

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

PO Box 575, HAYMARKET VA 20168



1. A meeting was held at Evergreen Firehouse, Prince William County Virginia on July 9, 1996 for the purpose of organizing the reopening of Antioch Baptist Church. Twenty-nine people, primarily members of Haymarket Baptist Church, attended the meeting (see attendance list). Differing viewpoints have evolved among the members of Haymarket Baptist Church concerning certain church matters and theology which have caused this group of people to seek to start a new church. (editors note: Perhaps this was the work of the Lord).
2. Bob Mayer opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:40 p.m. He stated that a new informal fashion would be in effect at Antioch; very casual - no neckties. This is because the building does not have air conditioning or bathroom facilities.
3. Bob described the fact that two different congregations have existed at HBC for some time, a moderate and a conservative approach to the Baptist faith. Bob, Jerry Pankey, Sandy Smallwood, and David Decarlo met with Ron Arflyn from the Potomac Association about 2 weeks ago to discuss the possibility of reopening Antioch Church. Legal aspects were also discussed with Cheryl Arflyn who is an attorney and also works for the Potomac Association. These discussions did not yield anything concrete which would prevent reopening.
4. Bob passed out and discussed a pamphlet entitled "Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love" which we should use as a guideline as we go forward and establish this new church.
5. A petition has been drawn up asking the membership of Haymarket Baptist Church to give us their blessing and permission to reopen the Antioch Church. Most of the attendees signed the petition. It will be presented by David DeCarlo at the regular business meeting of the Haymarket Baptist Church on 17 July 1996.
6. Charlie Brown agreed to take minutes at this meeting until a "real clerk" could be elected.
7. The meeting was opened for general discussion, the voicing of frustrations, comments and questions.
 - a. Bob responded to a request for more background information. He described Pastor Larry Lee's situation and the conduct of the last HBC business meeting which caused so much hurt. He talked about the two congregations and his discussions with Larry Lee regarding opening Antioch.
 - b. Sandy said that getting involved with this has helped her heal.
 - c. There was a question about why did we leave and they stay. Discussion followed.
 - d. Bob gave directions to Antioch Church and described the history.
 - e. Bob called for any document issued by Prince William County which may state we could use the building.
 - f. If any new addition were to be made to the building then the whole building would have to be brought up to current Prince William County code.
 - g. The small house adjacent to Antioch Church is owned by the church and rented for about \$175 per month. The grounds are maintained with proceeds from a trust fund. Currently Kitty Tatum's son John Richardson does it.
 - h. An option called a Provisional Occupancy Permit was discussed. P.W.C. would have to send an inspection team to inspect the building. Bob has these forms. The church would have to be operated solely as a church with no offices or other activities. We need to work with the county on this. Portable toilets may be an option.
 - i. There are 7 acres of land with the Antioch Church.

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- j. Bob said that someone from HBC voiced a concern about selling this property. Bob stated that this is not the intent.
 - k. Bob said that we are dealing with a lot of old history and many people are excited about seeing the church reopened.
 - l. Bob said that he attended a recent HBC council meeting and told them that this effort was not a attempt to "force" anything but rather to have a congenial relationship between the two churches.
 - m. John Abbot asked whose blessing or permission do we need? Bob described the petition we hope to have approved by HBC however, legally we just need the court to approve it.
 - n. All were encouraged to attend the HBC business meeting on 17 July. Ron Arflyn and Cheryl Arflyn will attend and Jane Strong will act as moderator.
 - o. Sandy said that Larry Lee was committed to support us at Antioch if asked.
 - p. Bob said that HBC would get credit for starting a new church.
 - q. Jerry Pankey said that we know what kind of church we want to have, i.e. an "accepting" church. It is not hanging on Larry Lee but in fact is bound by theology.
 - r. David Arnold recognized that we were two congregations with different mindsets regarding how we did church. Now we should feel free (liberated) to serve as the Spirit leads us and HBC can do the same.
 - s. A question was raised about Larry's severance package from HBC. Jerry said ^{HBC} they should continue to fulfill the obligation and that many people are sending money to HBC for just this purpose. We should not have to do anything on this.
8. Bob handed out copies of a proposed constitution and bylaws and 3x5 index cards to all present. He asked everyone to write down what they would like to see in a church. Everyone should have input.
 9. Sandy asked whether we could get some information on American Baptists or get someone to speak to us about it.
 10. David Arnold said that it is important to realize each of us has the ability to read scripture & interpret for ourselves. Denominations are there to help us in missions etc. but not to tell us how to believe. Any money, as little as \$1.00 donated to SBC will make you an SB church. Long Branch was a mission church of the Philadelphia Association & was an American Baptist Church.
 11. Sandy said that we can be dually aligned with two different associations. It is an advantage to be part of the Potomac Association because they have a blanket tax exempt status covering all their churches. Without this we would have to deal with the tax situation.
 12. Bob wants everyone to communicate and not to feel afraid to speak their mind.
 13. The procedures we should follow at the HBC business meeting were discussed. We are not to vote unless the petition is disapproved. The intent is to allow HBC to have an opportunity to decide this by themselves. If necessary a recount can be asked for and then we would vote to approve the petition.
 14. Cheryl will prepare the papers.
 15. Mike Green will explore the sewer system options.
 16. Potomac Association has funds designated to help start churches.
 17. Everyone was encouraged to attend Long Branch church in the interim. It is 4.5 miles north of The Planes.
 18. The date for the next meeting of the Antioch Baptist Church was set for July 22, at 7:30 p.m.
 19. It was agreed to retain the name "Antioch Baptist Church".
 20. A suggestion was made to get Benny Scarton from the Journal Messenger Newspaper to come and do an article on the reopening of Antioch Church. A picnic could be planned as well.
 21. David DeCarlo closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully, Charlie Brown

Evergreen Firehouse, Prince William County Virginia, July 9, 1996

List of attendees:

Charlie Brown	754-2597
Carol Brown	754-2597
David Arnold	349-2975
Catherine Arnold	349-2975
David DeCarlo	754-9059
Tom Smallwood	754-0964
Sandy Smallwood	754-0964
Karen Talak	754-3111
Ellen Mitchell	754-1610
Ollie Stipes	361-6637
Sue Pankey	369-5265
Jerry Pankey	369-5265
Jan Hiatt	754-1269
Cindy Latham	754-0939
Marion Mayer	754-4614
Bob Mayer	754-4614
Judy Akers	347-5691
Larry Wood	368-4579
Leann Wood	368-4579
Bill Powell	754-0103
Maxine Curry	754-9553
Charles Curry	754-9553
Mike Green	369-7921
Gail Green	369-7921
Brooke Green	369-7921
Dorothy Abbott	368-0272
John Abbott	368-0272
Sue Monihan	754-8673
Sandy Abbott	369-1948