

Date: 6/1/2023

Attendees: Reid Squires (*chairman*), Cole Kirby (*clerk*), Paul Ramsay (*treasurer*), Tim Woolsey, Matt Van Zandt, Britt Martin, Adam Seals, Dods Pengra, Taylor Ince, Nathanael Ince, Tony Villatoro, Raph Peters, Demeko Bivens, Nick Lipscomb, Payton Simpson

Non-voting Attendees: Chase Woodhouse, Caitlyn Woolsey (*minutes*)

Absent: None

- 1) Call to Order: 7:45PM
- 2) Homily + Prayer - *Reid Squires*
 - a) Topic: Honorable Ministry (1 Thessalonians)
 - i) Marks of Honorable Ministry: Gospel-centered, Singular Aim, Gentle & Long-suffering, Deeply Personal, Hard-working, Integrity, Discerning (usher people towards maturity), Raise up leaders
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
 - a) APPROVED: unanimous, by voice vote
- 4) Approval of Previous Minutes - February 2023
 - a) APPROVED: unanimous, by voice vote
- 5) Reports of Congregations
 - a) Sojourn Southside
 - i) Recently welcomed 6-7 new members, 3 baptisms
 - ii) Recurring giving has increased to \$5300/month
 - iii) Talking to anchor churches, and potential future deacons and elders
 - b) Sojourn Galleria
 - i) Currently 2 parishes, will multiply the Woodhouses to lead a 3rd parish in the fall
 - ii) Looking forward to moving into their own space in the fall - currently 2 options (Wisdom High School or Fuller Seminary)
 - iii) Members involved in D-Groups (single-gender groups for members to go deeper w/ one another, focus on evangelism)
 - c) Sojourn Montrose
 - i) Made a large call for members to increase giving at October members meeting, and have seen an excellent response since that time
 - ii) Currently looking for a new space - lease on current space is up next summer, will likely not be able to resign
 - iii) Made Dual-Practice Baptism announcement at May members meeting
 - iv) June & July Rest Months - Making Disciples class, Church-wide social activities
 - d) Sojourn Spring Branch
 - i) 6 years in, 4 parishes currently
 - ii) Prayer request: pastoral challenges in 2 parishes
 - iii) Prayer groups (similar to Renewal or D-groups) - going well
 - iv) Announcing Elder Candidacy process at June 4th members meeting
 - v) Budget is looking good - hoping to re-sign lease for 3 more years in current space
 - e) Sojourn Heights

- i) Spirit of joy and unity in congregation
- ii) Financial: renting Aurora space to a school
- iii) Prayers over final steps of pastoral search - has taken ~9 months, has been exhausting for pastoral search committee
 - (1) Thanks to Paul and Dods for being gracious and stabilizing through this process

6) Unfinished Business

- a) CRC Report: “Cracks in the Foundation of Sojourn Houston”
 - i) Paul - this report is just informational, any action taken from this report will be from the result of a motion that an elder makes at a future assembly meeting
 - (1) Issues are rated on degree of severity (10 being most severe)
- b) Motion 2023.2.3 - Establish a Sojourn Houston Ordination Committee
 - i) Paul: who are the people who guard our shared doctrine?
 - (1) This motion fills a hole that was left when the Strategic Team was abolished
 - ii) Payton: Sojourn Houston is resource-limited - does this really need to be done now?
 - (1) Paul: this is filling a gap, not creating something new
 - iii) Cole: when you have a broad tent (as Sojourn Houston does doctrinally), the edges of the tent need to be firm
 - iv) Paul: **motion** to strike 3.2.2 from the motion
 - (1) Tim: second
 - (2) **VOTE**: APPROVED 14-1
 - v) Paul: **motion** to change the name of the Ordination Committee to the “Pastoral Assessment Committee”
 - (1) Tim: second
 - (2) **VOTE**: APPROVED 13-2
 - vi) Paul: **motion** to call the question to approve Motion 2023.2.3 with the above noted changes
 - (1) Tim: second
 - (2) **VOTE**: APPROVED 10-3
 - vii) Cole: **motion** to wait to discuss the nomination process until the next meeting (October 2023)
 - (1) Reid: second
 - (2) **VOTE**: APPROVED by voice vote

7) New Business

- a) FY24 Budget Proposal
 - i) Cole: **motion** to call the question
 - (1) Paul: second
 - (2) **VOTE**: APPROVED (unanimous)
- b) Motion 2023.J1 - Proposed Amendments to the Sojourn Houston Multi-congregational Covenant
 - i) Taylor: **motion** to divide the question - separate point 13 from the rest of the document
 - (1) Matt: second
 - (2) **VOTE**: APPROVED (unanimous)
 - ii) Adam: **motion** to
 - (1) add “proximity” to point 16b so it reads, “*Churches that share a philosophy of ministry that emphasizes **proximity** and a missional community model, represented by “Neighborhood Parish” or some equivalent structure...*”
 - (2) Not add “neighborhood” as proposed in point 16a (so it will continue to read, “*The planting of contextualized churches marked by...*”)

- (3) **VOTE:** APPROVED (unanimous)
- iii) Paul: **motion** call the question to approve Motion 2023.J1 with point 13 removed
 - (1) Dods: second
 - (2) **VOTE:** APPROVED (unanimous)
- iv) Paul: **motion** to table discussion of point 13 of motion 2023.J1 until the next meeting (October 2023)
 - (1) Tim: second
 - (2) **VOTE:** APPROVED 11-4
- v) Payton (*requested to be recorded in the minutes*): the time that we have at these meetings is precious, and when we table things we potentially clog the next meeting. As someone who typically goes to bed very early, I think that when we meet we should consider these meetings to have no end time.
- vi) Tim: **motion** to bring discussion of Motion 2023.J1, point 13 back on the agenda
 - (1) Matt: second
 - (2) **VOTE:** APPROVED 10-5
- vii) Reid: reasons to leave A29
 - (1) A29 has fired 2 CEOs in recent years
 - (2) In that time, central staff has ballooned from ~6 to ~40
 - (3) Giving requirement increased to 2%
 - (4) Church plants get \$25K, but they actually have to pay it back (plus some) over time - was not clear until after the money was accepted
- viii) Paul: reasons to *not* leave A29
 - (1) A29 adds value to our churches, people know what they're getting when they come to our church
- ix) Paul: **motion** to table further discussion of point 13 until next meeting
 - (1) Nick: second
 - (2) **VOTE:** APPROVED 10-5
- c) Motion 2023.J2 - Amendment to BCO §1.4
 - i) Paul: **motion** to keep the language "Christ's commission" (as opposed to proposed, "Jesus's commission")
 - (1) **VOTE:** APPROVED 9-6
 - ii) Matt: **motion** to call the question to approve Amendment to BCO §1.4, with the above noted change
 - (1) **VOTE:** APPROVED (unanimous)

8) Adjourn: ~11:15PM