



SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2021

A Note From the Chairman of the Senior Pastor Search Committee

Hello again, it is time for our October update for the Senior Pastor Search Committee. I ask that you continue to pray for us as the tasks and time commitments continue to increase as we travel down this path. We have reached a critical milestone in the process, where we are ready to accept Senior Pastor resumes that are accompanied by letters of recommendations and cover letters. This week we will socialize a private and secure email address that will receive these applications by recommendation. Let me take a step back and discuss some of our completed tasks that bring us to this point.

First, we have completed the Church Profile. This document provides an accurate overview of our church: its history, membership, culture, vision, and activities. It is just a brief introduction to who we are and some insight to our culture.. Every church has a unique culture. Our culture is determined by things that are valuable to the body of believers, combined with historical mile markers and current happenings. Communicating our culture to our potential pastor is a key component in finding the right match to our congregation.



OUR HISTORY "UPON THIS ROCK..."

For over 150 years the Lord has built His church at First Baptist Forney. Faithfully, He has touched hearts, changed lives, and saved souls through the power of His Holy Spirit.

From 1868, until this very day, the Lord, in our midst, is mighty. We look back through our history with praise in our hearts for all that He has done, and we look forward to all that He will continue to do, as He changes hearts and lives for His glory.



1868-75

FBC Forney began in 1868, in a small prairie town, then known as Brooklyn. It was there that two Baptist preachers, James Vance and Austin Mannion called local saints together for worship in homes. In **1875**, the Baptist Church, consisting of twenty-five members, called its first Pastor, **R.F. Butler**. At that time, the Forney area had a population of several hundred people.



1876-82

From **1876 to 1882** the church purchased and completed construction of an unfinished building becoming the first denominational church in town. Over the next 41 years, fourteen men pastored the fledgling church, ministering to the people and spreading the Gospel. Even after lightning destroyed the church in the summer of 1918, members continued meeting for worship in their homes and at the local schoolhouse. By God's grace, and their faithfulness, the congregation dedicated a new facility to the Lord, debt free, on **May 1, 1919**, on South Bois d'Arc Street.



Church Building: May 1, 1919



1923-60

From **1923-1960**, during the difficult days of the Great Depression, World War II, and in the years to follow, the Lord continued to grow His church under the leadership of four different pastors from **1923-1960**: **J.F. Stanley, W.T. Bratton, L.M. Joines** and **J.H. Stanley**. By 1960, church membership stood at 604 members.



J.F. Stanley W.T. Bratton



L.M. Joines J.H. Stanley



1960-93

In **1960**, Reverend **Jerry Griffin** answered the call to pastor FBC Forney. Over the next 33 years, the church grew along with the town, including the construction of a new downtown campus in **1972**. Under Bro. Jerry's dedicated leadership, church membership grew from 604 members in 1960 to over 2,000 in 1989, when the city of Forney barely had more than four thousand residents. In **1993**, after 33 years of faithful service, Brother Jerry moved to a new area of ministry as Director of the Kauf-Van Baptist Association.



Downtown Campus 1972



94-2017

In **1994**, **Dr. Jimmy D. Pritchard** came to serve as pastor. Within the year, church membership grew to 2,500. Having outgrown the downtown campus, in **1999**, construction began on a new worship center and administrative offices at FBC Forney's current location which sits on 32 acres. In June of **2001**, we held the first worship service in the new sanctuary and construction of additional buildings continued so that all church activities could be moved from downtown to the new campus.

Current Campus: April 2019



2017-21

After the move, church attendance and membership continued to grow. Thus, in August of **2017**, the church broke ground on the new multi-use worship and gymnasium facility. We held our first worship service in the new facility on **April 7, 2019**. From 1994 until February 2021, the Lord gave FBC Forney favor under the capable guidance of Dr. Pritchard. Many people gave their lives to Christ and more than 2,600 were baptized in those 27 years. By God's grace, FBC Forney has impacted and continues to impact our community for the Lord Jesus Christ.



CHURCH STATISTICS

First Baptist Forney is currently experiencing a strong recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic but still has a way to go to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels. The numbers below represent averages from the past 10 years.



3,850 RESIDENT MEMBERS

60% of the church is under the age of 50
(Strong senior-adult population with strong financial contributions.)
53% have joined the church in the last 10 years



1,738 WEEKLY IN WORSHIP

Spread out in multiple services.



1,117 IN GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Small groups meet on Sunday and Wednesdays.



116 BAPTISMS PER YEAR

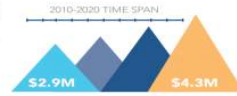
WHERE WE ARE TODAY IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Of course, the global pandemic made 2020 a difficult year, but worship and small group Bible study continued online via Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. Although the church resumed on-campus worship and activities in the summer of 2020, attendance has been slow to return to the pre-pandemic levels. Online worship continues to be a significant choice for many.

> 1,000 IN WORSHIP
> 900 IN BIBLE STUDY

GROWTH IN RECEIPTS

Despite the pandemic, the members of FBC Forney have remained faithful in the giving of their tithes and offerings with total receipts remaining steady. The undesignated receipts for the past 10 years have grown from \$2.9 to \$4.3 million.



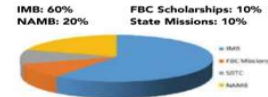
HG Total Commitment Goals = \$17M

HIGHER GROUND

In addition, during the past 10 years, the church completed its financial obligations for the original construction at the current campus and in 2016 entered a new construction campaign called Higher Ground for the construction of the multi-use worship facility. Giving to the Higher Ground campaign is ahead of schedule in spite of the 2020 pandemic lockdown.

MISSION MINDED

First Baptist Forney is a strong missional-giving church with 11% of all undesignated receipts going to missions each year (5th highest giving church in Texas). In addition to the Cooperative Program, members give regularly to a World Missions offering over and above their tithe. This chart shows how that money is allocated.



First Baptist Forney is a strong church numerically, financially and spiritually.

The next step is to start defining and implementing the selection process. Through several discussions a consensus was gained to adopt a methodology. The high-level approach is to develop key profiles, acquire congregation feedback, execute the candidate search, narrow the field, and gain consensus on a recommendation. The church profile was the first order of business. A church profile is a document that provides an accurate overview of our church: its history, membership, culture, vision, and activities.

Secondly, we are in the final stages of completion for our Community Profile. This community profile gives our pastor an insight into what our mission field looks like. This contains information about our population, growth, diversity, and social standings. It will give our new leader a basis to begin developing a strategic direction. We hope to have this finalized by the middle of October.

Search Team Prayer

Almighty Father, we come before You, blessing Your name.

Thank You for Your faithfulness to us, Lord!

We praise You, for being our Rock, our Refuge, and our Shepherd.

You have blessed our congregation through generations with godly men to lead us. Thank You for their precious lives and ministry.

As You have been faithful to us in years past, Father, we ask that You guide us to the man You have called to lead us forward as Senior Pastor. A man who loves You with all his heart and is obedient in all things.

We desire Your perfect will, O, Lord

Only You know the needs of our people and the days to come.

Thank You for each member of our Search Team.

Make us one, O, Lord. Give us pure hearts, united in vision and purpose.

Strengthen us in our mission and bless us with Your wisdom.

And keep the evil one from our midst as we keep our eyes on You.

Thank You, Great King!

May all we say, and do, be to Your glory, in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TIMELINE

FIRST BAPTIST FORNEY

1. FOUNDATION



2-4 MONTHS

- ✓ Form Policy Committee
- ✓ Policy Review & SBTC Consultation
- ✓ Set Search Team Parameters

2-4 MONTHS

- ✓ Nominations for Search Team
- ✓ Nomination Screening and Selection
- ✓ Announce Senior Pastor Search Team



2. FORMULATION

3. UNIFICATION



3-6 MONTHS

- ✓ Search Team Prayer and Unity
- ✓ Search Team Training
- ✓ Establish Roles and Responsibilities

3-6 MONTHS

- ✓ Surveys & Focus Groups
- ✓ Formulate Mission & Vision
- ✓ Develop Sr. Pastor Profile
- ✓ Establish Sr. Pastor Job Description



4. PREPARATION

5. EVALUATION



3-6 MONTHS

- ☐ Solicitation of Applicants
- ☐ Candidate Evaluation & Refinement
- ☐ Interviews & Recommendations

2-3 MONTHS

- ☐ Presentation to Personnel Committee
- ☐ Affirmation from the Congregation
- ☐ Selection & Celebration



6. CELEBRATION

WE ARE HERE

Note: These are average periods of time and may vary during the process.