

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE 167<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Of the BEULAH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, INC.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Union City, TN

On a cool Monday evening, November 16, 2020 the 167<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was held at Calvary Baptist Church in Union City, TN. The meeting was delayed due to the Covid19 Pandemic of 2020. The meeting was originally scheduled for October 19, 2020 but Beulah Association DOM, Jack Long and the Executive Board postponed it to this later date due to spikes in the covid cases in Obion County. It was later decided to have an abbreviated meeting. All committees had previously met and presented their recommendations for the upcoming year. These recommendations were sent to all churches for the Pastors to review with their messengers. There was no opposition received back from any church.

**Bro. Truitt Cockrell, Moderator**, began the meeting by calling Bro. Mel Poe, Pastor of Calvary to open with prayer, after which he officially called the meeting in session. Bro. Truitt noted that this would be an abbreviated meeting with social distancing at each person's discretion and the evenings focus would be on prayer. The **first** order of business was the formal adoption of the proposed budget by the finance committee. Bro. Truitt explained since all items to be approved came from committees a second would not be needed. It was opened for discussion, there was none. Upon voting, the budget passed unanimously.

The **second** order of business was the approval of the nominating committee. This was open for discussion. There was none and it passed upon vote unanimously as well.

The **third** order of business came from the personnel committee and it was their recommendation for a DOM Search Committee to be established. After opening for discussion of which there was none, the vote unanimously approved this committee.

**Bro. Truitt, Moderator**, thanked Calvary for hosting and for adjusting in this covid atmosphere. He then introduced the video's to be shown. The first video was from the IMB where it was noted \$157 million was received in last year's Lottie

Moon offering, one of the third highest ever received and that one-half million people had heard the gospel because of it. The next video was from NAMB which emphasized the Great Commission mandate “to go”. The Annie Armstrong Offering and the Cooperative program provide funds for people to “go” and share God’s love and His story. The third video was from TBMB where president Randy Davis reported that the Summit looked very different this year being virtual but we continue to look forward to the future and in 2024 the Summit will be back in middle Tennessee for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration of TBMB. We must view this pandemic year as an opportunity to spread the gospel in new ways. He said the first part of the year was ‘adaptation’ with the later part of the year becoming ‘innovation’. The last video was from the BCM (Martin, TN) and it presented a new vision for a men’s ministry to be housed in the newly purchased building next to the BCM building.

After the videos, **Jack Long, DOM** presented his **annual report**. Jack began by saying, “God is still at work, even in a year when churches have had to close for a period of time and I am still proud to be a Southern Baptist”. Bro. Jack introduced the new pastors of the Association. He welcomed Michael Norton, Pastor of Pleasant Hill-Martin, and Matthew Nance, Pastor of Union City First Baptist. He recognized that deacon JR Dunn of Bethel Baptist had been asked to be their pastor upon the passing of their former pastor and that he had been privileged to be at JR’s ordination service, and that Willingham Memorial had called Chuck Graham as their new pastor. Bro. Jack also welcomed Michael Dennison, the new Chaplain at Union City Baptist Hospital and Huntingdon Baptist Hospital. He went on to report all the physical updates to the Association building this year. The Properties and Budget committees were approached at the first of the year and approved \$15,000 for much needed updates and improvements. It has been 30 years since anything inside has been done. Jack went on to report in detail the things that have been done and noted they are listed in the Book of Reports. He thanked the churches for their great generosity and giving in such a year as we are experiencing and reported that for the first time the Association has been able to invest \$35000 with The Foundation at 3% interest.

Bro. Jack then read his retirement letter. He noted that his last day scheduled to work will be March 31, 2021 where he will finish 17 years at Beulah. Jack feels God is moving him on to the next phase of his ministry. He will be here four- and one-half months and be available to the DOM Search Committee as they begin their process. He expressed his great appreciation to all for his time here at Beulah and said it was his best post in his 44-year ministry so far.

**Moderator, Bro. Truitt** stood and acknowledged he could not have done it without Charlotte by his side. All in attendance agreed.

Next, there was a brief time of **Praise and Worship led by Kurt Barnhart of Calvary** with robust congregational singing of *Because He Lives* and *Majesty*.

**Rodney Gregg** introduced himself and reported that going forward he will be the **next Moderator** for the Beulah Association. He remarked that the next year is going to be a tough one and the new DOM is going to have some big shoes to fill coming in behind Bro. Jack. Rodney thanked Bro. Jack and said he had been a great friend and mentor to him personally. Bro. Rodney referenced that we have come to pray and would now be entering into a time of prayer. He went on to say that in his area, Kenton, TN, his church has been praying specifically for 41 one people by name that they know is lost. Daniel 10.2 was on his heart where Daniel “mourned three weeks” for his sin and the sin of the Israelites; his people. Daniel prayed 21 days once he had ‘set his mind on it’ and Daniel was told by the angel he had been heard since the very first day. Bro. Rodney said our country needs to humble itself, repent and turn back to the God that is still on the throne; the God our founding fathers fashioned this country on. The bible says, “If MY people will humble themselves and pray...” the humbling comes before the praying. He noted Daniel ‘set his mind’ beforehand and that the church in America needs to humble themselves, repent and pray like never before. Rodney said we have a strong foundation at the Association to build on going into the 2021 year.

A **call to pray** ensued, with all who were able and willing coming to the altar. This prayer time involved several pastors praying at will and calling out to our Holy Sovereign God who is a God of grace and mercy. These pastors asked that God call HIS people to repentance and for God’s glory to shine on a nation that has settled for way less than what He has for us as a nation and us as individuals, but that no matter what comes He is still God and creator of all and we can never pay Him for all He has done for us or is going to do for His bride, the true church. This time of prayer ended and the meeting dismissed with hearts filled with hope for the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Cawley

Beulah Baptist Association Clerk