

**Faith Baptist Fellowship**  
**Annual Celebration**  
**January 25, 2026 - 4PM**

Josh Stibral greeted the congregation, opened with prayer and led in singing "Run and Run".

Ryan Decker called the meeting to order, advised a quorum was established, and requested a motion to approve the October quarterly business minutes. Todd Holthaus made the motion, second by Eric Jelken; there was no discussion, the motion was approved by voice vote.

Mike Stroh advised that Blake and Stacy Dixon moved to South Carolina and have asked for their membership to be removed. The motion was made by Linda Schilling, second by Brian Bennett, to remove the Dixons, it was approved by voice vote. Mike then announced 16 candidates have met all the membership requirements and are recommended for membership by the Elders. Those candidates are: *Matt McFarland, Natalie McFarland, Jacob Mohnen, Zoe Mohnen, Ian Hofer, Hannah Hofer, Jared Colombel, Cora Colombel, Marcus Fite, Hannah Fite, Caleb Horn, Morgan Horn, Jim Nielson, Renita Nielson, Mike Fisher, and April Fisher*. Dennis Cromwell made a motion to approve all 16 for membership, second by Leanne Pulling; there was no discussion, motion approved by voice vote. The congregation stood and recited the Membership Covenant.

David Cotten began his financial report with an update on last year's 4<sup>th</sup> quarter: we were significantly behind budget, but with God's blessings, our 2025 income totaled \$1,273,786 which resulted in a net surplus of \$61,996. The Elder recommendations on how to dispense the surplus include specific amounts to International Missions, domestic ministries, Prayer 1<sup>st</sup> Ministry, Ukraine Pastor's conference, long term capital improvements, general fund reserve, signage rebrand, repair lights and power on the main sign, and Faith Vision. David made a motion to accept the surplus plan, second by Brad Paulson; there was no discussion and it passed by voice vote.

David ended the 2025 update by reporting that \$30,243 of SHARE offerings were given to designated funds including Alpha Center, MomCo, Converge Disaster Relief, Union Gospel Mission, Converge church planting, Compassion International, Cadence International, Jim Hays, Incarcerated Ministries, Cranford Baptist in London, Cru, and House of Grace. He suggested an informal motion to Praise the Lord!

The 2026 budget was the next presentation. The proposed budget is \$1,311,197, which is 1.9 % higher than 2025, 3% higher than last year's income, 21% is assigned to missions. David made a motion to pass the budget, second by Barb Patterson; no questions or discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Pastor Mike gave a brief overview of the proposed Faith Vision. Two forums were held in December to provide an opportunity for questions. The Vision's purpose is to meet our mission statement and be intentional in discipleship; teams will be assembled for gospel outreach and to develop resources. This will be a working year for the assessment phase and to launch the 5 Loves Network with Risen Hope and potential other churches. Leigh Tange explained the Faith Vision ballot that was distributed to all members and asked for a motion to proceed with a ballot-vote; motion made by Penny Bennett, second by Cristy Slawson, the motion passed by voice vote. A ballot vote was then conducted, and ballots were collected and counted.

## **Ministry Updates**

Family Ministry - Angela Myers encouraged everyone to read her update in the printed annual report and shared video highlights of 2025 children and youth ministries.

Operations - Heidi Hawkins also referred us to her update in the annual report. She announced that Mark Rezac is planning to retire from his custodial position in May – he has faithfully served our church as custodian since 2019. A job posting will be made for the position, and she asked for prayers for filling it. Heidi also reported that the Safety & Security team is making progress a priority and is already putting practices in place. Invitations were sent to several church members, and with the existing team, we have a total of nine individuals willing to serve. They are meeting with a potential company to provide training, and are working on policies and procedures.

Care Ministry - Pastor Greg Friesner reflected that last year was a really tough year for some, but he has seen God work in incredible ways, and has witnessed that perseverance makes us stronger. Greg is going to step down from his position at the end of 2026, he feels the timing is right. He is proud of us as a church, but reminded us we need to boast in the Lord for He has given our gifts to function as a church.

Elder update – Leigh Tange gave praises for 16 new members, and for the surplus at the end of the year after being behind in budget. The target was to keep this year’s budget under a 2% increase. He also pointed out that there will be no offering gift for Risen Hope this year; they became independent two years ago, and we provided income for those two years, but they are now prepared to move ahead financially independent. Seven years ago, seventy people left Faith Baptist Fellowship to start up Faith West. They now have 157 members, and beginning Easter Sunday, they will have two services.

Leigh mentioned that once a year the elders are required to present the plan for ministry groups; he did so by referring us to the Ministry Structure page in the annual report – it will be updated with the elders who are starting new terms tomorrow.

Communication improvement was accomplished in many areas, one of which was updating employee handbooks; they were updated by Pastor Mike, Todd Holthaus, Linda Schilling, and Joleen Smith, and then approved by the Elder Council. Job descriptions were also updated and will be used for employee annual reviews.

John Samuel is going to start using the outside grounds on Tuesday evenings for Men’s Alliance Ministry. Their mission is to sharpen men to become the husbands and fathers that God intended.

Leigh finished by asking us to pray for the Elder Retreat on Friday and Saturday. They will review progress made the last few years, and look ahead toward Faith Vision. Leigh announced the result of the vote for Faith Vision was 130 yes and 5 no – 96.3% approval.

## **Pastoral updates**

Pastor Mark treasures his role as discipleship pastor. He encouraged us to read his report, and encouraged us to continue building into each other through gathered worship, Faith U, Faith groups, and Bible studies. He shared his desire to strengthen our discipleship culture – over 70 have said yes to be a

discipler. Mark announced that Ken and Natalie Hurst and Joe and Deb Moore are taking over the Prime Time ministry. Greg and Tami Hannestad were recognized for their care and support given while leading Prime Time for many years.

Pastor Thomas is absent from the meeting due to his father's passing. Thomas and three of his children are flying to Louisiana today; Thomas will give the message at the funeral. Pastor Mike read a brief letter from Thomas which focused on communications, based on Proverbs 22:1. By God's abundant grace, FBF has a good name, and our commitment to gospel culture is evident. New visitors often say how friendly and loving our congregation is. Our church logo has served well for 14 years, but change is warranted to continue to communicate well. Thomas' team worked with Mark Henderson to develop four new logo designs, and the group all agreed on the same logo; the change will appear mid-April.

Pastor Mike celebrates the good year that Faith has had. He loves our church, but his hope is in the Lord Jesus who made us sons and daughters, and FBF still clings tightly to that gospel. We love one another in gospel unity. He is grateful for fellow pastors, our amazing staff, and for the faithful tireless work of the Elder Council – they carry a huge load with great joy. We have great ministry leaders and teams, and volunteers that serve our church generously. He closed with Philippians 3:13 & 14, and encouraged us to pray, serve, give, and love in 2026; to press on with Faith Vision and look forward to what God will do.

Mike Stroh was recognized for going off the elder council and thanked for his service. Todd Holthaus, Dennis Cromwell, and Jed Fong are starting new terms this week. They were called to the front and Pastor Mike, Pastor Mark, and the Elders prayed 1 Peter 5:1 over them, that they would shepherd the flock willingly and eagerly, and be examples to the flock to receive the unfading crown of glory. We were reminded to pray regularly for these men.

Max Masters invited members to share any praises

- Tom Raville shared that his life fell apart overnight last year. His Faith Group daily and weekly walked with him during the toughest time of his life. He wasn't judged, he was just shown Jesus. Tom encouraged everyone to stay on the side of Truth, and to get to know the people in this church and walk through life with them. God answered prayers that Tom didn't know he needed answered. A verse in Job is now his life verse, "*My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you.*"
- Norm Berger shared that three of the members who died last year – Rudy Cary, Kelly Hambek, and Ron Weisenburger - were all close friends. He thanked them for impacting his life.
- Leigh Tange welcomed our 16 new members and encouraged us all to meet and greet them during the potluck meal.

Norm Berger made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Brian Bennett. Max Masters gave thanks for the food, and Josh Stibral led us in singing the closing song "The Solid Rock".

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Born  
Church Clerk