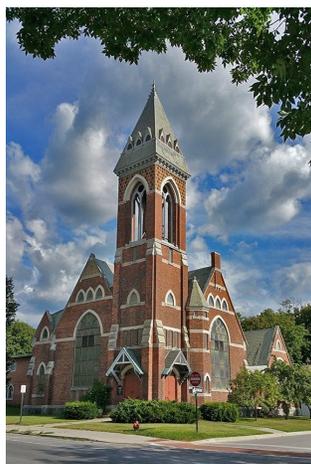


# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BENNINGTON, VERMONT ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

192ND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
HELD JANUARY 23, 2022



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## CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of our Heavenly Father, to associate ourselves with this church in its united effort to promote God's will on earth, we therefore solemnly enter into agreement with one another and with the Lord Jesus Christ. That we will strive to live a new and holy life, walking together in love as disciples of Jesus who said, "This is my commandment to you, to love one another as I have loved you... by this shall all men know that you are my disciples." That we will seek to emulate the teachings of the New Testament: laying aside falsehood and speaking the truth. We will be kind one to another that we may live as children of light, standing firm as men and women of mature character and of clear convictions as to everything which is God's will. That we will sustain this church in its worship, teaching, and missionary interests home and abroad by our regular attendance at its services, and will contribute, as God prospers us, to meet various needs of the Kingdom; knowing that this is the only way we can keep the church strong and its work progressive. That we will aim to maintain private family devotion, create a Christian atmosphere within our homes, encourage cheerfulness, a right appreciation of prayer, and a balance of Christian life. That we pledge ourselves to maintain individual liberty of conscience to strive with all Christ's followers in a courageous effort to bring our social relations into harmony with all society and government, to promote peace, and a better understanding among mankind. That should we move from this community we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

### 192ND ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA-JANUARY 23, 2022, 11:00 AM

The First Baptist Church of Bennington, VT, will hold its 192nd annual meeting on January 23, 2022, beginning at 11:35 AM in Colgate Hall.

#### A. CORPORATE BODY

1. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Trustees
2. Consideration of and action upon proposed bylaw changes-to vote on changing all board members terms from two 3 year terms, to a one year term (contingent on a yearly vote) or until successors are elected.

#### B. BUSINESS MEETING

1. Approval of the minutes of the January 19, 2019 annual meeting.
2. Presentation of the Financial Report
3. To hear and act upon the report of the Budget Committee.
4. To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee.
5. To transact any other business that may properly before this meeting.

–Lisa Flynn, Church Clerk

## MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting was brought to order at 12:05 PM in Colgate Hall. Grace Becker Wilson made a motion to accept the minutes from last year's meeting, Allyn Lindsey second the motion, there was no discussion and the motion was approved. Grace Becker Wilson made the motion to approve Kristen Olmstead to the Church Life Board, Jean Hoag second the motion, there was no discussion and the motion was approved. Aleta Bryant-Boutin made a motion to discuss actions taken by the board of trustees, Ron Kramer second the motion. There was discussion of the trustees' ratified action of the budget to reduce a full time pastor position to part-time. Alan Ingalls opposed the decision to have a part-time pastor, he expressed there was "retreat by the members of the church as well as the trustees". Steve Smith asked, "what does it mean to have a part-time pastor?" Randy Bates explained, "The way money is being used to preserve the church building and how money market affects our spending and paying of bills." Grace asked if, "Does anyone have ideas of how to raise money for the church?" Jean Hoag mentioned, "The endowment has been named for specific uses." There was other discussion by various members about the good fellowship of the church and events such as the breakfasts and rummage sales. Byron Spafford discussed the history of the church and attached buildings. "This is a big building and needs a lot of repairs. People should understand the money is limited to how it can be used." The vote on the Budget was 20 votes for proceeding with the proposed budget and 5 votes against. It was noted that we had until July 2020 to change the proposed budget. Budget was approved by a majority vote and was so moved. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 PM.

-Lisa Flynn Church Clerk

## REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/19: 248** (Resident Members 178, Non-Resident Members 71)

**Membership Transitions:** Lois Weaver (06/14/20-passed), Barb Cota (11/66/20-passed), Harold Weaver (03/12/21-passed), Carolyn Peckham (04/04/21-passed), Helen Hogel (09/02/21)-passed.

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/21: 243** (Resident Members 173, Non-Resident Members 71)

## NOMINATING REPORT-OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR VOTE

IT IS PROPOSED THAT ALL BOARD MEMBERS SERVE ONE YEAR TERMS AND BE ELECTED EACH YEAR. THIS WILL UP FOR VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD TODAY.

**Officers (one year term):** Lisa Flynn-Clerk, Sandy Harrington-Treasurer, Byron Spafford-Financial Secretary. Grace Wilson-Moderator.

**Current Board Members** Church Life: Aleta Bryant-Boutin, Kristen Olmstead (2020-2023-1st Term)  
Trustees: Randall Bates Lisa Flynn (2019-2022-2nd Term), Lisa Kramer, Allyn Lindsey, Duane Shortt, Byron Spafford.

## REPORTS THE TRUSTEES

This past year continued being unprecedented, as we all have learned to live with COVID 19. We realize this has been a difficult time for everyone in the church community. Wearing a mask and social distancing is something we have been practicing as a community at First Baptist Church. We will continue following protocols put out by the Vermont Department of Health.

The church continues to be without a permanent pastor, however we have not been lacking in a wonderful cast of pastors who have been filling the pulpit. We currently have a rotation of Pastors who preach the sermon and conduct the service. Our usual schedule is as follows: Pastor Joe DeWitt preaches the first Sunday of each month, Dr. Alan Ingalls preaches the second and fourth Sunday of each month, and Pastor John Brigham preaches the third and fifth Sunday of each month. Their sermons have been bringing hope and inspiration to members through CAT-TV video recordings; you can also see these recordings on the church website. <https://fbcbennington.org/>

The trustees and the cabinet will continue to communicate and meet with Dale Edwards in the upcoming year to discuss; the search for a new part-time pastor, budget, legal obligations, building repairs and possible options for long term goals of this church.

There continues to be major building structural repairs that must be made in the upcoming year. The anticipated costs will be costly, and we have no choice but to move forward with these repairs.

The trustee board continues to meet every month to discuss church finances, building use, and cost sharing opportunities. Anyone who wishes to address the board may attend a meeting to discuss church business and operations.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions; the church continues to cost share with several non-profit businesses and organizations.

Alcohol Anonymous 7:00 AM  
Family Time (a division of PAVE)  
VCIL Vermont Center for Independent Living.  
Red Cross Blood Mobile

Colgate Hall currently has vacant office spaces available for occupancy. Cost sharing helps maintain the sustainability of the church.

Over the past year; the board of trustees has worked closely with the Church Life board to hold several rummage sales and online sales which raised money to support the work of the church.

The job position of custodian/maintenance has divided into two part time positions. John Harwood continues overseeing building maintenance and grounds as well as unlocking doors, closing up at night, and will be on call for safety and repairs. He will continue living in the house owned by the church, which will be compensation for his work.

Ron Kramer has filled the position of custodian who now cleans the Colgate building, chapel and sanctuary. The position is strictly cleaning only and will consist of 15 hours per week. For more infor-

mation about this, please see the trustees.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year, we hope and pray for the end to the COVID restrictions, we pray for the growth and prosperity of this church and for our continuing search for a pastor.

Respectfully, Lisa Flynn, Trustee Chair

## REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

<b>Local Income</b>	<b>2020 Projected</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>
Pledges	37238.50	40,261.50
Loose Offerings	3,589.00	975.14
<b>Building</b>		
Pledges	4,350.00	2,894.10
Special Gifts & Donations	As given	3,309.95

### 2020 Notes:

Non Pledges Categories for Local Pledges Building Fund was deleted in 2020. Pledges and Non Pledges are now a combined category. Special gifts and donations: \$1,800.00 roof repair donation. \$1,509.95 from breakfast buffet fundraising.

<b>Local Income</b>	<b>2021 Projected</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Projected</b>
Pledges	36,016.00	35,089.00	35,088.00
Loose Offerings	864.00	1,441.92	1,000.00
<b>Building</b>			
Pledges	2,894.10	3,958.00	3,958.00
Special Gifts & Donations	As given	1000.00	As given

### 2021 Note:

Building Fund special gifts and donations: \$1000.00 organ donation.

The mission comparison for 2020 and 2021 mission projections appears in the benevolence section of this report. Please contact me if you have questions about your giving. All records related to congregant giving are confidential and handled only by the financial secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

Byron Spafford, Financial Secretary

**REPORT OF BENEVOLENCE**

	<b>2020 Projected</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Projected</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Projected</b>
<b>Pledges*</b>	2,765.88	2,821.00	2,765.88	4,151.00	4,151.00
<b>Non Pledges*</b>	As given	0.0	As given	As given	As given
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,765.88</b>	<b>2,821.00</b>	<b>2,821.00</b>	<b>4,151.00</b>	<b>4,151.00</b>
<b>Pledges as Given</b>					
America for Christ	As given	317.95	As given	303.00	As given
OGHS	As given	235.00	As given	165.00	As given
RMMO	As given	5.00	As given	205.00	As given
Special Projects	As given	7.00	As given	317.00	As given
WMO	As given	265.70	As given	0.0	As given
<b>Church Funds</b>					
Flower Fund	As given	632.77	As given	743.23	As given
Memorial Fund	As given	0.0	As given	790.00	As given
Scholarship Fund	As given	50.00	As given	0.0	As given

**Special Projects:** \$266.00 towards Afghanistan relief, \$51.00 to Deacons Funds for Thanksgiving donations and White Cross.

**Distribution of 2020 and 2021 Pledges is as follows:**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Coalition for the Homeless	225.94	332.45
Family Time	140.17	206.25
GBICS	703.51	1,035.18
Habitat for Humanity	102.93	151.46
Deacon's Fund	241.41	355.26
Northeastern Bible College	140.17	206.25
UM Basic Support	1,266.87	1,864.15
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,821.00</b>	<b>4,151.00</b>

**REPORT OF THE DEACONS' FUND**

*Report is not available at this time.*

**REPORT OF THE ANNUAL BUDGETS**  
**FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020-20 21 AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>
Checking Interest	22.00	40.14	30.00	80.36	60.00
Local Income	64,721.74	60,788.84	52,559.48	69,485.50	53,782.48
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>64,743.74</b>	<b>60,828.98</b>	<b>52,589.48</b>	<b>69,565.86</b>	<b>53,842.48</b>
<b><u>Expense</u></b>					
Administrative	11,995.00	12,556.65	4,490.44	4,027.27	5,270.00
Building R & M	76,810.00	66,226.78	57,614.00	67,439.94	59,338..84
Christian Education	1,500.00	0.0	100.00	0.0	0.0
Parson Salary &	42,285.73	11,402.08	n/a	n/a	n/a
Parsonage R & M	2,000.00	7,103.17	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sexton Property	3,100.00	2,764.96	3,180.00	2,793.16	3,260.00
Staff Payroll Taxes	1,900.00	1,232.32	1,400.00	885.26	1,100.00
Staff Salary	21,849.40	16,300.65	21,627.10	21,627.10	25,453.60
Staff Temp. Help	750.00	10,396.36	12,400.00	11,300.00	12,200.00
Worship and Service	1,910.00	1,010.63	1,498.84	1,621.29	1,475.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>164,099.93</b>	<b>128,998.99</b>	<b>101,873.68</b>	<b>109,694.02</b>	<b>108,097.44</b>
<b><u>Net Ordinary Income</u></b>	<b>-99,356.19</b>	<b>-68,170.01</b>	<b>-49,284.20</b>	<b>-40,128.16</b>	<b>-54,254.96</b>
<b><u>From Endowment:</u></b>	<b>74,400.00</b>	<b>74,400.00</b>	<b>74,400.00</b>	<b>74,400.00</b>	<b>74,400.00</b>
<b><u>Net Income</u></b>	<b><u>-24,956.19</u></b>	<b><u>6,235.38</u></b>	<b><u>25,115.80</u></b>	<b><u>34,271.84</u></b>	<b><u>20,145.04</u></b>

## REPORT OF THE CHURCH ACCOUNTS

All checking and savings accounts and certificates of deposit (CDs) of First Baptist are lodged at the Heritage Family Credit Union (Bennington, VT branch).

<b><u>Church Activities Accounts</u></b>	<b>12/31/19 Balance</b>	<b>12/31/20 Balance</b>	<b>12/31/21 Balance</b>
Primary Share: Savings	5,608.87	6,043.13	6,701.55
Lester Nichols Dividend Account	0.38	0.38	0.38
JH HA White Dividend Account	0.07	0.07	0.07
Mary Edgerton Dividend Account	0.05	0.05	0.05
VT Community Foundation Grant	1,074.29	1,076.58	1,077.92
Building Fund	13,740.08	15,733.55	19,161.16
Mable Harris Dividend Account	0.22	0.22	0.22
American Baptist Women	2,446.07	2,451.25	2,254.05
Share Draft: Checking	21,907.99	28,941.46	75,095.57
<b><u>CDs</u></b>			
Video Fund (24 month CD)	1,990.24	1,998.68	2,002.98
Shoe Fund (3 month CD)	2,908.32	2,921.81	2,927.86
Scholarship Fund (3 month CD)	9,209.07	9,251.59	9,270.53
<b><u>621 Main Accounts</u></b>			
621 Savings	26.71	26.75	26.75
621 Deposit Account	1,473.03	1,476.15	1,478.04
621 Checking Account	9,412.80	14,124.81	17,849.92

The Primary Share is a combination of funds. The breakdown as of 01/01/22 is as follows: Flower Fund-1,510.21, Memorial Fund-3,029.52, Shoe Fund-251.52, Scholarship Fund-1,605.00, Dividends-280.30 & Heritage minimum deposit allotment-25.00.

The Building Fund is a combination of funds. The breakdown as of 01/01/22 is as follows: Organ R&M-1,646.35, Sound System-108.36, and Building R&M: 17,406.45.

**REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT**

	<b>12/31/19 Balance</b>	<b>12/31/20 Balance</b>	<b>12/31/21 Balance</b>
<u>AssetMark</u> -Multi Strategy Acct	<b>754,469.33</b>	<b>806,973.70</b>	<b>830,673.82</b>
	<b>12/31/19 Balance</b>	<b>12/31/20 Balance</b>	<b>12/31/21 Balance</b>
Equitable-Annuity Acct*	<b>234,399.55</b>	<b>485,871.33</b>	<b>562,837.99</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>988,868.88</b>	<b>1,292,845.03</b>	<b>1,393,511.81</b>

**Endowment Notes:** \$208,195.67 from the sale of the parsonage was deposited in to the Equitable annuity account on September 21, 2020.

**PROFIT AND LOSS OF 621 MAIN**

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Interest	26.10	33.94	24.63
Rent	15,525.00	15,905.00	15,925.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15,551.10</b>	<b>15,938.94</b>	<b>15,949.63</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
Checks	-	32.44	
Electric	334.82	372.22	341.08
Mortgage	7,016.23	5,936.81	6,464.48
Oil	1,672.51	2,043.10	1,777.35
Property Taxes	2,945.76	3,041.31	3049.25
Repairs & Maintenance	247.23	255.10	0.0
Water and Sewer	845.39	1,285.48	951.65
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>13,061.80</b>	<b>12,966.46</b>	<b>12,583.81</b>
<b><u>Net Income</u></b>	<b><u>2,489.30</u></b>	<b><u>4,322.48</u></b>	<b><u>3,365.82</u></b>