

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GENEVA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
January 26, 2010 (Approved)

Present: Jim Buckalew, Eric Harris, Chuck Thomas, Nancy Wong, Steve Bauserman, Barry Swenson, Don Jarka, Doug Walton, Walt Webster, and Darrell Wright
Guests for Brad Leeper's Presentation: Chris Sarros, Bruce McEvoy, Roger Crites, Jeff Frazier and John Harper
Absent: Robin McCart, Ken O'Brien, Pastor Brian Coffey

I. Eric Harris called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

II. The meeting was opened in prayer by Don, Darrell, Barry and Eric.

III. December minutes were Approved. (moved by Darrell, seconded by Barry)

IV. Generis Update by Brad Leeper

Brad reported that he has been observing FBCG to get a feeling for who we are so he could then make recommendations for what he felt our next steps should be. The written report outlines both. Basically, he felt FBCG's mission message is complex and Prepare the Way gave evidence of the need for greater clarity and intentionality. His recommendation was an incremental strategy of a 10 month fully focused, mission-driven, intentional movement toward a generosity culture complete with a breakthrough capital campaign in the fall of 2010.

The Executive Council briefly discussed his observations and recommendations, asking what are the tangible specifics for how we move forward; what's the process for getting generosity into our DNA. February 20's EC Retreat will provide time for further discussion. The Executive Steering Committee will recommend the next step for the EC to consider as we decide whether we go forward with Brad and his recommendations.

V. Staff Reports

A. Monthly Highlights

Pastor Reports are included. Couples Event is coming up January 30. Registration numbers are proceeding well. Two Couples Core Groups will be offered from the event, as well as "Five Fridays," an on-line continuance for interested couples.

B. Attendance and Financial Updates by Eric

Giving in December was radically different from the fall's giving. December's giving was good, but not to the General Fund! Some year-end givers did not give this year, some gave to Prepare the Way rather than to the General Fund. So far in January, giving has been flat, budget-wise. On the expense side, we are presently \$39,000 favorable. Staff will be asked to watch their expenses again.

Attendance was the highest December numbers we have had. But overall patterns have not changed. Leadership is watching the pattern on the West Campus, trying to decide

what we can do for growth as we are now feeling the fullness of the seating during worship services. What options do we have as an interim solution until we build?

C. All-Church Spiritual Assessment Update by Chuck

Chuck reported there is interesting info coming from the survey, though the finished tabulation is not ready to report yet. This survey will give us a baseline for future surveys that should aid our evaluation of the spiritual growth of our congregation. A full report will be available soon.

VI. Old Business

A. Prepare the Way Update

Many are giving regularly to Prepare the Way. Eric thinks we will probably hit the \$1/4million mark for the Prepare the Way initiative by the end of February.

B. Governance Update by Doug

Doug report that the task force has completed a review and received feedback. Now the focus is shifting toward an external focus: what are others doing? Kevin Ford (consultant from the Transforming Church Index) has presented the Carver Model as a framework to consider. This would involve a single board (representing the congregation) dealing with the senior pastor (who leads the rest of the staff), thus an “hourglass” shape of management. Basically the board sets the objectives and the boundaries the staff works within, allowing freedom within those boundaries. Strengths and weaknesses were briefly discussed. If chosen as the model for our church, the By-Laws would need to be changed to reflect that model.

C. Leadership Retreat

Just a reminder that there is an Executive Council Leadership retreat scheduled for February 20 at the West Campus.

D. Other Business:

Question was raised whether the staff was discussing the issue of dwindling attendance at the East Campus and possible options. Comment that this is a pattern we’ve been seeing for four to five years. Further discussion will be held on this at the Retreat.

VII. 2010-2011 Election Slate Planning

The Personnel Board has begun the process of identifying slots that need to be filled this year. Known: Chair Elect, Jim Buckalew stepping down from at-large member, and Doug Walton’s third term as chair of the Personnel Board is finished. The boards are asked to let the Personnel Board know what vacancies they will be experiencing for this next fiscal year, so candidates can be found.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM. (Moved by Doug Walton, Seconded by Jim Buckalew)

Next Executive Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 PM – West Campus

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Sabatke

Pastor's Report

January 2010

1. We launched our new “spiritual growth” series: “Taking Hold: Knowing and following Jesus” at the beginning of January. We have created an on-line devotional guide called “10 Minutes with God” as a companion to the series (Jeff and I alternate weeks writing the guide). Over the first four weeks of the series we have received very strong and positive feedback – about the content of the series, the spiritual challenges every week – and the devotional guide. Our Student Ministries department (grades 5-12) are also aligned with this teaching series.
2. We have identified 85 “first time givers” to FBCG since Labor Day weekend. Most of these are families who are new to FBCG in that time frame – some are folks who have attended for a number of months but have just recently given for the first time. I am writing each new giver a personal note of thanks – and Eric is tracking second gifts as well.
3. We have prepared 3 “tiers” of communication to go out with the annual written giving statements this month. We have sent separate letters to those giving over \$5,000 in the year; those giving between \$500-4,999 and those giving less than \$500. Our hope is to thank our church family for their generosity – while at the same time encouraging an intentional consideration of growth in this area of discipleship.
4. Eric will cover this in more detail, but we had a very interesting year end in terms of giving. We had a strong Christmas Eve special offering for Kenya Children's Fund (almost \$19,000); giving toward Prepare the Way has passed \$180,000; we raised nearly \$16,000 in a special Benevolent offering for Haiti – yet we also fell slightly behind in our general fund. We have spent some time with Brad Leeper and are working to develop a comprehensive approach to building a more generous church culture as we move toward the future.
6. Lorene and I are preparing to host our 5th annual Couples' Event this Saturday evening, January 30. We anticipate over 500 people to participate – and hope to engage many in a follow-up commitment called “Five Fridays” (you'll have to come to the event to find out!).
5. We will conduct another “Leadership Equipping Event” on Saturday, February 6 from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The event will be focused on caring for the heart of a leader.
7. I am working on a Communication Standards document that will be reviewed by the Communications Team as early as January, 2010.
8. Jenny Schulenberg (Connection Ministries) has completed a report on newcomer assimilation at FBCG for the fall season. Staff is reviewing this week.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES REPORT

January 2010

Lorene Coffey

Director of Women's Ministries

People and Programs:

- **Women's Bible Study** started back up on Jan. 5/6 after a December break. New studies are starting in three of the four study levels (the entry level will continue the one year curriculum of *More Real Life*.) Studies offered currently include: General level—*Authenticity* by Bill Hybels, Intermediate--*Stepping Up* by Beth Moore and *Life Principles of Kings of the OT* (Following God Series). New registrants for this semester include 29 women for Tuesday morning (30 in '09), 8 who are new to FBCG studies (10 in '09) and 31 for Wednesday evening (14 in '09), 12 who are new to studying at FBCG. There are currently 391 women and 129 children registered for this year for a total of 520 (2009: 367).

Women's Bible Study has begun a new effort to reach into the community. Michelle Klisares shared the idea with me that she learned from another church. Basically, those who want to participate pick up *You've Been Gifted* card with great anticipation of being Jesus to someone in need. As women move about in the community, they pray and ask God to whom they can be a blessing. Women do as God leads, doing something for someone and then give them a *You've Been Gifted* card. On the back of the card is an address for a blog site to share stories by those who have ministered to someone else or those that received the card and were ministered to. We'll keep you posted on this "reaching" effort! (Michelle will include more in her report coming up at the end of the month which I'll include with my February ministry report.)

- **Moms Together's** information from January, Group A:

Month	Year	Group	Registered	Attended	Walk-Ins	Total Attended	Total Kids	New Moms A & C
Jan	2010	A	153	108	11	119	123	8
Jan	2009	A	151	103	27	130	116	19

Speaker, Christie Clarke, presented on "*Perfectly Practical Parenting: Becoming a Love and Logic Parent*". We were very pleased with the turnout for the morning considering the inclement weather! Moms Together 7 week book studies will begin Jan. 22.

- **Moms Connected** did not meet in November or December but is preparing to meet on January 28 with Dr. Rob Rienow presenting on "*Developing Faith and Character in the Heart of Your Teen*". Women's Ministries is pleased to partner with Student Ministries in having Dr. Rienow also present to Moms AND Dads on the evening of Wed., Jan. 27 where he will speak on *Visionary Parenting*.
- **Patchworks quilting ministry** met in January with seven in attendance (one newcomer. To date the group has completed 32 quilts in the first four meetings of the ministry year—16 quilts will be delivered to the Fox Valley Pregnancy Center and 16 will be delivered to ECFA in Wheaton.
- **Knit Together** has been meeting weekly since November and averages 10-12 women in attendance—a newcomer joined the group in January and another newcomer is expected next week (a 70 something gal who attended the Newcomer Tea last Sunday!).

- **Women's Ministries** hosted a **Newcomer Tea** on Sunday, Jan. 10 for women that are newer to the FBCG church community. There were 12 newcomers in attendance (12 also last June when we hosted our first Newcomer Connection) along with seven Women's Ministry leaders. All the ladies indicated attending West Campus – ages in attendance ranged from 20-something to 70-something! It was a very worthwhile gathering and we hope to continue to help these women CONNECT.

- **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- **Couple's Event** (Jan. 30): Brian and I are currently preparing for the upcoming 5th Annual Couple's Event with the topic "First things First: Getting back to what brought you together". TEAM and Women's Ministries are partnering again for this event.
- **Women's Retreat** (Feb. 27): Plans are well underway to host this one day event with guest presenter Lisa Harper.

PERSONAL:

We had a great Christmas holiday with Jordan back home from college. We also enjoyed having Brian's parents visit for a week and get in on some of the boys' basketball games. Jordan is now with the Taylor University baseball team in the Bahamas doing spring training, missions which includes baseball clinics, and a college class for credit. It was harder for me to say good-bye to Jordan this time than in the fall – not sure why. We're thankful that his experience with baseball and especially during this trip has been very positive to this point (a welcome change following his disappointing and discouraging fall football experience!).

Jan. 10, 2010

Family and Service Monthly Report

Sunday Schools – During our Taking Hold Series, student ministries 5th through 12th grades have aligned with the messages. We believe that this alignment will supplement our new direction toward Faith at Home and supporting whole families as the spiritual epicenter for spiritual formation. We are providing both take home challenges and blog postings for families to resource beyond mornings.

56 Ministries – Tim and I have met with three individuals informally who might be possibilities for the vacancy he leaves at the end of the summer when he gets married and moves north to Minneapolis. Two are extremely strong and will speak this month on a Wednesday night and for our Winter retreat for 78ers. Have already started to make the asks for next falls leadership teams as Tim will be passing the leadership torch.

Souled Out – DTP resumed on January 10 with a new series that I've created called PG13 Passages. This semester we will focus on various Bible Study Methods to study some of the favorite "edgy" passages that hopefully will challenge any student who thinks God's Word is boring. Retreat dates have been moved to final weekend of January and we are excited to have a bit of momentum going into this weekend this year.

Trek – has already filled two buses for their Winter Retreat and has even increased momentum. Pastor Sterling has a ministry peer of ours from Northview Community Church (Indianapolis) doing the messages.

Faith at Home – In addition to our student ministries aligning with the sermon series Taking Hold, this January we again partner with women's ministry to host Dr. Rob Rienow who will share a message on Visionary Parenting. Both Club 56 and Adventure Club parents will have a fabulous opportunity to drop students at ministry and simultaneously be equipped.

Service (missions)

1. Short Term Trips will get "attention" during the serving message during the Taking Hold Series at East and West. A video will also be used in service with post service opportunities to glean more information about trips:
2. Moving forward with a "facelift" to the Missions wall at West with Catherine Tilly
3. Trek Students raised approximately \$2400 to support our ministry partner Roseland Christian Ministries. Our commitment is \$3000.
4. Project Serve – Jan. 16 at FMSC...with 164 spots filled two weeks before our event. Nearly all registered on-line by getting login and password through FBCG.com.
5. Missionary visits by Graybill and Wibberley visits in November and Mike and Nancy Blake in January
6. Christmas Eve offering \$18,909 for Kenyan Children's Fund and the commitment to the Kuan kids. December benevolent to support Oasis ministry in Austria \$6,400.
7. Refugee Sledding over Christmas Break...crazy! 30 clueless refugee kids on sleds for the first time. God protected us!!!
8. Toys Inc fabulous success with many whole families participating.
9. July 11-17 Servant Leadership week. A week when we will host 150 students from across the country to serve our ministry partners...Riverwoods, Lazarus House, Wayside Cross and Hessed House
10. Matt Dec accompanied Rich Miller to Urbana this past month.
11. Working with Michele and Pam to create a web based template to communicate to those who care all about our 30 missionary partners. It would be a format much like Roger's IPray that would allow for people to "register" and then be forwarded the various communication pieces that we receive.
12. Individual meetings with Darrell twice a month, ongoing discussions with other board members about our 30 missionaries and their finances and our support and care, in addition to clarity regarding

our pathway and those in it and close to it.

Personal – Many McEvoy’s wrestling through sicknesses. Fabulous time with extended family over holidays. Using this month to schedule marathons, family vacations, and times to get away with Diana. Speaking over at St Marks Episcopal Church next month for a ministry peer in his focus for Faith at Home.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES REPORT

Chris Sarros

January 11, 2010

SATURDAY NIGHT

LESSONS for January:

345 Jumpstart (3-5 Year Olds): "Jesus Loves and Helps Me" - Jesus tells of God's love, stops the storm,

KIDMO (Kindergarten - 4th grade) DEEP: Discover Truth
 "What Spiritual Authority Exists?" - Luke 19, Jesus has authority

Becomes King "What happens after we die?" - John 11, Lazarus Raised

"What does the Bible mean to me?" - II Kings 21-23, Josiah

Attendance Numbers: November - December

	<u>2009</u>			<u>2008</u>		
	AVE	HIGH	LOW	AVE	HIGH	LOW
Child Care	2	4	1	2	5	0
345 Jumpstart	4	5	3	3	5	0
KIDMO	14	18	9	9	14	1

SUNDAY SCHOOL

LESSONS for January:

Preschool (2-K): Same as Saturday

Jubilation Station: Year's Theme - 5-G Impact: Grace, Growth, Group, Gifts, Good Stewardship

Desiring God: "Doin' Life Together" - the early church

1st Grade - ABC's of God

2nd Grade - Faithful to All His Promises

3rd Grade - In the Beginning . . . Jesus

4th Grade - How Majestic Is Your Name

At the West Campus, the children are also learning about the Fruit of the Spirit in the opening worship time.

Mission Projects

Preschool: Lazarus House

Elementary: Graybills

Attendance Numbers: November & December (doesn't include week before or after Christmas)

			<u>2009</u>			<u>2008</u>		
			AVE	HIGH	LOW	AVE	HIGH	LOW
EAST	9:15	PS	10	14	5	12	22	5
		EL	6	14	2	8	10	6
	10:45	PS	11	21	7	9	12	5
		EL	11	16	8	12	13	6
TOTAL EAST			38			38	54	19
WEST	9:15	PS	91	104	73	94	114	74
		EL	99	127	79	98	121	79

10:45	PS	60	76	46	69	85	53
	EL	56	59	52	46	56	32
	TOTAL WEST	306			307		
TOTALS		344			345		

CHOIR PROGRAMS

Held our Christmas programs. K's Praise was part of the Preschool Sunday School program, and Joyful Noise joined the adult choir for 3 performances the weekend of December 11-13. I am meeting with the JN leaders this week and the combined program leaders next week to evaluate.

ADVENTURE CLUB

JANUARY LESSONS -

Adventure Club - Courage-David & Goliath, Peacemaker-Abigail Intercedes, Respect-Rahab protects the Spies,
Patience - Joshua & the battle of Jericho

Adventure Land - NT Heroes - Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Magdalene, Thomas

Kids went to the store in December to shop with the fingerprints they had "earned." Had to cancel the 2nd week in December due to weather, which was store night for 3rd & 4th graders. So we had store after school the following week - kids were really glad. Some were buying Christmas presents.

CPC

The entire Children's Ministries Staff went to a Children's Pastors' Conference in Nashville last week. We learned a lot and now have the task of deciding of what can be incorporated into our ministry. It was a great time of bonding and fellowshiping together. Taking Viki Jeffrey (new creative admin) was like taking a 2-year old to the zoo. So fun to watch her be so excited.

PERSONAL

No time for this.

Ministry Report
Pastor Roger Crites
January 12, 2010

Programs

Master's Hands – The weather was cold last Saturday for service. We sent out 8 teams that obviously worked inside and provided encouragement for all of the care receivers. We are now receiving more requests each month. We will have a major push in March for new team members as we plan for the spring and summer.

Aging Parents Workshop – Due to lack of registration, we postponed this workshop until the spring of 2010. We may have met the need of most people with our first workshop. I have met with individuals to guide them in the ongoing care and decisions for aging parents.

Prayer Ministry – The iPray ministry is continuing to grow. We now have 77 people in our iPray community. Erin sends out prayer requests on Wednesdays as well as distributing tour senior adults who do not have computers. The workshop: “Prayer: A Conversation Between Friends” was held on November 15 with 31 in attendance. We will offer this seminar again on Sunday afternoon, March 21 in the chapel

Grief Seminar – The next grief seminar, “Learning to Live Through the Losses of Life”, will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 14, from 3 – 6 p.m. in rooms 301-303 on the east campus. We will contact area churches and therapists that we work with and extend an invitation to their people as well. Our attendance is often 50% church and 50% community

Boundaries – The spring training for Boundaries will begin Monday night, February 22nd in room #103 on the west campus and continue through Monday, April 26th. There will be nine sessions with a week off for spring break. This training is suitable for adults. There are brochures on both campuses. We have five people registered to date. We are promoting this with area churches, therapists, DivorceCare alumni and past Boundaries participants as well as to the congregation and community in general.

People

John Rea – His cancer is spreading and he is receiving new medication to help ease the pain. He is teaching this year and plans to retire at the end of the year. He is inquiring about a trial program that might bring some relief.

Penny Welch – Penny had surgery right before Christmas and was able to be in church this past Sunday. She is meeting with a specialist at Rush hospital on January 14, to determine further treatment for her stage 3-4 lung cancer.

Marj Walls – She is continuing to heal from her colon surgery with a good spirit. Further treatment is on hold as they determine the possible outcome.

Barb Mc Conkey- Barb has received her third round of chemo and continuing to persevere. Her ulcer disappeared and allowed her to receive this next chemo treatment. She had a painful and difficult week end. Pray for God's continued strength and comfort.

Mary Pat Wright - Mary Pat continues to receive treatment as her body will allow. She appreciates the prayers and kindness many have shown her during these weeks.

Recent deaths – You are aware of the recent death of Connie's father John Draeger. Visitation is this evening with the celebration of his life planned for tomorrow. I received word yesterday of the death of Jim Clausen's mother, Holly Daniels mother and the nephew of Morrie Lanier. Continue to lift these families up to the Lord for His comfort and compassion.

Personal

Thank you for your continued prayers. I met with my oncologist January 4, and he told me he was tired of seeing me so often. I have now been on the oral chemo for two years with stable results. I will move to appointments eight weeks apart and less frequent MRI exams, probably every four to six months.

Jan and I are taking an overnight to Starved Rock State Park on January 22nd, to shoot eagles. Actually, Jan is planning to photograph the annual wintering of the eagles at the park if we can get them to pose and stay still long enough.