

OUR PURSUIT OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

As we pray, plan, and prepare for each year's finances, it is important to review some of FBC's beliefs and convictions surrounding finances, giving, and stewardship. They are listed below in no particular order of priority because all of them are vitally important to us:

1. We believe our ministry belongs to God fully and completely, which includes every single asset and resource. We believe we are merely fellow-servants and fellow-stewards in His Kingdom, here to fulfill the purpose He has called us to pursue - to live, love, and lead like Jesus together.
2. We believe we can give only because God has first given to us. We believe giving isn't just important for the financial health of our church, it's critical for the spiritual health of our church family.
3. We believe we must earnestly seek to clearly and honestly communicate our position on finances and the stewardship of those finances which God entrusts to us. We believe we must not be afraid to make our needs and obligations known to our people; however, we also believe we must never resort to what we consider to be disrespectful and dishonorable practices, even if our needs are serious.
4. We believe we must teach what the Bible teaches about the joy of giving in order to help people become mature in Christ, allowing them to discover true freedom from the grip of materialism in their lives. We believe we must strive to help people learn how to invest in eternity by using their God-given resources for God-given purposes at this God-given time.
5. We believe the money entrusted to us is hard-earned and sacrificially given by God's people for the Lord's work; therefore, it is our responsibility to handle that money with the utmost of integrity before the Lord. We believe we are accountable before God to spend any money received carefully and wisely toward continuing the ministry. We believe that every penny is to be stretched as far as possible. Four questions help guide us in this pursuit:
 - a. Is this expense contributing to the fulfillment of the church's purpose?
 - b. Is this expense being put to good use?
 - c. Is there a less expensive alternative that can produce equal results?
 - d. Is there something more important that the money can be used for within the context of our purpose and circumstances?
6. We believe we must receipt all donations in order to help those who give determine their tax-deductible portion of their gifts.
7. We believe we must pay all our bills on time, for it must never be our intent to use our vendor's money for the sake of our ministry. We believe our ministry is to be as much to our vendors as to anyone else.
8. We believe we must not operate the ministry in a deficit. And although it may be necessary at times to borrow funds for large capital expenditures, such as a new building, we believe we must seek to repay the loans as soon as possible.
9. We believe we must never compromise our church family by selling, renting, or intentionally giving access to our name, address, and/or financial databases.
10. We believe we must earnestly seek to conform to the standards of financial integrity and excellence set forth by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) – an organization created to ensure ethical fund-raising and administration practices.
11. We believe we must always take great pains to do things right - to establish proper checks and balances – to honor the Lord in all we say and do, including how we manage our finances.
12. We believe we must seek to remember always that Jesus Christ is the One who raised up this ministry, who has sustained this ministry, and who continues to sustain it. All that we have ever had, now have, and will have, belongs entirely to Him for His glory.

Believing God is at work in and through us for great things in the days ahead,

On Behalf of the entire FBC Elders and Staff