

Annual Meeting Agenda –Oct 25 2025 12:00 PM

Moderator – Associate Pastor Brad Green

The by-laws require the annual church business meeting to be held on a Sunday in October, and must accomplish at least these 3 tasks:

1. Ratify the Constitution & By-Laws
 2. Ratify the Officers (Elders, Deacons, Secretary, Treasurer) Appointed by the Pastor
 3. Vote to Approve a Budget
- Call to Order and Opening Prayer
 - Devotional (Pastor Andrew Daniel)
 - Church Membership Updates

New Matters:

- **Vote to Create a Capital Reserves Fund**
The church will create and fund a capital reserves fund for the purpose of paying for emergencies related to church owned capital assets. The initial funding of this reserve will be in the amount of \$10,000. These funds will be essentially be in a “savings account”. By voting yes on this fund, you approve these funds to be used by church leadership for emergencies related to church owned capital assets at any point in the future.
- **Vote to Create a Flex Reserves Fund**
The church will create and fund a flex reserves fund for the purpose of flexibility in the church budget. The initial funding of this reserve will be in the amount of \$6,560 (Amount of projected budget surplus). The finance committee will have the authority to transfer funds to and from this reserve fund to any budget line item as deemed necessary and by means of a unanimous vote.

- **By-Law & Constitution Amendments (5 Amendments)**

Section 11.01- Property Usage *VOTE*

- A. Weapons may only be carried in accordance with South Dakota laws. All weapons must be securely kept on the person, either by holster or in a pant pocket. Weapons stored on church property must be secured in an approved gun safe. Weapons shall never be stored in drawers, cabinets, etc. on church property. (ADD)

Section 11.02—Weddings *VOTE*

- A. Weddings may only be held at the church when either the bride or the groom is a member in good standing. The non-member must be able to apply for membership and have no disagreements with the Statement of Faith. (Remove)

Proposed Change: Weddings may be held at the church building upon approval of the pastor. The bride and groom both must profess faith in Jesus Christ. The wedding party must convince the pastor that their wedding will bring glory to Jesus Christ and be held in a manner that shall not discredit Christ nor his bride. If either or both the bride and groom are not members of the church, they shall be encouraged to join in membership, but membership shall not be required. (ADD)

- B. When the bride and groom are members of a like-faith church, the pastor (or elder in the pastor's stead) may grant permission to utilize the church for a wedding. The wedding party must convince the pastor that their wedding will bring glory to Jesus Christ and be held in a manner that shall not discredit Christ nor his bride. (REMOVE)
- C. Officiants shall be ordained members of a Southern Baptist, Baptist Bible Fellowship, or like-faith church and shall be approved by the pastor. The pastor may reject any officiant on grounds outlined in Section 3.04 or 4.03, regardless of ordination or membership status.
- D. Under no circumstances may the cross be removed from the building or worship hall for a wedding, and the cross should play a prominent background for the wedding and wedding photography.

Section 4.04—Terms of Office *VOTE*

- A. Members of the elders or deacons (CHANGE TO "Any officer") may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, by following the guidelines in Section 3.04 culminating with a supermajority vote of the congregation.

SECTION 5.04 – ASSOCIATE PASTOR (Change to "Executive Pastor") *VOTE*

The Associate Pastor (Change to "Executive Pastor"), in addition to his duties as elder, shall:

- A. Be a trusted advisor to the pastor.
- B. Act in the pastor's stead if the pastor is incapacitated, resigns, is dismissed, or dies until

such a time as the pastor resumes his duties, or until the church calls a new pastor.

C. Act as an ambassador for the church.

D. Assist in the preparation of the annual budget.

E. Coordinate the annual compensation evaluation of the pastor.

F. Review outcomes and metrics created for evaluating the church's impact, and regularly measuring the church's performance and effectiveness using those metrics.

G. Assist the pastor in preparing for elder meetings.

H. Assist the treasurer in the financial report to the elders at the scheduled meeting.

I. Work with the pastor and treasurer to maintain the financial integrity of the church.

J. Preside as, or appoint, the moderator of all meetings in the absence of the pastor.

K. Be eligible to receive compensation for his services. Any person receiving compensation directly or indirectly from the church shall not be in a position to determine the nature or amount of said compensation.

(Also change all instances in the Bylaws & Constitution of "Associate Pastor" to "Executive Pastor")

SECTION 8.04 – Finance Committee *VOTE ON NEW SECTION*

A. The Pastor shall appoint a minimum of 5 people to serve on the finance committee for the term of one year (following the term of Church Officers). All elders, and the Treasurer shall serve on the finance committee and the Executive Pastor shall serve as the chairman of the committee. Other church leaders or members may serve on the committee at the behest of the Pastor. Those serving on the finance committee shall be presented to the church at the annual business meeting and approval for the committee shall be voted on as a whole. Anyone serving on the finance committee must be a member in good standing.

B. The finance committee shall be responsible for preparing and approving a yearly budget that the chairman is to present to the church for approval at the annual business meeting.

C. The finance committee shall meet no less than quarterly, to review expenditures compared to the approved budget.

D. The finance committee shall have the authority to amend the yearly budget by transferring funds from the flex reserves fund to any line item, by means of a unanimous vote, as deemed necessary due to higher than expected costs/spending

- E. The finance committee shall have the authority to create new budget line items, and fund those items by transferring funds from the flex reserves fund, as long as funds are available, when deemed necessary by means of a unanimous vote.
- F. Any amendments to the approved budget must be made with prayerful consideration, and discussion on whether more money on a budget line item is necessary for the furtherance of the mission of the church.
- G. The committee chairmen shall make any amendments made to the approved budget by the finance committee available to any church member at their request.

Regular Business:

- Ratification of Constitution & By-Laws ***VOTE***
- Recognition of Service: Chad Pepper (Deacon), Nick Toro (Deacon)
- Appointment of Officers:
The by-laws require officers to be appointed by the Pastor at a business meeting, then the initial election of those appointed officers is to be held at the next business meeting following their appointment. The officers will serve in the full capacity of their position following their appointment in a “probationary period” until their official election by the church members at the next business meeting.

Deacon Appointees:

Billy Workman

- Election of Officers:

Elder:

Peter Famiano (Associate Pastor) *VOTE*

Peter was appointed as Elder (Associate Pastor) by Pastor Andrew Daniel at the Sunday Morning 10:30 service on September 28th 2025, and has been serving in a probationary period until the next church business meeting where the initial election by the church is to be held.

- Ratification of Officers:

The by-laws require an annual ratification of sitting officers at the October annual business meeting.

Executive Pastor:

Brad Green *VOTE*

Deacon:

Casey Ulrich *VOTE*

Tyler Reuter *VOTE*

Treasurer:

Tabitha Daniel *VOTE*

Secretary:

Tabitha Daniel *VOTE*

- Recognition of Mercy Gate Church Leadership:

Elders:

Andrew Daniel (Senior Pastor)

Brad Green (Executive Pastor)

Peter Famiano (Associate Pastor)

Deacons: **Tyler Reuter, Casey Ulrich, Billy Workman**

Secretary & Treasurer: **Tabitha Daniel**

Women's Ministry Director & Media Manager: **Heidi Ayers**

Men's Ministry Director: **Billy Workman**

Children's Ministry Director: **Alesha Green**

Decorations Committee Leader: **Kathi Mauck**

Transportation Ministry Director: **Brad Green**

Cleaning Team Leader: **Mazie Dobbs**

Hospitality Team Leader: **Charlene Pepper**

Food & Banquet Director: **Charlene Pepper**

Audio/Video Director: **Tim Ayers**

- **Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (Nov 1-Oct 31)**

VOTE to Approve

- Pastor's Address
- Open Floor for Members to Speak on Matters not Addressed

The next business meeting shall occur no later than the end of October 2026 for the annual ratification of the Constitution and By-Laws, Staff, and establishing a church budget. A business meeting may be called by the pastor at any time with 10-day's notice and a declaration from the pulpit at least one Sunday prior.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer