

# First Southern Baptist Church/Cornerstone Church

Church Business Meeting (live and via zoom) Sunday January 15, 2023.

Pastor James Gomez opened the meeting with Acts 1:10-11 and prayers.

Minutes: The October 16, 2022, Business Meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

Financial Report: Will Sutton

--**Financial Report** October 2022 – December 2022:

--- **MISSION MINISTRIES**

---- is 35.33% of expenditures and includes:

----- \$500 budgeted for “truck fund” has been sent to Nathan Harden

----- \$1000 budgeted for Pastor Maximo Cruz income tax issue has been provided to him

----- \$4498 for International Missions, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was sent to UISBC

-----\$2,250 Mission Pass-Through funds: UISBC funds for Divine Grace Urdu Church

--- **PERSONNEL**

---- We received a small \$4 refund from Guideone Ins. for Workman’s Compensation Insurance

--- **FACILITIES**

---- The **Telephone & Internet** line item includes \$794.40 for ONSOLVE/OneCallNow. They changed their terms of service from monthly to annually. This covers 01/06/23–01/05/24. It is the same total cost as if we paid monthly.

--**Financial Summary** period October 2022 – December 2022:

--- This report is essentially identical to the **Financial Report**.

--- Bottom right corner: The total with % Missions, but without Special Projects is 25.52% of the annual budget at exactly 25% of the church financial year.

Will moved to accept the report, Jim Kearns seconded, and the motion carried.

--Will wanted us to know that we can use Zelle, which is an electronic fund transfer, to give money to our church. Wells Fargo Bank encourages Will to use Zelle instead of bill pay.

Children’s Ministry: Susan Gomez

--The report is attached.

Youth Ministry: Manny Gomez

-- One to four youth are coming to Sunday School. They finished the book of John and are looking for a new Bible study. Manny is looking into Ski and Share which is probably March 3-5, an event for youth in 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. He’s also looking for something for the youth to do together in the summer.

Social and Recreation: Pastor James Gomez for Robin Almond

--There was an excellent pot faith fellowship breakfast Nov 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

--The Christmas dinner December 7 was also a pot faith with people bringing soup and other food. Many of those present commented on how they liked it.

--Pastor James and Theresa Gomez took the food that has been donated since October to the Concern Center. The Center was very busy and the storage pallets in the back were totally empty because there are so many people in need.

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## Deacons: Manny Gomez

- Our deacons helped some families in need with their own money.
- Our church does not have the funds to meet needs like rent. We need to pray for protection for members of our church family who want to help others.
- The church gave out food boxes and gift cards during the church Christmas dinner.
- The church directory is ready for printing.

## Technology: Terry Almond.

- Manny Gomez, who does the sound booth sometimes, said the verses of the songs in the worship service are not in the order that Jose and Mary Castillo sing it. It makes it harder to get the words right.
- Ardis Sutton said it is easier to understand the words they are singing now.
- To stream the worship service on Facebook live, Will Sutton set up the email account [worship@cornerstoneslc.org](mailto:worship@cornerstoneslc.org) for Mary Castillo as she had asked. We know of nothing else that has been done to accomplish the streaming.
- In response to Will Sutton's questions about the needs for the new church computers, we found out we need two monitors for the pastor, one monitor for secretary and another monitor for the surveillance cameras.
- Last week Landen Starr and Theresa Gomez tried to use Zoom from Landen's phone because the picture is so much better. The picture was great but the sound was not. The sound is supposed to run through the system. They hope to figure out how to improve this. We appreciate ideas Landen has to improve the systems.
- There are surveillance cameras throughout the church. Pastor James is doing research about additional cameras. Some of our church surveillance cameras do not work all the time. They are looking at different options like upgrading the camera system. The first task they have planned is to organize the room that holds the electronics. Things being considered include solar-powered cameras, and cameras powered through the cat-5 Ethernet network connect (which would require a router with ports supporting power over Ethernet). Many surveillance systems are cloud based (as is our current system). Upgrading to a new or different surveillance system may require a monthly fee to use all the features offered by the system.

## Building and Grounds: Jim Kearns

- The city's construction work on the parking strip west of the church is done. They decided to put in two trees instead of five because of budget cuts. Two signs have been installed that require angle parking only. Kyle Cook, who works for the city, is trying to get the city to paint the lines for diagonal parking. Pastor James said that Kyle has been amazing, even getting rid of an unjust parking ticket.
- There are cars parked on the curb north of the church that have been there for months. Kyle is trying to get those cars moved. UTA is trying to get rid of them, too, because there is a new bus stop there and the cars interfere with picking up passengers.
- Pastor James reported the latest news on the long-awaited parking lot. Kyle Cook has been wonderful in helping us. The church owns four property lots, and three need to be merged for the parking lot project. Working with Meridian Title and Salt Lake County, all four property lot ownership names are now consistent, but the three lots associated with the parking lot project have not yet been merged into one lot. Meetings are scheduled with the zoning and pre-submittal people of the city. We need to hire people who can write up a plan for the parking lot with the

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required engineering stamp. Asphalt cannot be laid until spring. Pastor James thanked Will Sutton for preparing some necessary paperwork. Theresa Gomez suggested we need another property committee meeting to get these things worked on. The Trustees are required to sign all legal documents.

--The Spanish church people finished the flooring and trim in the last room down the hall and the room finally has all the decorations stored there. The trim needs to be finished in several rooms.

--A light in Will's Sutton's Sunday School room is dim and needs to be repaired.

--Three windows in the church have holes in them and need to be repaired or replaced.

--Saturday, April 1 is scheduled for Church Wide Spring Clean Up.

--Rocky Mountain Power is going to replace the power meter with a digital meter. Jim Kearns is coordinating with RMP for the meter replacement. RMP hopes to do it in February.

--Will Sutton reported on a recent blessing from the LORD. The Wi-Fi thermostat in the fellowship hall was not connecting to Wi-Fi, but the thermostat could be controlled manually. When Will looked into repairing the thermostat, it was quite complicated. A recent power outage rebooted the system and now it connects to Wi-Fi. Praise the LORD!

--Jim Kearns asked that the temperature in the church building to be set no lower than 45 degrees so there is no damage from water freezing. The old heating system, the boiler, is no longer used at all. The bills for heating the church are better, before it was sometimes \$1200/ month and last month it was \$685. Pastor James said they turn on the heat the day before any meeting so the church is warm enough.

--Jim Kearns said we need to decide what we need to do with the old system since it doesn't function.

## Food Service: Robin Almond

--Deb Quinley said she will bring all the meat products for Vacation Bible School in July.

## Brotherhood: James Gomez

--no report

## Decorations: Theresa Gomez

--Theresa expressed thanks to her husband James and Bethany and Manny Gomez for helping her decorate the church for Christmas. They assembled a new table for the foyer which replaces the broken counter. There are new lanterns to put on the pillars in the sanctuary for Christmas.

--Theresa is happy that the floor of the room where the church decorations are stored has finally been finished. All the decorations are organized in that room making things much easier to find.

## Outreach: Pastor James Gomez

--Pastor James has been sitting in on the meetings about the Concern Center which is a ministry of the Salt Lake Baptist Association. The directors have started a new class Sunday evening that is a Bible study and teaches English as a second language. There are some issues with the church that meets there.

--Salt Lake Baptist Association Director Ron Clement has some mission teams coming this summer who want to serve. He asked if we might be able to use their service. In discussing their help during Vacation Bible School/ Kids Week, Susan Gomez said she wants the workers to be our own church members, not visitors. Susan wondered if they could do a few days of Kids Clubs in parks or at homes the week before VBS/KW. Pastor said we need to keep them busy. We would need to

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oversee, feed them. Theresa said we need some painting on the main floor, the foyer, bathrooms. The church needs to take ownership of this project. Right now, we seem to have a full plate, so we do not plan to ask for any teams.

--We are working with Roger Sims from Rock the World Ministries in Georgia to go to Cowboy's Rest Christian Camp and Retreat Center April 16-19 (Sunday after Worship until Wednesday afternoon). Right now, Brian Starkey, Camp Director, only wants us to do the maintenance. Roger has a crew that is coming again. They are planning to use our church van. Thankfully, Roger's health is much better now.

Sunday School: Pastor James Gomez

--The average attendance is 30.

Pastor's Report: James Gomez

--Pastor James said he has been going "a hundred miles an hour" since Thanksgiving, with Christmas and New Years, ministering to Pastor Maximo and others. The Ethiopians are trying to get their whole church to come to our church building Sunday mornings.

--Pastor James asked for prayer to deal with a situation with Divine Grace, the Pakistani church. There is a meeting scheduled with them tomorrow night. Two different groups from the same church want to talk and it's hard to understand some of them.

--The Pastor Search Committee has been working, getting a lot of background information so we can bring honor and glory to God in this process. They are bringing people, like Ron Clement, in to help. They are spending time in prayer, trying to help one another understand all the facets of their service.

--Pastor James is the chair of the personnel committee for the Salt Lake Baptist Association. Pastor James wants to finish his term as chair but not do it again. He is also participating in a Strategy Committee seeking to see where God wants the Association to head and trying to help SLBA Director Ron Clement. Will Sutton, who is on the Stewardship Committee for the Association, said the Association adopted a budget which did not include a raise for Ron. The adopted budget is \$56,000 more than anticipated income. They are trying to figure out how to balance the budget —and give Ron a raise. It's been five years since he has had a raise.

## Old Business:

--Regarding Mary and Jose Castillo, we haven't gotten anything from PERM (Program Electronic Review Management) since we sent in paperwork that is as thick as a book. It was supposed to take 45 days and it has been 5-6 months without any response.

--Technology: Will Sutton contacted Century Link about reducing Internet Service from 940 Mbit/second to 500 Mbit/second to save \$20 per month. There would have been a \$100 fee and service disruption. Century Link offered a \$10 per month Loyalty Discount to continue at the 940 Mbit/second service, which Will accepted.

## New Business:

--Dianne Kearns reminded us we need to pay close attention to our bylaws regarding the Trustees. The bylaws say we need three trustees, with a new one coming in each year as one, who has served three years, rotates out. Dianne concluded her time of commitment during the meeting but she will

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gladly consult with them. Terry Almond would rotate out next year. Theresa Gomez will stay two more years.

--In explaining their responsibilities, we heard that Trustees sign legal documents for the church and are in the middle of any legal issues. There are classes in Layton, and online, to teach about these liabilities and legal issues for churches.

--After nominations and talking about who was willing to serve, Manny Gomez said he was willing. Dianne Kearns nominated Manny and Theresa Gomez seconded his nomination. All agreed.

--The Trustees have a responsibility to fill out the paperwork for our annual tax exemption request.

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Ardis Sutton moved we adjourn, and Jim Kearns seconded the motion. All stood in agreement as Manny Gomez led in prayer.

Notes were taken by Ardis Sutton