

JBA General Board Minutes

June 27, 2019

JBA Moderator, Blair Maust, opened the meeting with a devotion from Matthew 28 and spoke on the Great Commission. He mentioned that Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Church*, uses these scriptures to develop five purposes of the church; which are: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and mission. How can we as individuals, churches, and an Association live out the Great commission in a way that honors God.

We welcomed Pastor James Story from Cornerstone as it was his first time attending a JBA Board Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Clerk, the Rev. Steve Grice. The minutes were approved.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

Associational Missionary Report

Dr. Kelton Hinton updated on the multi-housing and missional communities across the Association. There are churches stepping up and creating new outreaches and ministries within their church community. Outreach to students at JCC and local schools will begin shortly with feeding the teachers and prayer walking around the school campuses. The student Bible studies on the campus of JCC will resume each week once the new semester begins. The JBA will be hosting a new endeavor called "Jobs for Life" at the JBA office beginning in August through November. The initiative helps individuals who need employment or are looking to advance in the workforce. In the area of church planting, there are 42 sites that have been identified for a new church. More Spanish and "blue collar" type churches are needed in addition to a deaf ministry. Lastly, church health is always a subject we take great concern with here at the Association. We constantly learn, study, and glean as much information as we can to help our congregations be as healthy as possible. To that end, Kelton is available to meet with search committees as well as churches to help with revitalization. Pastors will also have an opportunity next spring to attend a Turnaround Pastors Bootcamp, if there are enough participants. Five of our pastors attended this event and all five of them are growing numerically. Overall, the churches in the JBA are doing well and exceeding state averages in many growth categories.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of our **JBA Treasurer Shirley Pike**, we reviewed the budget balances to date and a motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. No discussion.

WMU/Women's Ministries Report

Director Debra Worley announced the two winners of this year's Mitchiner Scholarship. They are Mailen Norman of Four Oaks First Baptist and Sarah Duncan of Watkins Chapel. Each recipient received a \$1,000 scholarship. This year, the WMU is collecting 700 containers of deodorant for the Red Box Prison ministry. World Day of Prayer is in November and they are working on the program this summer with more info coming soon.

Baptist Men

Director Rex Everhart was a huge blessing to the Association. He refurbished and painted the storage barn on the property. It looks great with a fresh coat of paint and we are grateful for his time and effort on that project.

Baptist Children's Home

Carolyn Tharrington, our representative for the NCBCCH, updated that the BCH is implementing a new foster care program through local counties. This new program will be led by Brian Baltziger. Also, this year's food drive was great with several new churches participating.

The meeting was closed in prayer and adjourned.

Associational Missionary Report to the JBA General Board

(June 27, 2019)

Fellowship Opportunities offered this last quarter

- Senior Adult Rally (4/25/19 at Watkins Chapel with Dr. Peter Burgess)
- JBA WMU Annual Mtg. (5/11/19, at Bethany Baptist Church)
- JBA Semi-Annual Mtg. (5/20/19) at Hephzibah BC

Upcoming:

- Fall Senior Adult Rally (September 10, 2019 at Princeton Baptist Church)
- JBA Annual Meeting (October 22, 2019) at Thanksgiving Baptist Church

Leadership Development and Training Opportunities offered this quarter

- JBA Pastor's Conferences (monthly)
- JBA WMU Leadership Team mtgs (quarterly)
- Church Revisioning Process (none currently)

Upcoming:

- Training Extravaganza (8/17/19 at Forest Hills Baptist in Raleigh)
- Church Revisioning Process (schedule with Associational Missionary)
- Multi-Housing Ministry/Missional Communities (schedule with A.M.)

Evangelistic/Missions Opportunities this quarter

- JCC Campus Ministries (Weekly Bible studies with seven groups on campus, 258 total students involved)
- Children's Homes Food Drive (April 8-9 at JCC)
- Rampin' Up/OIAM (April 27 & May 4)
- Truck Stop ministry at Petro's in Kenly (weekly)
- Flea Market ministry (south Smithfield) (weekly)
- Associational Missions Week of Prayer (May 19-26)
- JCC Faculty Bible Study & Prayer Walking (10:30--noon, every Wednesday 6/1-6/30)
- Evangelistic Block Party Trailer (on-going)
- Migrant Ministry (Bibles & Health Kits distributed all summer)

Upcoming:

- Migrant Ministry (Bibles & Health Kit distribution)
- Jobs For Life classes begin (8/13/19-11/26/19)
- Semester Kick-Off Campaign at JCC (8/21/19)
- Teacher Appreciation meals at local schools (August 19-23)
- Prayer Walking around local schools (8/25/18)

Some thoughts on the “State of the Association”

As you know, we are in the middle of “VBS season” and many are reporting good attendance. There are some good VBS themes this year! Fewer churches than normal have booked the Evangelistic Block Party Trailer this year to either “launch” their VBS or help in celebrating its ending. Churches are also busy heading out on summer mission trips or sending their youth to summer camp. In fact, for an inexpensive local option, the annual **JoCo Project** may be a good option for your youth group next year!

Hands-On Missions

This summer **José and Yessenia Alvarez** are again leading out in a preaching ministry to migrants (also distributing health kits and Bibles in Spanish). Thank you all for your support for this ministry! We were able to secure for them some sound equipment so they can preach in the “open air” to the migrants in the camps. Also, thank you for all the VBS teams collecting Health Kits for this important ministry. The Alvarez’s are hoping to distribute 1,000 Bibles and Health Kits this summer!

Don Dewberry continues his Sunday morning preaching ministry at the Flea Market in South Smithfield. A volunteer is needed to lead the children’s Sunday School program there on Saturday mornings.

Missions giving and missions going are two aspects of a healthy church and a healthy association. As we all know, a church that becomes in-grown gets selfish and sick and will eventually die. As of last Fall, our churches were giving an average of 12% of their undesignated offerings to mission causes which was down 1% from the previous year and 2% down from two years ago! However, 52% of our total membership was involved in hands-on mission projects at the local, county, state, national and international levels. This is up significantly from last year’s 39% for the JBA, and represents 5,391 people involved, more than a thousand more than the previous year!

Block Party Trailer

The “Evangelistic Block Party Trailer” continues to be a “hit” with our churches! It is now in its ninth “season” and all is well. We have standardized the rental price to \$250, no matter the size of the church. As a result it is being used most weekends this summer. **We have added an “air dancer” to help with advertising and a screen for showing outdoor movies** as well as a variety of games for older kids and adults. “Thank you” to Selma Baptist for being the “host site” for storing the vehicle!

JCC Campus Ministry

With the help of LOTS of people, this year’s Campus Ministry again went well! I am estimating that we had at least 258 students involved in one of our seven on-going Bible studies this past school year (4.8% of the students on campus)! Thank you to **Lee Smith, Blair Maust, Landon Orr, Cecilia Hicks** and **Thomas Collins** for making it all possible! This Fall we plan to launch a new group for Internationals and offer some missions trips over Fall and Spring Breaks.

JBA Churches: Pushing Back the Darkness!

This phrase encapsulates our JBA Vision for the next five years. As we come together as an association we will be unpacking what this vision looks like...

There are still many other opportunities for us as an association to minister here on the local level—the **JCC campus** (nursing students, bio-tech students, ESL and GED classes have yet to be reached), our Hispanic outreach (5 new sites being targeted, the four truckstops, two crisis pregnancy centers, the outreach ministry at the Flea Market in south Smithfield as well as looking at our two racetracks and three campgrounds serving our area. In addition...the Clayton area and the 40/42 area made it into the “**Top 100**” **Pockets of Lostness in NC!** (Four Oaks, Smithfield, Selma, Thanksgiving and Sims also made it into the “**Top 250**” **Pockets of Lostness!**)

In researching what our JBA churches are currently doing in the area of “**Multi-Housing Ministry,**” I have found that 19 of our churches are ALREADY ministering in 39 locations all across the county and beyond! This includes nursing homes, senior housing and rehab facilities; a home for disabled adults, orphanages, a home for unwed mothers, a rescue mission, two prisons, gov’t subsidized housing, mobile home parks, and migrant camps. Several churches are making plans to launch new initiatives in new locations this Fall.

Larry Butts, a member at Generation Church of Clayton, has agreed to help train and promote the establishment of “**Missional Communities**” throughout the county—50 in the next five years! He will be glad to come and speak to your church about this opportunity to locate a viable, reproducing Bible teaching/reaching ministry in EVERY MHP (mobile home park) and apartment complex in the county!

This Fall (Tuesday nights, Aug 13-Nov 26), the JBA office will be the “host” site for the county’s first **Jobs For Life** initiative. In this class we can take up to 10 students who are either unemployed or under-employed. However, EACH student must come to each class with a mentor/champion at their side. We have four spots reserved for Selma residents and six for students from other parts of the county. We need mentors, students, presenters, cooks, childcare workers and prayer warriors. If you can help please let me know!

Senior Adult Ministry

In addition to the wheelchair ramps that many churches installed this Spring as a part of the state-wide OIAM, you may want to consider putting in “grab bars” in the homes of our senior citizens. This one simple act will help many to have a longer, more productive life with fewer medical problems. The latest initiative for senior adults is installing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in their homes (call Sardis BC or Pleasant Grove BC for this service). We also have about 100 “red bags” for medications available for you to purchase (\$3) for distribution in your community.

More Volunteers Needed

Some “pending” ministries are still needing more volunteers to take them to the next level. One is at the **Petro Truckstop** in Kenly, they are needing one more fellow to come into their monthly rotation cycle. We need MANY more volunteers to be involved in the **JCC Campus Ministry**. We have openings leading Bible studies with the nursing students, the internationals, the bio-tech students and the ESL and GED students! We also need folk to help serve food at the weekly main campus group. Another opportunity is at the newly re-opened **Southern National Motorsports Park** and the **GALOT Motorsports Park** near Benson. We

also have a need for chaplains as our three **campgrounds** in our county that serve thousands each summer.

Church Planting

In light of the 42 sites that have been identified as needing some type of church, (and the fact that Johnston County is projected to be THE fastest growing county in NC from 2020-2030), I am happy to report that the **Spanish Mission in Clayton** is now ten years old and doing very well. They have moved to new quarters on the campus of the Church at Claytons Crossing. They are sponsoring Theological Education classes for their church leadership and are preparing to launch 15 home cell groups. The **Spanish mission** just south of **Newton Grove** is going well. They are one of our most active “mission” churches in the JBA! “**Mule City Cowboy Church**” is still going strong even with the loss of their founding pastor. They have purchased land and have put two mobile units on it. **Building 323** continues to make steady progress as they develop leaders. Unfortunately, **King’s Cross Church** has disbanded after the departure of Michael Johnson to take a church in Montana. Selma Baptist’s **new Spanish church** is doing well and continues an effective bus ministry. **LifeSpring Community Church** has moved to their own quarters (between Papa John’s and Office Max) and is progressing well as a result.

We could use a **Deaf church** in the county as well as “**blue collar**” churches in each of our towns and cities. In an attempt at “taking church to the people,” we also would like to put a double-wide in the middle of five Hispanic MHPs to serve as **ministry outreach centers** as well as establishing a “**missional community**” in the middle of every large apartment complex and gated community in the county! We are ALWAYS in need of “partner churches” to step up to the plate and work with us on developing other new church starts.

Church Health

As always, I am trying to help our churches move towards “health” in their local settings. Last year’s one-year growth numbers were some of the best we have ever seen here in the JBA: 44% growing / 15% plateaued / 41% in decline. When looking at the five-year trends of 33%/33%/33%, it is interesting to note that 37.5% of the JBA churches that have gone through the **Revisioning Process** grew over the last five years. However, only 30.4% of the NON-Revisioned JBA churches have! **It would appear the Revisioning Process continues to have a long-term positive effect on the churches that go through it during their interim period.**

This year we were unable to host a **Turnaround Pastor Bootcamp** due to lack of interest even though all five of last year’s participants experienced numerical growth in their churches! We are hoping to bring it back next Spring so get your \$500 ready to sign up!

In addition, now that I have completed our study of local pastors and their impact on church growth, I am able not only to offer training on “best practices” to our local pastors but also able to meet with Pastor Search Committees and share the findings with them in an effort to help them ask more comprehensive questions during their interview process as they seek out more “growth oriented” leaders.

On a Personal Note

Lauri and I continue to enjoy the memories we have of our recent Israel trip that many of you helped make a reality. You all are great to work with—the best association in the whole state of North Carolina!