

For Immediate Release

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### **FWBBC to Launch Name Change Feasibility Study**

NASHVILLE, TN—The Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees authorized the administration to conduct a feasibility study that could result in a name change for the 68-year-old institution by 2012, according to President Matt Pinson.

“This is an important study for the college,” Pinson said. “We are moving steadily toward relocation to a new campus on a choice 66-acre site in nearby Gallatin. Denominational constituents as well as the educational community understand that FWBBC has expanded its academic offerings dramatically from the early years. While we will always maintain our focus on ministry and missionary preparation, the college now offers more than 40 fields of study, a dream that was not possible in 1942. Our strategic plan calls for further expansion and the addition of graduate programs in fields such as theology and education. This feasibility study will help us determine if it’s time to consider a name change that reflects the broader curriculum.”

Trustees voted unanimously in May 2010 to launch the name change feasibility study. This marks the second time in five years that the Board has authorized a far-reaching study. A similar vote in December 2005 resulted in a 2006 study that prompted Trustees to authorize relocating the college.

Administrators have begun assembling the necessary data to develop a feasibility study. They plan to consult with two professional consulting firms that currently work with the college—the A Group and Dickerson and Associates—to ensure a high quality study.

If the study indicates the feasibility of an institutional name change, results will be presented to delegates at the 2011 Free Will Baptist national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, along with a recommended name change and a motion to lay the proposal on the table for one year. Delegates to the 2012 national convention in Memphis, Tennessee, would then be asked to approve the change.

President Pinson said, "This is a crucial time for Free Will Baptist higher education. In a climate of shifting economics and technological change, we must find new ways to meet educational needs of Free Will Baptist churches and students. We remain committed to our Christian mission, to our Free Will Baptist theological vision, and to a Bible college philosophy of education in which every student majors in Bible, while at the same time reaching more students who are serious about Christian living, leadership, and service. This means more undergraduate programs. It also means expanding beyond undergraduate level to graduate seminary training for pastors, and graduate programs in fields like teacher education. We need the prayers of God's people while these important decisions are being made."