

West Highland Baptist Church  
Quarterly Business Meeting  
September 19, 2021

Attendance  
In Person. 72  
Online —  
Proxy. 5

The meeting was opened in song and in prayer by Pastor Lee Brubacher.

**Call to Order:**

Our moderator, Kurt Davis, called the meeting to order.

1. **MOTION** to amend the agenda to add the addition of new members was made by Rick Thompson and second by Ross Carlton. Carried.
2. **MOTION** to approve the minutes the July 11, 2021, Annual General Meeting was made by Patti Benallick and seconded by Sarah Booth. Carried.
3. **MOTION** to approve the addition of two new members was made by Katrina Stairs and seconded by Veronica Misener. Carried.  
Jacob Strickland  
John Paul
4. **2021 Financial Update:** Ed Brink

Ed thanked the office staff for all their hard work on the financial statements.  
Some highlights of the report:

- All missionaries and the mission organizations have continued to be paid.
- Office expenses are a bit higher because the covid supplies are added to the office account.
- We have a surplus of \$37,465.00.
- The ending balance in the building fund has been used to pay down the principal of the mortgage.
- The balance owing on the mortgage facility at the end of July 2021 is \$1,917,762. As of the end of August 2021 is \$1,905,000. We are hoping that at the next payment we will change the 9 to an 8. Praise God!

**Question and Answer**

1. Cash and Investments - why is that money not put towards the building fund?  
Answer - it is all under other funds. There is money from the mission fund, memorial fund etc in those investments.
2. Could not the money in the cash and investments be lent to ourselves and given to the building fund?  
Answer - it is not recommended because some of that fund is allocated for certain funds ie, benevolent, missions. We cannot invest in a lot of other things. Our mortgage is a 1.6%. CRA is very restricted in what a charity can do.

**MOTION** to approve the 2021 Financial Update was made by Ed Brink and seconded by Graham Lowe. Carried. **Please see attached report.**

5. **Action Committee Update:** Phil Seagrove

Phil gave his report over video as he was not able to be here tonight.

Back in June, the provincial government announced that they would move into a 3 steps process and gave churches the option to hold outdoor services with no attendance limit, as long as they were physical distancing. At the time, we could only have 15% indoors.

The Action Committee and Ministry Team prepared to hold our first outdoor service on June 20. Step 2 allowed for 25% max cap so we moved back indoors.

On July 16th we moved into step 3 which allowed for registration numbers of 275 people for a Sunday morning service. We still remain in step 3 phase with not much changing as far as government restricts.

The action committee continues to monitor restrictions, protocols and mandates that are put out by the provincial government as well as the City of Hamilton in order to make recommendations to the elders.

There has been a question of reopening the cafe. The complication with eating and drinking is the reality is that masks must be removed to do so. Restrictions require that you must first be seated with people of your household and seated 6 feet apart. Given the current potential restrictions around food, the action committee had recommended a bit of a pause in that area until we can determine what will be required.

We appreciate your patience and your adherence to the protocols which we've put in place. We remind you about the importance of registering online first. This assists us with chair seating, capacity numbers, and contact tracing. We also appreciate you completing the online screening. We covert your prayers.

6. **Elders Team Report:** Phil Seagrove

Phil gave his report over video as we was not able to be in attendance for this meeting.

Your elders team continue to meet together, study, and pray together and are happy to be back together in person. Yesterday we met for the Elders and MT prayer and strategy session and we took the opportunity to pray as a group for the church and the for our people.

As a team, we are studying a book on biblical theology. This continues to spark discussion on how biblical theology seeks to shape the church's teaching and the church's mission.

There are protocols and restrictions that the elders must constantly look at and evaluate. Certainly the pandemic creates speed bumps that we didn't necessarily anticipate having to deal with. But we continue to deal with these issues as they arise. We seek the Lord's direction and pray for God's wisdom.

We've asked you to pray for your elders, for wisdom and unity and by God's grace we are experiencing this blessing of unity on the team. We need to make sure we do not get too caught up in the distraction of the pandemic and all that comes with it.

We consider it a joy and a privilege to serve you as elders. Continue to pray for us and for WH as we strive to Make the Word of God fully known and the people of God fully mature.

7. **Lead Pastor's Report:** John Mahaffey

Pastor Jakob Koch will be taking the position of President of Student Ministries of Canada and will be leaving West Highland at the end of the month. Pastor John thanked Pastor Jakob for his time at WH.

Summer - Pastor John and Andrea had a good break and the elders allowed Pastor John have a longer break in order to work on his book "Christmas Characters". It will be a two year project.

We are working on the three "R's";      Regather our people  
   Rebuild our ministries  
   Refocus our mission

Pastor Jamie is looking after TREC which begins next week. There will be 7 classes offered and it will be all onsite. Regather.

Life group leaders meeting happened yesterday. New groups are forming, it is encouraging to leaders. It is encouraged that the life groups do sermon based discussions. A change to have an application on the sermon. Regather

Quest for the young children is to start in October. Starkids in both 9am and 11am services are starting today. Regather.

New people to our church each Sunday. Approximately 39 new families attending our church. This is so encouraging. There is great diversity, God is building His church.

Elders and Ministry Team will be having a 2 day retreat in early November at the church. Working on beyond 2020; wondering, thinking, and praying. Refocus.

Pastor John read the church's statement on vaccinations. **Please see attached.**

Pastor John closed the meeting in prayer.

8. Adjournment:

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Rick Thompson and seconded by Emma Stairs. Carried.

Next meeting will be held in early December 2021.