
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF DELRAY BEACH

CELEBRATING
100
YEARS



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
DELRAY BEACH**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026, FOLLOWING THE 11 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

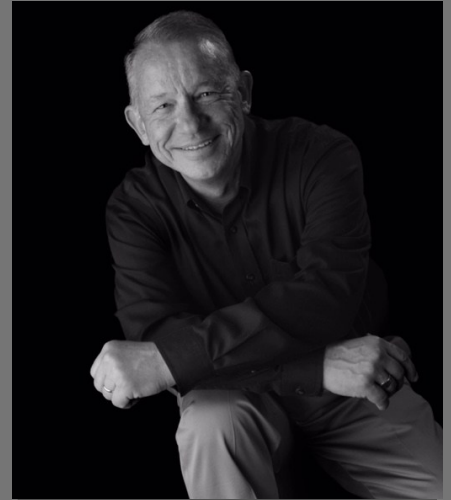
This past year our church realized strength upon strength with multiple flagship ministries that drew a large positive response: the second annual First Delray Concert Series which was consistently sold out, the annual Distinguished Preacher Series, which welcomed Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton, President of Princeton Theological Seminary, and a robust participation in our annual congregational dinner. In a day that we read of increasing numbers of congregations struggling across the nation, First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach remains strong and continues to advance our stated purpose of *Building Disciples, Transforming Lives*.

Jennifer Buce, an elder and Clerk of Session has been honorably serving our presbytery, the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. Her work takes her to several of the other churches in our presbytery and always returns to share with me that her heart breaks to see the struggles of other churches: financial struggle, declining membership, and worship attendance that, many times, is no more than several dozen people. One Sunday, moments before worship, as she glanced over a nearly full sanctuary here in Delray, Jen said to me, most of the people here in worship have no idea that what we have at First, Delray is rare. Few churches across the nation experience the robust worship experiences that have become common place for us.

An additional sign of health is the increasing numbers of children and youth participating in our ministries that are professionally staffed just for them. We can walk through our educational building on Sundays and see many young children and youth being shaped in the Christian faith. As Psalm 119:18 says, *“Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things.”*

A significant disappointment this year was the resignation of Greg Rapier as co-pastor. A careful pastor secession plan, years in development, simply collapsed. Yet, Greg honored what I have said throughout my ministry—servants of the church cannot serve well if they don’t first serve their family well. Greg and Lissette’s son had special educational needs that could not be adequately addressed by Palm Beach County Schools. To honor his family’s needs, Greg found a call that aligned with his gifts of ministry and within a school district that could meet his son’s needs. I remain convinced that the larger Presbyterian Church will one day recognize Greg as one of its leading pastors and I am grateful for the seven years he served our church.

With considerable anticipation for the year that follows,
Doug



A WORD FROM

The Reverend Doctor
W. Douglas Hood, Jr.

Pastor



A WORD FROM

Grace Cameron Hood
*Director of Children
and Family Ministry*

This past year has been a wonderful year in the life of the *First Families*. Sunday School continues to grow in an exciting way. Sandy McGilvray and Marianne Darby share the teaching of the 1st through 4th graders. Sandy and Marianne have a fun and engaging leadership manner. The children have been actively studying the life of Jesus. They are also looking into the how Science and the Bible mesh. Don't be alarmed to hear noise and small explosions from the Sunday School Room! Two special events with Sunday School were the Mother's Day Tea and the Holly House Father's Day Crafts.

The God Squad (5th grade and up) has also sustained growth. This group has been using a variety of material but is now concentrating on how our faith affects our daily lives. The God Squad has also been active in serving the church with several different projects.

A special thanks go to Alice Barrett, Allison Potter, and Iva Branscombe for their faithfulness to the children of the church as they lead Bible Bunch for the younger children ages 3 through kindergarten. The children are very engaged in learning about God! Glitter, glue and scissors are definitely part of their worlds.

Our nursery care and leadership has grown and developed. A number of our teenagers are working and volunteering their time in the nursery. Caroline Calder and Ashlyn Strippel have been with our nursery for a number of years. They will be missed as they both head off to college in the Fall. A number of wonderful ladies have also stepped up to be substitutes.

The highlight of the year for the children was the fourth Christmas Nativity Play called *First Christmas* directed by Birgit Fioravante. Donna Van Horn was our Costume Queen and led a group of wonderful parents to get all our actors beautifully dressed. A special thanks to the Fellowship Team who provided wonderful refreshments afterwards. Each year the pageant grows and develops. Many youth and children performed the Christmas Story to the delight of a full house!

Vacation Bible School continues to be a smash hit with excited children and parents. The theme this year was "Magnified". Each day the children were engaged in

learning how God's love can be magnified and seen in the smallest of things. The main message was that God cares and loves us. Many people stepped up to be involved in fun and unique ways! The highlight of the event was Friday waterplay! A huge butterfly water slide reminded the children how God can be seen in the smallest of things. The children also participated in a food collection.

Another highlight revolves around Palm Sunday and the Annual Eggstravaganza. The children opened worship by waving palms to celebrate Palm Sunday. After church, a pizza party provided nourishment for the upcoming event. The older youth helped hide almost 900 eggs which disappeared into baskets in the blink of an eye.

There were a number of other special events throughout the year for *First Families*. The children were more involved in the worship life including reading, singing, lighting candles, and ringing the bell. The children and youth hosted the Fellowship by the Sea several times. Some special events included bowling, putt-putt golf, and trivia game night. Before school started, we had the annual Blessing of the Backpacks.

With Rev. Greg Rapiere's departure, Rachel Therrell has stepped in to continue helping with the Children's Ministry Program as well as working with the youth. She has spearheaded many wonderful Youth events such as Youth Fellowship, a church Lock-In, Rock the Universe, and Montreat.

This past year, Rachel Therrell and Jen Buce took a group of three to Montreat for Middle School in Maryville, TN. Rachel and Greg then took seven of our high school youth to Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, NC. This year we are anticipating even larger groups.

Grace and Rachel will continue to provide safe and fun ministries to our wonderful *First Families*. We ask for and appreciate your support, prayers and kind words! Let the fun in 2026 begin!

Grace Cameron Hood

In 2025, I officially joined the staff as Family Ministry Associate. I am so thankful to bring my love for children of all ages and passion for creating new and exciting events and ministries to this wonderful church.

The year began with the annual Rock the Universe trip. We enjoyed rides and Christian music together at Universal Studios in Orlando. It was a great way to bond together as a group and start off 2025.

We welcomed a confirmation class of seven students. After attending classes with Pastor Greg, the youth were confirmed on May 4th. We are blessed to be a part of their faith journey.

Summer brought us our annual trips to Maryville College in Tennessee and Montreat in North Carolina. Led by Jen Buce, Rachel Therrell, and Pastor Greg, ten youth experienced a week of fun, excitement, and friendship with God's love and guidance. The trip is a highlight of the year for our youth and we are so thankful for the church's support. This memorable experience would not be possible without each and every one of you.

After Montreat, the youth were inspired to start a Bible Study on Sunday mornings. During Sunday School, the High School students meet to read and study different books of the Bible. We started with the Book of Isaiah. Once a month the Bible Study meets at the beach for a Sunrise Bible study. I am so proud of the youth for taking the initiative in their faith journey.

In October we sadly said goodbye to Pastor Greg as I stepped into the leadership role for the Youth Group. We continued to have weekly Youth Group meetings after church on Sundays. This year, we added a Lock In to our list of events. In December, nine youth and three adults spent the whole night at the church. We painted pottery, sang Christmas Songs, and had a gift exchange. We ended the night (or should I say morning) with our monthly Sunrise Bible Study.

2025 was a year of change and growth for the Youth Group. God was with us every step of the way. We are truly blessed.

Rachel Therrell



A WORD FROM

Rachel Therrell

*Family Ministry
Associate*



A WORD FROM

Donald Cannarozzi

Organist

Director of Music

The choir had a few volunteers join. These volunteers are fine musicians and work well together with the professionals. The choir provides a variety of music for every service. The choir presented special programs for Easter, Christmas Music Service, and for all Christmas Eve services.

There were several “Don Cannarozzi Presents” recitals, which were free and well attended.

The organ restoration was finally completed. Every stop is now fully functional, and many have been revoiced. A big problem with the organ placement causes the chambers to become very warm. This should be corrected with air vents placed inside the chambers when the new air conditioner is installed.

There were many donations to the music fund; several were substantial gifts. The money will be used as needed to augment music in worship services.

Penny Johnson has continued to be our resident substitute. Because organists are extremely difficult to find, her talent is greatly appreciated.

Don Cannarozzi

On January 26th, we had our first concert of our second concert season of *Music by the Sea*. Heather Coltman was our guest pianist for Rhapsody in Blue with the Crescendo Orchestra in our all Gershwin program. There were piano duets with Don Cannarozzi and Heather and four soloists brought home other songs including from *Porgy and Bess* arranged specifically for this concert. In March, we presented “Give My Regards to Broadway”, featuring nine soloists with Don at the piano, and “The Latin Divos Return” in May. October brought us back to a patriotic mood, celebrating Americana with “This Land is Your Land”. All our concerts were sold out and everyone got their money’s worth as we helped spread the word about our beautiful, spirit-filled church that does so much for the community.

In May, the concert team sat down to plan the 2026 season, which had its first concert on Sunday, February 8th, “Music to Eat Chocolates By: All the Yummy Tunes”. It takes seven months of planning to put together these concerts and we have a wonderful team. I know they will continue to make the church proud.

I meet with the Children’s Choir on Sunday mornings. Sometimes there are five children and sometimes there are twenty. But whoever is there, I teach them songs and how to get up and present themselves. I have seen a lot of growth in some of our singers. It is important to have them participate in the worship services. The highlight of the Children’s Choir is the Christmas Pageant, where approximately twenty-five children and teens tell the story of Jesus’ birth. If you haven’t seen it, I hope you will catch it this December.

I would like to thank the congregation, leadership, and staff of First Delray for their can-do attitude and welcoming spirit. I found a home here and I will miss it. Thank you for being a beacon in our corner of the world.

Birgit



A WORD FROM

Birgit Djupedal
Fioravante

*Associate Director of
Music*

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

STATISTICAL REPORT, YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

Total Church Membership 1/1/2025	
Regular Members	707
Affiliate Members	158
Total	865

Full Membership 1/1/2025	707
Added to Rolls:	
Profession of Faith	0
Reaffirmation of Faith	15
Confirmation	6
Letter of Transfer	10
Reactivate Membership	0
New Individuals Added to Rolls	31
Removed from Rolls:	
Letter of Transfer	-1
Death	-11
Withdrawal / Inactive	-6
Total Removed	-18
Moved Membership from Full to Affiliate	0
Moved Membership from Affiliate to Full	0
Full Membership 12/31/2025	720

Affiliate Membership 1/1/2025	158
Added to Rolls	
New Member Opportunities	0
New Individuals Added to Rolls	0
Removed from Rolls:	
Letter of Transfer	0
Death	-5
Withdrawal / Inactive	0
Total Removed	-5
Moved Membership from Full to Affiliate	0
Moved Membership from Affiliate to Full	0
Affiliate Membership 12/31/2025	153

Total Church Membership 12/31/2025	
Regular Members	720
Affiliate Members	153
Total	873



WORSHIP





WORSHIP





MUSIC





CHILDREN & YOUTH





CHILDREN & YOUTH





CHILDREN & YOUTH





CHILDREN & YOUTH





HOLLY HOUSE





HOLLY HOUSE





FELLOWSHIP



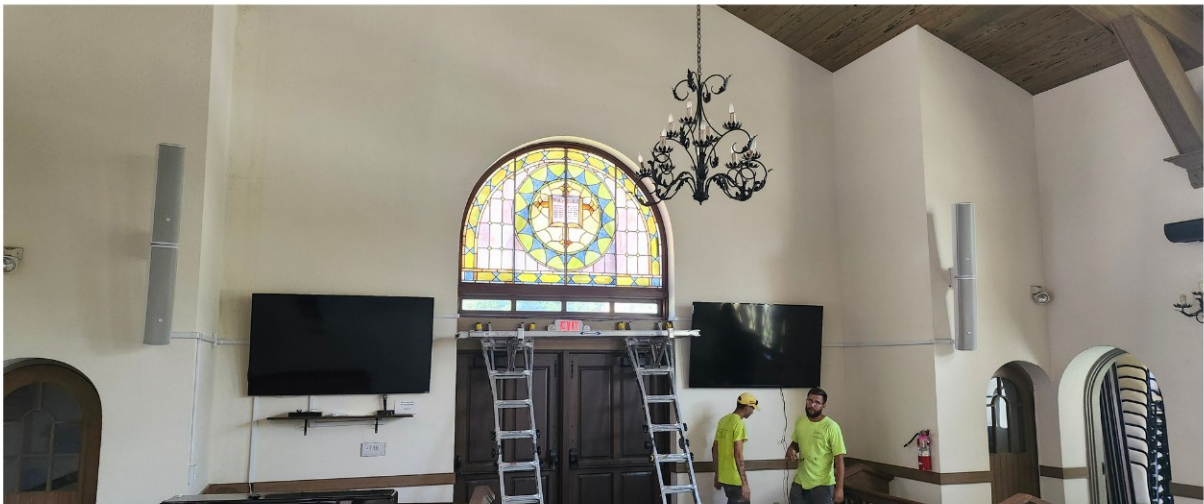


CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS





CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



NOMINATING REPORT

JEN BUCE, CHAIR

The slate of nominees for the offices of Elders and Deacons will be distributed at the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 22, 2026.

BOARD OF DEACONS

GLENN BARTON, MODERATOR

The Deacons had a wonderful year in 2025 providing events that promoted fellowship and fundraising for both scholarship awards for First Delray incoming college students, as well as community support. We started the year with a board of twenty-three members, and by year end we had twenty-one Deacons. In October we were sad to say goodbye to our pastor liaison Rev. Dr. Greg Rapier, and Deacon Lissette Rapier, as they followed a call to ministry returning them to their roots in California. We are grateful for the ongoing extra efforts of Rev. Dr. Hood and Nancy Fine since then to help keep the Deacons, and our entire church, on track and thriving. In addition to Mrs. Rapier's open seat on the board, seven other members complete their three-year term in March, providing many opportunities for us to welcome a substantial new contingent of Deacons to continue our missions.

As the board of Deacons refreshes each March, and our "flocks" are re-shuffled and distributed. The June *Spire* allows the board to introduce the new slate of Deacons with brief bios and photos to the entire congregation. Fellowship by the Sea has been an enormous success, and the Deacons are pleased to anchor this important function on the fourth Sunday of every month. We are grateful, and proud, of all the other ministries of the church that rotate and serve on the remaining Sundays each month.

Fellowship events included Meet Your Deacon Sunday, Game and Trivia Night, Share A Salad Social, the Deacon Tree Decorating Party, and the Church Wide Festival Fun Day. All have been well attended, and have provided great opportunities for fellowship.

Fundraising included the Game and Trivia Night, the Deacon Christmas Tree Fund, and the Have a Heart ballon celebration. All generated substantial financial contributions to both the Deacons' General Fund and the Deacons' Scholarship Fund. We had no graduating high school seniors in 2025, but we have several in 2026. Due to the generosity of First Delray's members and visitors, along with our budget allowance for scholarships, we are optimistic to provide all student members with some support to further their educations.

Deacon Sunday was January 25, 2026. The entire service was delivered by the Board of Deacons, including greeting and offering. Thankfully, we did not ask the board to tap into their musical talents, and we were supported by our wonderful choir and music director as usual! We had 100% participation by all active Deacons, and were able to fully staff both services with the help of Nancy Fine and Dr Hood stepping in to round out the offering teams.

Overall, 2025 Deacon General Fund fundraising was down 18% compared to 2024, and disbursements and expenses were down 12%. Since there were no scholarship awards for 2025, the scholarship fund grew 200% via fundraising and budget allocations.

We are excited to see who responds to the call for 2026, and how we can tweak and update our events to best serve the congregation with care, fellowship, and scholarship support in order to continue strengthening our beautiful and loving "church family".

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

STEPHEN LONG, MODERATOR

Dear members of the congregation,

As we gather for our Annual Meeting, the Trustees are pleased to report a year marked by continued strength, faithful stewardship, and remarkable generosity. Our congregation continues to thrive as the largest church in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, a testament to God's faithfulness and to the deep commitment of this church family.

We celebrate the extraordinary success of our capital campaign. To date, we have raised \$3.9 million, leaving us just \$100,000 short of our \$4 million stretch goal, with two years still remaining in the campaign. This is an exceptional achievement, and the Trustees extend heartfelt thanks to the congregation for its generosity and vision.

The Trustees also extend sincere thanks to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly on behalf of the campaign. We offer special appreciation to campaign co-chairs, Henry Hagan and Bert Evans for their outstanding leadership, dedication, and countless hours of service that made this success possible.

As a result of the campaign's momentum, significant repairs and capital improvements are now well underway. More than \$3 million in work has already been completed, negotiated, or is currently in progress. The Trustees express their gratitude to Bill Bathurst for his leadership and oversight in guiding this important work forward,

We also recognize the retirement of our long-term staff finance and personnel leader, Christine Davis, whose service over many years has been deeply valued. Her financial responsibilities are being ably managed by Jessica Davis, and our volunteer personnel team, Lucille Fannin, Mary Martínéz, and Anne Gaudree, has stepped forward to assume the personnel responsibilities Christine so faithfully carried out.

The Trustees thank the congregation for its continued generosity in supporting the operating budget. We are close to break-even, with any remaining deficit responsibly covered through investment income and endowment funds. Special thanks go to our Treasurer, Carl Fedde, whose professionalism and diligence continue to serve the church with distinction.

We are deeply grateful to the members of the Board of Trustees who give countless hours to fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to them by the congregation, Steve Anderson, Bill Bathurst, Megan Buck, Anne Gaudree, and Ken Janson.

Finally, we offer our heartfelt thanks to Reverend Dr. Doug Hood, who has graciously and seamlessly taken on the mantle of sole pastor following Greg's departure. His steady leadership and pastoral care has been an extraordinary gift during this season of transition.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Long, Moderator

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

FOR 2025

Each year, the church runs an annual Stewardship Campaign to raise funds for the year's Operating Budget. The Stewardship program is done through annual pledge Estimates of Giving, with the funds then coming into the church at periodic times as designated by the giver throughout the year. The church also receives funds through plate collections, ancillary wedding and parking income, and gifts to our Remembrance and Endowment Funds. A combination of these sources is then utilized to fund the operating budget each year.

As of December 31, 2025 2025 Stewardship campaign goal: \$1,400,000
2025 Amount pledged: \$968,821.36
2025 number of giving units total/pledged: 677 potential / 205 pledged / 30%

We are very grateful for all the gifts and support to our church in the name of fulfilling God's mission in our local area and beyond.

MISSION, VISION, PURPOSE

Mission

To lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and participation in God's mission of hope in the community and the world.

Vision

To build a church where people grow in Jesus Christ.

Purpose

Building Disciples, Transforming Lives

TREASURER'S REPORT

CARL FEDDE, TREASURER

For the twelve months ending December 31, 2025

Operating Fund

The church completed another review of its financials by an outside CPA firm, with no reported issues.

Contributions grew again in 2025 over 2024. Expenditures did not increase as much in 2025 as in 2024. Church payroll and insurance are our two major expense categories.

My goal, as your Treasurer, is that church contributions equal our operating expenses. We fell short of that goal again this year, as indicated in the enclosed financials. That operating deficit of \$244,482 was funded by taking money from our brokerage account.

Reserve Fund

The church's Reserve Fund was moved to New Covenant Trust, a subsidiary of the Presbyterian Foundation, in 2022. The market value as of December 31, 2025, was \$7,155,883, including proceeds raised this past year for capital improvements. The church will be spending \$1 million to replace the AC this spring.

The church's Investment Committee is responsible for overseeing these invested funds and has adopted guidelines for the long-term mix of portfolio investments. The Reserve funds are reviewed periodically and rebalanced as appropriate to comply with the church's investment guidelines. All fund categories can be found in the financial statement labeled "Other Funds" that follows this report.

Please remember your church in 2026.

**First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach
2026 Budget Worksheet**

	2025 Annual Budget	2026 Annual Budget
Total Revenues	\$1,400,000.00	\$1,500,000.00
Expenses		
Benevolences		
Total Benevolences	\$98,400.00	\$100,000.00
Ministry of Worship, etc.		
Total Ministry of Worship, etc.	\$493,563.32	\$325,686.47
Music		
Total Music	\$200,460.00	\$195,266.99
Christian Education		
Total Christian Education	\$105,668.00	\$119,590.87
Deacons		
Total Deacons	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Physical Operations		
Insurance		
7043 - Casualty Insurance	\$180,000.00	\$185,000.00
Total Physical Operations	\$443,361.00	\$453,813.86
General Promotion		
Total Administration	\$342,624.45	\$293,498.37
Per Capita Apportionment		
Total Per Capita Apportionment	\$32,130.72	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$1,798,207.49	\$1,565,648.37
Net Total	-\$398,207.49	-\$65,648.37

CHURCH STAFF

Don Cannarozzi	<i>Organist / Director of Music</i>	dcannaro@hotmail.com	754-234-4165
Jessica Davis	<i>Bookkeeper</i>	jessicadavis@firstdelray.com	561-276-6338, ext. 16
Birgit Djupedal Fioravante	<i>Associate Director of Music</i>	birgit@firstdelray.com	954-812-7679
Nancy Fine	<i>Business Administrator</i>	nancyfine@firstdelray.com	561-276-6338, ext. 10
Doug Hood	<i>Pastor</i>	doughood@firstdelray.com	561-276-6338, ext. 11
Grace Hood	<i>Director of Children and Family Ministry</i>	gracehood@firstdelray.com	561-276-6338, ext. 17
Jenny Mullin	<i>Video Technician</i>		
Tomás Negrón	<i>Lights / Sound / Video Technician Substitute</i>		
Nathan Singjaidee	<i>Lights and Sound Technician</i>		
Aaron Strippel	<i>Facilities Maintenance Manager</i>	aaronstrippel@firstdelray.com	561-436-2612
Rachel Therrell	<i>Family Ministry Associate</i>	racheltherrell@firstdelray.com	954-415-2475

ELDERS

FOR 2025

Class of 2026

*Steve Anderson
Dick Falk
*Anne Gaudree
*Stephen Long

* Trustee

Class of 2027

*Bill Bathurst
*Megan Buck
Carl Fedde

Class of 2028

Peter Brockway
Jen Buce
*Ken Janson
Penny Johnson

DEACONS

FOR 2025

Class of 2026

Lori Hackenberg
Ashley Harper
John Harper
Pamela Kent-Balasco
Ann Shuman
Connie Timmons
Holly Watts
Michael Watts

Class of 2027

Eddie Breman
Dorothy Denault
Craig Matthews
Jean Matthews
Sandy McGilvray
Tyler McGilvray
Connie Smith
Shane Tanner
Connie Timmons

Class of 2028

Glenn Barton
Rocky Bouldin
Wil Brown
Donna Van Horn
John Van Horn
Jane White

MEMORIALS

FOR 2025

Elfriede Gruendig

April 1, 1929

July 31, 2022

Cornella Wilder

March 3, 1927

April 23, 2025

Richard Schaublin

May 19, 1938

October 10, 2025

Florence Heckrodt

February 16, 1928

September 16, 2022

Paula Woodell

October 3, 1971

May 4, 2025

Stone Roberts

August 15, 1944

October 24, 2025

Shirley Westby

January 31, 1929

June 30, 2024

Nancy Graham

May 8, 1939

May 14, 2025

Riva Richards

November 14, 1972

November 7, 2025

Ron Blubaugh

August 24, 1943

January 20, 2025

Marge Lanthier

November 3, 1938

September 3, 2025

Nancy Barlow

March 20, 1937

December 11, 2025

Cliff Roberson

November 14, 1952

February 20, 2025

Robert Van Brott

July 27, 1931

October 2, 2025