

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BENNINGTON, VERMONT ANNUAL REPORT 2025

196TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 1, 2026

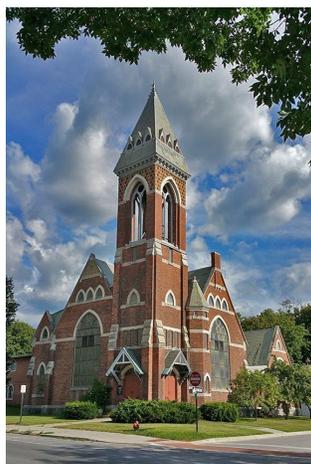


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CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of our Heavenly Father, to associate ourselves with this church in its united effort to promote God's will on earth, we therefore solemnly enter into agreement with one another and with the Lord Jesus Christ. That we will strive to live a new and holy life, walking together in love as disciples of Jesus who said, "This is my commandment to you, to love one another as I have loved you... by this shall all men know that you are my disciples." That we will seek to emulate the teachings of the New Testament: laying aside falsehood and speaking the truth. We will be kind one to another that we may live as children of light, standing firm as men and women of mature character and of clear convictions as to everything which is God's will. That we will sustain this church in its worship, teaching, and missionary interests home and abroad by our regular attendance at its services, and will contribute, as God prospers us, to meet various needs of the Kingdom; knowing that this is the only way we can keep the church strong and its work progressive. That we will aim to maintain private family devotion, create a Christian atmosphere within our homes, encourage cheerfulness, a right appreciation of prayer, and a balance of Christian life. That we pledge ourselves to maintain individual liberty of conscience to strive with all Christ's followers in a courageous effort to bring our social relations into harmony with all society and government, to promote peace, and a better understanding among mankind. That should we move from this community we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

196TH ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA-FEBRUARY 1, 2026, 11:40AM

The First Baptist Church of Bennington, VT, will hold its 195th annual meeting on February 1, 2026, beginning at 11:40AM in the Church Chapel.

A. CORPORATE BODY

1. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Trustees
2. Voting on all board members for a one year term

B. BUSINESS MEETING

1. Approval of the minutes of the January 19, 2025 annual meeting.
2. Presentation of the Financial Report
3. To hear and act upon the report of the Budget Committee.
4. To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee.
5. To transact any other business that may properly before this meeting.

—Lisa Flynn, Church Clerk

MINUTES OF THE 195TH ANNUAL MEETING

The 195th meeting was held on Sunday, January 19th, 2025. The meeting was brought to order immediately after the service in the Chapel.

Church members and trustees were in attendance. Trustees in attendance; Byron Spafford, Allyn Lindsey, Randy Bates, Sue Hoag, Lisa Kramer, Duane Shortt, & Lisa Flynn (church clerk). Grace Wilson (moderator) was listening by phone.

There was a motion made to accept the minutes from the 194th annual meeting. Allyn Lindsey made a motion to approve the minutes and Melody Burke seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

A motion was made by Duanne Shortt to keep the governing board the same for another year and second was made by Allyn Lindsey. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

A motion was made by Allyn Lindsey to accept the financial report and accept the budget for the following year; a second was made by Sue Hoag. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

There was discussion about the two proposals that are still on the table to purchase and or use the Nichol's building, but the board is in disagreement.

Lisa Flynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Allyn Lindsey seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54.

Lisa Flynn, Church Clerk

REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/23: 237 (Resident Members, 166 Non-Resident Members 71)

Membership Transitions: Jerrod Hugenot—Letter 06/10/25

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/24: 236 (Resident Members 165, Non-Resident Members 71)

NOMINATING REPORT-OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR VOTE

Officers: Lisa Flynn-Clerk, Byron Spafford-Financial Secretary, Grace Wilson-Moderator.

Current Board Members Trustees: Randall Bates, Lisa Flynn, Lisa Kramer, Sue Hoag, Allyn Lindsey, Duane Shortt, Byron Spafford.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The church continues to be without a permanent pastor and we continue to have a rotation of Pastors who preach the sermon and conduct services on Sunday morning. The search for a permanent part-time pastor has come to a standstill, as there are few pastors in the hiring pool. The attending congregation is between seven and ten people on a given Sunday.

Fortunately Dr. Alan Ingalls continues to preach, as well as assist with filling the pulpit every Sunday. Many of the pastors who fill the pulpit are associated with the Northeast Baptist College.

Their sermons have been bringing hope and inspiration to members in person and through CAT-TV video recordings; you can also see these recordings on the church website. <https://fbcbennington.org/>

There were a variety of ministers and students who provided coverage in the pulpit this year; including Rev. Jay Richmond, Rev. Micheal Carrel, Mr. Christian Weaver, Mr. Jake Fiet, Mr. Eli Breau, Mr. Reese Sweeney, Dr. Michael McDill, Dr. Mark Ballard, Dr. Jim Robertson, and Dr. Lee Williams, We were also happy to have the Executive minister Jay Noll of American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire cover the pulpit one Sunday over the summer this year as well.

The goal of the trustees of the First Baptist Church of Bennington continues to be; budget, legal obligations, building repairs and maintaining a working relationship with long-term cost sharing tenants. There continues to be major building structural repairs that will be made within the upcoming year.

The major change in 2025 was the agreement to lease the Nichols Building to Turning Point. The building will be used as a community center associated with drug rehabilitation. In preparation to lease the building, the board of trustees opened up the rummage sale rooms for families in need to shop for supplies. The remaining items were donated to the Free Store.

J. Harwood continues overseeing building maintenance and grounds as well as unlocking doors, closing up at night, and will be on call for safety and repairs. He will continue living in the house owned by the church, which will be compensation for his work around the church grounds.

Tim Pinsonneault continues as custodian who cleans the Colgate Hall building, chapel and sanctuary. The position is strictly cleaning only and will consist of 15 hours per week for First Baptist Church and 15 hours for Turning Point. For more information about this, please see the trustees.

We wish everyone a Happy and healthy New Year in 2026 and we continue to pray for the growth and prosperity of this church.

Respectfully Lisa Flynn, church clerk

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Local Income	2025 Projected	2025 Actual	2026 Projected
Pledges	23,400.00	26,492.00	25,000.00
Loose Offerings	1,100.00	1,188.00	1,100.00
Building			
Pledges	1,300.00	922.00	900.00

The mission comparison for 2025 and mission projections appear in the benevolence section of this report. Please contact me if you have questions about your giving. All records related to congregant giving are confidential and handled only by the financial secretary.

Respectfully Submitted,
Byron Spafford, Financial Secretary

REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENTS

	12/31/24 Balance	12/31/25 Balance
LCP-Asset Management Acct	715,053.54	741,411.21
	12/31/24 Balance	01/21/26 Balance
Equitable-Annuity Acct	695,198.93	722,234.22
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,410,252.47</u>	<u>1,463,645.43</u>

REPORT OF BENEVOLENCE

	2025 Projected	2025 Actual	2026 Projected
Pledges	1,119.00	788.00	780.00
Pledges as Given			
America for Christ	200.00	210.00	200.00
OGHS	150.00	190.00	150.00
RMMO	200.00	190.00	200.00
WMO	150.00	204.00	150.00
Church Funds			
Flower Fund	As given	735.00	As given
Memorial Fund	As given	0.0	As given
Scholarship Fund	As given	0.0	As given

Distribution of 2025 Pledges is as follows:

Coalition for the Homeless	63.11
Family Time	39.17
GBICS	196.51
Habitat for Humanity	28.71
Deacon's Fund	67.44
Northeastern Bible College	39.17
UM Basic Support	353.89
Total:	788.00

REPORT OF THE DEACONS' FUND

Balance as of 12/ 31/2024	Balance as of 12/ 31/2025
3,827.92	2,532.66

REPORT OF THE CHURCH ACCOUNTS

All checking and savings accounts and certificates of deposit (CDs) of First Baptist are lodged at the Heritage Family Credit Union (Bennington, VT branch).

<u>Church Activities Accounts</u>	12/31/24 Balance	12/31/25 Balance
Primary Share: Savings	8,901.94	10,197.39
Lester Nichols Dividend Account	587.17	588.72
JH HA White Dividend Account	204.54	205.13
Mary Edgerton Dividend Account	1,029.54	1,032.16
VT Community Foundation Grant	1,084.43	1,087.24
Building Fund	15,508.93	8,425.34
Mable Harris Dividend Account	8,940.03	8,962.47
American Baptist Women	2,267.52	2,273.27
Share Draft: Checking	17,029.95	15,690.90
<u>CDs</u>		
Scholarship Fund (3 month CD)	9,641.31	9,954.79
Video Fund (24 month CD)	2,088.29	2,156.27
<u>Rent Accounts</u>		
Business Primary Share	29.94	25.04
Rent Security Deposit	.90	0.0
Rent Account	157.10	2001.24

The Primary Share is a combination of funds. The breakdown as of 01/01/26 is as follows: Flower Fund: 1,722.22, Memorial Fund: 6,239.52, Shoe Fund: 251.52, Scholarship Fund: 1,605.00, Dividends: 353.63 & Heritage minimum deposit allotment: 25.00.

The Building Fund is a combination of funds. The breakdown as of 01/01/26 is as follows: Organ R&M: 2,646.35, Sound System: 108.36, and Building R&M: 5,976.63

The 621 rent account were closed in 2025 once the 621 building was demolished. The new rent account comprises of the rental deposit from Turning Point Center, the rent checking account and rent security deposit.

**REPORT OF THE ANNUAL BUDGETS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

<u>Income</u>	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Checking Interest	21.60	20.66	20.65
Local Income	42,894.48	59,333.46	80,899.48
Total Income	42,916.08	59,354.12	80,920.13
<u>Expense</u>			
621	1,150.00	1,137.85	1,165.00
Administrative	8,455.00	11,045.33	9,766.00
Building R & M	68,224.00	80,407.38	133,534.00
Missional Works	1,500.00	271.00	1,000.00
Pulpit Supply	12,750.00	14,325.00	15,000.00
Sexton Property	3,650.00	3,650.00	4,045.00
Staff Payroll Taxes	1,400.00	1,746.90	1,590.00
Staff Salary	24,554.00	22,427.60	16,500.00
Staff Temporary Help*	200.00	0.0	n/a
VT Childcare Tax**	0.0	88.57	90.00
Worship and Service	4,270.00	2,990.40	4,075.00
Total Expenses	126,153.00	138,365.89	186,765.00
<u>Net Ordinary Income</u>	-83,236.92	-79,011.77	-105,844.87
<u>From Endowment</u> †	54,000.00	76,000.00	94,000.00
<u>Net Income</u>	<u>-29,236.92</u>	<u>-3,011.77</u>	<u>-11,844.87</u>

* Staff Temporary Help removed from 2026 budget.

** VT Childcare Tax added to 2026 budget.

† 2025 endowment includes \$22,000 withdrawn from LPL for steeple repair deposit.

† 2026 endowment includes \$40,000 to be withdrawn from LPL for steeple repair scheduled for May 2026.

Numbers for 2025 W & S, Total Expenses and Net Income amended on 02/04/26 due to a cancelled gift check to the church organist that was cleared on 01/26/26 and to a revision to Local Income.