

Faith Baptist Fellowship Quarterly Business Meeting  
October 26, 2025  
4:00 PM

Matt Thompson thanked everyone for attending and opened with prayer. Pastor Thomas led us in singing "*Let Your Kingdom Come*".

Matt asked if there were any questions regarding the July quarterly business meeting minutes. There were no questions, so a motion was made by Todd Holthaus to approve the minutes; second by Mike Jahnke, the motion passed by voice vote.

Mike Stroh advised there are three members who have requested their names be removed from our membership. Jim and Kari Capaldo moved to Texas and have joined Gateway Community Church in Wylie Texas. Jennifer Beckers also requested that her name be removed. A motion to approve their requests was made by David Holter; second by Stuart Leuthold, the motion carried by voice vote.

Pastor Mike began his explanation of the Vision Plan by answering the question, "What has led us to thinking about this vision?" Two areas: theological and practical. Considering the great commission in Matthew 28 and our church's mission statement, how can we do better, how can we be intentional. We are a healthy church, but that is not an end to itself. Psalm 67:1&2 says we are blessed to bless others.

Pastor Mike reviewed the major changes that have taken place in our church the past few years, and it was practical necessity for those things to be our focus. However, we don't want to stagnate, but be on mission together and keep our focus outward. The elders have been working on this since 2024, along with a committee led by Pastor Mark.

He then referred to the FAITH graphic handout: F is for the *Formation* phase. Much of this work is already done, including Clarifying the vision and developing a 5-year plan; Launch the 5 Loves Network and prayer initiatives; and Expand the Elder Council from 9-11 elders. A for *Assessment* phase – including praying toward adding a 4<sup>th</sup> pastor, and praying about a capital campaign and doing it well. IT for *Implementation & Training* phase. This is where the work begins in earnest, targeting 2027-2028. College ministry is heavy on Mike's heart, as is looking at under church areas in Sioux Falls. H for *Healthy Churches* – God will make clear what our next steps will be.

The 5 Loves Network handout was reviewed next. It's Mission Statement is to seek greater gospel impact through the partnership of like-minded churches who desire to be on mission together.

Pastor Mike had some answers for frequently asked questions:

Why? To make the greatest gospel impact in making disciples. There will be no decrease in our commitment to Converge – they are a big tent over us and 5 loves would be a small table under that tent.

Hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> pastor? No decisions have been made by elders on this yet, they are just praying toward it; we don't want to just react, but anticipate growth.

We're behind on budget right now, so how does that play into intentional vision?

The church needs to be challenged to step out in faith to make the most impact.

Forums will be scheduled before the annual celebration so that questions may be asked and answered. Pastor Mike encouraged us to pray, that God will make straight our paths, and that we would be prepared to vote on it in January.

Leigh Tange thanked everyone for being present. He read Article 6 to remind us that we are the governors, which we'll express during today's election and the vision just presented.

He explained in more detail that increasing the number of elders on the council has been discussed at length for some time. The Council started with 8 nonvocational

elders in 2009. When Risen Hope was launched, it required additional elders, so at that time 15 elders were serving both churches. Since 2020, our attendance has increased 33%, meaning there are more shepherding and care needs; much of elder meeting time is often spent discussing care needs. It is a priority to keep elder terms staggered, so that is why Dennis Cromwell is nominated to serve just a one-year term. Because he's served before, and is familiar with the responsibilities, it will work well to have him serve the one-year term.

Ryan Decker thanked the Nominating Committee led by Max Masters for their work. Before collecting the ballots, he explained that Nominating Committee members are required to be elected by a vote, so that is the reason two names are on the ballot for one position.

Financial Update given by David Cotten

Share giving: \$25,000 has been given to specific ministries including Alpha Center, MomCo, Converge disaster relief, Union Gospel Mission, Compassion International, Cadence International, and Pastor Jim Hays.

Through Quarter 3, our income of \$851,609 is 2% behind last year's income and 8% behind budget. Expenses are also down - \$909,658, which is 16% higher than last year, but less than budgeted. Thankfully department leaders have been frugal in their spending.

So, we have a \$58,000 negative balance through Quarter 3. Last year we were at a \$78,000 positive balance; in 2023 we were at \$26,000 positive. David anticipates giving will increase at year end, but for now, \$30,000 has been moved out of reserve into checking. The church is still in a healthy position. Dave encouraged all of us to pray about our budget and trust that He will provide. He mentioned that the 2026 budget prep has begun, and a draft is nearly ready.

Andrew Siemonsma asked about the balances in our reserve funds: money market is at \$178,000, the CD \$231,000.

## Ministry Updates:

- Care - Pastor Greg Friesner encouraged us to take heart, Jesus has overcome our worldly troubles, and it takes all of us working together. He thanked the elders for the hard situations they've had to address.

The possibility of being involved in devotional times at Sunnycrest Retirement Village is being explored. Our men's ministry is doing great things. Greg closed by urging us to not let fear get in the way of helping people. The Holy Spirit is good at pricking our hearts to help, and we have a good reputation of being a helping church. He's been touched by the notes received for Pastor Appreciation Month.

- Operations – Heidi Hawkins advised that a Safety & Security Team is being assembled; members will be Aaron Myers, Aaron Weeldreyer, Greg Hannestad, Scott Stroman, Stuart Leuthold, Heidi Hawkins and Laura Rupp. The team has met three times, the expectation is to consider the safety and preparedness to meet emergencies as they arise (weather, physical safety, etc.). A proposal has been made to the elders who approved the tentative plan: Two people will be on rotation stationed in the foyer to monitor entrances through cameras, and one who would roam the building and parking lot. There would be one individual on duty Wednesday nights as well. Workers will be trained on de-escalation practices. The next steps will be to identify others who could be involved on the team, research and interview companies who offer training to churches, and create policy and procedures. Implementation is targeted for January, but questions still need to be identified. Team members would not be armed but will focus on cameras, door locks. Information is being gathered from other churches, and church members; we want to be sure that those involved are trained well. The mindset is on having a safety ministry, not to focus on the worst-case scenario, but the safety of our congregation.

Questions asked:

Why will the team not be armed? Heidi advised that it impacts insurance and liability – pros and cons still need to be reviewed.

Are background checks being run on those involved? Church membership would be a requirement and background checks would be done.

Leigh Tange added that this is a sensitive area and he appreciates Heidi's leadership on this. Things are very introductory, and much work remains.

Todd Holthaus added that some things are in place already, we're just taking it to another level. Rochelle Leuthold added that there have already been issues that needed to be addressed, such as people being in the building who weren't interested in worshipping. Heidi said there is much to be investigated, the important place to start is training. There will also be opportunities for the congregation as a whole to be trained (example: does everyone know what to do in a weather emergency?)

- Family Ministry – Angela reminded us that we need to launch our students like arrows and give them opportunities to grow. This summer's mission trip to Europe was enriching for both the church in Europe and our group that went, because the church really needed encouragement from like-minded people. She also highlighted the ongoing need for more volunteers. Right now, substitutes are needed to help with children's worship and teaching, and the nursery always needs more hands.

Angela closed by affirming that students are sharing their faith outside the walls of this church, and she thanked us for being a praying church and encouraging our students.

- Walking - Pastor Mark noted the Faith Foundations class will be offered on Wed nights in January. Sunday morning Faith University will have multiple classes again for January – May. Mark will meet with a team to focus on Faith University curriculum for fall 2026 and forward, hoping to identify a 3-5 year plan.

Mark then referenced the Culture of Discipleship handout, explaining that it flows out of the Jan 2024 elder retreat, with the goal to strengthen our discipleship culture as we experience further growth. The team met monthly from March through August with the task of defining discipleship to give our church body guidance. A disciple is a follower of Christ, a life-long learner, there is no perfection involved. It is an intentional relationship to do spiritual good. A Culture of Discipleship takes the initiative on building deep and meaningful relationships. At Faith, we want it to be the norm to develop relationships and do good in others' lives. Discipleship happens on Sunday mornings, in small groups, Faith University, and ministering together. God has raised up 35 men who want to disciple other men and training is currently happening for those men. Next, women who want to disciple will be identified. The Lord is bringing about relationships, be praying that God would bear much fruit, and growth will continue.

Deb Moore asked what material is being used. Mark advised God's word, praying, sharing life, daily Bible reading.

Richard Dinsmoor asked Mark what his favorite part of this is. Mark replied that he loves being one on one in the Word, responding to questions, and seeing others say yes thrills him.

- First Steps - Pastor Thomas gave an update on rebranding our Faith Baptist Fellowship logo. The team formed to work on this includes Dave Eggen, Linda Schilling, Grace Bennet, Elijah Myers, Suzy Jones and Pastor Thomas. Why is this update important? Prov 22:1 says that "a good name is more desirable than riches". Communication is rapid and important, and representation in our community is important. Our current logo is 14 years old. Mark Hendersen, who designed Risen Hope's logo, is a part of the process. A draft of the potential logo was put on the screen; Thomas said it emphasizes being led by the spirit, and that lives are changed by the power of the spirit. Expect more updates at the annual meeting in January.

Rochelle Leuthold asked about the cost of the project. So far \$3,900 has been spent. The sign on 57<sup>th</sup> & Minnesota needs to be changed anyway, the colors have faded to purple, he is not sure about the cost to replace it.

Ryan Decker presented the results of the election – all positions were approved, Yvonne Vilhauer was elected for the nominating committee. Those on the ballot willing to serve were thanked.

Matt Thompson invited the body to share prayers or praises.

Scott Stroman said his wife Becky will have her knee replaced this week and asked for prayers.

Tim Patterson shared that he and Barb moved to Sioux Falls from Iowa in 2014. Looking at church websites helped them find FBF, and he is grateful our church has done a good job saying what our beliefs are.

Pastor Mike thanked us for all the prayers for their daughter-in-law and their new granddaughter; they have been overwhelmed by the care shown to his family.

Leigh Tange acknowledged Pastor Thomas and his efforts in putting the Faith Foundation class together and leading the class – it is good to be reminded of our doctrine.

Ryan Decker shared that his daughter Lydia and Cole Capaldo are engaged, and seeing them share their faith on their college campus makes him so thankful that our congregation poured into their lives.

Maria Begeman thanked everyone for the prayers for Shannon's back surgery. Their son Daniel connected with the pastor's son from the church in Europe and has maintained contact with him. Daniel's friend wrote a prayer for Shannon's surgery that was very touching.

Pastor Thomas shared he couldn't do his job without his wife Cristy and recognized the sacrifices and service that wives do behind the scenes.

Hunter Coyle shared he is very grateful for the hospitality and leadership and support that is given to our college-age ministries.

Amy Dinsmoor thanked her Choir leadership team – the choir is up to 29 members! They have changed practice time to include prayers and devotions and she is grateful for the growth.

Matt Thompson closed in prayer, and Pastor Thomas led us in singing “*Jesus, Thank You*”.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Born  
Church Clerk