

Faith Baptist Fellowship Quarterly Business Meeting
July 27, 2025 4:00 PM

Ryan Decker welcomed the congregation and opened the meeting with prayer. Pastor Thomas led us in singing "The Solid Rock".

Ryan then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April's Quarterly meeting; motion made by Todd Holthaus, second by Dennis Cromwell, the motion carried by voice vote.

Max Masters advised that the election of a Nominating Committee Member is necessary to finish Rick Boeder's term (Rick and Linda moved from Sioux Falls), and to stagger the terms so all committee members do not finish their terms at the same time. The election was held. Results are identified in the Elder update.

Mike Stroh explained the elders completed the annual review of the membership roster, and had also received requests by members for their removal. As of July 16, the names recommended for removal from membership: Linda Kilvington, Meredith Graber, Carl Richardson, Sherry Richardson, and Dennis Tolliver. A motion was made by Dana Olson, second by Matt Schilling, to remove the five names from the membership roster; the motion carried by voice vote.

David Cotten gave the Financial Update. So far this year, income is just over \$578,000, which is 6% behind budget; expenses are over \$587,000, which is 14% higher than last year, resulting in negative \$9,276 through Quarter 2. David also mentioned that the Finance Team completed a CD rollover which matures in June 2027 and will earn 3%.

Elder update by Leigh Tange

- Leigh reiterated that the elders go through the membership roster each year, which provides an opportunity to reconnect with people, which also sometimes turns into a shepherding role.
- A sub-committee was formed to look at the Employee handbook which covers policies on hiring, vacation, benefits, etc. Updates were made and have been sent to the elders for their approval.
- Candidates have been identified for the next shepherd/leadership class
- The Elders are reading *Authority* by Jonathan Leeman, a look at wise, humble and accountable leadership. It has led to rich discussion during elder meetings.
- Ministry group leaders have been communicating with their ministry teams and leaders and will provide updates on how their ministry groups are doing to the full Elder council during the next couple of months.
- At the Elder retreat June 23 and 24:
- Reaching Forward (vision beyond the immediate) - the focus is to continue to develop our discipleship culture at Faith along with developing a future vision for Faith (see Pastor Mark's and Pastor Mike's reports in the following pages of these minutes).

- As they continue to study whether or not to implement Deacons, Acts 6:1 was studied, which describes a need. It was determined that with the refinement of our ministry structure, intentional improvement of our communication pathways, and the hiring of our Director of Operations, the need is no longer there, so for this season, establishing Deacons at Faith will not be pursued.
- Results from the vote for Nominating Committee member: 95 ballots were counted, and Andrew Siemonsma was elected to the position. Leigh thanked both Tim Patterson and Andrew for their willingness to be on the ballot and serve on the committee.

Staff updates

Family Ministry – Angela Myers is at MS Camp so report given by Leanne Pulling

- VBS had 65 students, which is down from past numbers, but the week was fruitful, and the volunteers were thanked for their efforts. One student asked to have a Bible, and one of our Faith families is sharing Jesus with neighbor children even though their parents wouldn't let them attend VBS
- HS camp had record numbers; it was an impactful week with positive ripples
- MS camp this week also has record numbers
- Prayer is requested for the Mission trip to Europe that Angela is leading Aug 8-16; prayers for safety, and for the VBS they'll be leading in a heavy Muslim area
- Fall ministry needs volunteers, there are numerous spots to fill

Operations report by Heidi Hawkins

- New landscaping by the west doors is done, thanks given to Rich Oksol and the men's ministry team, and to Jessie Manson who coordinated women to plant trees and plants
- Upper parking lot has had some washout; a curb needs to be added to prevent further damage. Jeff Brock has secured a bid for the concrete work.
- In June the water heater quit working; a new one was installed on July 18
- There is a leak upstairs by Room 209 which was identified as an AC leak; the drain pan was replaced, however ceiling, walls and carpet was damaged. Intek is assessing the damage, but it appears that the mold has been contained to Room 209
- The shed by the lower parking lot – the door is damaged and will be repaired
- All of these repairs can be covered by the budget; other projects are being prioritized. Heidi was asked who is on the Property Team – she advised team members include herself, Jeff Braak, Dale Jelen, Curt Rust, Mark Rezac, Eileen Winter, Mike Jahnke and Jessie Manson.

Care report by Greg Friesner

Greg loves seeing how the people of Faith care for one another, especially those going through a time of crisis. Paul, in 2 Corinthians, talks of the same kind of love, and in God's economy, when you're helping

people you will be blessed! Greg mentioned that some of our older saints are having transportation issues on Sunday, and he would love to have some people step forward who are willing to help getting them to and from church.

Pastor Updates

Pastor Thomas

- Work continues on refreshing our Faith Baptist Fellowship logo; Mark Henderson, who was involved with Risen Hope's logo, is now helping with the process.
- Sunday morning worship songs – the words that are projected on the front screens now include Bible verses that correlate.
- Choir will kick off soon – the leadership team is picking out music for fall and Christmas
- Ukraine trip update: Thomas gave his report wearing an authentic shirt from Ukraine that was gifted to him. In May, Thomas traveled to Odessa Ukraine with Steve Krier (president of Converge). The pastor's conference was held over 2 days, 200 pastors/leaders attended the first day; over 300 attended over the 2 days combined.
- Ministering to the people affected by the Ukraine/Russian war has led to more church plants – God is using it for good to build his church. Since the war began in 2022, 86 new churches have been planted, 314 pastors ordained, and over 10,000 baptisms! The conference was a huge time of refreshment for the Ukraine pastors. Thomas thanked FBF for covering more than half of the cost for the pastors to attend.

Pastor Mark

- A team of 10 has been meeting since February - Pastor Mark, Dennis Cromwell, Dean Born, Ryan & Kristi Decker, Mya Johnson, Mary Olson, Tanner Leuthold, Rochelle Leuthold, and Angela Myers - to work through our FBF discipleship strategy, which will then provide guidance for Faith University and Wednesday night classes. The specific piece being focused on is one-on-one discipleship. Men are being identified and asked to consider discipling other men; 25 men have said yes, the next step is to match with those who are seeking to be disciplined. This fall they will work on matching women, with training to begin late August.
- This fall Pastor Thomas will teach the Faith Foundations class (previously Faith Explored) during Faith University. It's being expanded to 13 weeks, and the entire FBF body is encouraged to attend the class, regardless of how many years they have been at Faith. The hope is to overflow the fellowship hall, and also offer it on Wed evenings from January – May for those who can't attend Sunday mornings. The goal is to establish a Faith U curriculum that will take 3-5 years to get through, starting in the fall of 2026.
- September 10 will be a kick off for our Wednesday evening programs with a meal, prayer and worship, and the SDSU ice cream truck,
- Our College age ministry (CAYA) continues to grow. Bruce & Debbie Watley head that ministry, and a student leadership team is also involved now; there are 15-25 young

adults actively attending. Watleys are planning to transition out of the ministry – David and Jen Cotten and Thomas and Cristy Slawson are also serving this ministry.

- Faith groups - Faith Group leader training will take place September 7.
- Ministry Fair is set for Aug 17, but displays are set up now for people to view; prizes are involved!

Pastor Mike

Pastor briefly reflected on the many things that FBF has to celebrate: unity on elder team, unity as a congregation, the “Anticipating Change” season is finished, Risen Hope is now autonomous. These were all large steps of faith - God moved, and all of this is to make much of the name of Christ!

- Three elder retreats were held and focused on where we’re heading now. It’s time to focus on being on mission together – not to grow inward focused. We are not a healthy church just to BE a healthy church, but for Gospel impact! A cross centered gospel makes more disciples for him.
- The focus is to develop a five year plan to be challenged and believe for big things. Creating discipleship culture is part of that plan and a work in progress.
- Todd Holthaus, Matt Thompson, Dennis Cromwell, Pastor Mark and Pastor Mike will define the vision and next steps. New endeavors could include:
 - Launching a network of like minded churches to resonate around our 5 loves
 - Launching campus ministries at Augustana and USF – growing college students to be launched like arrows when they graduate.
 - Unreached people groups right here in Sioux Falls
 - Church resourcing – helping other churches grow through leadership philosophy, expository preaching, etc.
 - Worship, counseling, discipleship, missions – perhaps a regional conference to educate goers and senders
 - Church planting or revitalization of a hurting church – perhaps combine efforts with another church
- Timeline – The refined vision and budget impact ready by September for Elder approval, then get congregational input, and perhaps a vote at the October Quarterly meeting. Pastor Mike encouraged us to be much in PRAYER and added that perhaps a 4th pastor will be needed to accomplish this vision.

Matt Thompson invited the congregation to share any praises

- Leanne Pulling is thankful for our church body and the warriors who prayed for her mom’s brain tumor – she is now cancer free.
- Pastor Mark shared that he spoke with a new couple this morning and they commented on how welcoming our church is. Mark encouraged us to keep connecting!
- Richard Dinsmoor said that he was on the worship team this morning and as he looked out over the congregation, he is just so thankful for the faithfulness of our people.

Matt closed the meeting with prayer, and Pastor Thomas led us in singing *Thank You Jesus for the Blood* as our closing song.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Born, Church Clerk