

BFC Conference Proceedings – 2026

Fifth meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 7 P.M.

Steven K. Myers and accompanists led in the singing of “O Great God” as Conference held its annual service of ordination beginning at 7 p.m. Ralph M. Soper of the Ministerial Credentials Committee read Ephesians 3:7-12.

Keith M. Long presented the ordinands to the congregation of pastors, delegates, family members, and other guests. Jesse A. Benack gave the charge to the candidates from the above text. “It’s valuable to be reminded of what gospel ministry is,” Benack said. We have a glorious calling to proclaim a glorious Savior for a glorious purpose.”

Gospel ministry utilizes unworthy servants. Paul said he was made a minister, a *diakonos*, a servant of Jesus Christ. He was carrying out the commands of his Savior. The initiative was God’s; Paul did not make himself a minister of the gospel. “He was bent on being an anti-minister of the gospel, and yet he was arrested by Christ, Benack said, referencing Saul of Tarsus’ conversion on the road to Damascus. “He was called by Christ. It was the Lord’s doing and it’s always the Lord’s doing.”

None of us, on our own initiative, decides to become a minister. We are made ministers only by the grace of God; we are unworthy. Paul called himself “the very least of all the saints.” The Greek suggests that he is calling himself “lesser than the least” – find the least of all the saints and Paul was saying he is lesser than them. “He gives us the impression, throughout all his ministry, that he never got over his unworthiness,” Benack stressed.

“We are debtors to God’s grace. We are saved only by grace and we minister only by grace,” he added. “We must not mistake giftedness for worthiness.” We should never forget that our ministry is a gift from God to unworthy sinners. It’s only by His grace.

Paul also got to proclaim an unfathomable Savior and was privileged to preach “the unsearchable riches of Christ.” The message he was called to proclaim was impossible to do because of the nature of who Christ is; He is beyond our ability to describe Him, let alone declare His inexhaustible, inscrutable, glorious riches. “This is what we are called to proclaim week-in, week-out, all the years of our ministry: the unsearchable riches of Jesus,” Benack said. “You can never get bored if you are preaching about the unsearchable riches of Jesus. There’s no bottom to the well.”

“As long as we are preaching Jesus, we will never run out of something worthy to tell people,” he said.

Third, the gospel ministry serves God’s cosmic purposes. God chooses to use His church to make “the manifold wisdom of God” known, even “to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.” God is uniting people from all nations and all walks of life in His Son, and what He is doing is on display in the church. Our gatherings, Benack said, are bearing witness even to heavenly powers: all kinds of angels, both good and evil. Some long to hear and see the things of the gospel. The fallen angels hear and see the gospel and shudder in response.

“The church was not His backup plan. It was not His failsafe. It was His eternal plan,” Benack said. Are we worthy to do the work He has given to His church? None of us are. We

cannot do this on our own. But it is in Christ, through our faith in Him, we have access, boldness, and confidence. “Since we are frail and fragile, we need Him all that time. We need to keep running to our Savior to find help, to find hope, and to find strength,” Benack noted.

Jason L. Hoy administered the ordination vows. The members of the Credentials Committee laid hands on and prayed for the ordinands. S. Wayne Rissmiller gave the pronouncement of ordination and greeted the newly-ordained men.

Jacob B. Dearmon and Benenz J. Hitchcock were ordained to the gospel ministry of the Bible Fellowship Church while Peter C. Bogert, Daniel A. Cali, Jonathan Limm, James D. MacArthur, and John P. Sullivan had their previous ordinations recognized by the BFC. Jeremy L. Harkins, who was ordained in 2025 but was unable to attend the ordination service due to illness, was also included in the service.

Conference and guests sang “Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me” as a closing hymn. Scott Wright gave the benediction at 8 p.m., whereupon the already-ordained ministers of the BFC greeted their newly-ordained brothers.

A reception in honor of these newly-ordained men followed in Pinebrook’s Fellowship Hall.