



First Baptist

of COLUMBIA / SC

2026 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

The staff and leadership of the church recommend a 1% overall increase for 2026.



MISSIONS

The missions budget will increase by 1.1%.

This budget continues our commitment to the Cooperative Program and the Columbia Metro Baptist Association, funding them at 5.5% of our church's total budget. It also strengthens our local missions and ministry efforts, adding new support for Ezekiel Ministries—a Christ-centered mentoring program for students in Columbia-area schools.

	2025	2026	\$ Change	% Change
Cooperative Program - 5% of Total Budget	\$285,880	\$288,700	\$2,820	1.0%
Associational Missions - 0.5% of Total Budget	\$28,588	\$28,870	\$282	1.0%
Local Missions	\$183,150	\$185,150	\$2,000	1.1%
	\$497,618	\$502,720	\$5,102	1.0%



PASTORAL & DISCIPLESHIP

The pastoral & discipleship budget will increase by 3.2%.

This investment strengthens our new ADVANCE discipleship trainings, launched this year to help us press God's Kingdom forward in our church, homes, community, and world. It also allows us to expand ministry engagement among next-generation adults in the downtown area. In addition, we're thrilled to support the launch of our new Deaf Kids Sunday morning ministry.

	2025	2026	\$ Change	% Change
Pastor's Office	\$27,800	\$27,800	\$0	0.0%
Deacons/Ushers/Ordinances	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$0	0.0%
Discipleship Ministry & Assimilation	\$82,550	\$92,550	\$10,000	12.1%
Children & Preschool Ministry	\$69,500	\$69,500	\$0	0.0%
Student Ministry	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0	0.0%
College Ministry	\$39,500	\$39,500	\$0	0.0%
Young Professionals Ministry	\$7,500	\$10,500	\$3,000	40.0%
Adult Ministry	\$24,400	\$24,400	\$0	0.0%
Senior Adult Ministry	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$0	0.0%
Deaf Ministry	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$1,000	25.0%
International Ministry	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0.0%
Special Education Ministry	\$4,175	\$4,175	\$0	0.0%
Columbia Fitness Center Recreation Ministry	\$9,205	\$9,205	\$0	0.0%
Discipleship Compensation	\$914,041	\$941,818	\$27,777	3.0%
	\$1,288,671	\$1,330,448	\$41,777	3.2%



MUSIC & MEDIA

The music & media budget will increase by 2.5%.

This investment sustains our ongoing worship ministry and the key special events we host in the sanctuary. It also strengthens our television broadcast as we look ahead to celebrating seventy years on the air in 2026. Additionally, it supports the continued growth of our online and digital presence through strategic promotion and engagement.

	2025	2026	\$ Change	% Change
General Music Support	\$21,100	\$21,100	\$0	0.0%
Choirs, Handbells, & Orchestra	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$0	0.0%
Special Events	\$89,000	\$89,000	\$0	0.0%
TV Media Ministry	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$0	0.0%
New & Social Media	\$21,700	\$22,000	\$300	1.4%
Advertising & Promotion	\$40,000	\$25,000	(\$15,000)	-37.5%
Music & Media Compensation	\$597,289	\$632,918	\$35,629	6.0%
	\$838,589	\$859,518	\$20,929	2.5%



OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

The operations & admin budget will decrease by 0.4%.

Although facility maintenance and improvement costs continue to rise, wise stewardship and recent savings allow us to reduce this budget slightly. We remain committed to strengthening campus safety and security without increasing expenses—even adding a new security staff member while keeping overall overhead down.

	2025	2026	\$ Change	% Change
Food Service	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	0.0%
Custodial Services	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$0	0.0%
Safety & Security	\$98,236	\$76,236	(\$22,000)	-22.4%
Employer Expenses & Staff Development	\$295,963	\$317,065	\$21,102	7.1%
Insurance	\$480,153	\$471,735	(\$8,418)	-1.8%
Office Equipment & Furniture	\$118,080	\$124,100	\$6,020	5.1%
Phones, Postage, & Professional Services	\$108,000	\$110,800	\$2,800	2.6%
Library	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$0	0.0%
Generosity Development	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0	0.0%
Higher Grounds Café - Net Income	(\$18,000)	(\$20,000)	(\$2,000)	11.1%
HVAC Systems	\$81,300	\$82,800	\$1,500	1.8%
Property Maintenance	\$195,000	\$202,060	\$7,060	3.6%
Vehicles & Grounds Maintenance	\$26,000	\$25,500	(\$500)	-1.9%
Utilities	\$550,000	\$560,000	\$10,000	1.8%
Transfers to Building Maintenance Fund	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations & Administration Compensation	\$955,290	\$927,918	(\$27,372)	-2.9%
	\$3,092,722	\$3,080,914	(\$11,808)	-0.4%

TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$5,717,600	\$5,773,600	\$56,000	1.0%
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