

Minutes for Falls Baptist Association

Annual Meeting

October 7, 2018

First Baptist Church

Marlin, Texas

Presiding over the meeting was Moderator, Jody Hickman, Pastor of First Baptist, Rosebud

David Harlow, Associate Pastor of FBC Marlin opened the meeting by reading Isaiah 53 followed by prayer.

Buddy Sipe , pastor of Cottonwood Baptist Church, led the hymn “He Keeps Me Singing”, followed by the Cottonwood bell choir with the song “Blessed Assurance”.

Jody Hickman seated the messengers. Jody asked that the program be adopted as the order of business. Buddy Sipe made the motion, seconded by David Harlow. Motion passed unanimously.

Charles Cole introduced the guests from Latham Springs, SBTC, and BGCT.

Jody appointed Buddy Sipe, Mike Wedemeyer, Darrell Ballard and to make up the sermon committee who adjourned to the rear of the auditorium to meet.

Mike Wilson brought a report on Latham Springs.

Gordon Knight brought a report on the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

Tim Marrow brought a report on the Texas Baptists Convention.

Jerry Hacker presented the financial report and the proposed budget explaining that some items would be funded at a lesser amount due to a decline in giving to the association. Stephen James seconded the motion from the planning committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Judy Hickman presented the 2019 calendar. Rick Fendley made a motion to accept. Carolyn Sipe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jody Hickman presented the proposed officers for 2019. The officers were approved by a unanimous vote. This motion came from the planning committee.

Director of Missions Report DOM Report to Annual Meeting Bro. Charles Cole

2018 has been a year of challenges. FIRM Area churches and staff have been under heavy attack by Satan and the strain on the churches shows. I urge all to be in constant prayer for their church and for the staff that serves them. We have had many unusual problems to assist our churches with during this past year. I thank our God that he is faithful to give us wisdom as we go through these changes. At the beginning of October, FIRM Area has only three churches that are without a pastor. Only one of those is currently searching for a pastor. The other two are either in an interim or about to begin an interim ministry.

As this year winds down, I reflect on the past 14 years as your Director of Missions and I thank my God for giving me the best job in the world. I have had the privilege, along with my wife working with me, to serve 86 of the very best churches in the world. We love every one of the FIRM Area churches and the people that make up those churches. Over those years we have had the privilege of leading to build 6 new homes for people that have lost their homes, we have built 5 new church buildings, and remodeled or helped remodel 5 others. We have assisted in many various

endeavors of disaster relief, including helping over 130 families displaced and hurt by Hurricane Harvey, along with distributing disaster relief supplies totaling over 2 tons to victims of disasters. On October 20, we took funds to a family near Marble Falls that lost everything in the Llano River floods of that week. GOD has used FIRM Area Churches to bless so many.

In those 14 years we have helped start 13 new churches. These thirteen new churches have baptized over 1000 people. (incidentally, even though most have not completed their ACP's early indications are that baptisms across FIRM Area are up over 2017 levels.)

I have counselled 21 of those churches over various issues this past year and have filled a pulpit in supply on 31 occasions. It has been a very busy year. We took a group of 34 missionaries representing 9 of our area churches for a week-long mission trip to Mescalero, New Mexico, where we finished a construction project started by a church from George West, Texas, to add a classroom to the Mescalero building. We also conducted Vacation Bible School for 36 children and led evening special movie outreach events. God brought 6 of those children so they could respond to the Gospel and receive Jesus. There is much more I could highlight, but simply want to again thank you for allowing Brenda and I to serve along side of you as your director of Missions. May God richly bless each of you and the churches you represent in the years ahead.

In Jesus Service

Bro. Charles Cole

Jody Hickman asked for miscellaneous business and there was none.

On behalf of the Director of Missions search committee, Buddy Sipe presented Patrick Knowlton as the candidate to replace Charles Cole. Motion passed by a unanimous decision.

The Cottonwood Bell choir presented a medley of hymns.

Darin Davis, pastor of Blue Ridge Baptist Church, brought the annual sermon. His text was Acts 9:1-20. In Darin's neighborhood is a rundown house. He described Saul as like this house "as too far gone to renovate". God can renovate the heart of anyone. The Damascus road is full of traffic. Full of souls waiting for a word from God. We are the ones to minister, to share, and to walk alongside those on the road of life.

Jody Hickman asked for a report from the 2019 sermon committee. Buddy Sipe reported that Rick Fendley, pastor of Cedar Springs, was chosen to bring the sermon at the 2019 Annual Meeting at Cottonwood.

Jody Hickman presented the 2019 officers. Buddy Sipe as Moderator, Jody Hickman as Vice-Moderator, Jerry Hacker as Treasurer, and Laurieanne Tuttle as clerk. Stephen James prayed for the new officers.

David Harlow led in the closing benediction and the meeting was dismissed to a meal of baked chicken, baked potatoes, salad, and cheesecake