

BFC Conference Proceedings – 2026

Fourth meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 1:30 P.M.

Conference Moderator Randall A. Grossman called the pastors and delegates back to order for the Tuesday afternoon meeting at 1:30 p.m. Raymond R. Bertolet prayed, especially remembering Richard E. Taylor, who is experiencing serious health concerns and had just undergone surgery.

The following were elected to boards or committees:

BFC Executive Board (ministers):

Randall A. Grossman (3 years)

Ronald L. Kohl (3 years)

BFC Executive Board (elders):

John W. Sullivan (3 years)

William J. Walters (3 years)

Ministerial Credentials Committee (ministers):

Jesse A. Benack (3 years)

Daniel W. King (3 years)

Ministerial Candidate Committee (ministers):

David E. Gundrum (3 years)

Joshua P. Miller (3 years)

Juan Carlos Morales (3 years)

Ministerial Relations Committee (ministers):

Daniel Z. Krall (3 years)

Timothy J. Schmoyer (3 years)

Committee on Nominations (ministers):

Mark A. Barninger (3 years)

Brad L. Boyer (3 years)

Committee on Nominations (laypersons):

Angela Vaughn (3 years)

Conference Judicatory (ministers):

Scott A. Allison (3 years)

Stephen A. Diaz (3 years)

Special Appellate Judicatory (elders):

Robert A. Moreau (3 years)

Officers of the 144th BFC Conference

Moderator

Randall A. Grossman (1 year)

Vice-Moderator

Timothy J. Schmoyer (1 year)

Report of the Board of Church Health: (see page)

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

Robert A. Sloan, Jr., Interim Director of the Board of Church Health, described the work of Church Health and encouraged churches to be willing to seek help. The development of an assessment plan is a helpful tool that the Board of Church Health offers to churches. He stressed that each church is unique so no one model exists that will uniformly correct the issues of all struggling churches. “We give additional input to the elders and the churches to refresh the ministry that they’re doing,” Sloan said. “It’s always helpful to have fresh eyes.”

BFC Conference is grateful to Sloan for his faithful service as Interim Director and thanks him for his commitment to this role.

Report from Study Committees

Study Committee on the Mode of Believers’ Baptism with Regard to Church Membership (see page)

Resolved, that the report be accepted as amended to correct numbering on one of the resolutions.

Whereas, the practice of baptism in the Bible Fellowship Church is required to be by the mode of immersion, and

Whereas, pastors and elders in the Bible Fellowship Church are required to be “in agreement” with the Articles of Faith and not just “in sympathy” with them, therefore be it

Resolved, that we require that any man who seeks to serve as a pastor or elder at a Bible Fellowship Church be required to have been baptized by immersion as a believer, and further

Resolved, that any pastor or elder candidate who has not yet been baptized by immersion be required to be rebaptized in order to align with the requirements of Article 20-1 of our Articles of Faith.

Article 204-1 Elders

We propose introducing a new 204-1.8.

“Because of the qualifications and dignity of the position of Elder, ~~including minister,~~ and because baptism in the Bible Fellowship Church is practiced by immersion, each elder ~~and minister~~ must be required to be baptized by immersion. If he was baptized as a believer by another mode, he would be required to be baptized by immersion, unless physically unable, so as to be in agreement with Article 20-1, Baptism, which states, ‘Water baptism, the immersion of the believer...’”

[FIRST READING]

Yes – 120; No - 39.

Article 204-2 Ministers

Under 204-2.3, The Qualifications for the Ministry – under Personal Qualifications - we propose this addition as a new 204-2.3(8).

“Because of the qualifications and dignity of the position of minister, and because baptism in the Bible Fellowship Church is practiced by immersion, each minister must be required to be baptized by immersion. If he was baptized as a believer by another mode, he would be required to be baptized by immersion, unless physically unable, so as to be in agreement with Article 20-1, Baptism, which states, ‘Water baptism, the immersion of the believer...’”

[FIRST READING]

Yes – 126; No - 33.

Study Committee on Strengthening Our Position on Abortion: (see page)

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

It is this committee’s intention to present “a proper report and improved language” at the 144th BFC Conference in 2027.

Study Committee on Examining BFC Articles 24-27: (see page)

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

Whereas, the Bible Fellowship Church has historically maintained a premillennial interpretation based on the authority of Scripture and the importance of good hermeneutics, and

Whereas, some modern day amillennial interpretations admit that in the past, their hermeneutics have not always been precise and they have sought to rectify these previous weaknesses through faithful practice of grammatical-historical exegesis, and they have rejected spiritualizing or allegorizing the text, and

Whereas, the issue of the millennium has been debated down through church history, with faithful godly believers falling on both sides of the issues, and

Whereas, the nature of prophecy, inaugurated eschatological fulfillment, figures of speech, and apocalyptic literature leave room for reasonable debate and variance between positions that do not impinge upon the doctrines of the clarity, sufficiency, and authority of the Word of God, and

Whereas, the Bible Fellowship Church has already granted exception on the issue to men who were previously ordained, and their change in belief on the millennium has not been considered to be a breach in doctrine, character, or conduct that disqualifies them from ministry in the BFC, therefore be it

Resolved, that we amend the Articles to allow for the premillennial and amillennial views as proposed below.

The following changes to the Articles of Faith were presented for adoption at First Reading, starting with the preface accompanying the committee’s legislation for Article 24 – Resurrection. The following is the preface statement proposed by the committee for adoption at First Reading.

***Preface:** The Bible Fellowship Church has historically been, and still is, premillennial in its eschatology. Our Articles 24-28 fit into that framework. We do, however, recognize that the specificity of prophecy is open to legitimate discussion among God’s people. We can accept as ministers and elders those who have a reservation concerning our position and instead prefer an amillennial position, provided they recognize the premillennial position is within orthodoxy, do not denigrate it, interpret the Scriptures according to their grammatical-historical meaning, and affirm future aspects of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants to be fulfilled on earth after Christ’s return. We reject any form of eschatology in which the believer does not live waiting in active anticipation of Christ’s return or in which the church experiences an age of earthly peace and prosperity before the Lord returns.*

[FIRST READING]

Yes – 64; No - 97.

The following motion was adopted by BFC Conference

Whereas, the 142nd BFC Conference elected Option 4 proposed by the Millennium Study Committee, and

Whereas, the Millennial Study Committee proposed changes to allow for both amillennial and premillennial positions within the BFC in the Fall, and

Whereas, the Millennial Committee’s current proposal does not reflect the wishes of the 142nd BFC Conference, and

Whereas, the current proposal that includes a preface within the Articles of Faith insinuates tiers of doctrine, and

Whereas, doctrine ought to be safe-guarded and defended, rather than include exceptions, therefore be it

Resolved, that Conference instructs the Millennial Study Committee to further amend its proposed changes so that it can be accepted by both premillennial and amillennial brothers.

Conference having given some early guidelines for the committee’s ongoing work, the following changes to the Articles of Faith were proposed for adoption at First Reading:

Article 7 – Satan

Current	Change
7-1 Satan is a created angelic being who fell from his first estate. ¹ He is the god of this	7-1 Satan is a created angelic being who fell from his first estate. ¹ He is the god of this

<p>age, ruling by the permissive will of God.² He exercises authority over the unsaved, tempts the believer to sin, and continually accuses the brethren before the throne of God.³</p> <p>7-2 He has been defeated by the finished work of Christ on Calvary. During the millennium he will be confined to the abyss,⁴ to be released at the end of that period to lead the armies of evil against God. He will be finally judged and doomed to the lake of fire.⁵</p>	<p>age, ruling by the permissive will of God.² He exercises authority over the unsaved, tempts the believer to sin, <u>roams around like a roaring lion, and continually attacks the brethren. and continually accuses the brethren before the throne of God.</u>³</p> <p>7-2 He has been defeated by the finished work of Christ on Calvary. During the millennium he will be confined to the abyss,⁴ to be released at the end of that period to lead the armies of evil against God. He will be finally judged and doomed to the lake of fire.⁵</p>
	<p>Footnotes 1-2 and 4-5 remain the same. One addition for footnote 3.</p> <p>³ For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain (1Thess 3:5). For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down (Rev 12:10b). <u>Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Pet 5:8)</u></p>

[FIRST READING]

Yes -137; No -16.

Article 24 - Resurrection

Current	Change
<p>24-1 The bodily resurrection of Christ is the basis for the resurrection of man.¹ At the return of the Lord the bodies of the righteous dead will be raised, and the living believers will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.² Believers will, at the resurrection, receive spiritual and immortal bodies like Christ’s own glorious body.³</p> <p>24-2 The event of the resurrection is divided into two stages, separated by a period of a thousand years and differing in respect to both their subjects and their issues.⁴ The first resurrection includes only the righteous</p>	<p>24-1 The bodily resurrection of Christ is the basis for the resurrection <u>of His people of</u> man.¹ At the return of the Lord the bodies of the righteous dead will be raised, and the living believers will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.² Believers will, at the resurrection, receive spiritual and immortal bodies like Christ’s own glorious body.³</p> <p>24-2 The event of the resurrection is divided into two stages.⁴ separated by a period of a thousand years and differing in respect to both their subjects and their issues.⁴The first</p>

dead. ⁵ The second resurrection is universal and occurs at the close of the millennium when all the unregenerate dead are raised to be brought before the great White Throne for judgment. ⁶	resurrection includes only the righteous dead. ⁵ The second resurrection is universal and occurs at the close of the millennium when all the unregenerate dead are raised to be brought before the great White Throne for judgment. ⁶
	No changes to the footnotes.

[FIRST READING]

Yes – 126; No - 31.

Article 25 – The Second Coming of Christ

Current	Change
<p>25-1 The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is the personal, visible, bodily return of our Lord to this earth¹ to conform believers to His image and to establish the millennial kingdom. In connection with Christ’s return there will be the resurrection of the righteous dead,² the rapture of the saints,³ the salvation of Israel,⁴ the great tribulation,⁵ and the inauguration of the millennial reign.⁶ Following the millennium will be the resurrection and judgment of the unrighteous. The righteous will be eternally glorified with Him; the unrighteous will be eternally punished.</p> <p>25-2 The Second Coming is the believer’s source of encouragement and comfort inspiring him to active service for Christ, and is a motive for purification and holy living.⁷</p>	<p>25-1 The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is the personal, visible, bodily return of our Lord to this earth¹ to conform believers to His image² and <u>visibly manifest the</u> to establish the millennial kingdom.³ In connection with Christ’s return there will be the resurrection of the righteous dead,^{2,4} the rapture of the saints,^{3,5} the salvation of Israel,^{4,6} the great tribulation,^{5,7} and the inauguration of the millennial reign.⁶ Following the millennium will be the resurrection and judgment of the unrighteous.⁸ The righteous will be eternally glorified with Him; the unrighteous will be eternally punished.⁹</p> <p>25-2 The Second Coming is the believer’s source of encouragement and comfort inspiring him to active service for Christ, and is a motive for purification and holy living.^{7,10}</p>
<p>¹ In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also (John 14:2,3). “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).</p>	<p>Footnote 1 remains the same.</p> <p>Footnotes 2-3 are new additions.</p> <p>The current Footnote 2 becomes new 4 and adds 1 Thes 4:16.</p> <p>The current Footnote 3 becomes new 5 and adds Matt 24:31.</p> <p>The current Footnote 4 becomes new 6 with no changes.</p>

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is (1Jo. 3:2). Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed (1Cor. 15:51,52).

³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words (1Thes. 4:13-18).

⁴ A partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved (Rom. 11:25b, 26a).

⁵ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be (Mat. 24:21).

⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years (Rev. 20:6).

⁷ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure (1Jo. 3:3).

The current Footnote 5 becomes new 7 with no changes.

The current Footnote 6 is dropped.

A new Footnote 8 is added with 2 Thess 1:7-9.

A new Footnote 9 is added with Matt 25:46.

The current Footnote 7 becomes new 10 and adds Col 3:4-10.

¹ In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also (John 14:2,3). "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

² But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Phil 3:21).
Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 Jn 3:2).

³ When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. (Matt 25:31). And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one. (Zech 14:9). (see also Isa 2:4,11:4).

^{2,4} Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is (1 John 3:2). Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed (1Cor 15:51-52). For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (1 Thess 4:16).

^{3,5} But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words (1Thess 4:13-18). And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matt 24:31).

	<p>⁴⁶ A partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved (Rom 11:25b, 26a).</p> <p>⁵⁷ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be (Matt 24:21).</p> <p>⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years (Rev. 20:6).</p> <p>⁸ ...and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might (2 Thess 1:7-9).</p> <p>⁹ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (Mat. 25:46).</p> <p>⁷¹⁰ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure (1 John 3:3). <u>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Col 3:4-10).</u></p>
--	--

[FIRST READING]

Yes – 121; No - 34.

Article 28 – The Eternal State

Current	Change
<p>28-1 There are two final, eternal destinies for man: heaven for the righteous and penitent, and hell for the unrighteous and impenitent.¹ At the great white throne judgment, all of the enemies of God will be consigned to the place of eternal conscious punishment, from which there is no escape.² The new heavens and the new earth shall be created³ as the</p>	<p>28-1 There are two final, eternal destinies for man.¹: heaven for the righteous and penitent, and hell for the unrighteous and impenitent. At the great white throne judgment, all of <u>the unrighteous and impenitent</u>, the enemies of God, will be consigned to the <u>lake of fire</u>, a place of eternal conscious punishment, from which there is no escape.² The new heavens and the new earth shall be created³ as the</p>

final state in which the righteous shall dwell forever in the presence of God. ⁴	final state in which the <u>penitent</u> righteous shall dwell forever in the presence of God. ⁴
	No changes to the footnotes.

[FIRST READING]

Yes – 145; No - 8.

Committee to Report on Civil Government (see page)

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

The Committee’s report included no proposed legislation.

Resolved, that we thank the committee for its work, and be it further

Resolved, that we consider its assignment complete and consider the committee dissolved.

Committee to Review Biblical Principles for Living (BPLs): (see page)

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

The Committee to Review Biblical Principles for Living recognizes the use of technology potentially moving from being a helper or servant of man to becoming a tool that may isolate people-to-people interpersonal contact, perhaps even to the point of affecting fellowship within the Church, the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, the Committee to Review Biblical Principles for Living brings the following Resolution to the 143rd BFC Conference for consideration at First Reading:

Resolved, that the BFC Conference appoint a Study Committee to examine and prepare a statement on the issues of digital technology (digital, gaming, or computerized devices), Artificial Intelligence, and social media and/or a believer’s online presence by considering the following questions:

1. Where does the use of technology belong in presenting the biblical story of redemption? Worship? Teaching/preaching? What are the benefits and detriments corporately and/or personally?
2. What guidance does the Bible offer to individual believers on the use of digital technology (such as Bible versions on smartphones and tablets during corporate teaching and/or worship), Artificial Intelligence (for Bible reading and/or study, etc.), and the believer’s online presence (posting and/or information resources) regarding personal testimony and faithful dependence upon the leading of God the Holy Spirit?
3. How might it be possible for the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ to lead the way in using technology internally and externally to the honor and glory of God?

Conference voted in favor of the formation of such a study committee.

The following missionaries were present and greeted BFC Conference:

Lisa Barnshaw – Christar; Glen & Leah Ruth Blausen, JAARS; Alex Hartranft, AIM; Brian & Carol Ann Lawrence, Christar; Chris Merrick, BFC BOM; Efthymes Sioukiouoglou, FIM.

James D. MacArthur, Director of the BFC Board of Missions, thanked God for the faithfulness and dedication of these men and women.

Marcos Ramirez closed the afternoon session with prayer at 4:57 p.m. The pastors then attended a meeting of the BFC Beneficiary Society.