

Living Faith Christian Church Business Meeting — November 2025

Opening

- Meeting opened with Scripture (Colossians 2:6–7) and prayer focused on gratitude and walking in Christ.

Agenda Overview

- Vote on parsonage sale.
- Treasurer financial updates.
- Pastor Scott’s ministry, vision, and facility updates.

Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.

Parsonage Sale Vote

- Motion: Sell parsonage at 3385 Emeric Ave, Wantagh to Pastor Steve & Laura Kinsel for \$775,000.
- Price determined by 3 professional appraisals, minus 5% (no real estate commission).
- Proceeds go to Faith to Finish & Prepare fund to help LFCC become debt-free by 2027.
- Pastoral housing trend: most pastors prefer personal homeownership rather than parsonages.
- Vote is open

Ministry & Facility Praise Reports

- Lower level children’s ministry fully completed — highly praised space.
- Staff development ongoing through leadership training.
- Ordinations in 2025: Pastor Bobby & Pastor Manny.
- Strong church engagement; multiple recent salvations.
- Encouraged members to tour children’s ministry space.

Treasurer’s Report — Mike Freeman

A. Fiscal Year-End (July 2024–June 2025)

- General Fund Giving: \$2.843M (93% of \$3.065M budget). • Net loss: ~\$35,000 (spent slightly more than received).
- Expenses averaged 91% of budget; Operations slightly above due to IT, phone, landscaping.

B. Cash Position (June 30, 2025)

- Total cash: \$2.7M
- Restricted:
 - Faith to Finish: ~\$2M
 - Compassion Fund: \$81k
 - College Scholarship: \$76k
 - Capital Reserve: \$107k

- Unrestricted: ~\$491k (≈ two months of operating costs).

C. Faith to Finish & Mortgage Strategy

- Mortgage payoff goal: 2027.
- Faith to Finish funds partly invested at higher interest than mortgage rate.

D. Q1 FY 2025–26 (Jul–Sep)

- Giving: \$723k (23% of annual budget).
- Spending: all categories below 25% of annual budget.
- Positive net: +\$11.5k.

E. Compassion Fund Critical Update

- Balance expected to drop to ~\$14–15k soon.
- Needs: ~\$6,000/month aiding families.
- Giving: ~\$900/month.
- New envelopes will list four funds: General, Faith to Finish, Compassion, Scholarship.
- Urgent encouragement to give (not redirecting tithe, but above it).

F. Mortgage

- Reduced from \$3.199M to \$3.162M.
- Projected payoff: 2027.6. Approval of Previous Minutes
- Physical copies distributed.

Senior Pastor Report — Pastor Scott Lothery

Review of 2025 Priorities

1. Finish Facility Improvements

- Lower level children's space complete and thriving.
- Main-floor bathroom expansion underway.
- Atrium improvements planned.
- Sanctuary needs being assessed.
- Ministry Center flood repairs underway (≈ 2 months + fire marshal approval).

2. Increase Worship Capacity

- Two years of unusually strong growth for Northeast churches.
- Recent salvations — including first-time visitors.
- Year-over-year growth: Sept +13%, Oct +10%.
- Some turnover expected through summer 2026 due to pastoral transition patterns.
- Added 40 sanctuary seats; opened overflow in Fellowship Hall.

3. Clarify Mission & Strategy

Mission: "Help people live by faith in Jesus Christ."

Strategy:

- Pray for the world.
- Invite our world.
- Teach our congregation.
- Shepherd our members. • Develop leaders.

4. Invest in Pastoral Development

- Ordinations completed for Miguel, Bobby, Manny.
- Seminary training underway for Miguel & Bobby.
- Nico in two-year pastoral internship + Liberty M.Div.

5. Lay Leader Training Launch

- Leading by Faith course launched Sept 2025 (120 enrolled, 100–110 attending regularly).
- Essential after fragmentation caused by:
 - COVID
 - Loss of three senior pastors in 2023
 - Major boomer demographic transitions (retirement, relocations, health, caring for parents, grandparenting)

Pastor Scott's 2026 Vision Priorities (Proposed)

1. Complete Atrium Improvements
 - Increase warmth, seating, relational space.
2. Plan Sanctuary Improvements for 2027
 - Lighting upgrades.
 - Camera/tech enhancements.
 - Possible permanent seating to improve capacity, comfort, sight lines.
3. Launch Spanish Ministry Pilot
 - 11 am Spanish service in Fellowship Hall.
 - Local population: 15% Spanish-speaking (and growing).
4. Update Church Bylaws
 - Adjust for growth of 1,000+ attendance.
 - Improve governance for future expansion.
5. Address Sunday Exit Traffic Delays
 - Approached Wendy's for potential exit path.
 - Contact with police for traffic assistance.
 - Exploring rear lot exit options.

Voting Results

- Thank you to all who attended the business meeting and participated in the vote.
- 385 votes were cast in the motion regarding the sale of the Wantagh parsonage, and it was approved by 99.2% (382 Yes, 3 No).

Closing

- Encouragement from Psalm 20: pray for God to fulfill plans that honor Him.
- Meeting ended in prayer.