

First Baptist Church Keller Deacon Meeting

February 16th, 2025

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, Andrew Young, Lawrence Duhon, Mike Gonzales

Deacons in Attendance

A total of 57 Deacons signed in on-campus and/or attended over Zoom.

Call to Order, Welcome Remarks

- Chairman Guy Simpson called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer.
- Deacons then broke into rooms to pray in small groups for the pastors in-person and on-line attendees prayed for staff not able to make the meeting
- Once everyone was back together, Jon Taylor voiced a prayer for church health & unity and Scott Castleberry voiced a prayer for the widows and widowers of our church body

Ministry Team Updates – Chris Norris:

Chris kicked off the ministry team updates, and each Team Leader that was present provided updates for each of the respective ministry team they lead. Ministry team highlighted this month was the Baptism Ordinance team.

1. Widows Team – Don Johnston: One widow (a recent newly joined member) has been assigned since our last meeting. In 2024 there was 24 widows assigned or re-assigned. Don has reached out to a few deacons where we would like to verify and confirm contact phone numbers.
2. Physical Services Team – David McReynolds: It's been relatively quiet for this team recently. Chris Norris will be sending an email to all deacons to request a reply with skillsets you have to support the team if you are a current member of this team or want to be added.
3. Hospital Visitation Team – Ron Shields: There's been an increase recently with members in the hospital. Overall, this team is doing a good job on following up with people in the hospital and rehab facilities.
4. Lord's Supper Ordinance Administration Team – Jim Roberts: A big thank you for Matt Porter stepping in to organize the January 26th Lord's Supper while Jim was in the hospital. We need 55 deacons total to cover both services, and we had 56 sign up, thank you! Next Lord's Supper on Good Friday, April 18th and it's just one service that evening.
5. New Member Candidate Visitation Team – Paul Chastain: We've had a steady flow of people joining FBCK. Please make sure when you are on the schedule, to follow-up with Amie Thoms with any information you learn from when you contact the new members. Every deacon welcome to join. The schedule is posted on the deacon website through June.
6. Sunday Prayer Team – Perry Leonard: Sunday morning prayer with the pastors is going well. It's a great time to pray with the pastors. If any of you want to be involved, please reach out.
7. Widowers Team – Scotty Mullins: A spreadsheet was shared on the screen of the widowers and their contact information. We are currently at 30 widowers of which 15 are covered with a deacon. We have 11 deacons who have reached out to volunteer to be a part of this team.

Please reach out to Scotty to be a part of this ministry. The widowers team really does not require too much time monthly, maybe an hour or so per month. Scotty is more than glad to go with the assigned deacon to the first breakfast/lunch/meeting with the assigned widower.

8. Deacon-Led Prayer Team – Chris Norris: Steven Cooks will be taking on the Team Leader role for this team. The schedule is posted for 2025 but there is always room to add more deacons to the schedule.
9. Baptism Ordinance Team – Kreg Bryant: Kreg led an update where he reviewed the overall charter of the baptism ordinance team. The following points were discussed:
 - Commitment to the persons understanding of what the ordinance entails
 - Context of how deacons assist
 - A. Preparation
 - B. Process
 - C. Protocol
 - Collaboration / Connection – testimonials
 - A. Chris Norris' examples from his experience
 - B. Kreg's – all ages/stages example

An Excel file was also shared on the screen that depicted the number of baptisms by year since 1997.

Updates from Pastors/Staff in attendance

Senior Pastor Keith Sanders:

- Sterling Burdine, who's been Pastor Keith's intern for the last 18 months, has completed his ordination training. He's ready to be brought forward for ordination.
- In the March deacon meeting, we will have his ordination council. Dress attire for this is casual. Wednesday, March 12th at the quarterly FBCK members meeting, Sterling will be presented for ordination.
- Vision team met on February 15th and Matt Perkinson led the discussion about Excellence in the Essentials. Time was also spent discussing needs of the worship ministry. This concludes the discussion around the pillars with the exception of stewardship.
 - Scott Knox will lead the last vision team meeting on the topic of stewardship.
 - Tremendous ideas coming out of the vision team

Associate Pastor – Missions & Evangelism Lawrence Duhon:

- Group arrived back from a great week of ministry in Guatemala
- Lawrence & Dr. Sam Obeng-Appau are heading to Ghana on February 20th and returning on March 1st.
- International Friends Ministry has 80 enrolled from ~12 countries around the world with 55 volunteers. Great interactions in teaching English and sharing the gospel.
- Praise in the park on May 10th with a free meal & concert. Gospel presentation as well.

Minister – Students Andrew Young

- Vacation Bible Study (VBS) preparations already underway. Recruiting for people to volunteer. 1st week of June.
- Music & Missions tour over spring break to San Antonio with Matt Perkinson.
 - Working/Serving with church plants and First Baptist San Antonio
 - ~100 people going

Associate Pastor – Administration Scott Knox:

- Building project updates
 - Compliment for Janet Meyers and her vision and plan for how to repurpose the KIDS space.
 - Remodeling to start after VBS and based on the estimates, the renovations should be covered by designated accounts we have.
- Entrance to the children's ministry will move to the center of the church which will open up space for a few classrooms and also better safety.
- Library changes will be put on hold until the following summer.
- Carpet to be replaced in various parts of the building, centered on the upstairs children and youth areas.
- Question from Brian Romig regarding how the remodeling of the children's area work into the vision team discussions. Answer from Scott was that it really falls under evangelism and reaching more families with children.

Senior Adult Minister – Senior Adults Mike Gonzales:

- Reminder that the GAP ministry emphasis is – thrive in 2025.
- Pray for Empower conference February 2024 and about 25 signed up. Cost to ride the bus & food is \$40. Or you can drive yourself and the event is free.
- Game day on February 20th and Andrew Young will be sharing about the challenges our youth have today.

Chairman closing remarks

- January meeting minutes were approved unanimously with no changes requested
- Benevolence Fund amounts:
 - Widows - \$5,129
 - Deacon - \$5,391
- Next meeting is March 9th, 2025, at 4pm

Prayer Requests – Jim Sabey:

A few announcements:

- Reminder to review contact information on the deacon website and reach out to Jim with any updates/changes needed.
- Thank you cards from Sandra Shipp and Mynell Voyles were read regarding the widows banquet and expressing their thanks for the event and gift bag.

Prayer requests:

- Cecil Hill – toe surgery on 2/17
- Billy Huber – on hospice and back home in Keller
- Lisa Stafford in rehab and family making decisions regarding long term care
- Patty Paultk – shoulder surgery is healing and hip surgery scheduled for March 26th
- Brent McCall appreciated the prayers for his family in the recent loss of his dad
- Joyce McCorkle passed away on 2/18 and pray for the family. Lady in the 830am service with a medical emergency. Praise to Lance and the security team for their leadership as well.
- Joan Stiffler's daughter Veronica is going through breast cancer
- Laura Salkauskas (Jim Sabey's sister) is starting 2nd round of chemo on February 27th post successful surgery back in January

Closing Prayer by Jim Sabey

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Sabey, Vice-Chair Records