

January 2026 Board Highlights

Following the election on December 14, 2025, of Jay Vierling and Phyllis Brodie to fill two vacancies on The New Bluffton Worship Board, the full board met for the first meeting of 2026 on **January 4** under the leadership of new President Jeff S. Jones. The board is grateful for the service of former President Rob Houston and Secretary Tina Webb Browning who completed their terms. The new terms are as follows:

Position	Name	In Term #	Term ending
Board President	Jeff S. Jones	1	12/31/26
Board Vice President	A. Jay Vierling	1	12/31/27
Secretary	Phyllis A. Brodie	1	12/31/27
Treasurer	Mikell Schultheis	2	12/31/26
Staff Parish	Kay Hallman	1	12/31/26

The board will normally meet twice per month: The first Sunday of each month after worship and the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month via Zoom.

Year-end financials showed the church ending the 2025 year with a surplus surpassing \$200,000 thanks to a special year-end gift that was doubled this year. The donation was provided by a Christian-owned business in Columbia, SC, who has a corporate mission to build the kingdom of God by supporting churches. The New Bluffton Worship also received a \$25,000 special grant to be used specifically to grow Children and Youth. It was noted that expenses in 2025 also came in \$54,000 below budget. Total 2025 income: \$700,275; total expenses: \$489,657. The board also discussed the Love Offering that was presented to staff at the end of December.

The team that has been looking at possible spaces and located two new options: One was a former bank building near Kroger that was available for purchase. The building would require major renovations to accommodate our needs. Second, the unit right next door to us, #101, had just come up for lease. After discussing the options, the board voted to pursue a possible lease to be able to expand in-place. The board also affirmed a desire to expand community impact.

Other business included the hire of a new band member, the intent to hire an Administrator, and the need to work a year or more in advance on a calendar to assure fundraisers and other major events are identified as to avoid conflicts and to enhance planning. The board is also seeking the best means to store official documents.

On **January 17**, the full board met via Zoom. The major item for discussion centered on the lease agreement that was reached for unit #101. The board approved the lease with the rental to begin on Feb. 1. A personal guarantor was required by the landlord and an active church family agreed to act as the guarantors. The board voted to designate \$150,000 of the \$500K in the building fund for the lease payments over the 3-year term. A small team will be developed to help guide next steps for the use of all the facilities. More will be shared on Founders Day to be celebrated on February 8 after the 10:30 service. Founders Day will include new members joining, a soup lunch and a board update.

The board voted unanimously to make an offer to an individual for a full-time Administrator position to include the Children's Coordinator role until a replacement for the current Children's Coordinator can be hired. The board also reviewed the structure of ministry teams and ways to improve communication including calendar items.

TNBW board hopes to be able to continue to provide highlights – such as this – each month going forward.