

MYRTLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
5920 Lillian Highway, Pensacola, FL 32506 -- 850-455-7389
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING ON February 21, 2018

The Regular Business Meeting was held on February 21, 2018, at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in the fellowship hall and was opened in prayer.

CLERK'S BUSINESS: Bonnie Quinley presented the Regular Business Meeting minutes of January 24, 2018, as presented in the February business meeting package. Motion to approve by Paul Sauls and seconded by Chuck Keistler. **APPROVED** by show of hands.

Requests for letters of church membership for January: None.

Presentation of new members January:

By Letter: None.

By Statement: Joshua Woodbury.

By Profession of Faith: None.

Motion to approve by David Mason and seconded by Paul Sauls. **APPROVED** by show of hands.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chuck Keistler presented the treasurer's report for January 24, 2018, as presented in February business meeting package. Motion to approve by Joe Cato and seconded by Margaret Jerauld. **APPROVED** by show of hands.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Chuck Keistler said as of today, we have a bank balance of \$52,688.13. This is after this week's payday which was around \$12,000. Also, the Gulf Power bill was paid in the amount of \$6,900, and in addition, payed for the Lifeway literature for \$2,700. There are not any other major bills payable for February. We still have one more Sunday, so we are in good shape.

The Finance Committee reviewed the financial position of Myrtle Grove Baptist Church as of the close of the 2017 fiscal year. As I reported last month, all the bills were paid and the quarterly distributions that go to non-firewall funds were all allotted to those ministries. Actually all the ministries received everything they requested for 2017. This was a good year for us. The budget bank account was \$52,293.97 as I reported last month beginning January 2018. The committee reviewed this financial position, and we subtracted the amount in the bank from the firewall. The amount was a little over \$9,000. The Finance Committee is recommending that \$9,000 be used to give all church employees (full time and

part time) merit bonuses as determined by the Personnel Committee. Our employees have only had one pay raise since 2008. Although we cannot afford to give them pay raises at this time, we are in a position where we can give them merit bonuses. **APPROVED** by show of hands.

Deacons/Yokefellows Committee: John Bonelli presented the following recommendation for consideration from the Deacon/Yokefellows Committee: The deacons/yokefellows had a subcommittee explore on-line giving as another means for Myrtle Grove Baptist Church (MGBC) members to give their tithes and offerings. The subcommittee visited several churches in Pensacola to talk about their success with on-line giving. Each of the churches has experienced a growth in tithes and offerings. The subcommittee also conducted research to determine the effectiveness of on-line giving. After the conclusion of the research and discussion, the deacons and yokefellows recommend that MGBC use Lifeway on-line giving as another resource for our members to give their tithes and offerings to the church. The deacons/yokefellows unanimously approved the concept of implementing the on-line giving at a recent meeting. Also, the pastors, the deacons, and the yokefellows agreed or voted on using Lifeway as the vehicle to implement this. One of the nice things about Lifeway is that it intergrates with the church's current software system. For example, when Chuck contributes something on-line, using his envelope number, then the financial secretary logs into Lifeway a day or two later and enters Chuck's number, and that puts it in right where it does through the Counting Committee.`

We are not going to vote on this tonight. This is just an additional method to tithe and it is not replacing anything. We are going to put together some more information about how Lifeway or any on-line giving program works. This information will be available in the church foyer. We just wanted to introduce this at the business meeting so we can get prepared. The recommendation will be presented for vote at next month's business meeting.

Question: Bonnie Quinley: Would this reduce our need for our tithe envelope?

Answer: John Bonelli: This does not do away with anything unless you want it to. You may still use the tithe envelope.

Bonnie Quinley: I guess what I am asking is for those who want to tithe on-line, they will not need the tithe envelope.

Answer: John Bonelli. No they would not need a tithe envelope.

Question: Horace Nealey: The question was raised about people giving on-line needing an envelope. You would not need an envelope, but you would still need a number. How would that work out?

Comment: Cami Simmons: The bulk of the extra work will fall upon me by keeping track and watching for errors. There are people who have used their contribution envelope number from three years ago. If you can't see that, you should see Jean Davis' head nodding up and down because she is on the Counting Committee and the kind of things that we stumble through every week. This increases the opportunity for lots more of that. It is not an easy fix for me. I am saying that selfishly, but I also think it would have been nice to have been included in the research.

Comment: John Bonelli: There are many ways to tithe. Chuck Keistler's contributions go to Chuck Keistler's records at MGBC. The contribution box number was just one example. We will get all that out. If it didn't work, then 90% of churches wouldn't have it.

The following are facts about on-line giving:

74% of all US churches have on-line giving

90% of US churches have on-line giving if their congregation has 200 or more members

15% of overall giving is via on-line giving

74% of Americans say they write no more than one check per month

61% of people under 24 don't write checks

350+ non-cash transactions are done per capita per year

The average increase in tithes and offering is approximately 15-25% as the service grows

On-line giving is done on a secure server

How on-line giving through Lifeway e giving works (Please see the additional brochure/handout(s))

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by George Butler and seconded by Sylvia Sauls. **APPROVED** by show of hands.

Bonnie Quinley, Church Clerk

Ron Lentine, Moderator