

# First Southern Baptist Church/Cornerstone Church

Church Business Meeting Sunday April 23, 2023.

Pastor James Gomez opened the meeting with Psalm 62:5-8 and prayer.

Minutes: The January 15, 2023, Business Meeting minutes were approved as read.

Financial Report: Will Sutton

--**Financial Report** January 2023 – March 2023:

--- **MISSION MINISTRIES**

---- is 35.58% of expenditures and includes:

----- \$600 budgeted to purchase Bibles for Good News Jail & Prison Ministry chaplains was spent

----- \$4991 for North American Missions, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering was sent to UISBC

-----\$4,250 Mission Pass-Through funds: UISBC funds for Divine Grace Urdu Church

--- **Summary – right side of page**

--- Over this quarter, total funds up \$10,648, finishing at \$244,882.95

--- The Special Project Fund is currently \$122,614.09

--**Financial Summary** period October 2022 – March 2023:

--- Bottom right corner: The total with % Missions, but without Special Projects is 49.49% of the annual budget at exactly 50% of the church financial year.

Will moved to accept the report, Theresa Gomez seconded, and the motion carried.

Children's Ministry: Susan Gomez

*Easter Egg Hunt*

--Was held April 9<sup>th</sup> after Worship Service

--Banners were placed on the front lawn to invite the community

--Brandi Gomez helped Susan to hide 638 eggs. (200 for 0–5-year-olds on the front lawn & 438 for 6-12 year-olds upstairs) Spanish leadership were meeting upstairs and were kind enough to allow Brandi & Susan to hide eggs in the room they were in.

--Ardis Sutton held Children's Worship during Worship Service and led the children in Christ-centered Easter Crafts. (She is grateful for all those who helped her!)

--18-20 children joined in the egg hunt, but Susan did not see any new faces from the community.

*Vacation Bible School*:

Monday through Friday July 10-14 6:00-9:00

Changes this year:

-discontinue VBS Store

- Susan suggests Bible Study leaders and Rotation leaders to give candy as a reward for participating

-no longer recognize the VBS Director at the end of VBS Sunday Worship Service. Susan is rewarded by spending time with church family during each evening of VBS and serving the children. Susan doesn't want the focus to be on her at the end but what the children learned at VBS.

--Because she cannot return unused booklets for the children, Susan no longer buys them.

# First Southern Baptist Church/Cornerstone Church

## Youth Ministry: Manny Gomez

- 2-3 Chin youth are coming. Daniel Calderon comes to class but has been learning how to work the sound booth with Landen Starr.
- Manny is planning a campout in August and something for June.
- The Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention did not have Ski and Share this spring. There was discussion about the possibility of joining another church youth group for Christian camp. Several possible mission trips were suggested.

## Social and Recreation: Pastor James Gomez for Robin Almond

- Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> picnic. Noon until 2:00. West Pointe Park
- Women's Tea Party Saturday June 17 at church. Noon-2:00

## Deacons: Manny Gomez

- Deacons met April 2. The directory is done and published. The booklets are only given to church members.
- They helped a family through the Deacon Benevolence Fund.
- They are supporting our Pastor.
- Deacon meetings are scheduled for April 30 and June 4 after Worship service.
- Pastor said the deacons are being careful with visitors, providing some security and well as welcoming them.

## Technology: Pastor James Gomez for Terry Almond.

--The volume of the speakers that the band hears on the stage fluctuates which makes it hard for the band to hear all the music. Turning the volume up for the stage "monitor" speakers also turns the volume up for the "house" speaker facing the congregation. The discussion that followed concerned musician earbuds and a transmitter with one or more monitor channels, connected to the sound board. Will Sutton remembered there might be a cable from the sound booth to the stage that could provide the connection for the monitor transmitter for the musician. Each musician would have a small pack and their own personal earbud. These delicate devices would belong to each church. Pastor James said that his own microphone works much better now that he doesn't share it with other pastors. Will Sutton wondered about having a meeting with Fabian Aguilar from the Roca Church to agree on the systems. Mary Castillo knows an excellent sound technologist named Mike Hansen who has been very helpful for her father's church. Will Sutton moved to consult with others and then buy the necessary equipment for earbuds for the musicians with a limit of \$3000. Susan Gomez seconded, and the motion carried.

--On behalf of the church, Will Sutton has purchased new computers for the Pastor and the secretary according to the budget adopted in the fall business meeting and a discussion in the January business meeting. The previous computers were about fifteen years old and very slow. Will purchased high-end equipment so they will last. Pastor James and Theresa Gomez will be able to finish their work in a much shorter time at church, finishing work at church instead of having to take it home to finish.

--There was also discussion of the best way to use videos in services. Mary Castillo and Landen Starr really like the Presenter software used for worship hymn, verse, and video presentations. The software is easy to use, and the vendor makes a new free background available each month. Mary

# First Southern Baptist Church/Cornerstone Church

uses other software tools associated with the Presenter software. Mary and Jose Castillo plan to arrive by 10:00 Sunday mornings to help with the technology and prepare for the worship service.

--The security cameras are not all working correctly. If we updated to a wireless camera system, we might have issues with wireless signals at each camera. Other issues are more important than the security cameras right now. Squirrels in the ceiling may have chewed on camera cables causing some outages but the holes have been closed so squirrels can no longer get in.

Building and Grounds: Pastor James Gomez for Jim Kearns

--A case of fascia to cover the ends of the rafters of the roof has been ordered to replace those pieces that have fallen off.

--A riding-lawn mower has been bought. Pastor James saved about \$550 dollars with a discount and without tax because we are a non-profit.

--There is a plan to replace toilets with taller ones and add grab bars in the restrooms.

--Miguel Robles has been planning to paint the bathroom doors but Saturday events at the church have prevented that for the last few weeks. There is a possibility they may replace the doors entirely.

--There was an excellent turnout of volunteers from our church, the Chin church, and the Roca church for the cleanup day Saturday April 1.

--One of the necessary legal pieces before we can put in a parking lot was merging the three lots into one. All the trustees signed the paperwork almost a year ago on May 28, 2022, with the work of Meridian Title. We found out that the once-a-year update occurred before our paperwork was through the system. The lots have been merged into one lot, even though the city could not find it for months--which was unsettling.

-- Pastor James wrote a letter to the Salt Lake County Auditor stating our right to petition for property tax exemption status on the consolidated property with its new lot number in the system which was granted.

--Lights have been replaced and the carpets were cleaned by Stanley Steemer.

--Four broken windows need to be repaired or replaced.

--Rocky Mountain Power has upgraded the power meter. Jim Kearns provided liaison.

--Our church, not the city, will need to take care of any weeds in the new parking strip and provide the water through the drip system the city installed.

Food Service: Theresa Gomez reported for Robin Almond

--Many paper goods are needed. The kitchen needs to be cleaned.

Brotherhood: Landen Starr

--There was a good turnout for the men's Brotherhood Breakfast. Landen Starr gave a devotional about replacing stress with resting with the LORD.

--The next breakfast is scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup> with Jim Kearns leading the devotional.

Decorations: Theresa Gomez

--For Easter Theresa placed two potted palm trees with a cross and satin. She is grateful her husband James cleaned it up after Easter.

--Because Theresa is preparing for Kids Week/Vacation Bible School now, she plans to keep decorations simple with appropriate banners.

# First Southern Baptist Church/Cornerstone Church

## Outreach: Pastor James Gomez

--There was a great turnout for Cowboy's Rest with eleven from our church and six from Georgia. Some were disappointed they were unable to go. There were suggestions for other places for service next year.

--The current directors at Cowboy's Rest are Joel and Rosanna Martin with five homeschooled children. He was a country boy truck driver whose life was flipped around by the LORD. The former directors Brian and his wife Dena are living there, seeking God's direction for their lives.

--There is much going on with the Salt Lake Baptist Association, which is seeking God's wisdom and direction. The monthly pastor prayer meeting has been a great blessing for them all. Pastor James was pleased that Ron Clement has received a lot of encouragement.

--More people have been asking to attend church with the video program Zoom, including people not associated with our church, but leaders are being careful regarding scammers. Five to seven people usually attend church on Zoom.

--Mary Castillo is working on putting our sermons on a podcast, but the files are huge. It isn't ready yet. There was discussion about streaming the sermon on Facebook. We do not have the ability to simultaneously stream the sermon to Facebook (or another service) and facilitate Zoom with good quality. Many expressed the opinion that we should honor those who join the worship service on Zoom and keep using it.

## Sunday School: Pastor James Gomez

--The average attendance is 32.

## Pastor's Report: James Gomez

--Background checks need to be updated for volunteers in the church. This will cost \$10-15 each.

--Pastor James would also like the Church Council to start taking responsibility to meet and direct the church's activities, getting more people involved. Those who are serving on the Pastor Search Committee are growing spiritually through their work on it.

--He has been talking to the pastors of the other three churches who meet in our building about a combined service. The service would be on a Sunday from 10:00-Noon with a pot faith meal to follow. It is a struggle to find a time for that to happen. Please pray this event can be scheduled.

## Old Business:

--Mary Castillo gave us an update on their family's pursuit of staying in the United States. They have been pursuing two avenues.

The first is the process they began with our church. The revised document is on the way through the PERM Government department. There has been no news for months on this process.

The second process is a self-petition. They are starting a non-profit ministering to teens with mental health issues. Utah has a high teen rate of depression and suicide. They have already seen some results with one depressed young woman as they pray and point her to Christ. They have employment documents already. They are approved and waiting for permanent residency process to be completed. (As of May 8, 2023, they received notice they have been approved.) They now have documents so they can travel outside the country and return.

Mary especially asked for prayer for this process.

# First Southern Baptist Church/Cornerstone Church

## **New Business:**

--There was none.

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Ardis Sutton moved we adjourn, and Theresa Gomez seconded the motion. All stood in agreement as Will Sutton led in a closing prayer.

Notes were taken by Ardis Sutton