

Quarterly Business Meeting
April 19, 2026 – 4:00 PM

Pastor Thomas welcomed everyone and led us in singing *Let Your Kingdom Come*.

Todd Holthaus called the meeting to order, advised a quorum was established, and opened with prayer. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Annual Celebration. A motion was made by Brad Paulson, second by Kim Skyberg; motion approved by voice vote.

Dennis Cromwell introduced five of the eight who are seeking membership. Dennis made a motion to receive all eight into membership, confirming that all have been through the Faith Foundations class, met with elders and gave testimonies, and desire to contribute to the life of FBF. Cristy Slawson seconded the motion; it carried by voice vote. The new members are: Megan Walsh, Elijah Melum, Josh Hejl, Laura Hejl, Kevin Ketterer, Mary Pool-Trevino, Steve Eliason, and Angela Eliason. The congregation stood to recite the Membership Covenant.

Dennis then announced members in good standing who have requested to have their membership removed: Andi Voss has joined Edgefield Church in Nashville, TN; Bruce and Heather Larkin are attending Windom E Free Church in Windom, MN; Micah Siemens has joined Calvary Church in South Bend, IN; and Bruce and Debbie Watley are attending Grace Church in Renner, SD. Dennis made the motion to approve, second by Norm Berger, there was no discussion, the motion carried by voice vote.

Dennis then advised the elders are recommending the dismissal of Frankie Blackwell as a member. Dennis read the letter from the elders that was sent to Frankie on Feb 24, 2026. When the elders met with Frankie on Feb 11, he stated he was no longer a Christian, nor did he desire to be a member of our church. Dennis made the motion, second by Pastor Mike Johnson, there was no discussion, the motion carried by voice vote.

David Cotten gave the Financial Update, sharing the good news that our income surpassed budget and expenses: Income this quarter was \$363,515, expenses were \$306,267, resulting in a net surplus for Quarter 1 of \$57,248.

SHARE giving for Quarter 1 included Casa de la Esperanza, \$2,807 in January; the Ukranian Pastor's Conference, \$2,500 in February (other churches also added funds for a total of \$5,015); and Community Outreach, \$1,485 in March. A balance of \$15,000 is kept in the SHARE account so funds are readily available. Kathy Randol asked how much had been given from the account to people in our congregation. David did not have that information readily available, but advised he would check with the appropriate people and let Kathy know.

Shannon Begeman asked David what plan was in place during Heidi's absence. David assured that Heidi was working on projects remotely and others within the office were helping her out. (Leigh Tange later advised during the Operations update that the Safety and Security, Financial, and Property Management Teams were covering ongoing items within their respective areas as Heidi continued to work remotely.)

Elder Update

Leigh shared a few informational slides:

- A list of the current vocational and non-vocational elders
- Stats of our average attendance over the last 5 years in the Worship Center: 254 in 2021; 272 in 2022; 327 in 2023; 355 in 2024; and 362 in 2025
- Income has also grown from \$1,000,702 in 2021 to \$1,273,786 in 2025
- From 2023 – 2025: members have increased from 238 to 289; Visitors from 70 to 125; Faith Groups from 19 to 24; and Faith Group members from 210 to 245

At their retreat, the elders reviewed previous action items, reviewed statistics, and reviewed Faith Vision planning (in its Formation Phase). There is much to praise the Lord for! They determined that evaluating action items is beneficial, numbers help to clarify perception, and, most important, the Gospel is evident throughout Faith's ministries.

We are still experiencing the blessings of our pastor transitions (Mike and Mark); our multi-generational body of believers is a blessing; foundations are laid for future areas; we need to continue to put on the armor of God and be aware of the devil's attacks.

Vision casting for staff – what should our staff look like in the near term as Greg Friesner retires and Josh Stibral finishes his residency at the end of the year.

Membership vision – what about members that fall out of fellowship? It is very challenging for the elders especially when the member is unwilling to return and breaks fellowship.

Gospel Footprint for Easter Sunday attendance – in 2017, 536 attended; in 2018 there were 474. This Easter on April 5, 2026, FBF and Risen Hope had a total of 927 worshipers (536 at FBF and 391 at RH) who were all exposed to the gospel!

Leigh was asked about the number of seats in our sanctuary – there are 360 seats.

Senior Pastor Update

Pastor Mike reminded us that in life's blessings and challenges we see the Lord working in so many ways. Discipleship is growing, vision for the lost is growing, and the church is

growing – every week there are new people visiting. People want to join as members and we have UNITY by the grace of God, both in our church and our elder council. So many serve our church in so many ways, and our staff, too, is so dedicated to serve the church.

Many are showing interest in the Faith Vision. Leadership has been established for two groups, and there are two more to go (the four groups are evangelism, mission sending, college age, diaspora).

Mike invited Mark Rezac to the front to be appreciated for six years of custodial service; Mark is retiring on May 29.

Update on Heidi and Mike Hawkins – Mike is still in the Minnesota hospital - he is improving. Carmen and Linda are covering a lot of what Heidi is unable to do remotely.

Staff challenges – the Director of Care position when Greg retires in December; Pastoral Resident Josh Stibral is finished in December, too. Elders are reviewing options, there is not a proposal to present to the congregation yet, discussion and prayer is ongoing, and the congregation is asked to pray as well for clear direction. Pastor Mike ended with verses from 2 Corinthians 4: *we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God; we are not destroyed so the life of Jesus may be manifest . . . we do not lose heart, though outwardly we waste away, our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory.*

Staff Updates:

Family Ministry - Angela Myers began her report thanking Mark Rezac for the many messes he cleaned up after the youth gathered! Wednesday night ministries wrapped up for this school year a couple weeks ago, she thanked those who were involved. There is great momentum with our Youth, she reminded helpers the eternal impact they make on our youth. Plans are being implemented for VBS, which is not just a routine, but an outreach, so invite and serve!

Operations – in Heidi's absence, Leigh gave the update on the Safety & Security Team. The leadership team consists of Stuart Leuthold, Scott Stroman, Greg Hannestad, Aaron Weeldreyer, and Aaron Myers. The team received training from *His Armor*, a team from Sioux City that specializes in tactics and training for churches. Additional cameras have been installed in the building, while others have been updated. De-escalation training is planned for mid-May, ushers and Welcome Ministry team members are also invited to attend. More team members are needed, there will be opportunities to shadow for those who may be interested.

Care Ministry - Pastor Greg began by referencing John 16:33 – In this world we will have trouble, but Jesus showed up and overcame the world. Greg is encouraged when he watches our church work, and shared a “Yay God” story: Deb and Joe Moore want God to be glorified through Joe’s pancreatic cancer. This morning after first service, their Faith Group and friends and elders surrounded them with prayer – Greg called it a God-hug.

Pastor Updates

Pastor Thomas thanked Carmen, Linda and Elijah who serve as our communication team, and reminded everyone to check the bulletin, website, and the app often.

We’re in the good ole days! Highlights: We’re a welcoming church! We’re a singing church! Thomas and Josh have been writing songs to go along with the summer sermon series. They hope to record theologically rich songs to be used in other churches.

Our new logo will be launched in May, there’s a “fire sale” on the old logo merch! Aaron and the Tech Team were recognized for their contribution and hard work. Pastor Thomas and Mark are going to Ukraine in May for the Pastor conference – we were asked to pray for them. Thomas closed with Psalm 103:2 – *bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*

Pastor Mark shared a handout of the 3 to 5-year Faith University plan. Our body has been blessed with a strong foundation, and we want to build on that going forward by training and teaching the body of believers at FBF to

- Accurately handle the word of Truth – 2 Timothy 2:15
- Be on guard, to not be carried away by error – 2 Peter 3:17 & 18
- Be complete in Christ – Colossians 1:28
- Equip the saints for service and building up of the body – Ephesians 4:12 & 13

The plan is intentionally aligned with our five loves. The plan has been approved by the elders with Tier 1 Core and Tier 2 Core classes offered on Sunday mornings. Tier 1 classes will be offered as stand-alone classes in the Fellowship Hall, one each year for four years (OT and NT overview, Systematic Theology and Biblical Theology). Tier 2 Core classes will be offered concurrently: Evangelism, Missions, Discipleship, One Anothering, Apologetics, and How to Study the Bible.

This fall we’ll start with OT overview, a 26-week class, Sept thru Feb; March – June will be an 11-week mini term. By repeating for four years, the hope is that most will go through all the classes. Adjustments will be made if needed, electives will be offered on Wednesday evenings. Current Bible studies will continue, with the potential to add more if there is interest. The Faith Foundations class will always be offered. This summer, classes will go

through the end of June; Josh will teach Colossians. July and August will have special presentations by missions, youth, etc.

Discipleship – Mark thanked those who have stepped into that role.

Joe and Deb Moore will step away from the Primetime leadership role, Ken and Natalie Hurst will continue as leaders of that group.

Ryan Decker invited anyone to share praises -

Ryan started by thanking our church for their impact on the life of his daughter Lydia – she will marry Cole Capaldo this summer.

Maria Begeman shared that she and Shannon teach Sunday School and they are so blessed by the children and the growth they see. Things that parents learn in adult classes trickles down to the children - it's a joy!

Ryan closed in prayer and adjourned the meeting.

Pastor Thomas led us in the closing song - *To God Be the Glory*.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Born
Church Clerk