

General Board Meeting
Sept. 23, 2021

Associational Council

The AC meeting focused on the massive growth of Johnston County. Kelton has done a lot of research about this and thoughtfully put together some ideas to respond to this influx of people. Over the last decade, this county has grown 27.9% with a projection to grow another 25.4% in the next decade. The good news is... we have opportunity to reach more people than ever with the gospel. The bad news... we will not have enough church space to assimilate them into our congregations. The other bad news... we are running out of land and the land that is available is much too expensive for a church plant. With that in mind, Kelton will be traveling to a seminar in Kansa City on "micro churches" and how that investment in the future of church fellowship may help us. We will hear more about this at our Fall meeting and future General Board Meetings.

Moderated by Rev. Steve Roy

Minutes from June read and approved.

No old business.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report was presented along with the new 2021-2022 proposed budget. The current financial budget report was approved. The proposed budget will be voted on at the Fall Semi-Annual meeting.

Associational Missions Strategist

Kelton updated the General Board members on the state of our Association. In spite of shutdowns and adapting to change, our churches are strong and resilient in the face of adversity. Many have grown and even expanded ministries to their communities. With the added growth we are seeing in our area there are more unchurched than ever in this county. In fact, 67% of Johnston County is unchurched. Kelton provided maps to help us understand the growth more clearly. More than ever, we need new churches that target specific segments of our population. We already have a biker church, Haitian church, cowboy church, and a few Hispanic outreaches. We have opportunities to reach renters, people of color, those with "hurts, habits, and hang-ups," multi-housing residents, the deaf community, blue-collar workers, and many more. Church Planting in our Association is much more than just your standard, average Baptist church. There are many in our demographic that are unreached.

In addition, our ministry efforts as an Association are almost immeasurable. We still have our Campus Ministry, will soon begin collecting filled backpacks for the Appalachian Christmas Outreach, groups are still building ramps and helping the elderly and handicapped, and many more outreaches take place within our fellowship.

WMU

The rescheduled Spring WMU meeting was held on Sept. 11 at Four Oaks First Baptist Church. Susan Stem, founder of REACH Mentoring Ministry of Johnston County was be the guest speaker and shared about her ministry to foster children and youth in our area. Also, this year's Red Box collection item for the Women's Prison will be 750 bottles of lotion. World Day of Prayer will be Nov. 1 at Pine Level Missionary.

BCH

Harold and Carolyn Tharrington updated us on the Baptist Children's Homes. If all goes well, we will hold our annual food/supply drive this Spring at JCC.

Ordination

The Ordination committee met with Richard Charles Hill, Jr. on July 22 and recommended him for Ordination into the gospel ministry. Mr. Hill attends Faith Baptist Church in Selma.

Miscellaneous Business

It was mentioned that Wake Count had received a few hundred refugees from Afghanistan and that Raleigh Baptist Association was active in helping them. Currently, RBA is helping to clothe and feed them by collecting gift cards to help them immediately. Long term needs will be jobs, affordable housing, English classes, and laptops for their children to homeschool. We will reach out to RBA and see how we can specifically help as well.