

JBA General Board Minutes

September 26, 2019

The meeting was brought to order by Rev. Bobby Richardson in the absence of Moderator Blair Maust. Bobby shared some insights from a book he was reading, "Pray Like Christ." In the book, the author made the point that we often focus on "what" Jesus prayed and miss the "when" Jesus prayed. Also, sometimes God interrupts our plans and brings people or situations into our life that need our attention.

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 planned for the fall has been postponed and will be rescheduled for January.

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 Missionary Report to the JBA General Board

(September 26, 2019)

Fellowship Opportunities offered this last quarter

- **Pastors' Conference** –(monthly) We have been looking at attracting guests, follow-up with them and assimilating them into the church.
- **Senior Adult Rally** (Sept. 10 at Princeton BC) Musician Dan Kehoe presented the musical program

Upcoming this quarter:

- **Pastors' Conference Series** on “Assimilation” of newcomers (monthly)
- **JBA Pastors & Wives Christmas Banquet** (December 6 at Steven's Chapel BC)

Leadership Development and Training Opportunities offered this quarter

- **“Safety & Security in Children's and Youth Ministry”** (July 16) at Shiloh BC
- **“Training Extravaganza”** (Aug. 17) at Forest Hills BC in Raleigh
- **“Beginning a Multi-Housing Focused Ministry”** (Sept 7) at Bethesda BC
- **“Evangelistic Block Party” training** (Sept 15) at JBA office
- **“Unity Project Conference”** (Sept 27-28) at Bethesda BC

Upcoming this quarter:

- **Church Revisioning Process** for churches in an interim situation (schedule with Associational Missionary)
- **Breakout sessions** at JBA Annual meeting (Oct 22 at Thanksgiving Baptist)
 - 5:30-6pm--
 - 6-6:30pm--

Evangelistic/Missions Opportunities this quarter

- 25 churches have used (or plan to use) the **Evangelistic Block Party Trailer a total of 33 times** this year!
- Semester **Kick-Off Campaign at JCC** reached hundreds (8/15/19)
- Fed almost 2,000 teachers & staff in **JC Schools** (8/19-23/19)
- **Prayer Walks** around Johnston County Schools involved at least ten churches (8/25/19)
- **Friends of Children Workday at Kennedy Home** (9/21/19)
- **See You at the Pole Rallies** at local schools (9/25/19)

Upcoming this quarter:

- MANY churches have booked the **EBPT** for their Fall Festivals
- **Yam/Jam 2019** (Oct. 4, 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2019) at various sweet potato fields in the Four Oaks area
- **Appalachian Christmas Outreach** (backpacks and Bibles due by Oct 31)
- **Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes** (November)
- JCC Campus Ministries (**Exam Care Packages**--December)

An update on how we are doing as an association...

In Missions...

In addition to the Baptist teams involved in weekly ministries at the Petro **truck stop** in Kenly and at the South Smithfield **Flea Market**; Jose Alvarez, pastor of church plant (Casa de Cristo in Newton Grove) and his wife Yessenia led in outreach to local **migrant camps** this summer. JBA churches supplied them with health kits and New Testaments & Bibles in Spanish. Not only have many of our churches taken **mission trips** over the summer months but many more are building **wheelchair ramps** for the elderly and infirm and beginning to feed the teachers (and even ball teams) at our local area schools. More churches than ever (25 so far this year) are using our **Evangelistic Block Party Trailer** to augment their outreach

activities—Easter, VBS, Back to School and Fall Festivals seem to be the most popular events when churches are making good use of the trailer.

In Pastoral Support...

While celebrating the fact that 44% of our churches experienced growth in worship last year over the year before, I felt more focus on local church ministry was in order. So, I have been meeting monthly with the **pastors in the southern region of the county** (one of our POL-“Pockets of Lostness”) to encourage them in their plans and new outreach efforts. Each one has done a SWOT analysis of their church and we have looked collectively at the mission and ministry “opportunities” in the immediate region. This has been a tremendous experience for all of us as each church has identified new places of ministry and service. We have also been developing strategic plans for 2020. I plan to take this same approach into the northern region of the county and then into the Clayton and into the 40/42 region as well with a particular focus on the issue of Multi-Housing.

In Campus Ministry...

The **JCC Campus Ministry** is off to a great start this year! We were able to sign up 100 new students during the Kick-off Celebration in mid-August. We fed well over 200 students that day! We are continuing our relationship with Campus Crusade (CRU), a highly evangelistic campus outreach targeting college students. **Kelton Hinton and Thomas Collins** (Pastor at **Trinity**) are leading this effort. Our weekly attendance has fluctuated between 15 and 28 students so far with new students added each week to the General College Bible study. Different churches have signed up to provide meals for the students on a weekly basis, which has helped shore up the attendance numbers. **Lee Smith** (Associate Pastor at **Shiloh**) is serving as chaplain to the BLET cadets. I (along with **Thomas Collins**, pastor at **Trinity Baptist**) am leading a weekly Bible study in Mark with the faculty and staff. **Blair Maust** (lay leader at **Smithfield FBC**) has organized a Bible study with the Truck Driver trainees. **Cecilia Hicks** (senior adult volunteer at **Hephzibah**) is leading a Bible study with the cosmetology students. All totaled, there are 250 students active in 5 Bible study groups meeting weekly on the JCC campus, all involving different JBA churches! (Last year we had a total of 245 involved. We are now not only the largest “club” on campus but we are also the largest campus ministry in North Carolina on a community college campus! PTL!)

I am still looking for Bible study leaders for the **Early College**, the **nursing students** (two groups), **ESL students** and the **bio-tech students** (at the Clayton campus). If you know of someone who can help please point them my way! We are also in the process of beginning an **International Club** on campus and I will be looking for “host families” to “adopt” an international student for the Spring semester!

In Church Planting...

In the area of church planting, **LifeZone**, led by Noel DeAsis, is currently on hold. He will be targeting Filipinos and other Asians across the county. **LifeSpring** and **Selma Hispanic** continue to grow under the leadership of Dillon Schupp and Daniel Barajas, respectively. **Casa de Cristo** under the leadership of José and Yessina Alvarez continues to grow. As has already been noted, they also head up a significant ministry to migrant laborers in the county. **Shine Community Church**, led by Jason Brulet (out of Hephzibah Baptist in Wendell) is being planted in the Flowers Plantation area in January 2020.

As you know, not every church plant survives (in fact, only 50% of our planned church plants make it). One from last year, **King’s Cross**, led by Michael Johnson, decided to close their doors this Spring when he went to pastor a new church in Montana.

In Ministry to the Poor and Disadvantaged...

In January we plan to launch a “**Jobs for Life**” chapter here in the county, meeting here at the JBA office on a weekly basis. This is a Bible-based curriculum geared to those who are unemployed or under-employed. It will involve folk from all parts of the county as students and as mentors for those students. More to come...

In Multi-Housing...

Here is some “refresher” data about the status of the lost in our area. 67% of our county residents are still unchurched! Amazing! We have seven of the top 250 NC POL’s (“Pockets of Lostness”) in our area (Clayton, 40/42, Four Oaks, Smithfield, Selma, Thanksgiving FD Rd. and Sims). As I have noted before, many of the people “missing” in our Baptist pews are: 1) people of color, 2) blue-collar workers, and 3) renters. I want to add a 4th group that I have only recently

discovered—multi-family housing, either rented or owned. The good news is that 20 of our JBA churches are already ministering in 40 different multi-housing situations, with several new ones beginning this Fall, but very few of our churches are targeting apartment complexes and they represent some of the most “unchurched” in our area. (54% of Americans live in multi-family housing and 95% of those are unchurched!) In addition to targeting these areas, we still need a “blue-collar” church planted in EVERY city and town in the county! I hope we can establish “missional communities” in every apartment complex and mobile home park (MHP) throughout the county. We need “partner” churches who will help sponsor these new church plants throughout our area!

The theme for this year’s JBA Annual Meeting continues to be **“JBA Churches: Pushing Back the Darkness, One Household at a Time.”** How is YOUR church “pushing back the darkness” of sin or sadness, depression or loneliness, or lostness? Share your story with the rest of us!

An update on me personally...

I continue to teach Fall and Spring semesters in Campbell Divinity School’s Hispanic Seminary as well as serve as a “Field Supervisor” in both SEBTS’ local EQUIP Center (here at the JBA) and in their “distance” learning program with students in Mexico. I am also involved in teaching for IRCU, an international pastoral training program.

I also continue to develop teaching seminars based around the theme of “Characteristics of Turnaround Pastors” and unpacking the implications from my Doctor of Ministry research. I have teaching materials geared to current and potential pastors, as well as Pastor Search Committees.