



**TIM AKIN**  
**SENIOR PASTOR CANDIDATE**  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, DOUGLASVILLE**

The Pastor Search Committee of First Baptist Church has met diligently over the past 8 months to carefully consider the current and emerging needs of our church in our community, as well as type of man we believe God was preparing to lead us. After much prayer and deliberation, the Committee is unanimous in recommending Tim Akin as our next Senior Pastor. Tim has a sterling reputation, a heart for reaching people for Christ, a commitment to expository preaching, extraordinary leadership skills, and a vision that is expansive and outreach-focused. It is with joyful anticipation of all that our Heavenly Father has in store for us at First Baptist Church that we introduce you to Tim Akin.

## MY TESTIMONY AND CALLING

First Baptist Church family, I am so excited and honored to be a Senior Pastor candidate for this wonderful church. Early this year, my wife Anna and I had sensed God stirring our hearts to consider other ministry opportunities. I had a number of conversations with my Pastor, who is also my friend and mentor, and with his blessing, we began to pray and seek God's will. During that process, I had a number of conversations with your Pastor Search Committee. God has made it abundantly clear to me that Douglasville, and more broadly, the metro area west of Atlanta, is a field that is ripe for harvest, as Jesus said.

Here is my testimony. I had the privilege of being raised by my two heroes. Both my dad and my mom are devoted followers of Jesus Christ. As a result, when I was a young boy, they taught me and my three older brothers to love Jesus, His Word, and His church. One Sunday evening when I was 6 years old, I told my dad that I was ready to become a Christian. My parents took me into the living room, sat with me on the couch, and shared with me that if I simply repented of my sins and professed faith that Jesus died on the cross for my sins, was buried and rose again, then I would be saved. So, right there, in Dallas, Texas, sitting on that couch, I prayed to receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior and became a Christian. Because of the leadership of my parents, our family's involvement in the local church and several godly men who poured into my life, God has allowed me to grow over the years in my relationship with Him.

When I was 17 years old, the summer before my senior year of high school, I went on my first international mission trip. I went with a team to Honduras. During that trip, for the first time in my life, I had the opportunity to preach the Gospel. I can vividly remember after one of the sermons sitting down with a young boy named Omar and leading him to faith in Jesus. It was through this experience and this trip that God called me into full-time Christian ministry.

## MY MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

The Lord has provided me a variety of ministry opportunities and experiences, all of which allowed me to work with people whom I respect and who poured into my life. I began as the Associate Pastor and Student Minister at North Roxboro Baptist Church in Roxboro, North Carolina. From there, my wife Anna and I moved to Istanbul, Turkey, to serve as missionaries for two years with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Following that assignment overseas, we moved to Louisville, Kentucky where I served for nearly 4 years as the Student Pastor at Highview Baptist Church. In 2013, we moved to West Palm Beach, Florida where I became the Pastor of Family Church West, one of the campuses of Family Church (formerly First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach). This church has become a vibrant and dynamic church taking the Gospel to all of South Florida. It has grown from an average attendance of 1000 to more than 4000 in less than 10 years. I was asked to be the founding pastor of Family Church West, which started in October of 2013 with a little over 100 people. Over the past 4 years, this church has grown to over 300 in weekly attendance, has baptized nearly 150 people who have professed their faith in Christ, and its membership has increased by 250 people. This is growth by adding new believers in an area that is largely unchurched.

It has been of utmost importance that I receive formal training to be the best that I can be in ministry. I completed my Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies at The College at Southeastern in Wake Forest, North Carolina in 2007. In 2015, I graduated with a Master of Divinity in Christian Ministry from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. I am currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology at Southeastern Seminary.



## MY FAMILY

Anna and I were high school sweethearts. Shortly after my mission trip to Honduras, we began dating. We dated for several years when I was in college, and we were married on July 15, 2006, just before my senior year. Over the last 11 years of marriage, God has blessed us with 5 beautiful children: Levi (9), Judah (7), Caleb (5), Zeke (2), and Shiloh (9 months). There is never a dull or quiet moment in our home! When we are not at church, we are heavily involved in sports, and we love going to the beach, eating pizza, and watching a movie as a family every Friday night.

## MY EXCITEMENT ABOUT DOUGLASVILLE AND THE OPPORTUNITY AT THIS GREAT CHURCH

First Baptist Church family, I am so humbled and honored by the incredible opportunity to be considered as the next Senior Pastor of this wonderful church! I am excited about the chance to come to a place where my family has its roots. My grandfather's family is from Carrollton and my grandmother's family is from Douglasville. In fact, both my great-grandparents and grandparents are buried just a few miles up the road at Victory Baptist Church. My father grew up in both Ben Hill and Forest Park, and my mother spent several years of her life at the Georgia Baptist Children's Home in Palmetto. Growing up as a boy, I spent many Christmas seasons in Atlanta. This is an area which I love and have a passion to see people come to know Christ.

Since God has called me into Christian ministry, my motivation has been to do my absolute best to fulfill the Great Commission given in Matthew 28:18-20 to "make disciples of all nations." That is my passion. First Baptist Church has a wonderful legacy of being a lighthouse for the Kingdom of Jesus since 1885. This church has a rich history of incredible ministry and it is an honor to follow in the footsteps of a man like Dr. Pennington. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for this wonderful church.

## WHAT OTHER LEADERS HAVE SAID

I served as Tim's pastor at Highview Baptist Church, and later called him to minister with me as Student Pastor. Tim relates well to all people. He is very committed to preaching the Word, balancing expository preaching with illustrations, applications, and challenges on how to apply Biblical truth to your life. His style is perfect for growing believers into maturity while at the same time engaging non-believers to the truth of the Word. FBC Douglasville is a place of great opportunity for the Lord's work and I believe Tim is the perfect man for the job.

- DR. KEVIN EZELL, *President, North American Mission Board*

In my opinion, Tim Akin is one of the up and coming young pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention. He is a fine expositor, a great student of the Word, a strong leader, a committed father and husband, a faithful Southern Baptist and overall just one impressive young man. In short, I cannot think of any young pastor on the horizon today that has more of the hand of God on him, more potential and more ability to be a cutting-edge pastor than this young man.

- DR. JAMES MERRITT, *Senior Pastor, Cross Pointe Church*

I have known Tim and Anna now for more than 15 years, first when I was their Youth Pastor, and most recently when God had called him to come as a Pastor to minister with me at Family Church in West Palm Beach. We are a multi-site church, and I had asked Tim to start a new site called Family Church West. He began with about 100 members (including my own family) and over 4 years has baptized more than 150 new believers. I have really seen how God has blessed his ministry and his family. He is a great leader with a God-given vision for reaching the world to advance the cause of Christ.

- DR. JIMMY SCROGGINS, *Senior Pastor, Family Church*