

First Baptist Church Keller Deacon Meeting July 12th, 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, Mike Gonzales, Tony Richmond

Deacons in Attendance

A total of 55 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 started with his update. He noted changes coming on the horizon.
 - Quarterly All Members Meeting. Noted that this has typically been on a Wednesday night, but it is not designed to be a church business meeting. It is intended to be a member's meeting. Plan to move this to Sunday mornings to occur when there is a 5th Sunday. Staff feel this will involve more people rather than just those that attend on Wednesday nights.
 - Fiscal year/Budget. FBCK had a record year in terms of budget for last fiscal year. Pastor reports that the budget will be 4% higher for this current fiscal year with a value of about \$6 million dollars.
 - Staff changes & pastoral retreat. Pastor Keith discussed the recent departure of Pastor Scott Knox from FBCK. He noted that the pastors/ administration have a plan for how to manage the workload. He reports that Pastor Tony has been managing "the office". An off-campus staff retreat is currently scheduled for July 28 with plans to pray, talk, discuss the greatest needs in regard to FBCK staff. Plan is to present this to the Personnel committee when ready. Pastor Keith notes that the priority is to fill the Senior Pastor's assistant role, recently vacated by Tonya Trantham. Pastor Keith reports that there is an online job listing for this that is to remain up for roughly 3 more weeks. If anyone knows of a potential candidate to fill this spot, they are to contact Amy Bearden or the church office.
 - Pastor Keith shared a chart with the current updated organizational structure of FBCK for the deacons to review. See chart attached to last page of minutes.
 - Unity. Pastor Keith next addressed rumors and talk "behind the scenes" regarding Pastor Scott leaving our church. Pastor Keith expressed hearing second and third hand comments about issues surrounding the departure of Pastor Scott. He reminded the deacons in attendance that we are tasked with helping to maintain the unity of the church. He requested that if deacons hear of any concerns, rumors, etc related to this that the deacon suggest to the person voicing/ sharing the rumor/ concern come directly to Pastor Keith to discuss it first hand. Pastor Keith suggested

that the deacon should come with that person to see and discuss with Pastor. Pastor Keith then shared his phone number, email address, and even his physical home address to ensure that people are able to contact him with questions. Pastor Keith then opened up the floor to questions from the deacons in attendance:

- Brian Goble asked if Pastor Keith could share any concerns that he has heard from other denominational leaders recently. In response to this, Pastor Keith mentioned that there have been several lawsuits recently against the Southern Baptist denomination. These lawsuits serve to force the denomination to disclose financial records regarding which leadership has previously been less than forthcoming. There has been details of leadership salaries released and Pastor Keith suggested that this has raised additional questions about which other denominational leaders are highly compensated and whether that level of compensation is appropriate and a good use of funds. Pastor Keith notes that some leadership remains evasive on this topic though he feels that the International Mission Board chair seems to be a “good guy.”
- No other questions were voiced during this time by the deacons so Pastor Keith ended his report.

Associate Pastor – Family Ministries Tony Richmond

- Pastor Tony reported that things are “moving forward.” He discussed multiple issues.
- Vacation Bible School. Reported that VBS was completed in June and went well. We have noted that 5-6 families have been attending FBCK consistently since VBS. He reported on one single mom and her kids, in particular, who have started working through the membership process. He reported that Mrs Janet Meyers has done a good job with VBS.
- Student summer camp. Pastor Tony reported that Pastor Andrew and staff took the students to summer camp in Arkansas in June. Pastor Tony notes that there is good ministry occurring in the student ministry. He gives an example of his own son is now part of a student led bible study that has been meeting on Sundays since camp. As a whole student ministry team has ongoing Wednesday morning discipleship and Wednesday evening fellowship this summer.
- Adult Ministry. Pastor Tony reports that “Promotion Sunday” is in approximately one month. The church is trying to start a new Sunday School class in August of this year. He reports that church members should expect there to be some movement in Sunday School classroom assignments to try to maximize the available space.
- FBCK discipleship plan. Pastor Tony reminded deacons briefly about the discipleship plan that he presented at the April 2026 Deacons meeting. He notes that they are currently putting together a test as part of the “Grow” module. Looks like roughly a 25 question online test. This is not really a right or wrong test but is to help each member see both where they can grow as well as provide areas for that growth. This is expected to be rolled out to a test group in August of this year followed by a roll out to the entire church body, possibly in January of 2027.

Student Minister Andrew Young

- Pastor Andrew was not present while on vacation.

Associate Pastor – Missions & Evangelism Lawrence Duhon:

- Pastor Lawrence was not present while on the mission trip to Alaska.

Senior Adult Minister Mike Gonzales:

- Pastor Mike mentioned that Senior Adult ministries are ongoing.
- GAP (God's Active People) want to gather, connect and serve. Going well. Deacons were instructed to see the GAP brochure for details.
- Going to have a "Monday at the Movies" evening gathering as well as an upcoming Palio's Pizza fellowship.
- Steve Burns asked a question. A widow has asked him what prompted the decision to consolidate the GAP Breakfast and GameDay in August. Pastor Mike noted that the team that helps to arrange the breakfast is "tired" and has asked to cut back from so many breakfast events. Decision made to consolidate the morning events to avoid burn out of helpers.

Associate Pastor -- Worship Matt Perkinson:

- Pastor Matt was not in attendance while on church sabbatical.

Prayer Time with Pastors & Staff and Focused Deacon Prayer

- Deacons would usually break into rooms to pray in small groups for the pastors but decided to stay together in the room with only 3 pastors in attendance. Jim Sabey asked for prayers requests from each pastor present. Pastor Keith asked for prayer for an upcoming trip to Oregon with his family. His family will then travel to Washington to join with the mission team working there, and Pastor Keith will be preaching the message at that church. Pastor Tony requested prayer that his daughter Nora would repent of her sin and make a public profession of faith in Christ. Pastor Mike asked for prayer for his wife, Dalia, as she continues to deal with the effects of bronchitis. Additionally, Pastor Mike was honored as his birthday is occurring in a couple of days.
- The following deacons voiced a prayer for the pastors: Kreg Bryant, Matt Krause, John Hoyer, Jim Flick, and Nate Davis.
- Doug Taylor then lifted a prayer for the deacon body asking for wisdom and unity.
- Steve Burns voiced a prayer asking for unity of the church.

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: Asked deacons to stay in prayer for FBCK pastors. Thanks given for those members of the team. 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. Continue to need 2 team members to fill in to pray with pastor prior to 11am service so request was made again during this meeting. Prior to the end of the meeting, one of those spots was filled after a deacon volunteered.

2. Deacon-Led Prayer Team – David Wimberley: All deacons welcome to join in on the rotation. No new updates. David thanked deacons for working to find coverage for themselves if unable to pray during their assigned week. David reminded deacons to inform him if they are not able to find a replacement to pray during their assigned spot so a replacement can be found. The 2026 schedule is on the deacon website.
3. New Member Candidate Visitation Team – Paul Chastain: Schedule posted on Deacon website for 2026. Paul gave a reminder of the responsibilities of team members. Deacons asked to Email back to office as well as Paul about how the visit went. Deacons should contact Paul if they would like to be added to the team.
4. Widows Team – Don Johnston: Thanks were given for deacons caring for widows. Don assigned 1 widow recently. Deacons reminded that Billy Conroy has a lawn business and has offered to help widows of the church with lawn maintenance. Deacons asked to contact Billy or Don with any needs. Deacons were encouraged to speak with their widows often.
5. Lord's Supper Ordinance Administration Team – Nate Davis: Deacons reminded that the next Lord's Supper will be on July 26. Prep will be on Saturday July 25. Additional deacons are still needed to fill the assigned spots to avoid asking deacons to serve in both services. Nate also reported that the schedule for the fall of 2026 has been altered and there the church is expected to observe the Lord's Supper on August 16, promotion Sunday, as well as on November 15.
6. Hospital Visitation Team – Ron Shields: Steven presented as Ron was out. No updates to report.
7. Widowers Team – Scotty Mullins: Ministry going well. Scotty asked deacons to keep him informed of their meetings with the widowers. He also mentioned that FBCK recently lost a widower from his group. Scotty was asked by the widower's family to speak at the funeral, and he felt honored to do it. The team is accepting additional volunteers.
8. Physical Services Team – David Kennedy: no recent jobs to report. David reports there is an outstanding job which involves laying sod for Carl + Becky Wilson but this was delayed by rainy season and now by extreme heat. David is working to schedule this. Taking other deacons that want to join.
9. Baptism Ordinance Team – Kreg Bryant: 3 recent baptisms. Praying for additional baptisms.

Deacon Chairman remarks from Jim Sabey

- May meeting minutes were approved unanimously with no changes requested.
- Reminder given of the upcoming Lord's Supper on July 26.
- Reminder to check in with our widows as we get into the extreme heat of the summertime.
- Jim spotlighted an article from Southern Baptist Texan magazine which discussed the deacon's widow's ministry as well as the widow's garden ministry.
- Benevolence Fund amounts:
 - Widows - \$22,317
 - Deacon - \$17,726
- Next meeting is August 9, 2026, at 4pm in FBCK room 245.

Prayer / Praise Requests – Chris Norris:

- Jim Flick mentioned that Ruell Garner's wife has been in hospital dealing with Pulmonary issues. Pastor Keith added that this is felt to be pulmonary hypertension and she is set to see a specialist in Dallas next week.
- Kirby Kercheval asked for prayer for upcoming removal of right sided thyroid nodules on 8/4.
- Zane Harper asked for prayer for Mike Johnson who has had recent cancer surgery. Zane notes that he and Mike have been texting back and forth. Zane commented on Mike's ongoing strong faith in the Lord despite his circumstances. Praise the Lord!
- Chad Wittrock asked for prayer for Mary Merryfield as she transitioned to hospice during the last week. She is 100 years old. Mary is expected to pass soon.
- Pastor Keith asked for prayer for Martha Sibley who has leukemia and is going to hospice.
- Zane Harper asked for prayer for his neighbors, Charles and Carol Whitt who are each dealing with health problems. Several problems, including broken bones, brain bleeding, and multiple surgeries, were listed. Charles is reported to be improving though Carol is struggling.
- David Wimberley asked for prayer for the FBCK mission trip to Guatemala from August 1-8.
- Pastor Keith asked for prayer for Sue Smith who will be leaving inpatient rehab soon following a stay for a broken hip. She will be living with her granddaughter in Keller.
- Buddy Linder asked for prayer for his granddaughter, Isabel, who is in rebellion. She has met a man online and flown to Nevada to meet him. Family is not certain where she is.

Closing Prayer voiced by Chris Norris. After this, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Norris, Vice-Chair Records

