

March 5, 2017

Chair: John Deinum

At least 51 members were present.

The annual report was available both electronically and in paper form.

John Deinum opened with prayer, committing the meeting to Jesus Christ.

FEB Central

- **Pastor Don Webster motioned that Pastor Steve be appointed as a delegate to the upcoming FEB Regional Conference. Shawn Freer seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

New Members

- **David Iggleton and Byron Scott were voted into membership. They have both been through membership classes with Pastor Steve and were interviewed by Pastor Steve and Becky and the Taylors who recommended them to the church.**

Pastor Steve's Update

Pastor Steve shared the verses Hebrews 13:15-16: *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

As Christians, we need to be willing to stand with Christ in a world that is often against Christ. We do this by two means:

1. With the sacrifice of praise, boldly proclaiming the message of Jesus to those around us;
2. Not forgetting to do good & to share with others.

This is a twofold presentation of the Gospel, with words and with actions. It sums up our vision for ministry at Forward – we serve & love people, building relationships in order to share the gospel message of Christ.

Pastor Steve left us with a challenge: last year we asked God for 10 people to be saved through the work of Forward Baptist Church and its members. We don't always know the full story, but we do know of 4 people who became Christians through our ministry here, 2 of which have been baptized and a third who has expressed interest in baptism.

The challenge: please pray in faith for 10 people to come to Christ this year through the ministry of Forward Baptist Church. Would each of us consider where we can be involved in ministries at Forward that will work to that end, of sharing the Gospel in order for people to be saved? If anyone has ideas for other ministries that Forward can be involved in to make the gospel of Christ known, please speak to one of the elders.

Pastor Steve also shared about the two new missionary families that have been added to the 2017 budget:

1. Valera & Laura Strugov with MoveIn, an organization that helps Christians move into targeted areas in the city to develop relationships with their neighbours for the purpose of sharing the gospel. The Strugov's are in the Teesdale area (Pharmacy north of Danforth).
2. Bechara & Roula Karkafi & their 2 children with Arab Missions, doing evangelism & church planting among Muslims in Canada and the Middle East. Please pray for them as this is very dangerous work!

2016 Financials

Maarten Theunissen noted that in recent years, we have had financial security through a healthy bank balance. He then thanked those who faithfully fulfill their positions regarding the finances, namely our bookkeeper and tellers.

Annual Report Highlights

In 2016, we followed on a God given path to invest in people. As a result, we hired Mark as a youth intern, 3 student intern positions during the summer, and Pastor Ron Farr in November. The 2016 expenditures mainly supported staff & pastoral costs, maintain church activities, the building and our mission commitments and also some improvements to the church facilities, including the replacement of the sound equipment in the sanctuary.

In December 2016 we approved a faith budget for 2017 which continues to invest in people, with salaries representing 60% of our total expenses. Under the 2017 budget, our cash position is projected to decline to \$49k by the end of the upcoming year.

In creating the 2017 budget, we asked 3 questions:

1. What do we believe God wants us to do?
2. What reasonable amount do we expect God to provide through the people at Forward?
3. What do we need to trust God for?

Please pray with us as we look to God to provide for all the ministries that we believe He is calling us to join Him in.

Approval of Annual Report and Financials

- **Allister Walsh motioned for approval of the 2016 Financials and Annual Report. Ray Repo seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Pastor Aaron's Update

- Pastor Aaron advised us that there have been a few accidents with cars in our parking lots & the person at fault hasn't always stopped to identify themselves. It hasn't necessarily been a church attendant as our lots are used by many different people. However, we were reminded of our responsibility in reporting an accident if we have been involved.
- PA Day Camps – we have had 5 camps this year. It has been wonderful to see 38 different people from Forward volunteering with at least one of the camps, working with a total of 71 different children. There have been a total of 222 children at the 5 camps

- There is an ongoing need for volunteers in many of our ministries here at Forward so please consider what God is calling you to be involved in. The following are some examples of where help is needed:
 - Fellowship meals, for set up & especially for clean up
 - Tech work (sound & powerpoint during the services), especially in the summer & then into the fall
 - There is an opportunity to help a woman in our community with driving to appointments & helping her in her home
- Forward's 100th year anniversary is coming up in 2019. In the coming months we will be deciding on how we want to celebrate this milestone, so if you have some ideas, please relay them to the pastors

Point of Order

Jessica Breski asked whether the minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting would be distributed and approved at this meeting. It was acknowledged that this was an omission that would be rectified at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

John Deinum led a closing prayer and called a close to the meeting.