

STARTING POINT

Membership Information

160+ Years of First Baptist Church History

- First Baptist Church (FBC) was organized in 1850 under Pastor Gilbert S. Bailey.
- The first building project began in 1854 at the corner of Fifth and Elizabeth St.
- Abraham Lincoln, a little known lawyer from Springfield, gave a liberal sum of money (\$10.00) to the church building fund.
- The present building at Fourth and Winter Streets was built in 1953.
- In 1945 a young man from Wheaton College, Billy Graham, visited to begin a new ministry with Youth for Christ at a school in Pekin.
- The first mission's conference was held in 1957 and created a new passion for world-wide missions in the congregation.
- A new sanctuary was completed in 1971.
- In 1989, the expansion of the facilities was once more necessary as a new family center including a gym, racquetball court, two large meeting rooms with kitchenettes and an office wing was completed.
- The youth ministries began exploding in the late 1980's with each holding a weekly outreach.
- An elevator was added in 2000.
- Pastor Brad Martin became a pastor of FBC in 2002. (*Serves as associate Pastor*)
- Our food pantry was opened in 2004.
- The new offices were added in 2005
- Connie Dick became the office manager Sept 2005
- DivorceCare and GriefShare programs were started in 2006.
- The main kitchen was expanded and renovated in 2006
- Kid's Hope (with Jefferson elementary) was added in 2007 (*Shelly Hochstetler became the director in June 2013*)
- Benny Mate became the youth director in Oct 2016
- Christine Greenleaf became the children's director in April of 2017
- Pastor Vernon Risner became Sr. Pastor of FBC August 20th 2017

In summary, First Baptist Church of Pekin is an historic church that in the past years has made great strides in becoming a church driven by purpose rather than tradition. We are in the midst of launching many new outreach ministries – especially aimed at ministry to kids & teens and to the hurting of our area. It has a great group of lay leaders of all ages (*We average 72% of People serving their family*), and a congregation that is truly looking to the Lord to see how it can impact the surrounding area for Christ.

Few churches survive for 160+ years. We praise God that First Baptist Church is still reaching people for Christ and adding to God's Kingdom. Our mission statement is: "to become fully devoted followers for Jesus who love God and people". Our goal is to cultivate, plant and reap for God's Kingdom.

FBC Pekin Doctrinal Statement

Adopted 8/2/09

a) Scriptures

We believe that the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, which we call the Holy Bible, are the Word of God. As they were originally written, they were infallible, divinely inspired, and the product of Holy Spirit-controlled men. Therefore, they express truth without any error. We believe that the Holy Bible is the true center of Christian union and the sufficient and trustworthy authority for knowing what to believe and how to live. (2 Tim. 3:16-17), (2 Pet. 1:19-21), (Ps. 68:11)

b.) Trinity

We believe there is only one living and true God, infinite in every excellence; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three personal distinctions: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit---one in substance, and equal in every divine perfection. (Ex. 20:2-3), (Is. 45:22), (1 Cor. 8:6), (1 John 5:7)

1) God the Father

We believe that God the Father is an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe God's knowledge is boundless; that He fully knows the past, present, and future, independent of human decisions and actions. The Father does everything in accordance with His perfect will. (1 Cor. 1:25), (Rom. 12:2), (Eph. 1:11)

2) Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is both true God and perfect man; a unique, supernatural manifestation of God in the flesh; born of the Virgin Mary, having been miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit; the only Savior of mankind and the proper object of our worship. (2 Cor. 5:19), (1 Tim. 3:16), (Luke 1:35), (Matt. 1:18-20), (Acts 4:10-12), (John 14:6)

3) Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with the Father and Son, and of the same substance and nature; that He convicts men of sin, righteousness and judgment; bears witness to the truth; and is the agent of new birth. We believe that He seals, induces, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies, and helps the believer. The Holy Spirit indwells every true child of God and distributes spiritual gifts to believers as He wills for the common good. (John 14:16-17), (John 16:12-15), (Rom. 8:14-27), (2 Cor. 3:1-3), (Heb 2:4), (1 Cor. 12:4-11)

c) The Devil (or Satan)

We believe in the distinct personality of Satan; that he is the god of this age, author and prince of all the powers of darkness and sin, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. (Matt. 4:1-3), (Matt. 25:41), (2 Cor. 4:4), (Rev. 20:10)

d) Creation

We believe that God created the heavens and earth, including all life "each after its own kind" by direct act and not by the process of evolution. We also believe that human life is precious and should be protected from beginning, at fertilization, until death. (Gen. 1 & 2 & 9:6), (Ps. 33:6-9), (John 1:3), (Col. 1:16-17)

e) Mankind

We believe God originally created persons, male and female, in the image of God and free from sin. We believe all people are sinners by nature and choice and are spiritually dead. We also believe that those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe God established marriage to be a lifelong covenant relationship between one man and one woman. Marriage so defined is the only permissible context for intimate sexual expression and is the foundation for human family. (Gen. 1:27), (Rom. 3:23-24), (Eph. 2:1-2), (2 Cor. 5:17), (Tit. 3:5-6), (Matt. 19:4-6), (1 Cor. 7:17), (Heb. 13:4), (1 Cor. 7:1-5)

f) The Fall of Man

We believe that man in the person of the first Adam was created in innocence but, by voluntary transgression, fell into sin, plunging the whole race into condemnation and death. As a result, all mankind is born in sin and is shaped in iniquity, and become practical sinners with the first expression of personal choice, not only by constraint but by choice, and so are without excuse before God. (Gen. 3), (Rom. 5:10-19), (Eph. 1:1-3)

g) The Atonement

We believe that the only escape from the condemnation of sin is through the atonement wrought by Jesus Christ when He voluntarily took upon Himself a human body, being made in the likeness of man (Rom. 8:3), (Phil. 2:7), yet without sin and by His suffering, death and resurrection made full satisfaction to the justice of God for the sin of man; that the blessings of this salvation are given on the grounds of grace to all who believe and confess. (John 3:1-19), (Acts 4:12), (Acts 16:30-33), (2 Cor. 5:17)

h) Salvation

We believe that faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ whose death, burial, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of the Father is the only premise for salvation (Eph. 1:7), (Rev. 1:5), (Rom. 10:9-13); that this faith is begotten through hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17), (1 Pet. 1:18-25); that it is a free gift of God, wholly apart from human works (Eph. 2:8-9); that by new birth, one dead in trespasses and sin is quickened into eternal life---made righteous, justified (2 Cor. 5:21), (1 Cor. 1:30), (Rom. 3:21-26), and made partaker of the Divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4), eternally secured into the praise of His glory.

i) The Church

We believe that every born-again believer is, by the mystical act of God, accorded a place in the body of Christ, and that this body is biblically identified as "The Church." (Matt. 16:18), (Eph. 3:3-7), (Col. 1:24), (1 Cor. 12:12-13), (Acts 9:31)

We believe that a local church is a congregation of believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in it by His word. We further believe that the primary task of believers is to worship and glorify God in their lives, and that their conduct should be blameless before the world. As believers seeking to become fully devoted followers of Christ who love God and people, they should be faithful stewards of their time, talents, and possessions, and seek to share life in a unified community with fellow believers, reach the lost in Christ's name, and serve others in obedience and worship of our God. (1 John 1:7), (Rom. 15:5-6), (Phil. 2:14-16), (Heb. 13:15-16)

We believe that the local church has the absolute right of self-government directed by the Holy Spirit and it is answerable only to Christ; and that in all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, and benevolences the will of the local church is final. (Acts 2:41-42), (1 Cor. 11:2), (Eph. 1:22-23), (Eph. 5:23-24), (1 Tim. 3:1-7), (Col. 1:18), (Acts 20:17-18)

j) Church Ordinances

We believe that there are two church ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion).

1) Baptism

The Pastor (or his appointee, approved by the deacons) shall administer the ordinance of baptism by a single immersion - in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. It sets forth in a beautiful and solemn way our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effects in our life of death to sin, and resurrection to a new life. Baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. (Matt. 28:19)

2) The Lord's Supper (Communion)

The Pastor (or his appointee, approved by the deacons) shall serve the Lord's Supper to the congregation at least once monthly. (Matt. 26:26-30), (1 Cor. 11:23-32)

k) The last things

We believe in the bodily, personal, and imminent return of Jesus Christ at the end of this age to first take away those who have trusted in Him as Savior and then to come back to judge all others and set up His eternal kingdom. We also believe in the resurrection of the bodies of all people, and that every person will spend eternity either in heaven or hell, depending on whether or not he or she has trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior. (Matt. 25:31-46), (John 5:21-30 & 14:1-6), (1 Thess. 4:13-17), (Rev. 19:11- 20:15)

FBC Position Statements

Adopted 11/10/05

The Scriptures are not crystal clear in addressing all issues. Because the issues addressed below tend to be divisive, we, as a local body, choose to have those who desire to join our family at FBC know our positions at the present time concerning the following issues:

- 1.) Alcohol consumption: Although the Bible does not prohibit the consumption of alcohol, it does repeatedly warn about the dangers of alcohol abuse and drunkenness [Prov. 23:29-30, Eph. 5:18, I Pet. 4:3]. Paul also reminds us that though we may be “free in Christ” to drink alcohol or do other things, we must, at times, voluntarily limit our freedom when it could cause another person to be adversely affected [Rom. 14:21, I Cor. 8:9-13]. The devastation that alcoholism can cause to individuals and families is indisputable; therefore, it is the opinion of the leadership of our church that choosing not to drink alcohol is the safest and wisest choice for believers to make. In addition, no alcohol will be served at any official church function.
- 2.) Gambling: Although the Bible does not prohibit gambling in all of its forms specifically, it does admonish us, repeatedly, about being wise stewards of the resources God has given His people and about being content with His provision [Matt. 6:19 & 25:14-30, Heb. 13:5]; therefore, it is the opinion of the leadership of our church that choosing not to gamble at all is the safest and wisest choice for believers to make.
- 3.) Charismatic sign gifts: Although the Bible certainly is not clear that the miraculous “sign gifts” seen in the New Testament (speaking in tongues, gifts of healing, etc.) are extinct, we choose to leave the exercise of these gifts to the private sector of individuals’ lives. Therefore, the miraculous “sign gifts” will not be exercised in the public services or group meetings of our church.
- 4.) Premillennial return of Christ: Although the Bible may not be crystal clear as to the exact order of the events of the end times of this world, the leadership of this church holds to a “premillennial” return of Christ as the best option to explain these events. Therefore when “end times” issues are taught in this church, though other options are certainly acceptable to mention, the premillennial return of Christ will be the focus by teachers at our church.

FBC Mission & Core Values

(Revised 1/11)

Mission: *To produce fully devoted followers of Jesus, who love God and people.*

- *We believe our number one priority is to point people toward our awesome God and invite them to join in His worship.* [I Chronicles 16:28-29, Psalms 19:1, Romans 16:25-27, I Corinthians 10:31, Ephesians 1:11-14]
- *We believe the local church plays a vital role in God's plan for mankind, and that anything significant we do will be done in total dependence on His direction and power.* [Matthew 16:18, Romans 8:28, Ephesians 1:22-23 & 3:10-11 & 20, 1 Timothy 3:14-15]
- *We believe that because lost people matter to God, sharing the love of Jesus and helping them understand the good news about Jesus is incredibly important, whether in our neighborhoods or around the world.* [Matthew 9:35-38 & 28:19-20, Luke 5:30-32 & 15, 2 Peter 3:9]
- *We believe God is honored when His children strive for excellence in all they do for Him.* [Proverbs 27:17, Malachi 1:6-14, Colossians 3:17 & 23]
- *We believe loving relationships and a sincere desire for unity should be evident in every aspect of church life.* [John 13:34-35 & 17:11-23, 1 Corinthians 13, Ephesians 4:1-6]
- *We believe people mature into Christ's likeness best when they participate in smaller groups and are encouraged through gifted teaching.* [Romans 12:7, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, James 1:23-25, Matthew 3:16-17, Luke 6:12-13, Acts 2:44, 1 John 4:21]
- *We believe the church should remain firm in its beliefs, yet flexible in how it ministers to a changing culture.* [1 Corinthians 8 & 9:19-23]
- *We believe all Christ-followers should have a genuine desire to grow and become more like Jesus.* [2 Corinthians 8:7, Ephesians 4:25-27 & 32, Philippians 1:6 & 2:1-13, Hebrews 12:1-2]
- *We believe a church is most healthy when it is led by Godly men and women, and when everyone in the body willingly shares of his or her God-given talents and resources.* [Mark 9:35, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 & 14, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Ephesians 4 & 5:21]

FBC Covenant

Adopted 1/29/06

Truly believing that the local church plays an indispensable role in God's plan for mankind, and having been led by God's Spirit to join together with this local body of believers, we, the members of First Baptist Church of Pekin, covenant with each other the following:

Because we value **glorifying God** in everything we do, we covenant to:

- pray that we would keep an attitude that is focused on Him, not ourselves
- worship regularly together
- strive toward holiness, set apart in all we do
- strive for excellence in all we do

Because we value the **authority of Scriptures** to lead us toward Christ likeness, we covenant to:

- pray that God would reveal His wisdom to us in all areas of life and doctrine
- regularly sit under the teaching of God's Word
- regularly read, study and meditate on God's Word, as individuals
- allow God's Word to continually help us grow closer to the image of Christ
- continually review all personal and corporate decisions, in light of Scripture

Because we value **unity and intimate fellowship** in the local church, we covenant to:

- pray that the Holy Spirit would empower us to protect the unity He has placed in the church
- show love toward one another, be gracious with each other, submit to one another, give preference to one another, and pray for one another
- reconcile with one another quickly when there has been an offense
- be involved in one another's lives
- allow God to speak personally to others concerning areas in which the Bible is not clear
- exercise our God-given gifts and talents for the benefit of all

Because we value **advancing God's kingdom** in the Pekin area and around the world, we covenant to:

- pray for boldness and the power of God's Spirit to be unleashed through us
- reach out to those in our personal sphere of influence who have not yet personally trusted in Christ
- strive to promote programs that are relevant and have an impact on the people in our area
- joyfully support those that this church has sent out as ambassadors to the world with prayer, financial giving, and personal involvement, as the Lord allows
- give regularly and sacrificially to the work of this church
- support the church's hired and elected leadership and hold them accountable to lead the church in a Biblical way

Membership Form – Two Questions

Name: _____ Phone _____

TWO QUESTIONS:

1. Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know that you have eternal life—that is, do you know for certain that if you died today you would go to heaven?

(Circle one): YES NO HOPE SO

2. If you were to die today and stand before God and He said to you, “Why should I let you into my heaven?” What would you say?

Personal testimony:

On a separate sheet of paper, please write down in a concise form (1-2 paragraphs) your story of how you came to trust Christ as your personal savior!

Individual Membership Information Sheet

Date _____

We respectfully request that you complete this questionnaire as fully as possible

Title (check one)

____ Mr. ____ Ms. ____ Rev.
____ Mrs. ____ Miss ____ Dr.

Last Name _____

Suffix (Jr., Sr., etc) _____

First Name _____

Middle Name _____

Street Address: _____

City _____

Zip Code _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Is it OK to put your phone numbers in the church directory?

____ yes ____ no

Email: _____

What name do you go by? _____

Gender (check one)

____ male ____ female

Date of birth (MM/DD/YY) _____

Current marital status (check one)

- ____ Single
____ Married
____ Separated
____ Divorced
____ Divorced and Remarried
____ Widowed
____ Widowed and Remarried

Where are you employed?

What is your occupation?

Business Address:

Business phone _____

Business Phone _____

Can we call you at work? ____yes ____no

Date of baptism by immersion _____

Name of spouse _____

Spouse's birth date _____

Please provide the following information on each of your children:

Full Name _____

Date of birth (MM/DD/YY) _____

Are they a member of FBC? ____yes ____no

Full Name _____

Date of birth (MM/DD/YY) _____

Are they a member of FBC? ____yes ____no

Full Name _____

Date of birth (MM/DD/YY) _____

Are they a member of FBC? ____yes ____no

Full Name _____

Date of birth (MM/DD/YY) _____

Are they a member of FBC? ____yes ____no

Full Name _____

Date of birth (MM/DD/YY) _____

Are they a member of FBC? ____yes ____no

If you are interested in membership please fill this form out and hand it in to the church office along with:

1. Membership Form – Two Questions
2. Gifts and Passions Survey (if you haven't already handed one in).
3. Membership Agreement

If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to call us:

309-347-5965

GIFT & PASSIONS SURVEY

Name: _____

Date: _____

Email: gifts@fbcpekin.com

Phone: _____

Please do not respond on the basis of what you think you ought to say. Rather, respond on the basis of your interest and experience. Do not let modesty hinder you from answering honestly about your abilities.

0=Not at all; 1=Little; 2=Moderately; 3=Consistently;

Number the following from 1 to 4, based on above numbers

1. _____ I enjoy studying the bible and sharing what I've learned with others.
2. _____ I tend to see a person's potential, and push them to reach their full spiritual maturity.
3. _____ I enjoy helping others get their work done, and don't need a lot of public recognition.
4. _____ When I make a financial contribution, I desire to share in the life & ministry that I am giving to.
5. _____ I have specific goals for my future and have set plans to achieve them.
6. _____ I am attracted to people who are hurting or in distress.
7. _____ I sometimes feel I know exactly what God wants to do at a specific point in time.
8. _____ I enjoy presenting truth in a logical, systematic way.
9. _____ I love to do personal counseling.
10. _____ I tend not to care how small or unpopular a job is. To me it is an act of worship & service.
11. _____ I give cheerfully and liberally, often above what is expected.
12. _____ I am able to organize ideas, tasks, people, and time effectively.
13. _____ I tend to see things as black or white, true or false, or good or evil.
14. _____ I enjoy finding answers to questions through in-depth research.
15. _____ I don't mind hanging out with all different kinds of people, especially when it helps their feelings.
16. _____ I have a strong belief that all I have belongs to God, and I want to take care of what He's given me.
17. _____ I want to help people have right relationships with one another.
18. _____ My basis for what I believe to be true is founded solely on biblical truth.
19. _____ I want to help others by giving them specific steps to follow.

20. ____ I sense great satisfaction from helping others.
21. ____ I desire to make wise purchases and investments in order to provide more resources for the Lord.
22. ____ I hate chaos and I will take the lead when things are unorganized.
23. ____ I seem to have an extraordinary compassion for those who are in need.
24. ____ Sometimes I have “spiritual hunch” about things or people...and usually I’m right about them.
25. ____ I am concerned that the truth be presented in its complete context and am disturbed when scripture is used out of context.
26. ____ I enjoy serving people, knowing that I am a blessing to them and the Lord.
27. ____ I usually desire to start a new challenge when a previous task is completed.
28. ____ I tend to lack firmness with people unless I can see how it will benefit them.

Please rate your passion level for each ministry team area.

TEAM 1 - Outreach

- Not at all Somewhat Moderately Passionate Very Passionate
(Missions, Events, Food and Clothing Ministry, Community Projects, Marketing...)

TEAM 2 - First Impressions

- Not at all Somewhat Moderately Passionate Very Passionate
(Parking Attendant, Info Central, Greeter, Usher, Safety, Facilities ...)

TEAM 3 – Arts and Tech

- Not at all Somewhat Moderately Passionate Very Passionate
(Drama, Dance, Lights, Computer, Video Production, Camera, Media...)

TEAM 4 - Worship

- Not at all Somewhat Moderately Passionate Very Passionate
(Praise Team, Band, Sound, Intercessory Prayer, Lighting Tech...)

TEAM 5 - Care and Follow-up

- Not at all Somewhat Moderately Passionate Very Passionate
(Info Central, Pastors Breakfast/Growth Track Host, Ongoing Follow-up...)

TEAM 6 - Children and Youth

- Not at all Somewhat Moderately Passionate Very Passionate
(Nurseries, Children’s Ministry, Jr. High, Sr. High...)

TEAM 7 - Small Groups

- Not at all Somewhat Moderately Passionate Very Passionate
(Bible Study, Men's, Women's, Single, Seniors...)

Please hand this in to the church office with your signed membership papers.



Membership Agreement

All persons wishing to become a member of First Baptist Church Pekin will be expected to understand, and follow the guidelines listed below as a step of being accepted into membership, and the continuance as a member in good standing

- Understand, and agree to follow FBC church doctrine, mission, core values, church covenant, and biblical positions.
- Support of Pastoral Staff, Ministry Directors, and all other staff in good standing with FBC.
- Support of Deacons, Full Board Members, Trustee Board members, as well as all other church leaders in good standing with FBC.
- Support First Baptist Pekin by regularly giving of Time, Talents and Finances.
- Support and encourage church family members in good standing with FBC
- Support and promote First Baptist – *(Including Inviting others to attend)*
- Regular attendance to services, special events, and quarterly business meetings

Signature indicates understanding of, and agreement to follow expectations listed above

Print: Full Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____