

First Baptist Church of Pensacola
Ministry Organizations

First Baptist Church of Pensacola Mission Statement:

At FBCP, we glorify the Father by following the Holy Spirit in telling the story of Jesus.

We seek to do this by leading people to...

- Discover personal faith in Jesus as their Savior.
(Evangelism)
- Devote to Christ as their Lord. (Worship)
- Develop into mature followers of Jesus. (Discipleship)
- Demonstrate Christ-like love in attitudes and actions.
(Fellowship)
- Deploy into the world as witnesses and servants of Jesus.
(Missions)

FBCP Beliefs and Biblical References for our Mission:

We believe the local church is the Body of Christ made up of baptized believers, and it is God's will for every believer to be a member of one for mutual fellowship, edification, and mission.

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel and seek to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This church is an autonomous body whose members are equally responsible. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.”
1 Corinthians 12:27

“God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.” Ephesians 1:22-23

We believe the Church should observe Baptism and the Lord’s Supper as the two ordinances Christ gave to His Church.

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer’s faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior; the believer’s death to sin; the burial of the old life; and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. The Lord’s Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

“Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?” 1 Corinthians 10:16

We believe it is the duty and responsibility of every Christian and church to deliver the good news of Jesus Christ and to make disciples for Him.

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of

all nations. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life. It is the duty of every child of God to seek continually to win the lost to Christ by personal effort.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Many FBCP Ministry Organizations support the congregation in accomplishing the FBCP Mission. Following is a description of one of those Ministry Organizations:

Deacon Ministry Team

Leadership:

Leader: Steve Shell, Chairman of the Deacons

Church-Wide Ministries Supported by this Team:

This Ministry Team supports the Deacon Ministries.

Ministerial Contact:

Dave Snyder

Purposes, Expectations, and Anticipated Accomplishments of this Team

Deacons serve as spiritual catalysts, leading others to participate in church missions and ministries by example. Deacons help the staff to build consensus within the church. Deacons encourage and support the church staff so that they can focus on their ministries. Deacons pray diligently for the spiritual, physical, and emotional health of the church body. Deacons assist the pastor and Administrative Council to communicate and promote programs, plans, and visions to the congregation. Specifically, Deacons strive as follows:

- To glorify God in all works being led or done by the Deacon body, whether in words or deeds
- To serve as spiritual catalysts in the congregation and the community, leading others by example to participate in missions and ministries
- To be in constant prayer for the members and programs of FBCP, our community, and our world
- To practice Biblical stewardship of all resources and faithfully present tithes and offerings to support the work of the Kingdom
- To promote goodwill and harmony within the church by working for the common good of the whole body of Christ
- To share the Good News of Jesus Christ

Biblical References for this Team:

“This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found

blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon will purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
I Timothy 3: 1-13

Members of this Team

Process and Structure for Selecting and Electing Deacons

- Each summer, the church will be challenged to begin praying about whom to nominate to serve as deacons for the upcoming year, keeping in mind the qualifications of deacons found in John 13:1-17, Acts 6:1-7, and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- Church members will be given the opportunity to prayerfully nominate persons to serve by filling out a Deacon Nomination form and turning it in to the Committee on Placement.
- The Committee on Placement will prayerfully review the names submitted and follow through with an investigation into each nominee's fitness to serve.
- The Committee will finalize a list of names according to the agreed upon number of deacons needed to serve for each year.
- These names will be shared with the church prior to a time scheduled in the fall of each year for the church to vote for the new deacon class to begin their term in January of the upcoming year.
- A Deacon Ordination Council and Ordination Service will be scheduled for the deacon body to meet with and question the newly elected deacon candidates and to ordain them by the laying-on of hands before the church body.

Questions That Help to Determine Nominees' Qualifications to Serve

- Are they spiritually mature individuals serving as lay leaders of the church?
- Do they live a Christlike, godly life according to the descriptions in John 13:1-17, Acts 6:1-7, and 1 Timothy 3:8-13?

- Do they faithfully participate in worship and Bible study?
- Are they involved in missions and/or ministries?
- Do they practice the Biblical model of stewardship of resources?
- Do they practice a lifestyle of self-control?
- Do they promote goodwill and harmony?
- Do they regularly share faith in Christ?

Responsibilities of Deacons

- Deacons should attend all scheduled deacons' meetings unless providentially hindered. Reasons for absences should be presented to the Chair of the Deacons.
- Deacons should serve as a spiritual catalyst, leading others to participate in missions and ministries by example.
- Deacons should help the ministerial staff to build consensus with the church.
- Deacons should encourage and assist the ministerial staff so that the staff can focus on their ministries.
- Deacons should pray diligently for the spiritual, physical, and emotional health of the church.
- Deacons should assist the Ministerial Staff and Administrative Council in communicating and promoting programs and visions to the congregation.

Organization of this Team

The Deacon Body is led by the Chairperson of the Deacons, assisted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Deacons (who becomes Chairperson in the subsequent year), an appointed Deacon Secretary, the leaders of the various Deacon-Led Ministry Teams, and all members of the Deacon Body (including all ordained deacons: active, inactive, and emeriti). Deacon-led Ministry Teams include:

- Deacon Nomination Ministry Team
- Grief and Bereavement Ministry Team
- Home Repair Ministry Team
- Hospital Ministry Team
- Lord's Supper to the Homebound Ministry Team

Meetings, Meeting Agendas, and Work Schedules

Regular meetings are scheduled monthly, typically on Sunday afternoon at 5:00. Typical meeting agendas include,

- Opening prayer and comments by the Chair
- Prayer concerns (prayer list and visitor list) and prayer time
- Committee and Ministry Team reports
- Ministry opportunities
- Comments by members of the Ministerial Staff
- Message from the Pastor
- Closing prayer

Records of Meetings

Records of dates and minutes of meetings are recorded and typed by the Deacon Secretary, approved by the deacons at the next meeting, and submitted to the Deacon Chair and to the Church Office Staff. Questions about deacon meetings and deacon activities should be directed to the Chairperson of the Deacons.