

## **Minutes of Special Called Business Meeting**

**February 5, 2023 – Tomahawk Baptist Church**

### **Middle District Baptist Association**

The **call to order** was given at 3:00 p.m. by Moderator, Bob Beasley. Approximately 48 in attendance.

**Opening prayer** was given by Tomahawk Baptist Church Pastor, Eric Carroll.

Bob made an announcement that messengers not signed in to please do so with Clerk. Bob then introduced Carl Peyton, Leadership Chair.

**Carl Peyton recognized Search Committee** members Kay Fletcher, Sammy Frame and David Benjamin. Kelly Harris was Chairperson but had health issues and could not attend the meeting. Kay then read an email letter from Kelly that included thanking Jim Hamacher for his work over the past 17 years, along with a synopsis of the search process. Approx. 40 resumes were received from candidates all over the United States and Canada.

**Carl Peyton presented the candidate, Rev. John Sawyer.**

**Rev. John Sawyer** started by saying that he was not like Jim Hamacher, per Jim's request of the search committee, but that he liked Jim. He joined the military after high school and then worked in Agricultural Business. He married LeAnn and began a family. When visiting Bon Air Baptist Church, one of the members gave his young son a small racecar toy. This act of kindness left a lasting impression on John. He got his master's degree from George Fox Seminary and became Pastor of the James River Campus of Bon Air Baptist Church. He began a non-profit organization, Bridging RVA, to connect people and groups to help people in the local communities. Pastor David took John's resume and Kelly scheduled the Zoom interview and in-person interview. Rev. John Sawyer was accepted as the final candidate by the Search Committee for Executive Director.

**Rev. Sawyer** conducted a **Question-and-Answer** session where he was asked about new ways to bring people to Christ. His response was Discipleship and Evangelism. He wished to assist pastors in creating community within churches. John then introduced his wife, LeAnn.

**Carl Peyton** asked Rev. Sawyer and LeAnn to leave the room for a bit so discussion and voting could take place. Carl made a **motion to call Rev. Sawyer as the new MDBA Executive Director** with a starting date of 02/15/2023. Verbal voting took place and motion was unanimously approved. Motion was also made to **accept Amended 2023 Budget** to reflect salary of \$85,000 for incoming Director. Motion was also approved.

**Rev. John Sawyer** was brought back into the meeting and accepted the position with gratitude.

**Ron Wyatt, pastor of Graceland** closed the meeting with prayer at 3:54 p.m.