

Facilities Expansion Church Survey



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MARBLE FALLS CONGREGATIONAL FEEDBACK REPORT
Prepared from 190 congregation survey responses / September 2026

Summary

The Facility Expansion Prayer and Engagement Team invited the congregation to share input on a proposed facilities expansion. Across 190 written responses, the feedback was notably consistent. The clearest need is additional classroom and small-group meeting space, followed by a dedicated worship center that would end the weekly conversion of the current worship space into a gym or event hall. Family Life Center/recreation space and adequate space for children and youth were the next most frequently cited needs.

The survey also revealed an important stewardship concern. Many respondents support addressing facility needs but want leadership to proceed conservatively, communicate costs clearly, and avoid taking on a level of debt that could strain ministry. A small group questioned whether expansion is necessary at this time and encouraged continued investment in discipleship, missions, and existing facilities.

190
Survey Responses

107
Classroom / Meeting Space Mentions

64
Dedicated Sanctuary Mentions

What the Congregation Is Telling Us

Sunday morning discipleship is central to church life: 167 of the 190 respondents (88%) attend a Sunday morning class. This helps explain why classroom capacity surfaced so strongly throughout the open-ended responses.

1. Classrooms & Small-Group Space - 107 mentions

The most consistent need in the survey. Respondents described 14-15 classrooms serving roughly 77-80 active ministries, with rooms booked back-to-back, limited ability to launch new classes, and difficulty splitting large classes. Members also asked for a better mix of room sizes so both smaller Bible studies and growing classes can be accommodated.

2. Dedicated Sanctuary / Worship Center - 64 mentions

Members repeatedly expressed frustration with using one room for both worship and recreation. Weekly chair setup and teardown creates a physical burden for staff and volunteers, adds wear to furnishings, and complicates weddings, funerals, community events, and recreation scheduling. A dedicated sanctuary would allow the current worship center to serve other ministries more consistently.

3. Family Life Center, Gym & Recreation - 42 mentions

Respondents see recreation space as both a ministry tool and a community outreach opportunity. Youth sports, fitness, indoor play, and the church's volleyball ministry were specifically mentioned. Several respondents noted that recreation ministries regularly bring people onto campus who are not otherwise connected to the church.

4. Youth & Children's Ministry Space - 40 mentions

Members emphasized the importance of providing adequate facilities and space for nursery, children's and youth ministries, while also ensuring appropriate accommodations for children and families with sensory or special needs.

5. Financial Stewardship & Debt Caution - 36 mentions

A significant group encouraged leadership to make wise financial decisions, build according to demonstrated ministry needs, and communicate a clear and responsible financing plan. Respondents also emphasized the importance of ensuring that missions, discipleship, and ministry remain priorities as we move forward.

6. Parking, Accessibility & Mobility - 22 mentions

Respondents raised concerns about accessible parking near entrances, long walking distances, elevator dependence, heavy doors, and navigation for people using walkers or wheelchairs. Ground-floor access and covered connections between spaces were recurring practical concerns.

7. Community-Facing & Outreach Space - 20 mentions

Members want future facilities to serve Marble Falls as well as the congregation. Suggestions included ESL, Reclaim, church productions, disaster-relief staging, and flexible gathering spaces that encourages and welcomes neighbors and members to connect.

8. Kitchen, Fellowship & Dining - 19 mentions

The current kitchen arrangement creates logistical challenges because food must be moved across the campus. Respondents suggested a centrally located kitchen connected directly to a flexible fellowship or dining space.

Additional Operational Needs

- Sound isolation between worship and adjacent classrooms (18 mentions).
- Dedicated storage for curriculum, events, decorations, and maintenance equipment (13 mentions).
- Additional staff office and ministry meeting space (12 mentions).
- Rehearsal space for choir, handbells, theater productions, sets, and costumes.
- A quiet/sensory room for prayer, reflection, and attendees who find the worship environment overstimulating.

Areas of Tension to Keep in View

A small group expressed that they are still considering whether additional construction is necessary at this time. Others supported expansion but cautioned that a large sanctuary could overshadow the more immediate need for classrooms and ministry space. Several respondents also expressed concern that a larger campus could weaken the close-knit sense of community they value. These comments point to the importance of communication and designing spaces that promote connection rather than simply adding capacity.

Facilities Priorities Emerging from the Survey

Expand classroom and small-group meeting capacity. Provide significantly more rooms in a range of sizes to reduce scheduling conflicts, waitlists, and overcrowding.

Create a dedicated worship center. Provide a permanent worship environment and free the existing worship space for recreation, events, and community use.

Provide dedicated recreation / Family Life Center space. Support sports, fitness, indoor play, youth activities, and community outreach.

Improve kitchen and fellowship functionality. Locate food preparation and serving space adjacent to an appropriately sized flexible dining/fellowship area.

Strengthen accessibility and parking. Increase convenient accessible parking and improve mobility throughout the campus.

Create a clearly communicated financing strategy. Tie scope and timing to demonstrated ministry needs and maintain conservative financial stewardship.

Adequate space for children, youth, and young adults. Plan these ministry environments as integral parts of the project rather than future add-ons.

Bottom Line

The congregation's feedback points to a facilities strategy centered on ministry capacity rather than simply building more square footage. The strongest recurring themes are more places for discipleship and small groups, a permanent worship space, dedicated recreation and family ministry facilities, better accessibility, and careful financial stewardship. The survey also makes clear that members want the expansion to strengthen fellowship, outreach, and ministry effectiveness while preserving the relational character of FBCMF.