

# Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

## Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting

January 25, 2020

First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, MS

The Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the Agricultural Development Foundation (ADF). ADF is the parent organization of our Louisiana Fellowship. Dr. Jim Watson, ADF President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The program consisted of the following:

- *A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance* – presented by James Henley of Starkville, MS
- *A Backward Glance, A Forward Look* – presented by Dr. Nelson Philpot of Homer, LA
- *Missionary Efforts in the Horn of Africa* – presented by retired IMB missionary Dr. John Lawrence of Shreveport, LA.
- *Update from Baptist Global Response* – presented by Jeff Palmer, CEO of BGR

This was an excellent slate of speakers who first reminded attendees of how ADF began 50 years ago through efforts led by Owen Cooper along with Gene Triggs and Jerry Clower. This was followed by a thorough history of some of the agricultural missions efforts ADF, as well as our Louisiana Fellowship, have supported over the years. Dr. Lawrence shared stories about the efforts of him and his wife to use goat projects and mobile veterinary clinics to interact with the indigenous people living in the Horn of Africa to spread the gospel of Christ. Jeff Palmer overviewed the work of BGR, which encompasses 350 projects in 65 countries of the world, expending \$9 million annually. Of the current BGR projects, 40 are related to agriculture.

At noon, members of the Louisiana Fellowship met for a brief business meeting. President David Morrison called the business meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. A financial statement prepared by Treasurer Christina LaMay was distributed. The statement showed a beginning balance on January 1, 2019, of \$6,983.54. Total funds contributed to the Fellowship during 2019 was \$9,657.05. Funds distributed for project support was \$8,500 for the Eastern Europe project. Funds available for project support on January 25, 2020, was \$10,673.77.

Dr. Charles Johnson, Projects Coordinator, presented a request from the IMB missionary in Eastern Europe for 2020 project support again totaling \$8,500. Projects included in the request were: seed, fertilizer, drip irrigation, and hand tools for a small garden project, seed and fertilizer for potato projects, support for three laying hen projects of 50 each, three honey bee projects, and funds to construct two greenhouses. Charles moved approval of this project, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

President Morrison informed the group that he had been contacted by Douglas Neel of Missionary Agricultural Resource Services of Alexandria, LA. This group desires to provide funding for the Eastern Europe agricultural work and wishes to designate \$1,200 to support the three laying hen projects. There was enthusiastic appreciation for this support and no objection regarding using their funds as per their designation.

In other business, President Morrison informed attendees that IRS Form 990 to maintain our 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status has been submitted for calendar years 2018 and 2019. He also reminded the group that the 2020 LBC Missions Ready Conference will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at FBC, Kenner and that he is planning to attend and set up our display. Any other member of

the Fellowship who would like to attend this conference is encouraged to do so.

The group then discussed whether a change could be made in the way donation checks submitted to our Fellowship are handled. The question was, can checks received at the Homer, LA post office box be mailed directly to LBF in Alexandria and then copies of those checks sent by LBF staff to Christina for our record-keeping needs? The feeling was that if this change is acceptable, it would allow checks to be deposited at LBF in a more timely manner. With strong support for this among attendees, President Morrison agreed to discuss this with Christina, investigate with LBF staff, and report back to the Executive Committee.

Finally, the need to fill slots among the officers and At-Large members of the Executive Committee was briefly discussed. David Morrison offered to serve another year as President and that was accepted by the group. Gene Baker asked to step down as Vice President. Christina LaMay had previously agreed to remain as Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Johnson had previously replaced Billy Nutt as Projects Coordinator, and Ernest Graham agreed to continue as an At-Large member. These were all acceptable to attendees for 2020. Going forward, this leaves a vacancy at Vice President and a vacancy of an At-Large member.

There being no further business, the Louisiana Fellowship business meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:  
David G. Morrison, President