

**CORE Primer:
Membership Matters
Session 1
Part 2: Discover FBC**

0:37 / 0:03

Introduction

Welcome back to the next part of Session 1 – Discovering FBC

In Session 1, we spent time answering the question, Why join the local church... specifically, why join FBC Portland. In Part 2, In this session, we're going to journey through some church history and trace it forward – along its progression - to Portland, TN. You will learn about: history of the church & history of FBC Portland; what our affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention represents; and, meet our church leadership.

00:29 / 0:05

Slide 31: DISCOVER FBC

Why should FBC Portland be your local church?

So, we've discovered why membership in the local church matters...

The question some of you may be asking is, ***“Why should FBC Portland be your local church?”***

- ***Let's discuss why FBC Portland is the ideal choice for your local church.***

More than a century ago, God deliberately established FBC Portland as the spiritual focal point to reach out to the local community. Throughout these 130+ years, numerous individuals, including men, women, and children – like you and your family – have played a significant role in building up the local church at FBC Portland and sharing the message of Jesus Christ with the community we serve.

Today, God has brought you to FBC Portland, along with the unique gifts and talents He has created you with, to carry on this meaningful mission. By joining our church, you become part of a long-standing legacy of spiritual outreach and impact within the Portland area.

If there is one common occurrence in our story, it is that God has been with us and gone before us every step of the way. Our hope is that you are in the process of not only

discovering the gospel of Jesus Christ, but how God plans to use you in His mission here at FBC Portland.

Slide 32: 130 YEARS OF HISTORY AND LINK IN YOU GUIDE

Any questions?

00:29 / 0:05

Who is First Baptist Church Portland?

Slide 33: MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Statement

Our mission is simple, **First Baptist Portland exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ in our church, community, and throughout the world.**

Slide 34: ACHIEVE MISSION STATEMENT

- We achieve this by **equipping** the saints for ministry and **engaging** the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We achieve this by gathering regularly to **pray**, study His **Word**, and **care** for one another in community.

[COPY OF BY LAWS]

Core Values

Our purpose is shaped through these six non-negotiable core values.

1. **God:** We believe in one God who exists eternally as three distinct persons, but in one essence: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, each of whom is fully God, yet there is one God.
2. **God as Creator & Sovereign:** We believe God has made Himself known to the world in Jesus Christ, the infallible Scriptures, and His Creation. We believe that God created the world from nothing and is over all things, at all times and in all places.
3. **Humans as part of God's Creation & our Sinful Condition:** We believe that all humanity is created in the image of God and possesses intrinsic dignity and worth. We believe that we have inherited our sin from Adam & Eve. We believe our sin has separated us from God which leaves all of humanity in desperate need of salvation.

4. **Jesus Christ & His work of Salvation:** We believe that Jesus Christ is the One and only Son of God. We believe He came to Earth in human form to live a perfect life to redeem God's Creation. We believe that he was arrested, crucified, died, set in a tomb, and conquered death on the third day. We believe that salvation is through Jesus Christ by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. We believe that Jesus Christ is returning to the world in the future to judge the living and the dead.
5. **The Role & Mission of the Church:** We believe that the Church is the body of Christ which has been sent into the world to be the light of and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the glory of God.
6. **The Authority & Inerrancy of Scripture:** We believe in the authority and inerrancy of Scripture. The doctrine of the authority and inerrancy of Scripture is rooted in the doctrine of God; as God is true and trustworthy, so is his word recorded in the original autographs of Scriptures. This means that all things that the Scriptures assert are wholly true, both in the Old Testament, the Scriptures of Jesus and the apostles, and in the New Testament, the writings of the apostles. This inerrancy means that all things that the Scriptures assert function with the authority of God's own Word for Christians.

Doctrinal Statements of Faith

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and the basis for our beliefs.

In addition, First Baptist Church of Portland subscribes to the following doctrinal statements:

1. **The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention [2000]**
2. **The Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood [1987]**
3. **The Nashville Statement on Biblical Sexuality**
4. **And, the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy [1978]**

Doctrinal Distinctives [Contained in Church Bylaws] JANUARY 28TH BYLAW REVISION

Q&A

These statements are born out of the Church's commitment to the Holy Bible as God's Word and the Church's interpretation of His Word.

- The Church welcomes all persons, regardless of their lifestyles, habits, or opinions, to attend worship services, ministry events, and other activities of the Church, if they are not disruptive to those activities.

- The Church believes that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity [*Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31*].
 - Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the Church.
1. **Human Sexuality** – Human Sexuality is a gift from God. Sexual intimacy is intended by God to be expressed between one [1] man and one [1] woman in a marriage relationship. We believe that any other form of sexual activity [including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and the use of pornography] is sinful and offensive to God [*Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10*].
 2. **Marriage** – The Church recognizes marriage as the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture [*Genesis 2:18-25*]. Weddings are a Christian celebration of a marriage and the Church will only permit wedding celebrations consistent with this view to be held on the Church campus. Ministerial staff may only participate in weddings of a consistent nature when away from Church facilities.
 3. **Gender Identity** – God has wonderfully created each person as male or female. Both genders are equal in the eyes of God with unique attributes endowed by the Creator [*Genesis 1:26-27*]. Non-acceptance of one’s biological sex is a denial of the image of God within that person.
 4. **Sanctity of Human Life** - We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. [*Psalms 139*]

Slide 35: WHAT WE BELIEVE AND LINK IN YOUR GUIDE

Any questions?

0:03 / 0:03

Church Leadership, Officers & Organization

Slide 36: QUESTION – BIBLICAL OFFICES IN SCRIPTURE

Quick Question[s]:

- What are the biblical offices of the church as described in Scripture?

ANSWER Slide 37:

- The biblical offices in the church are elders [overseers] and deacons. Those are the only two [2] official offices listed. [1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9]
- **Since those are the only two [2] listed, Why do you think Baptist congregations have traditionally pushed against using the “name” of the office of elder [overseer]?**
 - *Wait for answers, they will be varied.*

Slide 38: FBCs LEADERSHIP

At FBC Portland, the leadership structure is somewhat similar to the leadership structure described in Scripture.

- **Spiritual Leadership Team: similar to biblical elder**
 - Jacob Haywood – Senior Pastor/ Lead of SLT
 - Paul Lancaster
 - Cory McCaig
 - Mike Byrd – Student & Recreation Pastor
 - David Hayes – Pastor of Discipleship & Administration
 - *Currently working with qualified men to add to this spiritual leadership team.*

Slide 39: FBCs PASTOR

- **Senior Pastor:** Jacob Haywood is the new Senior Pastor of FBC Portland. Jacob began at FBC Portland in April of 2023.
- **Associate Pastors**
 - David serves as the Executive Pastor and joined FBC Portland in that role - January of 2022 after working in banking for over twenty [20] years.
 - Mike serves as the Student & Recreation Pastor and joined FBC Portland in September of 2020 after serving at churches in Georgia and Tennessee.
- **Deacons**
 - **Deacon chair for 2024: Brandon Russell**
 - **LIST OF DEACONS FOR 2024**
- **Trustees: Please stand** if you are a current chairperson for the following Committees.
 - Nominations committee – Becky Jennings
 - Personnel Committee: Amanda Wilkins
 - Finance Committee: Bill McCullough [Treasurer]
 - Operations Committee – Currently Vacant
 - And Missions Committee – Robert Brown

Moreover, in compliance with our 501c3 and incorporated status, we also refer to additional church leaders/ officers by other titles such as Trustee, clerk/secretary, and treasurer.

- **Current church Clerk/ Secretary: Christy Marlett**
 - The church Clerk/ Secretary records the minutes of all regular meetings of the Board of Trustees.
- **Treasurer – Bill McCullough**

FBC Portland is also guided by a cohesive leadership structure consisting of the Senior Pastoral Staff, the Spiritual Leadership Team, and the Trustees. These three entities come together regularly to form the **Church Leadership Council**, convening quarterly.

Ministry Directors & Assistants

To help and support the pastoral staff at FBC Portland with the on-going work of ministry, the pastoral staff has the ability to hire additional part-time staff. These staff are not full-time positions, and their job responsibilities are defined by the Senior Pastoral Staff and the Spiritual Leadership Team – then approved by the Personnel Committee. These positions do not require that the individual be a member of First Baptist Portland.

Slide 40: FBC MINISTRY DIRECTORS & ASSISTANTS

They are:

- Daniel Evans [??]
- Darrell Finn [Building Superintendent]
- Penny Vaughn [Financial Administrator]
- Jamie Spurling [Church Ministry Assistant]
- And, Lachelle McCaig [Interim Kid's Ministry]

Slide 41: MEET OUR STAFF

Session Conclusion

In **Session 2**, it was our desire to provide you with a better understanding of FBC. We hope our journey through the history of the church and its mission in Portland, TN, has helped you understand our story better. Moreover, meeting our dedicated church leadership has offered a glimpse into the passionate individuals who steer this congregation toward spiritual growth and community service.

So, What's Next?

Next week, we will explore how FBC Portland **Glorifies God in Worship and Grows in Community**. In that session, we will discover more about how FBC Portland worships God together and we will talk more about how we are growing in community with one another.