



Memo to: Lighthouse Ministries Family

From: Elder Board

Date: May 17, 2026

A poll was used recently to gather feedback related to the growth we are experiencing in our church family. Knowing we have a diverse mix of people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives we felt it important to hear from the body of the church regarding the future of Lighthouse. 153 responses were received. In some cases, the responses represent both husband and wife.

Poll Results

When asked "From your point of view, do you feel the church will continue to grow in the future?"

- Yes 111
- No 2
- Uncertain 22

People were asked to select two of the following options to have explored so that the church has more information to decide about which option to pursue when and if the need arises.

Hold two services	19
Add a gym or worship center to this building	86
Birth a second church	16
Build a separate worship center	87
Find an existing larger building to move to	29
Adapt current building to meet our needs	33

Based on these results the Elders have asked the building committee to bring two options to the church body for consideration. Option 1) add a gym or worship center to the existing building and Option 2) build a separate worship center. At present the committee has put effort into a single proposal. Based on your feedback we are asking that two options be prepared with estimated costs for further consideration.

To be perfectly clear, we are seeking to obtain plans and estimated costs only. The church is not prepared to embark on a facility expansion project at this time. Much work must be done prior to making any commitment to expand. As good stewards we feel it is prudent to plan for the future. In anticipation of the need for expansion funds are being set aside regularly and to date we have saved \$254,186. In the next several months, perhaps years, we will keep conversations alive about expansion as we celebrate God's goodness. He has plans for our church and we continue to seek His guidance in this and all matters.

When asked “Would you be in favor of exploring the idea of having a full-time pastor?”

- Yes 86
- No 12
- Uncertain 37

Written comments in the poll indicated that some who voted uncertain because they simply needed more information. The Elders feel that with further information provided some of those who voted as uncertain would likely respond with a yes. With that in mind the Elders will be proceeding with transitioning Trent into a full-time role while retaining Tripp and Doug as Associate Pastors. The three pastors will work together to leverage their giftings to best serve the church. They are further defining their job descriptions and making plans for a transition this fall. They all report that they are a solid team in full support of this decision.

Ultimately this decision will allow for:

- greater availability of pastors with some on-site presence
- more time for planning and development of discipleship programs
- more one-on-one interactions leading to deeper understanding and growth of people’s faith
- connection and follow up with visitors
- more faithful presence in Abbeville to identify opportunities to serve others
- greater support to our ministry teams
- more time for sermon preparation and sermon series planning

Budget impact: Clearly having a full-time pastor comes with a financial commitment. The Elders remain committed to missions by maintaining the designated 25% of our offerings for God’s work around the world. Some budget adjustments will be made to help cover this commitment. Largely, we are stepping forward in faith that God, through our church family, will support this expansion.

As your Elder Board we commit to serving the church well and welcome your questions and comments. We pray for unity in the church family while understanding that some decisions won’t be pleasing to everyone. We believe we all want what God desires for His church. Join us in prayer as we continue to seek His will for the church.

Wendyn Hershberger, Will Brubaker, Gary Gingerich, Martin Overholt, Michael Mahaffey