategist Training (2/20-21) at Cary
- "New Minister Orientation" (Mar 3) at Cary
- JBA-WMU Mitchiner Scholarship Deadline (Mar 15)
- "Church Financial Seminar: Financial & Tax Workshop" (Mar. 23) in Greensboro
- "Aging Well Conf." (Mar. 31) Rose Hill

Missions Opportunities this last quarter

- Yam/Jam (month of Oct.)
- Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes (Nov)
- Appalachian Christmas Outreach (Nov/Dec)
- JCC Campus Outreach (monthly meals & 50 Exam Care Packages)

Upcoming this quarter:

- Jobs For Life (Jan-Mar) at JBA office
- Crisis Pregnancy Outreach Center (January)
- "Pray Together. Go Together." (Feb. 8) at Hocutt Baptist
- Regional NC Missions Rally (Feb 17) Woodland Baptist, Wake Forest
- Operation Inasmuch/Rampin' Up! (April 25 & May 2)
- JCC Campus Outreach --monthly meals & Exam Care Packages)
- Baptist Children's Homes supplies gathered (Target: April 6-7)
- Truckstop Ministry (Petro)
- Flea Market Ministry (South Smithfield)

State of the Association

MANY good things are happening in our churches...

- 17 out of 42 churches reporting **(40%) grew in worship attendance** by 2% or more in 2019 over 2018! (This ties last year's record)
- 19 out of 41 churches reporting **(46%) grew in worship attendance** by 10% or more over the last five years. (This is our highest percentage ever recorded!) (This compares to state averages of only 10-15% of churches growing.)
- Overall, worship attendance (8,705 est.) decreased just lightly over last year's all-time record of 8,784.

Some "challenges" still facing our churches...

- Unfortunately, still 21 out of 42 churches reporting **(50%) declined in worship attendance** by 2% or more in 2019 over 2018. However, only 14 out of 41 churches reporting (34%) declined in worship attendance by 10% or more over the last five years, even better than the 36% declining churches in 2018!

Revisioning Process Continues

As you know, I am available to come alongside of our declining churches (during the interim period) to help them try to understand their context and their history in the hopes that a future turnaround can be realized. I have completed the **Revisioning Process** with twenty congregations so far. On average, the six-month process will give a 2-4 year "bump" in attendance for the church as they seek out and call their next pastor. Depending upon his skill set, the church may continue its new growth trajectory or it will fall back into old patterns of behavior and resulting declines in attendance. Globally, 60% of the churches going through the Revisioning Process will make a long-term turnaround.

JBA Sponsors Central NC Bi-Vocational Pastors and Spouses Conference at Caraway (April 3-4) This is our third time to put together this state-wide event targeting the needs of our many bi-vocational pastors (40% of our JBA Pastors!)

JCC Campus Ministry

Last school year (2018-19), we had one of our largest enrollments ever with 245 JCC students active in a weekly Bible study group. We are still the largest Campus Ministry on any "commuter campus" in North Carolina! Yeah! Go God! We have had tremendous support from both the administration, faculty and staff as well as our local churches.

This current school year has been strong with several **professions of faith recorded!** We were also able to add a new Bible study group among the Cosmetology students (led by Cecelia Hicks from Hephzibah Baptist).

Currently:

We have on-going weekly Bible Studies with: **Faculty & Staff** (Kelton Hinton leading a group of 8-10 with help from pastor Thomas Collins of Trinity), **General College** students (Kelton and Thomas Collins, pastor at Trinity). **BLET cadets** (Rev. Lee Smith, Assoc. Pastor at Shiloh Baptist), **Truck Driver Trainees** (Blair Maust from Smithfield FBC), **Cosmetology** (Cecelia

Hicks, Hephzibah Baptist), **1st year Nursing students** (position vacant), and **Early College** (position vacant).

Current needs: We are needing a **woman** to come and help lead some women's groups on the main campus. We also need an **active or retired nurse** to come and lead a Bible study for the 1st & 2nd year nursing students. We need a **woman** to lead out in a Bible study for **Hispanic Cosmetologists**. We also need someone from the **Bio-Tech industry** to lead a Bible study at the Workforce Development Center in Clayton.

Truck Stop Ministry

Currently: 5 guys rotating at **Petro's** (formerly TA's) in Kenly. Every Sunday morning at 9am.

Flea Market Ministry

Don Dewberry leading out in preaching every Sunday morning at 8:30am. Sunday School for children being provided by various volunteers from Smithfield First Baptist on Saturday mornings. Would like to expand to a second Flea Market.

GALOT Motorsports Park (formerly the Dunn-Benson Dragstrip)

Still looking for more churches to come on board with this fantastic opportunity for outreach in southern JoCo! Godspeed Ministries has formed and is ministering on site to the drivers and their families.

A "mixed bag" in Church Planting this year

This last year has been exciting as well as disappointing in the area of church planting. Our very newest church plant is "Shine Community Church" sponsored by Hephzibah Baptist in Wendell. They launched a couple of week ago with over 300 in attendance!

Unfortunately, one of the local satellite churches off of **The Point Church** out of Apex, led by Sam Frye, folded as he left to join a sister church plant in Clayton called "Revolution!" (sponsored by Garner FBC).

Our church plant targeting the **Filipinos** living among us is still on a temporary hold as they possibly expand their target group to include all Asians in the area. Noel deAsis is currently bouncing from Clayton to Selma to Princeton with their home meetings as they get organized.

Our other new church plants, "**Casa de Cristo**" near Newton Grove, "**LifeSpring Community Church**" (now in their newly renovated facility beside Papa Johns), and "**Iglesia Bautista de Selma**" currently meeting in the facilities of Selma Baptist, are all progressing well and gaining strength and numbers.

We are still looking for a new Hispanic church in the Pine Level, Selma, Archer's Lodge, Four Oaks and Benson areas. The Church at Clayton's Crossing is already sponsoring some outreach to the ALTA MHP in Clayton.

In addition to these new works, we have learned that we have two sites in Johnston County that have made the "Top 100" Pockets of Lostness in NC. We have organized a prayer walk in the Clayton area (POL #88) to look at how to "impact lostness" in that city. A second group is forming around the POL #92 (in the Cleveland area). Other areas that made the "Top 250" Pockets of Lostness include: Selma, Smithfield, Four Oaks, the Thanksgiving area and Sims. Our early discoveries point to the MAJOR need to begin "Multi-Housing Ministries" in our high-growth areas. In America, 57% of our population lives in one of these areas—mobile home parks, government subsidized housing, apartment complexes, townhomes, duplexes, and other high density areas that are 95% unreached by the Gospel! **Currently, 20 of our JBA churches are already ministering in 40 multi-housing sites on a regular basis!** PTL! We CELEBRATE that level of commitment to "push back the darkness" in their spheres of

influence. However, **there are still 430 apartment complexes in the county with 50+ units in them. We have a goal of establishing a “Missional Community” in each of them over the next ten years attempting to get a reproducing Gospel presence in every apartment complex in the county.** I expect many new churches will come out of these efforts at impacting lostness!

In looking closely at the high growth in Johnston County it easily explains why we have SEVEN “Pockets of Lostness” in our area! Not only are we BEHIND on our church planting, but JoCo is predicted to be the **“fastest growing county in North Carolina for the 2020-2030 decade”!** We are projected to grow 25.4% over the next ten years, adding over 50,000 new people into the county. At 1,500 people per church (our 1990 ratio), **we will need to start 100 new churches over the next ten years to catch up and keep up with all of the growth!**

JBA Churches: Pushing Back the Darkness!