

ARE YOU BEING CALLED?

TO A CHALLENGE?
TO A CHURCH?
TO US?



1005 N 11th St.
GARDEN CITY, KANSAS



Table of Contents

Overview	5
About our Community	7
Church History	11
Objectives	13
Church Covenant	14
Organization	15
Activities	16
Pictures of Church Activities	17
Weekly	17
Monthly	18
Yearly	19
Community	20
Survey Highlights	21
Congregational Survey Highlights	21
Reshape Church Survey Highlights	23
Our Beliefs and Celebrations	25
Job Description	26
Invitation	27

Overview

“Come, let us rebuild...”

Nehemiah 2:17

We believe this is our time to plant, to build up, to laugh, to dance, to embrace, to sew, to love.

Ecclesiastes 3

First Baptist Church of Garden City, Kansas, is embarking **on a journey of renewal and growth**. We are seeking a bi-vocational pastor, with the intention for the role to grow into a full-time position, to lead us through this exciting phase.

Historically, we have been a beacon of faith and community support in Garden City. **The Lord has guided us** during recent years of significant change. Our website and Facebook have not been updated since January 2023, reflecting the need for fresh leadership to help us communicate and connect with the broader community effectively.

Our vision is to see new growth, a rebirth of our church community, and an expansion of our outreach. We believe it is our time to sow seeds of faith and reap a bountiful harvest.

We are at a pivotal point, **ready to embrace change and growth**. Our church is a place of warmth, learning, and spiritual development.

We are committed to rebuilding and revitalizing our congregation through prayer and divine guidance.

We are in search of a dedicated individual who feels called to join our congregation as a bi-vocational pastor. This role will transition into a full-time position as we grow. Our ideal candidate is passionate about community, committed to spiritual growth, and ready to lead us into a new era of joy and prosperity.

Why Join Us?

Blessings and Opportunities: Be part of a community ready to rebuild and grow. Experience the joy of seeing the fruits of your labor as our church enters a new chapter.

Results and Rebirth: Contribute to tangible changes and improvements within our church, witnessing firsthand the impact of your leadership and dedication.

We invite you to consider joining us at First Baptist Church of Garden City. Together, we can rebuild, rejoice, and bring new life to our congregation.

For more information contact: Gregg Hemmen, Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region at gregg.hemmen@abccr.org or Rex Oyler, Chairman of the Search Committee at First Baptist Church of Garden City, Kansas at royler@sbcglobal.net



Buffalo Dunes Golf Course

About our Community

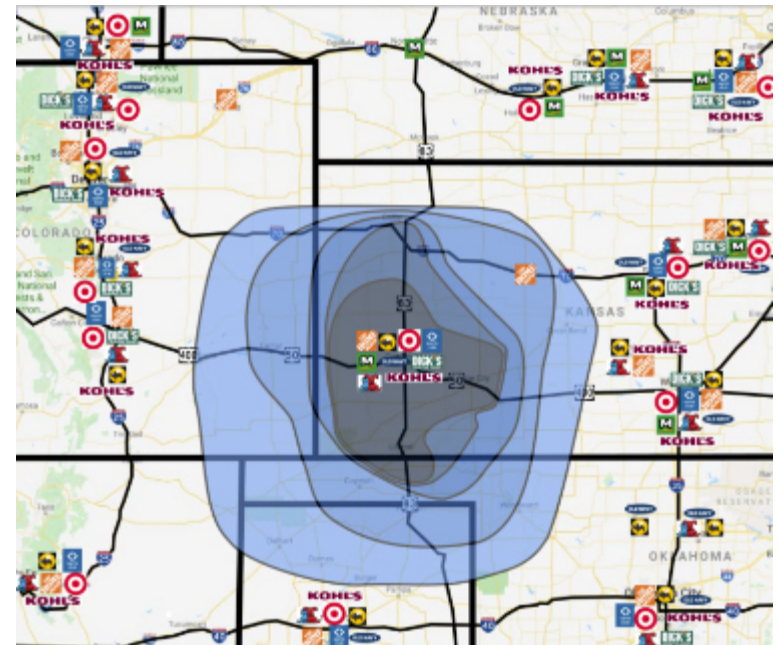
Located in the heart of Finney County, Garden City, Kansas, is a vibrant, diverse, and growing community celebrated for its rich history, cultural attractions, and welcoming atmosphere. The city boasts the Lee Richardson Zoo, a free, 50-acre AZA-accredited zoo offering interactive exhibits and educational programs. Garden City Regional Airport, the third-largest airport in Kansas, has recently opened a brand new terminal to better accommodate the increasing number of passengers. Garden City High School, built approximately ten years ago, is one of the largest high schools in the state, providing top-notch educational facilities. For water recreation, residents and visitors can enjoy the outdoor Garden Rapids Water Park and the indoor Parrot Cove Water Park, catering to fun and relaxation year-round.

Garden City serves as a regional hub for shopping, dining, and medical services. The city's culinary landscape is diverse, offering a variety of ethnic food options and fine dining restaurants. Major retail centers and a bustling downtown provide a wide range of shopping experiences. Additionally, Garden City is a medical center, featuring state-of-the-art healthcare facilities that deliver comprehensive medical care to residents throughout the region, ensuring that quality healthcare is accessible and close to home.

With a diverse and growing population, a strong sense of community, and promising future developments, Garden City is an ideal place to live, work, and raise a family!



Community Population: 53,001
Average Growth: 1.28% per year
Average Age: 30.1 years



**The Retail, Medical, and Educational
Hub of Western Kansas**





GARDEN CITY

— KANSAS —

New Garden City Regional Airport Terminal



Garden City High School



New Lemur Exhibit at Lee Richardson Zoo



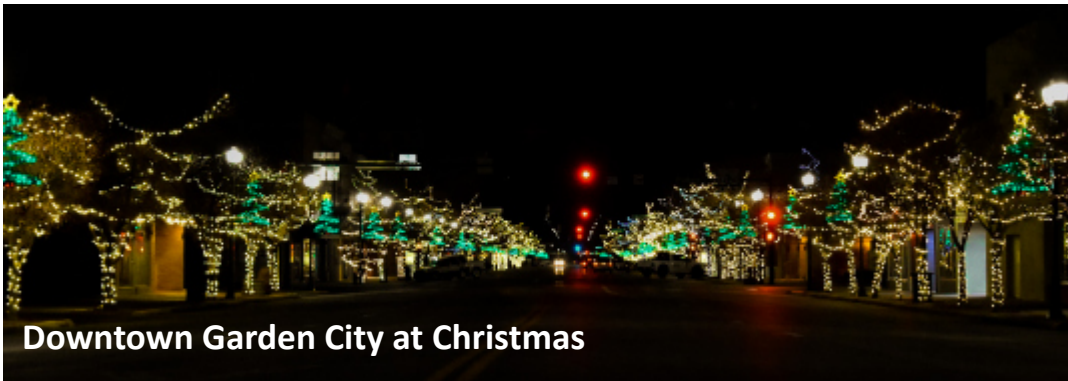
Schulman Crossing



Garden Rapids under construction



Downtown Garden City at Christmas



Church History

Baptists from eastern Kansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and West Virginia were among the intrepid settlers who journeyed to western Kansas and Garden City. These pioneers brought with them not only their belongings but also their unwavering faith and community spirit. From this diverse and devoted group emerged the visionary leaders who laid the foundations for the Baptist Church in Garden City, uniting their strengths and aspirations to create a lasting legacy.

December 1885 - In a small gathering, members of the community convened to discuss the possibility of establishing a new Baptist church, planting the seeds for what would become a cornerstone of faith and fellowship in Garden City.

August 14, 1887 - A milestone moment arrived when Rev. W. W. Willis was called to serve as the pastor on a part-time basis. Rev. Willis, the first bi-vocational pastor of the First Baptist Church, balanced his ministry with another occupation, embodying dedication and perseverance.



March 23, 1902 - Under the leadership of Rev. W.C. Self, the congregation celebrated the dedication of their new building at Seventh and Laurel.

March 1938 - The congregation dedicated a new Educational Building, enhancing their ability to provide religious education and community services.

1942-1945 - During World War II, the church community rallied to support soldiers stationed at the nearby Air Base.

December 5, 1945 - In a bold move, the church voted to embark on an ambitious building program, setting the stage for future growth and development.

July 1948 - Construction began on a new church building at the intersection of 11th and Jones, thanks to a generous land donation from Mr. and Mrs. Victor W. Haflick. The congregation's dreams of a larger, more accommodating place of worship began to take shape.

January 2, 1949 - The congregation held its first service in the basement of the partially constructed building. Though funds ran out and construction paused, the resilient spirit of the church members remained unbroken.

July 1951 - With renewed energy and resources, construction on the superstructure resumed, bringing the vision of the new church closer to reality.

September 23, 1951 - A significant milestone was reached with the laying of the cornerstone.

March 16, 1952 - A day of triumph and celebration as the congregation, singing "Onward Christian Soldiers," marched from the basement into the newly completed sanctuary.

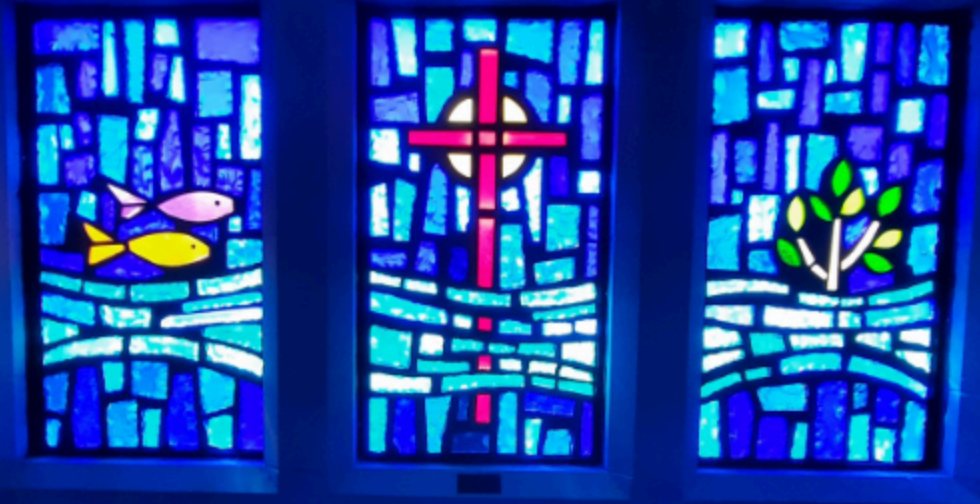


Objectives

1. To be caring and witnessing presence of Jesus Christ in our community and world, declaring and demonstrating the redeeming love of God, urging all to repent and be reconciled to God and each other through faith in Jesus Christ, building a community of believers incorporated as disciples into the church for worship, fellowship, nurture and engagement in God's mission.
2. To carry on the affairs of the church in an orderly and businesslike manner, "Not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." (Romans 12:11)
3. To cooperate in the work of the denomination through the Western Area of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region, The American Baptist Churches of the Central Region, and the American Baptist Churches in the USA.
4. To cooperate with the churches of the Garden City area through the Garden City Ministerial Alliance and other agencies of common ministry.



Church Covenant



HAVING BEEN LED by the Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as Savior, professing Him as Lord, and following him in believer's baptism, we do now thoughtfully and joyfully affirm this, our covenant, with God and with each other.

WE COMMIT OURSELVES, by the empowering of the Holy Spirit who dwells within every Christian, to walk together in Christian love and respect; demonstrating a compassionate spirit indeed and speech, interceding for one another in prayer, aiding one another in sickness and distress, and sharing one another's joys and victories.

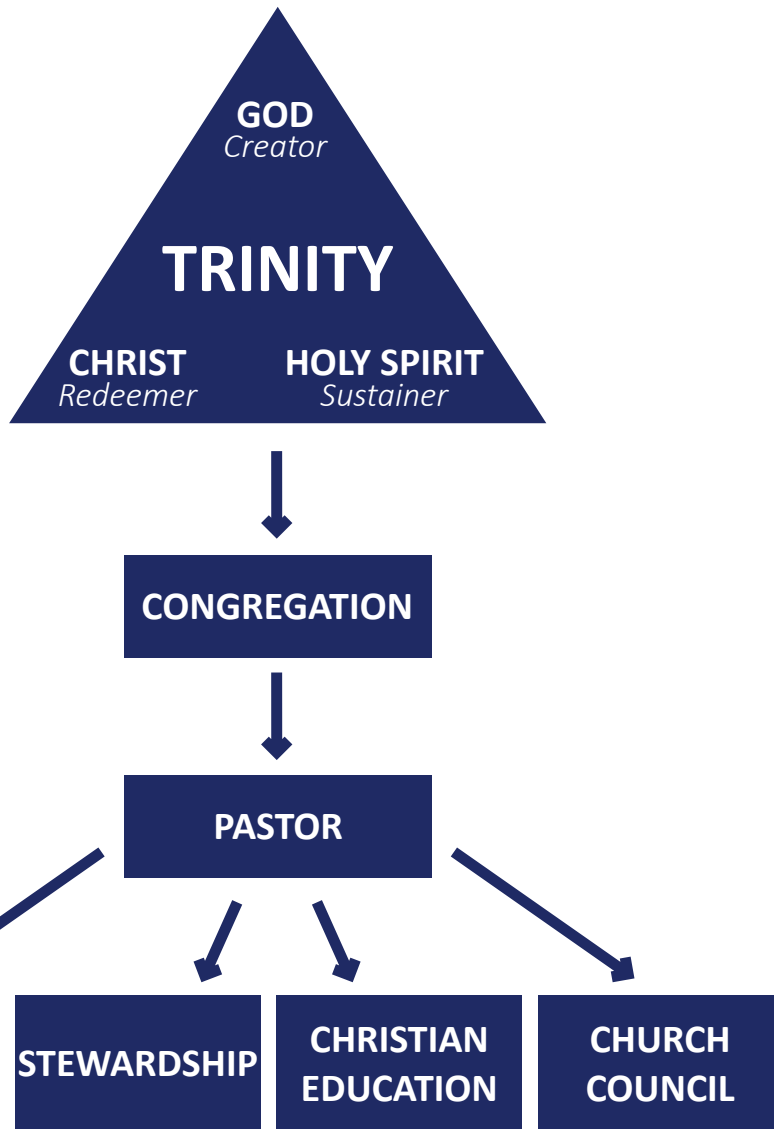
CALLED AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, we shall work together as a local congregation for the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in knowledge, holiness and truth through mission, discipleship, worship, and witness. We shall strive to strengthen the ministry of this church through active participation and faithful support, both financial and spiritual.

SEEKING TO LIVE LIVES that will reflect the example and image of Christ, we shall endeavor to be just; compassionate in our dealings with all people; exemplary in our actions and speech, avoiding gossip, backbiting and destructive anger; ever seeking to be ministers of God's reconciling grace and love. Believing that our bodies are temples of the holy Spirit, we shall endeavor to avoid experiences and habits which defile the body and hinder our witness.

WE COMMIT OURSELVES to seek a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through family and personal devotion, Bible Study, witness, and prayer.

Organization

Our congregation is small but a mighty force. The average Sunday morning attendance ranges from 14-18 adults. The majority of the members are retired or closely approaching retirement.



Activities

Weekly:

- Sunday morning adult Sunday School Class
- Worship service
- Wednesday evening Bible Study

Monthly:

- Saturday morning American Baptist Women's Ministry Meeting
- Saturday Movie Night
- Saturday breakfast at Golden Corral

Yearly:

- Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfast
- Work Day at the Church
- August Sunday evenings Picnic on the Premises
- Maundy Thursday Dinner
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- Decorating Church for Christmas
- Christmas Eve Service

American Baptist Involvement

- American Baptist Women's Ministry
- American Baptist Home and Foreign Missions
- Camp Christy

Spanish Congregation

Casa De Dios is the Spanish Congregation with whom we share our facility. They use our facility for regularly scheduled weekly and monthly activities as well as special events throughout the year.

Community Involvement

- Food pantry and coats distribution
- Scouts of America Troop 59
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)
- Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.)

Pictures of Church Activities

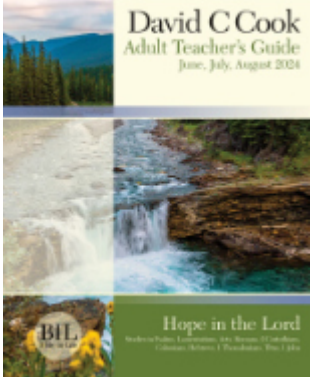
Activities in which our church engages weekly, monthly, and yearly, and organizations with whom we partner.

Weekly



Worship Service

Adult Sunday School



Spanish Congregation



Bible Study

Monthly



Movie Night



Saturday Breakfast at Golden Corral

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES



International Ministries



Camp Christy

Yearly



Picnic on the Premises



Maundy Thursday Dinner



Mother's Day Breakfast



Father's Day Breakfast



Decorating for Christmas

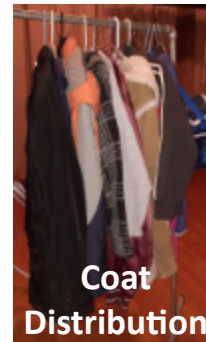


Christmas Eve Service

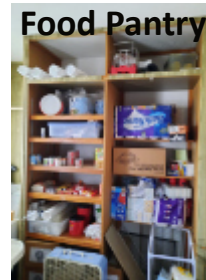


Workday

Community



Coat Distribution



Food Pantry



P.E.O.
KANSAS STATE CHAPTER



Scouts of America
Troop 59



Survey Highlights

The following highlights are drawn from two surveys conducted within our congregation, aimed at identifying and understanding the collective aspirations and desires for our church's future spiritual development and growth.

Congregational Survey Highlights

June 23, 2024

1. What do you hope the new Pastor will accomplish in their first 12 months?

Ranked 1-4. 1 being most important.

1. Successfully assimilating into the church and culture.
2. Increased/renewed vision for the church.
3. Growth in numbers
4. New programming

2. Which of the following areas do you feel are most in need of improvement at FBC?

1. Church growth
2. Connecting with young families
3. Retaining members

3. What do you prefer to be our future pastor's top strengths

Tied ranking listed on the same line.

1. Preacher
2. Motivator
3. Leader, Teacher, Theologian
4. Encouraging, Prayerful
5. Evangelist

4. What type of preaching do you prefer?

Results show a blend of: Dynamic, encouraging, instructional, evangelistic, exegetic, challenging

5. Indicate the order of your preference,

One being your first choice.

1. Someone who is skilled preacher/teacher who communicates the Word of God to us
2. Someone with a heart for people who will minister to us with a great bedside manner.
3. Someone who is skilled at running/guiding the day-to-day affairs of the church

6. Rank in order a pastor's responsibilities

One being most important.

1. Visit potential new & new members
2. Mission minded
3. Visible in the community
4. Deals with conflict well
5. Good with children/youth

7. Note: The congregation commits to pray often for the new pastor to whom God is preparing to lead our church.



Reshape Church Survey Highlights

May 20, 2024

A. Rank the urgency of the following on a scale of 1-8:

(1 being the most urgent)

1. Spiritual Growth
2. Pastoral Leadership
3. Visionary leadership
4. Church Growth
5. Relationship Experiences
6. Accountable Management
7. Communication and Conflict
8. Program Emphases

B. How important do you feel this is for our church?

1 (most important):

- Having a pastor who is committed to growth in membership and spiritual matters.
- Having a church which recognizes the Trinity. Equality emphasizes the God-Creator, Jesus-Redeemer, Holy Spirit-Sustainer.

2.

- Having a church where lives are “changed, healed, redirected to positive paths”.
- Prayer
- Having a pastor who knows, understands, and joins in our mutual vision and helps the church to remain focused.

3.

- Having effective, authorized, accountable pastoral leadership.

4.

- Worship- Sunday morning service.

5.

- Discipleship Development, helping the congregation be on an intentional and maturing Christ centered faith journey.
- Having financial health and stability.
- Managing assets such as money and owned property.

6.

- Strong clear sense of our mission and purpose.
- Our core values, what we believe.
- Our vision, where we are headed.
- Having growth in all areas such as children, youth, families, etc.
- Having programs, ministries, and activities which meet spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the congregation.
- Having clear, open, healthy communication channels.



7.

- Being actively involved with American Baptist Missions. (Camp Christy, Home Missions, and Foreign Missions)
- Having a church which is growing in membership and weekly worship attendance.

8.

- Having programs, ministries, and activities which are growing in numbers and quality.
- Being able to identify issues which need to be addressed.
- Addressing identified issues in a timely and Christ-like manner.

Sources:

- Bullard Jr., George, *Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation*.
- Robinson, Anthony, *What's Theology got to do with it? Convictions, Vitality, and the Church*.
- Tidsworth, Mark, *Reshape, Emerging Church Practice in a Volatile World*.

Our Beliefs and Celebrations

We Believe...

- That the Bible is the final authority and trustworthy for faith and practice when interpreted responsibly under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit within the community of faith;
- That the Church is a gathered fellowship of regenerated believers, a sign of the coming universal reign of God;
- That the freedom to respond to the lordship of Christ in all circumstances is fundamental to the Christian gospel and to human dignity;
- That witness to Christ is the ongoing task of every Christian.

We Celebrate...



In the special gifts of all believers, testifying that God can use each of us in the overall outreach of ministry. Paul states that “apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers” all work for “building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11,12). The affirmation of lay leaders as integral to church vitality and the ordination of women, practiced in our denomination for more than a century, underscore the belief that many have been called by God to serve.

Job Description

The Ideal Candidate:

- A bi-vocational pastor with the potential to move to full time
- A seminary graduate with at least 6 years of experience
- Be able to work a minimum of 20 hours per week
- The job will be based out of the church's office
- Highly motivated to grow the congregation spiritually and in attendance
- A passion for developing and growing new programs and outreach to engage the community

Duties Would Include:

- Prepare and deliver sermon for worship services
- Conduct weddings, funerals, baptisms, administer the Lord's Supper on a regular basis
- Attend all board meetings as an ex-officio member
- Schedule time in the church office for people who need to meet with the Pastor for various reasons
- Visitation to members and to potential members as requested or needed

The Pastor:

- Shall be the spiritual leader of the church
- Serve as principal administrator and carry on the affairs of the church in an orderly and businesslike manner
- Cooperate with the American Baptist Church denomination at the Western Area , Central Region and USA levels
- Cooperate with other churches, Garden City Ministerial Alliance, and agencies of common ministry in our area

For more specific information regarding the Church's expectations of the Pastor please refer to the Surveys' Highlights pages 21 through 24.

Invitation

As we reflect on Nehemiah 2:17 and Ecclesiastes 3, we invite you to come, let us rebuild. We believe this is our time to plant, build up, laugh, dance, embrace, sew, and love. We are ready to embark on this journey of renewal and growth and are seeking a pastor who feels called to be part of this mission.

We believe God has a unique plan for each of us. Are you being summoned to lead, inspire, and grow with a community that cherishes faith, family, and fellowship? We invite you to consider joining us in our pursuit of spiritual revitalization.

Become part of a warm and supportive church family dedicated to fostering meaningful relationships and nurturing spiritual growth. Our congregation is eager to welcome a new pastor who can lead us in this exciting time of renewal. You'll find a community that not only embraces you but also collaborates to support one another in faith and daily life.

Taking on the role of our pastor presents a unique opportunity to guide a church ready for significant growth and positive change. We're at a critical juncture, seeking inspirational leadership to help realize our vision. You'll have the opportunity to bring new ideas and energy, shaping the future direction of our church and enhancing our impact in the community.

Your leadership will make a tangible difference in the lives of our congregation and the broader community. You'll play a crucial role in fostering spiritual growth, expanding our outreach efforts, and revitalizing our programs and ministries. Your enthusiasm will be instrumental in guiding us through this new chapter, as we rebuild and rejuvenate our church.

Together, we can achieve great things and bring new life to First Baptist Church of Garden City. If you are passionate about community, commitment to spiritual growth, and ready to lead with vision and dedication, we invite you to explore this opportunity and consider answering the call.

May You Listen to the Guidance of God With Gratitude and Hope.

For more information contact Gregg Hemmen, Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region at gregg.hemmen@abccr.org or Rex Oyler, Chairman of the Search Committee at First Baptist Church of Garden City, Kansas at royler@sbcglobal.net