

First Baptist Church Keller Deacon Meeting

May 3rd, 2025

Meeting was conducted on-campus at First Baptist Church Keller (FBCK).

Staff Members in Attendance on-campus

Keith Sanders

Deacons in Attendance

A total of 50 Deacons signed in on campus (there was not a Zoom option). May 2nd and 3rd were the annual Deacons retreat with a BBQ dinner & fellowship time on Friday (May 2nd) evening along with family members with the meeting occurring on Saturday (May 3rd).

Call to Order and Welcome Remarks

- Chairman Guy Simpson called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer.
- Jon Taylor prayed for Pastor Keith with thanks to the Lord for his 20 years of service at FBCK.
- Brian Goble prayed for the widows and widowers' ministries.
- Frank Shelton prayed for the unity of the church and referenced the following verses: Psalm 133:1, 1Peter 3:8, Phil 2:2.

Updates from Pastors/Staff in attendance

Since the pastors have been on campus many weekends over the last several months, Pastor Keith excused the pastors from attending to be with their families.

Senior Pastor Keith Sanders:

- Update on the Vision Team
 - The 1st vision team was brought together in 2008 prior to becoming debt free
 - Our pillars of ministry were brought forth (Soli Deo Gloria and others)
 - Vision Fund established
 - The current Vision team emphasis was focused on being 10yrs away from the 150th anniversary of FBCK.
 - Do not want to be heading into the foreseeable future, being content to just be debt free and growing again.
 - The team quickly decided that there is no appetite to build a new building at this time with cost of new auditorium averaging around \$25M or more. The idea currently of focusing on our money and energies elsewhere is the focus.
 - The team met from Aug 2024 to May 2025.
 - Kreg Bryant, as the Vice-Chairman of the Vision Team, will present to the FBCK church body at the next members only meeting on 5/14/25 a summary of the areas of focus from the vision team as follows:
 - Spiritual development of our current members. Develop our own church members and lead them into areas of service to the rest of the body
 - Community outreach & evangelism. FBCK is strong on international missions but need to focus more on local outreach within the Keller and surrounding cities. The plan is to reallocate some funds and members to local outreach.

Some outreach examples is a concert in Fellowship Park in May with Pastor Matt Perkinson and various ensembles with the goal to edify the FBCK church body and invite the local community and lost.

- Local church planting is an area of focus as we have had some experience in Utah, Oregon and revitalization in Euless among others. This could possibly be a rebrand/restart of a local church like Euless (now Foundation Baptist Church) or maybe a brand-new church plant.
- Discussion of attendance at FBCK. Pre-COVID we had 1250 Sunday school attendance weekly. Immediately post-COVID the number went down to 850. Recently we have been back to 1150 attendance. We are currently running out of room for Sunday school classes. An option may be to go back to multiple hours of Sunday school.
- Stewardship is going well, and a high percentage of church members are giving routinely. Reported to be ~2100 members of the church and of that there are 817 “giving units” (families, solos).
- We are going to advertise who we are and use social media and other areas without watering down the Gospel message. The plan is to be more intentional to let those in Keller and the surrounding cities know that you can come to FBCK and hear expository preaching from the Word of God. Pastor Keith shared a story about a local tow truck company, just across the tracks from FBCK, that has been around for a long time but needed directions to the church to pick up a stranded motorist as they were not aware that the church is here since it is set back from Keller Pkwy.
- We may eventually need to build a new/additional facility. Since estimates are that we need 3 yrs to go from plan to build to ready to move in, the Long Range Planning plus the Building & Grounds Committees will be tasked soon to come up with plans in the next yr so that we are ready to move forward when the time arrives to build.
- Adding Prayer to the pillars of our church established by the 2008 Vision Team.

- Pastor Keith also opened for questions from the deacon body.
 - Kirby Kercheval – Question: If we get surplus giving where does it go?
 - Answer: Encouraged to give to the general budget. But, based on our 2008 Vision Team recs, 10% of all general budget giving goes to the Vision Fund.
 - David Kennedy – Question: If we build, will it be toward the west side of property?
 - Answer: Yes. Toward the west. Consideration for a Fine Arts bldg, a Chapel (for weddings, funerals, our Ethinic churches), new auditorium to name a few.
 - Ray Campbell – Question: Any changes coming with Harvest school? Can you give update?
 - Answer: Harvest hired a new Administrator. They have a current lease agreement which allows them to be here for the next several years.

We have a better working relationship with Rhonda (their new vice-principal) than we have recently had.

- Matt Porter – Question: Do we need to add more staff for the Advertising & expanded services?
 - Answer: Yes, but we may outsource some and/or add some contractual staff. There are no current plans to add full-time staff currently.
- Brian Romig – Question: Regarding the ministry plan, note that there is very limited overall growth but still an increase in the money to actual ministry. Are we starving other areas to allow for this?
 - Answer: No. Loss of salary after Gregory leaving and Yvette retired and neither replaced. FBCK also gave a cost-of-living adjustment to staff after this. There was not need to cut other areas of ministry.
- Brian Goble – Question: Did we reduce money going to the Cooperative Program?
 - Answer: Yes. That was a recommendation from the finance committee. Also note that FBCK has been the #1 giver in Tarrant County for some time.

Kreg Bryant then closed out with prayer for the Vision Team recommendation's presentation to the FBCK church family scheduled for May 14th at the next members only business meeting.

Ministry Team Updates – Chris Norris:

The Physical Services Team was spotlighted by David McReynolds. All other ministry team updates were given by Chris Norris.

1. Widows Team – one new widow to be reached that Don has been working to contact. Considering Memorial Day being this month, Don has put together a list of those widows who have passed on since our meeting last May. We take a moment to remember: Diana Leubbert, Linda Meade, Twila Ryan, Patty Stallons, Joanna Thetford, Gloria Locke, Joyce McCorkle. We thank the Lord for these ladies and their service to our Lord's kingdom.
2. Physical Services Team – David McReynolds: David updated and recognized the team members: Jim Flick, Danny Reynolds, Nate Davis, David Wimberley, Frank Shelton, John Romig, Jim Sabey, Don Johnston, Lynn Carpenter, Ray Campbell. David relayed that they have had no recent jobs. He reminded all to reach out to their widows and be on the lookout for any project needed. David relayed a couple of stories about prior projects that had been completed for widows.
3. Hospital Visitation Team – Lynn Carpenter is a recent addition to the team and focusing on the Grapevine and Southlake hospitals. There is still a need for another deacon to focus on the Alliance area hospitals. One of the current team members is needing to step back for their own health concerns.
4. Lord's Supper Ordinance Administration Team – last Lord's Supper was on Good Friday. The next Lord's Supper is July 13th, which is also the July Deacons Meeting. The anticipated dates for the upcoming Lord's Supper after July are 10/5/25, 1/25/26, 4/3/26, 7/19/26. There is a need for a new team leader as Jim Roberts is moving.

5. New Member Candidate Visitation Team – the schedule for 2nd half of 2025 will be posted soon to the deacon website. Contact Paul if you want to be added to the team.
6. Sunday Prayer Team – nothing new to be added. Please contact Perry if you would like to join this team.
7. Widowers Team – 4 more deacons have joined the team since last meeting. Jim Perry is a recent new widower, and Scotty is having breakfast with him soon. Offer extended to see if any deacon would consider being assigned to Jim.
8. Deacon-Led Prayer Team – nothing new to add. The schedule is set through end of 2025. Contact Steven Cooks if you want to be added to the rotation. For a given Sunday when you are on the schedule and if you are unable to pray, please try to find another deacon to cover you and let Steven know.
9. Baptism Ordinance Team – praise the Lord for 6 baptisms from our sister churches on Easter. Frank Shelton has recently been added to the team.

Chairman closing remarks

- April meeting minutes were approved unanimously with no changes requested
- Benevolence Fund amounts:
 - Widows - \$5,391
 - Deacon - \$4,588
- Next meeting is July 13th at 4pm in room 245

Prayer Requests – Guy Simpson:

- OnBoard Ministries and discipline issues need to be addressed. Dan Trantham traveling to Kenya for a one-day meeting
- Susan Weaver's husband had a heart attack and is in ICU.
- Pray for area (Keller, Southlake, Northwest) schools, teachers, and students given all the recent issues in the news.

Deacons then broke up in small groups of 2 - 4 and spent the rest of the meeting time in prayer to lift up the prayer requests as well as any prayers that others have in their small groups. As small groups finished praying, Deacons were dismissed once their small groups finished praying.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Sabey, Vice-Chair Records