

First Baptist Church Keller Deacon Meeting

January 11th, 2026

Meeting was conducted on-campus at First Baptist Church Keller (FBCK) with a Zoom option as well.

Staff Members in Attendance on-campus

Keith Sanders, Scott Knox, Mike Gonzales, Andrew Young, Lawrence Duhon, Tony Richmond

Deacons in Attendance

A total of 67 Deacons signed in on-campus and/or attended over Zoom.

Call to Order and Welcome Remarks

- Chairman Jim Sabey called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer. He then asked for pastoral updates.

Updates from Pastors/Staff in attendance

Senior Pastor Keith Sanders:

- Pastor Keith reported that FBCK had a good 2025.
- Pastor attended Long Range Planning Committee meeting today. Shared that discussion included that there has been increase in Sunday School attendance. LRPC noted the increased attendance in 11am service. Deacons have been asked to take the lead in attending worship service in the Loft to open up enough seats for visitors in the 11am service. Perry Leonard has taken over as committee chair. There are early discussions about developing some of the church-owned land in the future. LRPC is in need of prayer.
- Pastor Keith said the state of FBC Keller is strong.
- Reminder to pray for Youth DNow next weekend. Tyler Sulfridge will be coming in as speaker and Gregory + Sara Baines are coming in to lead worship. Gregory and Tyler will preach on next Sunday.
- After DNow, Pastor Keith will resume the sermon series from the Gospel of Mark.

Associate Pastor – Administration Scott Knox:

- December giving was high. Church is ahead of budget at this time and currently at 114 to 115% of budget.
- Facilities update –
 - Library. Old library has moved to former room 137. The former library area will be opened for open seating and coffee bar for the south end of the building.
 - Children’s area remodel should finish this summer.
 - Building & Grounds committee has 2 bids out for work on Fellowship Park.
 - One for ground work/ concrete. Evaluation noted water underneath that needs to be removed.
 - One for increased shade for the pavilion at Fellowship Park.
- IT update – There is a new facility management system coming. Projectors for the worship center are on order and should be here in 1-2 weeks.
- HCA update –

- Operations of the school described as smooth. We have a good relationship with HCA.
- HCA reporting record enrollment.

Associate Pastor – Adult Discipleship Tony Richmond

- Membership – Going well.
 - Member Matters Breakfast this morning. 22 attended. Several people in the breakfast stepped forward to join the church in 11am service today.
 - Reminded on the 3 steps to membership at FBC Keller.
 - Walk forward at end of service
 - Pastoral connection meeting
 - New Member Orientation. Next New Member Orientation on Feb 8.
 - Then church votes at monthly Business Meeting
 - Potential new members brought to the church's attention by either filling out informational card at first visit or by attending a Sunday School class for the first time.
- Adult Discipleship
 - We are in 2 Peter now. Will be moving next to study of Titus/ Philemon.
 - Space – There are no empty rooms for additional classes but most actual classrooms have not reached 80% capacity yet.
- Wednesday night teaching Spring 2026
 - Lawrence will teach a 6 week course on Hermeneutics starting 1/28.
 - No Pillar of Truth this Spring as Tony needs to use extra hours on Wednesday nights to open up more time for personal counselling.

Minister – Students Andrew Young

- DNOW (Discipleship NOW) upcoming January 16-18 and will be on the FBCK campus with Tyler Sulfridge and Gregory Baines (both former FBCK staff members) leading and preaching in the Sunday services as well. GAP will participate in the Saturday morning breakfast.
- Kids/ preschool – Going well.
- Young Adult Ministry – Dan Hale and Andrew have started a basketball ministry being used as outreach. There were 40 young adults that attended CrossCon in Louisville this month— Praise the Lord.

Associate Pastor – Missions & Evangelism Lawrence Duhon:

- Upcoming mission trip on January 21 to India with Bob Vigoren + his wife Lourdes. Will be teaching about 300.
- International Friends Ministry resumes next Thursday.
- Will lead a class on Hermeneutics using curriculum written for OnBoard Ministry by Dr Michael Waldrop. Will start January 28.

Senior Adult Minister – Senior Adults Mike Gonzales:

- GAP (God's Active People) want to gather, connect and serve.
- Will be helping with the DNow youth weekend.
- January 19th Game Day – Janet Myers will give her testimony that day.

- February 23rd -- Empower Conference. Going by bus. Cost \$40 if lunch wanted. Speaker Mark Lowery.
- DASH class going well.

Prayer Time with Pastors & Staff and Focused Deacon Prayer

- Deacons then broke into rooms to pray in small groups for the pastors & staff in-person and on-line attendees prayed for staff not able to make the meeting
- Once everyone was back together, Jim Flick voiced a prayer for spiritual growth of the church and thanks to the Lord for 140 years of the Lord using FBC Keller. Rob Robidou voiced a prayer for health and healing of the deacon body.

Ministry Team Updates – Steven Cooks:

Steven kicked off the ministry team updates, and each Team Leader that was present provided updates for the respective ministry team that they lead.

1. Sunday Prayer Team – Perry Leonard: 830 service is covered well with deacons participating. 11am service there is availability. Could use additional deacons to participate. 830am service prayer time meets across from the worship center (sanctuary) while the 11am service prayer time meets on the 3rd floor in the pastor study. A reminder by Perry that all deacons should be praying for the services on Sunday mornings.
2. Deacon-Led Prayer Team – Steven Cooks: All deacons welcome to join in on the rotation. The 2026 schedule is on the deacon website. David Wimberly will be taking over as team lead.
3. New Member Candidate Visitation Team – Paul Chastain: Schedule posted on Deacon website for first half 2026. Paul gave a reminder on the responsibilities of team members. Deacons should contact Paul if they would like to be added to the team.
4. Widows Team – Don Johnston: Steven presented update for Don. Don is working with 2 widows who are newly widowed and will get them assigned.
5. Lord's Supper Ordinance Administration Team – Nate Davis: Reminder of next Lord's Supper on January 25th, 2026 with prep the day before on January 24th. Need 8 more deacons to sign up to serve at 830. Need 6 more deacons to sign up to serve at 11.
6. Hospital Visitation Team – Ron Shields: Fortunately, there are not many church members in the hospital recently. Team is ready. Team members say it is a privilege
7. Widowers Team – Scotty Mullins: New widower needing to be assigned, Mark Hanes. Reach out to Scotty if you would like to be assigned to Mark. Scotty would like to reset the team in 2026 and is looking for updates on connections made. There are 31 identified widowers with 22 assigned. Would like to get the newer widowers assigned.
8. Physical Services Team – David McReynolds: Reminder to check in on your assigned widows and ask if they need anything. Has been slow lately. David Kennedy will be taking over as team lead.
9. Baptism Ordinance Team – Kreg Bryant: Thanks to the members of the team and for supporting all the baptisms this year. 2025 baptism numbers given and compared to those from prior years.

Deacon Chairman remarks from Jim Sabey

- November meeting minutes approved unanimously with no changes requested.

- Discussed one of the FBC Keller themes for this year based on recent Sunday sermon. “Are You Available?” Deacons asked to look for ways to contribute, Pray, and Consider joining a team.
- Appreciation given for the service of Don Johnston to our widows. Don has been managing the Deacon’s Widow Ministry and calls each widow on their birthday. Don personally delivered several Widow Christmas Gift bags that were not picked up at the Widow’s banquet or after.
- Multiple widows expressed gratitude for the Widow’s Christmas Banquet. Jim gave thanks to the deacons that attended without a widow present and for their willingness to serve.
- Jim mentioned that there were a small number of “extra” gift bags that were given out by the Pastor to other single women in the church who did not meet our criteria to be part of the Widow’s ministry.
- Cecil Hill will be turning 90 years old. A birthday celebration set for January 25 from 2 to 4pm.
- Deacon website. Reminder of Password given. Website has been updated for 2026. Deacons asked to check the website to ensure their contact information is accurate. Asked to let Jim or Chris Norris know if updates needed.
- Deacon meetings will be on 2nd Sunday of each month for consistency. Only exceptions are for May, June and December. May will be the Deacon picnic and retreat. June will have no meeting. December will have the Deacon’s Christmas Banquet for Widows. Possible that the October meeting date may be moved if it falls during the Keller ISD Fall Break but will decide on this later. Deacons are encouraged to attend the deacon meeting in person, if at all possible, but zoom option will continue for those who are ill or traveling. Zoom information will be available on the deacon website for those that can not find it in their email.
- Benevolence Fund amounts:
 - Widows - \$2,603.73
 - Deacon - \$4,395.62
- Question asked by Dan Trantham regarding the criteria to be considered a widow eligible for FBCK Deacon Widow’s ministry. Question was about whether women who meet the age of 60 but are single or divorced should be considered as there are several older single women in the church that are not widows. Jim suggested that plan has always been to follow the Biblical model. Agreed to speak to Pastors and other Deacon Officers to consider further. Jim reported that currently our roster shows 150 total widows in FBC Keller. This number includes those widows who decline to participate in the Deacon Widow Ministry.
- Next meeting is February 8th, 2026 at 4pm in rm 245.

Prayer / Praise Requests – Chris Norris:

- Dwayne Weaver sent a message that he is recovering from surgery over the holidays. He remains on IV antibiotics. He has asked for ongoing prayer for recovery.
- A prayer request was lifted to remember our widows
- Jim Flick mentioned Scott Slack had surgery for atrial fibrillation. He is recovering.
- Scotty Mullins asked for prayer for Diane and Dick Terry from his Sunday School class. Diane had a breast biopsy. Results pending. Praying for good result and for peace.
- Perry Leonard lifted up Lou Polk who lost his brother.

Closing Prayer by Chris Norris.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Norris, Vice-Chair Records