

YEAR 2014-2015 BOOK OF REPORTS

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**MOVING  
FORWARD**



**154<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**161 YEARS SINCE ORGANIZATION**  
**FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION**

Held in the facilities of the  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
640 Grace Avenue, Panama City, Florida  
**NOVEMBER 9-10, 2015**

**[Touch or Click Here for Florida Baptist State Convention Program Schedule](#)**

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**STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS  
FLORIDA BAPTIST  
STATE CONVENTION**

**J. THOMAS GREEN, III**  
*Executive Director-Treasurer*

**One Hundred and Thirty-Fifth Annual Report  
to the  
Florida Baptist State Convention  
Panama City  
November 9-10, 2015**

The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist State Convention respectfully submits this 135th annual report of the Board to the State Convention. There are 2,593 churches and 2,059 missions affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention, with a total membership of 915,870. Included in those totals are 1,654 missions in Haiti with 165,280 members. God continues to bless the work of the churches and of the Convention.

The State Board of Missions is pleased to present this report to the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in Panama City, Florida, November 9-10, 2015. This report covers the period of October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015.

**1. Officers of the State Board of Missions**

The 96 members of the State Board of Missions elected the following officers during the organizational meeting of the Board on November 11, 2014, in Lakeland, Florida:

President:	Michael A. Tatem, Pastor Parkview Baptist Church Lake City, Florida
Vice-President:	John T. Green, IV, Pastor Shindler Drive Baptist Church Jacksonville, Florida
Recording Secretary:	Gail A. Adams, Member Emmanuel Baptist Church Parrish, Florida

**2. Meetings of the State Board of Missions**

The State Board of Missions met on the following dates:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>
November 10, 2014	Lakeland, Florida
November 11, 2014	Lakeland, Florida
February 6, 2015	Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center
May 29, 2015	Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center
September 18, 2015	Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center

**3. Members of the State Board of Missions**

Each member of the State Board of Missions was elected by the Board to serve on one of the following committees (\*indicates lay persons; others are ordained persons and/or professional staff of a church and/or an association):

**ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Michael Tatem (2014-17), *Chairman*  
John T. Green, IV (2012-15), *Vice-Chairman*  
Beverly Bonner (2013-16)  
Calvin J. Carr (2013-16)  
Mark R. Coleman (2013-16)  
Zeb Cook (2013-16)  
Tom Daniel (2002-15)  
Kevin Goza (2012-15)  
Mickey Hawkins (2014-17)  
Phillip Herrington (2013-16)  
\*Jim Killingsworth (2012-15)  
Rich L. Kincl (2012-15)  
Cliff Lea (2012-15)  
James Peoples, *President*,  
*Florida Baptist State Convention* (2014-15)  
\*H. Marvin Pittman (2012-15)  
Richard E. "Ricky" Powell (2014-17)  
\*H. Jackson "Jack" Roland (2012-15)  
\*Mike Strickland (2013-16)  
Dan Wade (2012-15)

**Ex Officio Non-Voting Member**

\*Gail A. Adams (2014-17), *Recording Secretary*,  
*State Board of Missions*

**BUDGET-ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE**

Richard E. "Ricky" Powell (2014-17), *Chairman*  
\*Robert "Bob" Beard (2013-16), *Vice-Chairman*  
\*Gail A. Adams (2014-17)  
Waylon Carlisle (2014-17)  
Curtis Clark (2014-17)  
Howard Harden (2014-17)  
Mike Hasha (2013-16)  
\*Ned Hastings (2012-15)  
Kimberly J. "Kim" Johnson (2013-16)  
Alan Kilgore (2014-17)  
\*Jim Laseter (2012-15)  
\*Ken Parker (2013-16)  
Larry Pritchett (2012-15)  
\*Eldaa C Roman (2013-16)  
Ronnie Walker (2014-17)  
Scott E. Yirka (2013-16)

**CONVENTION PROPERTIES COMMITTEE**

Mickey Hawkins (2014-17), *Chairman*  
\*Wil Mowdy (2014-17), *Vice-Chairman*  
Robert Arnold (2014-17)  
Danny Bennett (2014-17)  
Gary French (2012-15)  
\*Alfred Guettler (2013-16)  
Kenneth Harrison (2014-17)  
Travis Laney (2014-15)  
\*Mark Mercer (2014-17)  
\*Jim Parks (2012-15)  
\*Ron Pierson (2013-16)  
\*Dale Tibbets (2014-17)  
\*Jimmy Watson (2014-17)  
Walter West (2013-16)  
\*Craig Wyrosdick (2014-17)

**DENOMINATIONAL POLITY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Kevin Goza (2012-15), *Chairman*  
Ozzie Vater (2013-16), *Vice-Chairman*  
Craig Attaway (2013-16)

Jon Beck (2014-17)  
 \*Arthur J. "Joe" Carter (2013-16)  
 \*Ronald Davis (2014-17)  
 Jacques Dumornay (2014-15)  
 \*Jim Durham (2014-17)  
 Fred Edwards (2012-15)  
 Carlos Lugo (2013-16)  
 Michael Mott (2013-15)  
 \*Wallace D. Peacock (2014-17)  
 \*LaWayne "Bud" Rawls (2012-15)  
 Stephen Shelhamer (2013-16)  
 \*R. Mark Wells (2012-15)  
 \*Donald Williams (2014-17)

#### LOANS COMMITTEE

Tom Daniel (2012-15), *Chairman*  
 Tim Martin (2013-16), *Vice-Chairman*  
 \*Thomas A. "Tab" Bush (2013-16)  
 \*Joseph Coats, Jr. (2012-15)  
 \*Ron Fowler (2013-16)  
 \*Robert W. Gramley (2012-15)  
 Mike Kahn (appt. by SBM 2/6/15)  
 Greg Kell (2014-17)  
 \*Linda McNeil (2013-16)  
 Patrick Mobley (2014-17)  
 \*Elaine L. Nasworthy (2012-15)  
 \*Carol Spivey (2013-16)  
 \*Winston E. Ward (2012-15)  
 Michael "Mike" Wetzell (2013-17)  
 \*Robert L. Womack, Jr. (2012-15)

*Note: The vice- chairman of the Loans Committee serves as chairman of the Loans Subcommittee.*

#### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Cliff Lea (2012-15), *Chairman*  
 Randy Williams (2012-15), *Vice-Chairman*  
 Tim Coleman (2012-15)  
 Steven A. Davies (2012-15)  
 Janey Frost (2012-15)  
 \*Amelia Garrison (2014-17)  
 \*Jean Green (2012-15)  
 Jeff Overton (2013-16)  
 \*Lynne Phillips (2014-17)  
 Lanelle Pickett (2013-16)  
 Paul Purvis (2013-16)  
 Wayne Roberts (2014-17)  
 Glenn Rogers (2014-17)  
 Todd Stearns (2013-16)  
 \*Greg Taminosian (2014-17)  
 Michael Wiggins (2013-16)

#### ENGAGE FLORIDA COMMITTEE

Phillip Herrington (2013-16), *Chairman*  
 R. Wayne Briant (2013-16)  
 Otto Fernandez (2013-16)  
 Neil Helton (2012-15)  
 Jeff Singletary (2013-16)  
 David Tarkington (2014-17)

#### NOMINATION OF BOARD COMMITTEES COMMITTEE (appointed by SBM President)

Zeb Cook (2013-16), *Chairman*  
 Kevin Goza (2012-15)  
 Tim Martin (2013-16)

\*Linda McNeil (2013-16)  
 Randy Williams (2012-15)

#### 4. Temporary Appointment of State Board of Missions Members

It is the responsibility of the Nomination of Board Committees Committee to name persons to temporarily appoint persons to fill vacancies that occur on the Board during the year if the vacancies occur prior to the May meeting.

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on February 6, 2015, the Board learned of the resignations of Larry Carr, Tampa Bay (business responsibilities); and David Hecht, Gulf Stream (moved out of association). The Nomination of Board Committees Committee appointed the following persons to temporarily fill the vacancies:

Mike Kahn, Tampa Bay  
 Jacques Dumornay, Gulf Stream

#### 5. Gifts to World Missions

Gifts to world missions through the Cooperative Program from churches and missions for the period of January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014, totaled \$29,643,196.

Florida Baptists responded well to other mission causes. Designated giving for the period of January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014, totaled \$10,506,625. Designated giving included contributions to the three main mission offerings:

<u>MISSION OFFERING</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, 2014	\$5,463,111
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, 2014	\$2,536,572
Maguire State Mission Offering, 2014	\$ 913,774

#### 6. 2014 Maguire State Mission Offering Report

On February 7, 2014, the State Board of Missions approved a basic goal of \$1,159,000 and the proposed allocations for the year 2014 Maguire State Mission Offering. Included in the recommendation was a provision for shared receipts for participating associations. This provides for associations, which meet their pre-determined goals, to receive a prorated share of the offering proceeds.

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on February 6, 2015, the Board learned that 42 associations set goals; 15 met and exceeded their goals; and 4 qualified for a prorated share of their churches' contributions that were greater than their respective total for 2013. A total of \$40,761 was shared with those 19 associations. In addition, \$99,000 had been earmarked as a priority item to underwrite promotion costs incurred to develop, produce and distribute promotion materials. As a result of reduced promotion expenses that totaled only \$81,475, a net savings of \$17,525 was realized. The Board also distributed as priority items: \$300,000 to the William J. Guess Church Site Fund; and \$75,000 to the disaster relief and recovery ministry.

The Board received information that gifts to the Year 2014 Maguire State Mission Offering totaled \$913,774, representing 78.84 percent of the offering goal. The distribution of funds to offering recipients was as follows:

**2014 MAGUIRE STATE MISSION OFFERING REPORT**

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
<b>(1) Priority Support Expenses</b>		
Associational Shared Receipts	<b>\$60,000.00</b>	\$40,761.00
Promotional Expense	<b>99,000.00</b>	81,475.30
William J. Guess Church		
Site Loan Fund	<b>300,000.00</b>	300,000.00
Disaster Relief/Recovery Ministry	<b>75,000.00</b>	75,000.00
<b>(2) Haiti Mission Project</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>	66,645.97
<b>(3) Cuba Mission Project</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>	66,645.97
<b>(4) Brazil Mission Project</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	33,322.99
<b>(5) Partnership Salary Assistance</b>		
Nevada		
Budget:	55,000.00	36,655.28
Receipts:	36,655.28	
West Virginia		
Budget:	40,000.00	26,658.38
Receipts:	26,658.38	26,658.38
<b>(6) Partnership Missions/Indiana</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	13,329.20
<b>(7) Mission Outreach Ministries</b>	<b>125,000.00</b>	83,307.48
Migrant Ministries		
Budget:	35,000.00	
Receipts:	23,326.09	
Church-Based Health Ministries		
Budget:	45,000.00	
Receipts:	29,990.69	
Jail and Prison Ministries		
Budget:	10,000.00	
Receipts:	6,664.60	
Church Revitalization		
Budget:	5,000.00	
Receipts:	3,332.30	
Mobile Dental Clinic		
Budget:	20,000.00	
Receipts:	13,329.20	
Port Evangelistic Ministries		
Budget:	10,000.00	
Receipts:	6,664.60	
<b>(8) Developing Believers</b>	<b>120,000.00</b>	79,975.19
Urban Day Camp		
Budget:	5,000.00	
Receipts:	3,332.30	
Camp WorldLight (GA/Acteens)		
Budget:	52,000.00	
Receipts:	34,655.91	
Children's Camp for the Hearing Impaired		
Budget:	18,000.00	
Receipts:	11,996.28	
Hispanic Youth Camp		
Budget:	15,000.00	
Receipts:	9,996.90	

Haitian Youth Camp	
Budget:	10,000.00
Receipts:	6,664.60
Korean Youth Camp	
Budget:	10,000.00
Receipts:	6,664.60
Hispanic Young Adult Retreat	
Budget:	5,000.00
Receipts:	3,332.30

<b>(9) Collegiate World Missions</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	9,996.90
<b>BASIC BUDGET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,159,000.00</b>	<b>\$913,773.66</b>

**7. 2015 Maguire State Mission Offering**

On February 6, 2015, the State Board of Missions approved the following:

That the William J. Guess Church Site Loan Fund be designated as a priority item in the amount of \$300,000 to be paid from total offering receipts by reducing the total statewide receipts in an equal amount; and

That the Florida Baptist Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministry be designated as a priority item in the amount of \$75,000 to be paid from total offering receipts by reducing the total statewide receipts in an equal amount; and

That the Maguire State Mission Offering continue the Shared Receipts program with those associations agreeing to participate in the year 2015 program outlined in the revised (1995) Agreement Guidelines; and

That the distribution of ten percent or prorated shared receipts of local association offering proceeds to be returned to those associations which meet their respective offering goal, be designated as a priority item to be paid from total offering receipts by reducing the total statewide receipts in an amount equal to the shared receipts agreements; and

That the proposed promotion expense subsidy of \$99,000 be designated as a priority item to be paid from total offering receipts by reducing the total statewide receipts in an equal amount; and

That the balance of the statewide proceeds from the Maguire State Mission Offering be distributed on a prorated basis to the designated projects; and

That the goal of \$1,197,000 and the proposed budget allocations for the year 2015 Maguire State Mission Offering be as follows:

**YEAR 2015 MAGUIRE STATE MISSION OFFERING  
GOAL: \$1,197,000**

	<u>BUDGET</u>
<b>(1) Priority Expenses (New Churches and Support Ministries)</b>	<b>\$524,000</b>
William J. Guess Church	
Site Loan Fund	\$300,000
Disaster Relief /Recovery Ministry	75,000
Association Shared Receipt (Est.)	50,000
Promotion Expense	99,000

<b>(2) Partnership Mission Projects</b>		<b>395,000</b>
Haiti Mission Project	120,000	
Western Cuba Mission Project	100,000	
Eastern Cuba Mission Project	50,000	
Brazil Evangelism/Church		
Starting Project	30,000	
Partnership Pastoral Salary Assistance		
West Virginia	40,000	
Nevada	55,000	
<b>(3) Mission Outreach Ministries</b>		<b>130,000</b>
Migrant Ministries	35,000	
Church-Based Health Ministries	45,000	
Jail and Prison Ministries	10,000	
Church Revitalization	10,000	
Mobile Dental Clinic	20,000	
Port Evangelistic Ministries	10,000	
<b>(4) Developing Believers</b>		<b>133,000</b>
Urban Day Camp	5,000	
Camp WorldLight (GA/Acteens)	53,000	
Children's Camp for the		
Hearing Impaired	18,000	
Hispanic Youth Camp	16,000	
Haitian Youth Camp	15,000	
Korean Youth Camp	10,000	
Hispanic Young Adult Retreat	6,000	
Haitian Young Adult Retreat	10,000	
<b>(5) Student Evangelism Outreach</b>		<b>15,000</b>
Collegiate World Missions	15,000	
<b>BASIC BUDGET TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,197,000</b>

## 8. The Baptist College of Florida

In the year 2014, The Baptist College of Florida received 5.14 percent of the Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program basic budget. The total amount received for the year 2014 was:

Cooperative Program	\$ 1,525,075
Designated Gifts	\$ 22,722
Ministerial Education	<u>\$ 206,095</u>
	\$ 1,753,892

## 9. Florida Baptist Children's Homes

During the year 2014, the Florida Baptist Children's Homes received 4.02 percent of the Florida Baptist Convention basic budget. The total amount received for the year 2014 was:

Cooperative Program	\$ 1,192,332
Designated Gifts	<u>\$ 979,031</u>
	\$ 2,171,363

## 10. Florida Baptist Financial Services

During the year 2014, Florida Baptist Financial Services received \$69,878 from the Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program basic budget for Florida Baptist Retirement Centers, Inc.

## 11. Florida Baptist Historical Society

The Florida Baptist Historical Society is a non-corporate fraternal organization endorsed by and related to the Florida Baptist State Convention. In order to carry out its purpose, the Society is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine members, seven of which are elected by the State Board of Missions, and two

who serve as permanent members: the executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, or his designee, and the president of The Baptist College of Florida. Other directors serve on a rotating basis.

On February 6, 2015, the State Board of Missions elected **David Elder**, St. Augustine; **David Hecht**, Panama City; and **Judith Jolly**, Dade City; to serve on the Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors for the term 2015-2018. The following persons also serve on the Board:

Jerry Chumley, Bristol (2014-2017)  
 Elaine Coats, Fernandina Beach (2014-2017)  
 Thomas A. Kinchen, President,  
 Baptist College of Florida, Graceville (Permanent)  
 Dori Nelson, Miami (2013-2016)  
 Paul Robinson, Pensacola (2013-2016)  
 J. Thomas Green, III, Executive Director-Treasurer,  
 Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville (Permanent)

In the year 2014, the Florida Baptist Historical Society received a budget of \$50,000 from the Florida Baptist Convention.

## 12. Ministerial Student Scholarships

The Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund is designed to assist qualified undergraduate Florida Baptist students committed to Christian ministry as a vocation and who attend either The Baptist College of Florida or Palm Beach Atlantic University. This assistance is available to those who plan to serve in the pastoral, education and/or music ministry as well as those who serve as home or foreign missionaries.

Beginning with the 1998 Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Budget, seven-tenths of one percent of the annual Cooperative Program budget was designated for The Baptist College of Florida, which amounted to \$206,095 in 2014.

## 13. Meetings of the State Board of Missions

On February 6, 2015, the State Board of Missions approved the following schedule of meeting dates for the Board and committee meetings for the year 2016:

February 3-5, 2016	Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center (Orientation for new members to be held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016)
May 26-27, 2016	Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center
September 15-16, 2016	Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center
November 7, 2016	Clearwater (Pre-Convention Meeting)
November 8, 2016	Clearwater (Organizational Meeting)

As Florida Baptist Convention administration began to develop the 2016 proposed budget, several potential budget items were identified which could result in reductions to the Florida portion of the Cooperative Program budget. It was concluded by staff that elimination of just one of the four State Board of Missions meetings could realize a \$35,000-\$40,000 savings to the budget. The overall goal was to make sufficient reductions throughout the budget, including reduced Board meeting costs, to ensure additional funds could be earmarked for global missions through an increase in the Cooperative Program percentage distribution.

Subsequently, on September 18, 2015, the State Board of

Missions approved a recommendation to eliminate the previously-approved May 26-27, 2016, meeting date; and approved the following new meeting dates for 2016, with the understanding the spring and summer meetings are to be held at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center:

March 30–April 1 (orientation for new members – March 30)  
 August 24–26  
 November 14 – Pre-Convention meeting, Clearwater  
 November 15 – Organization meeting, Clearwater

The Board, recognizing a special circumstance and opportunity to achieve additional budgetary reductions in the year 2016, further authorized a one-year moratorium on the provisions of Bylaw 12,D(1), Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, and Bylaw 5,A, Bylaws of the State Board of Missions, that require the Board to meet four times a year, with the understanding that during its August 24–26, 2016, meeting the Board will review the three-meeting schedule and make a determination whether to return to the Bylaw-required four meetings per year or act to revise the appropriate Board and Convention Bylaws.

#### 14. Appointment of Audit Subcommittee

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on February 6, 2015, the chairman of the Budget-Allocations Committee appointed the following persons to serve on the Audit Subcommittee for the year 2015:

Eldaa Roman, *Chairman*      Ken Parker  
 Howard Harden              Ricky Powell  
 Mike Hasha

#### 15. Report on Florida Baptist Convention Audit

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on May 29, 2015, the Board received as information the following report on the Florida Baptist Convention audit for 2014:

The audit of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., for the year ending December 31, 2014, is presented as an unqualified opinion of the financial statements that were found to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

#### 16. Report on Florida Baptist State Convention Agency Audits

On May 29, 2015, the State Board of Missions received a report that the Audit Subcommittee of the Budget-Allocations Committee had examined the audit reports and management letters of the following entities of the Florida Baptist Convention:

- (1) Florida Baptist Children's Homes Audit Report, January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014
- (2) Florida Baptist Financial Services Audit Report, January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014
- (3) The Baptist College of Florida Audit Report, July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014
- (4) Florida Baptist Witness Audit Report, January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014

The opinion expressed by the auditors on the financial statements of each of the institutions was unqualified, the highest level opinion that can be offered by an auditor, which speaks highly of the quality of accounting work being done at all Convention-related institutions and agencies.

#### 17. Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee

On November 10, 2014, the State Board of Missions elected

**Otto Fernandez**, Miami, to serve on the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee for the term 2015-2018. The Board also elected **Frank Scott** to serve as chairman and **Michael Orr** as vice-chairman for the year 2015-2016.

The following persons also serve as members of the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee:

Jim Durham, Winter Haven (2014-2017)  
 Eddie Foye, Fleming Island (2014-2017)  
 Michael Orr, Chipley (2014-2017)  
 Mike Tatem, Lake City (President, State Board of Missions)  
 Frank Scott, Wesley Chapel (2014-2017)  
 J. Thomas Green, III, Jacksonville, *Recording Secretary*  
 (Executive Director-Treasurer, Permanent Member)

#### 18. Church Site Interest-Free Loan Program

During 2015, the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee approved the following requests for financial assistance through the Church Site Interest-Free Loan Program:

73. Connect Community Church, Auburndale South Florida Baptist Association	\$90,000
74. Greater Faith Baptist Fellowship, Gainesville Jacksonville Baptist Association	\$90,000
75. Eglise Baptise Philadelphie, Ocala Marion Baptist Association	\$100,000
76. Iglesia Bautista La Cosecha, Okeechobee Big Lake Baptist Association	\$40,000
77. Iglesia Bautista Real, Hollywood Miami Baptist Association	\$100,000
78. Northside Baptist Church, Lake City Beulah Baptist Association	\$100,000
79. Siloe Baptist Church, West Palm Beach Palm Beach Baptist Network	\$100,000

#### 19. Dissolution of Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Plan and Church Site Committee

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on May 29, 2015, the Board authorized the dissolution of the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Plan and its attendant Church Site Committee, effective December 31, 2015. The Board action authorized the transfer of responsibilities for the William J. Guess Church Site Fund -- which will continue to be funded by the Maguire State Mission Offering -- to the State Board of Missions Loans Committee. In addition, the Board requested staff administration to draft appropriate and necessary revisions and/or elimination of the specific policies or guidelines of the New Work Revolving Fund and the Church Site Plan, and present those proposed changes to the Board at their September meeting.

Following the May meeting, staff administration made a review of all policies on financial assistance to churches and identified a series of necessary revisions to several Board policies, as well as the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions.

On September 18, 2015, the Board approved a recommendation to revise policy guidelines for specific Florida Baptist Convention Assistance Programs. These revisions will be printed in their



entirety in the *Book of Policies*. Additionally, the Board approved several Bylaw recommendations that will be presented to the messengers for adoption by the Florida Baptist State Convention, during the annual meeting November 9-10, 2015.

## 20. Appointment of Loans Subcommittee

On February 6, 2015, the State Board of Missions approved the appointment of the following persons to serve on the Loans Subcommittee for the year 2015:

Timothy Martin, *Chairman* Greg Kell  
Joseph Coats, Jr. Robert Womack  
Robert Gramley

## 21. Financial Assistance to Churches and Missions

From October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015, the State Board of Missions approved financial assistance from funds administered by the Board to the following churches and missions:

### (1) New Work Revolving Fund

723. Siloe Baptist Church, West Palm Beach Palm Beach Baptist Network	\$40,000
724. Eglise Baptiste Philadelphie, Ocala Marion Baptist Association	\$50,000
725. The Mission Church, Crawfordville Florida Baptist Association	\$60,000
726. The Summit Baptist Church, High Springs North Central Florida Baptist Association	\$140,000

## 22. Ministers Emergency Assistance Program

On November 10, 2014, the State Board of Missions appointed the following to serve on the Ministers Emergency Assistance Committee for the term 2014-2017: **Zeb Cook, Starke;** and **Phillip Herrington, Live Oak. Ricky Powell, Jacksonville,** was appointed to serve as chairman for the year 2014-2015.

During the period of January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014, 17 individuals received \$21,457 in assistance through the Ministers Emergency Assistance Program.

From January 1, 2015, through September 30, 2015, 12 individuals received \$9,500 in assistance through the Ministers Emergency Assistance Program.

## 23. Appointment of Investment Subcommittee

The Budget-Allocations Committee of the State Board of Missions has fiduciary responsibilities related to endowment funds, special funds and undesignated investment funds held by the Florida Baptist Convention. The Committee's responsibilities are defined in the Bylaws of the State Board of Missions. To facilitate this requirement, each year the chairman of the Budget-Allocations Committee shall appoint an Investment Subcommittee selected from the membership of the Budget-Allocations Committee. The chairman of the Budget-Allocations Committee appointed the following persons to serve on the Investment Subcommittee for the year 2015:

Bob Beard, Chairman Larry Pritchett  
Ned Hastings Scott Yirka

## 24. Report on Churches Having Withdrawn from Cooperation

On February 6, 2015, the State Board of Missions received a report that the following 15 churches had withdrawn from cooperation and affiliation with a local Baptist association (former association affiliation listed in parenthesis):

Baptist Church New Alliance, Inc., Orlando (Greater Orlando)  
Bethesda Haitian Baptist Church, St. Petersburg (Suncoast)  
Burkett Chapel Primitive Baptist Church, Bartow (South Florida)  
Connection Church, Tampa (Tampa Bay)  
Floodgates Community Church, Tampa (Tampa Bay)  
Greater Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Tampa (Tampa Bay)  
Gritney Baptist Church, Bonifay (Holmes County)  
House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church, Tampa (Tampa Bay)  
Iglesia El Taller del Carpintero, St. Petersburg (Suncoast)  
Madeira Church, Middleburg (Jacksonville)  
Redeemer Church, Winter Garden (Greater Orlando)  
Seven Springs First Baptist Church, New Port Richey (Pasco)  
Sarasota Primera Hispana, Sarasota (Southwest Florida)  
Tampa Myanmar, Temple Terrace (Tampa Bay)  
Westpoint Fellowship Church, Winter Garden (Greater Orlando)

## 25. Blue Springs Baptist Conference Center: Authorization on the Distribution of Sale Proceeds

The Blue Springs Baptist Conference Center in Marianna, Florida, was first listed for sale in 2010, having received the joint approval of the State Board of Missions and the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention. The initial sale authorization included several provisions:

- that the sale of the property be completed as soon as practicable (based on favorable real estate market conditions);
- that the property be sold for a price that approximates at least the appraised value;
- that the buyer be a person or organization whose usage would not conflict with the values of the Florida Baptist Convention; and
- that the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention be authorized to negotiate the terms of a proposed sale and report back to the State Board of Missions for its approval with final approval by the Florida Baptist State Convention.

Although there have been several offers to either purchase and/or lease the property, no sale has been consummated. As a result, the property is still being marketed for sale.

During a meeting of the Board's Administrative/Personnel Committee on February 5, 2015, a discussion ensued on the distribution and use of funds from a potential sale of the Blue Springs property and a recommendation was subsequently approved. On February 6, 2015, the State Board of Missions authorized the distribution of sale proceeds of the Blue Springs Baptist Conference Center to be divided on a 50/50 percentage basis with the understanding that 50 percent of the proceeds be designated for the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Board further authorized the current Budget Study Committee to determine the best and appropriate use of the Florida portion of the sale proceeds, and make a report or recommendation at the May meeting of the Board.

On May 29, 2015, upon the recommendation of the Budget Study Committee, the State Board of Missions affirmed its February action to designate 50 percent of the proceeds of the anticipated Blue Springs property sale to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention and authorized \$250,000 of the Florida portion to The Baptist College of Florida as matching funds to help underwrite the construction of a conference center facility planned

for the Graceville campus. The Board directed the remaining funds be placed in a Board-designated account until such time as the State Board of Missions determines how the funds can best be utilized.

### **26. Blue Springs Baptist Conference Center: Status Report on Potential Property Sale**

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on May 29, 2015, the Board learned that Florida Baptist Convention administration had signed a Sale/Purchase contract to sell the Blue Springs Conference Center, Marianna, Florida, to Sportspower International, Inc., of Baltimore, Maryland. The negotiated sales price was to be \$2,700,000 with an anticipated closing on the sale by August 20, 2015. The buyer placed \$40,000 in escrow as earnest money to be applied toward the purchase price.

Unfortunately by the end of the due diligence period, Sportspower International, Inc., was unable to conclude the sales purchase in part because the group could not secure the necessary funding. Under terms of the sales agreement, having not completed the purchase within the due diligence period, the earnest money was returned to the potential buyer.

The realtor-of-record, Stirling Sotherby International Realty, of Orlando, Florida, had an exclusive one-year listing agreement that ended on July 31, 2015. A reduced listing agreement was negotiated with the realtor for an additional six months.

### **27. Interim Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention**

The State Board of Missions on February 6, 2015, elected Glen E. Owens as Interim Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, to carry out the official duties and tasks as defined in the position description for Executive Director-Treasurer, effective March 1, 2015. The action specified the interim would conclude upon the action of the Board to elect and define the effective service date of a permanent Executive Director-Treasurer.

### **28. Election of Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention**

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on May 29, 2015, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director-Treasurer Search Committee, the Board elected John Thomas Green, III, as the tenth Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, effective June 8, 2015.

Dr. Green previously served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Brandon, Florida, for 19 years. He and his wife, Karen, have three sons and three grandchildren.

### **29. Authorization for Executive Director-Treasurer to Expend Funds to Facilitate Transition**

On May 29, 2015, the new executive director-treasurer indicated a desire to begin a transition of the organizational structure of the Florida Baptist Convention. The State Board of Missions endorsed the proposed reorganization of the Convention programs of missions and ministry as planned and outlined by the new executive director, with the goal to reduce financial demands upon the Florida Baptist Convention budget. The Board further authorized the executive director-treasurer to employ, as administrative-approved personnel, various persons to serve in the transition with funds to come from the Convention's Undesignated Reserve Fund, with the understanding that a report on the transition and the expending of funds be reported to the Board on or before the November 2015 meeting.

### **30. Exception to Policy: Waiver of Policy Restriction for Annuity Percentage Contribution for Executive Director-Treasurer**

The State Board of Missions on May 29, 2015, approved an exception to the policy that currently restricts to two percent the basic contribution for annuity for Convention employees by authorizing that the basic annuity for J. Thomas Green, III, executive director-treasurer, be funded at ten percent effective upon his employment date.

### **31. Florida Baptist Convention Reorganization of Staff Structure**

On September 18, 2015, the State Board of Missions approved a major restructuring of the Florida Baptist Convention organization and assignments of Board-Elected personnel, and approved the following recommendations:

- (1) That the designating, transferring, re-organizing and/or re-naming of current program and ministry support tasks led by Board-elected personnel be assigned to newly-defined administrative units as follows, and which shall serve as the basis for revising the position descriptions of all Board-elected personnel, with the understanding that these are subject to revision by the Board at a future date:

#### **Executive Director-Treasurer's Office**

Executive Director-Treasurer  
Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Director of Communications

#### **Next Generation Ministries Group**

Lead Catalyst, Next Generation Ministries Group  
Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Jacksonville Area  
Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Orlando Area  
Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Gainesville Area  
Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Miami Area  
Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Tallahassee Area  
Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Tampa Area  
Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Pensacola Area

#### **Regional Catalysts Group**

Regional Catalyst – Central Florida  
Regional Catalyst – Northeast Florida  
Regional Catalyst – Southeast Florida  
Regional Catalyst – Southwest Florida  
Regional Catalyst – West Florida

#### **Multicultural Church/Leadership Catalysts**

Hispanic Church Catalyst  
Black and Multicultural Church Consultant  
Haitian Church Consultant  
Music and Worship Consultant

#### **Missions and Ministries Group**

Lead Catalyst, Missions and Ministries Group  
Catalyst, Church and Community Ministries  
Catalyst, Migrant Ministries  
Catalyst, Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministries  
Catalyst, Women's Missions & Ministries/Missions Education

#### **Support Services Group**

Assistant Executive Director/ Director, Support Services  
Director of Accounting  
Director of Church Staff Benefits/Stewardship  
Director of Convention Facilities/Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center  
Director of Information Support Services

- (2) That an executive management group (formerly known as the administrative staff) to be called the Leadership Team, shall provide counsel and decision-making advice and perspectives to the executive director-treasurer and shall be comprised of the following positions:

**Leadership Team**

Executive Director-Treasurer  
 Assistant Executive Director/Director of Support Services  
 Director of Strategic Initiatives  
 Director of Communications  
 Lead Catalyst, Next Generation Ministries Group  
 Lead Catalyst, Missions and Ministries Group  
 Regional Catalyst – Central Florida  
 Regional Catalyst – Northeast Florida  
 Regional Catalyst – Southeast Florida  
 Regional Catalyst – Southwest Florida  
 Regional Catalyst – West Florida

- (3) And that the following corporate organizational chart visually illustrates the hierarchical structure and supervisory relationships between the seven administrative units and the various programs, ministries and support services performed primarily by the Board-elected staff of the Florida Baptist Convention, with the understanding that this organizational chart is subject to revision and/or adjustment by the Board upon the appropriate recommendation of the Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention.

**32. Florida Baptist Convention New Staff Positions**

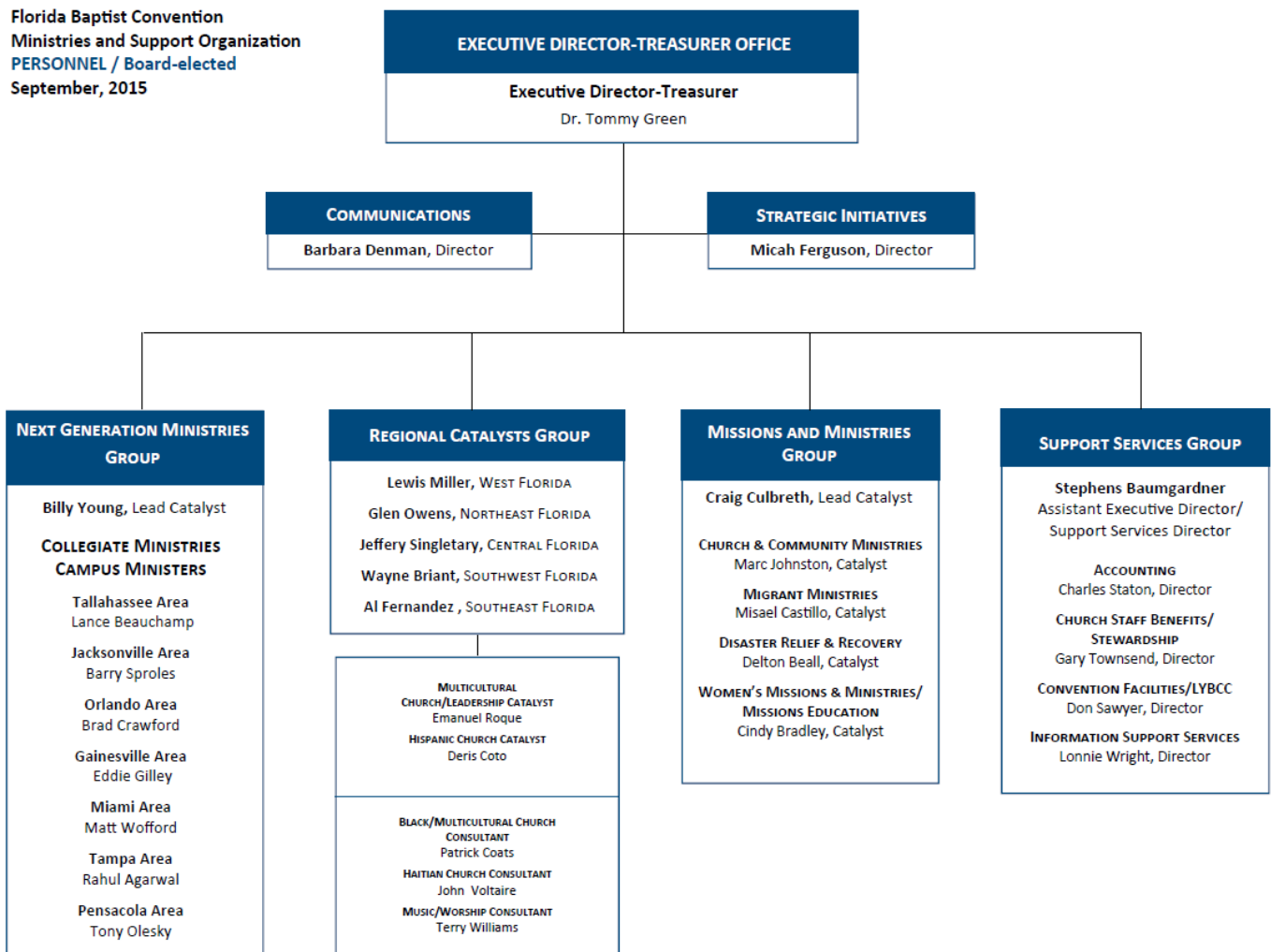
During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on September 18, 2015, the Board created the following new Board-Elected staff positions and approved job descriptions for each position:

**Lead Catalyst, Next Generation Ministries Group**  
**Regional Catalyst—Central Florida Region, Regional Catalyst Group**  
**Regional Catalyst—Northeast Florida Region, Regional Catalyst Group**  
**Regional Catalyst—Southeast Florida Region, Regional Catalyst Group**  
**Regional Catalyst—Southwest Florida Region, Regional Catalyst Group**  
**Regional Catalyst—West Florida Region, Regional Catalyst Group**  
**Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of Executive Director-Treasurer**

**33. Florida Baptist Convention Revision of Staff Positions**

On September 18, 2015, the State Board of Missions authorized a blanket revision of the following Board-Elected staff position descriptions with the understanding that the revisions may reflect either a reassignment to a new organizational unit or a change in the position title and/or name designation of the program. All of these positions reflect a change in the reporting relationships either as a supervisor or as one to be supervised.

**Florida Baptist Convention  
 Ministries and Support Organization  
 PERSONNEL / Board-elected  
 September, 2015**



**Executive Director-Treasurer**  
**Director of Communications**  
**Assistant Executive Director/Support Services Director**  
**Director of Accounting**  
**Director of Church Staff Benefits/Stewardship**  
**Director of Information Support Services**  
**Director of Convention Facilities/Lake Yale**  
**Baptist Conference Center**  
**Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries Team, Jacksonville Area**  
**Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries Team, Orlando Area**  
**Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries Team, Gainesville Area**  
**Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries Team, Miami Area**  
**Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries Team, Tallahassee Area**  
**Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries Team, Tampa Area**  
**Campus Minister, Baptist Collegiate Ministries Team, Pensacola Area**  
**Lead Catalyst, Missions and Ministries Group**  
**Catalyst, Church and Community Ministries**  
**Catalyst, Migrant Ministries, Church and Community Ministries**  
**Catalyst, Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministries**  
**Catalyst, Women's Missions and Ministries/Missions Education**  
**Multicultural Church/Leadership Catalyst**  
**Hispanic Church Catalyst**

#### 34. Florida Baptist Convention Elimination of Staff Positions

The State Board of Missions, on September 18, 2015, heard a presentation by the executive director-treasurer concerning the planned personnel reductions as a means to reduce budgetary requirements in the Florida Baptist Convention 2016 Cooperative Program Budget. As a result, the Board authorized the elimination of the following 36 Board-Elected staff positions, and authorized a blanket revision of all appropriate supervisory staff position descriptions that would be affected by the elimination of these positions:

##### Administrative Support

Assistant Executive Director/Ministry Coordinator  
 Director, Public Relations/Missions Promotion  
 Team Strategist, Cooperative Program Promotion Team  
 Team Strategist, Strategic Endowed Giving Team  
 Director, Human Resources Office  
 Director, Visual Media Services Office

##### Church Health Group

Lead Strategist, Church Health Group  
 Team Strategist, African-American Church Development Ministries Team  
 Team Strategist, Haitian Church Development Ministries Team  
 Team Strategist, Congregational Support Ministries Team  
 Team Strategist, Music and Worship Ministries Team  
 Team Strategist, Sunday School, Groups and Discipling Ministries Team  
 Associate #1, Sunday School, Groups and Discipling Ministries Team  
 Associate #2, Sunday School, Groups and Discipling Ministries Team  
 Team Strategist, Theological Education Ministries Team  
 Associate #1, Theological Education Ministries Team  
 Associate #2, Theological Education Ministries Team

##### Church Planting Group

Lead Strategist, Church Planting Group  
 Team Strategist, English-Speaking Church Planting Team  
 Field Missionary, Central Florida Region  
 Field Missionary, East Central Florida  
 Field Missionary, Panhandle  
 Field Missionary, Northeast Florida  
 Team Strategist, Language Church Planting Team  
 Associate Team Strategist, Language Church Planting Team  
 Field Missionary, Central & Southwest Region  
 Field Missionary, Southeast Florida Region  
 Field Missionary, Central Florida Region/Hispanic  
 Field Missionary, Southeast Florida Region/Haitian  
 Team Strategist, Urban Impact Ministries Team  
 Field Missionary, Southeast Florida, Urban Impact Ministries Team

##### Evangelism Group

Lead Strategist, Evangelism Group  
 Team Strategist, Personal/Student Evangelism Team  
 Team Strategist, Prayer/Spiritual Awakening Team

##### Missional Support Group

Team Strategist, Partnership Missions Team  
 Associate, Women's Missions & Ministries/Missions Education Team

#### 35. Florida Baptist Convention Staff Retirements

On August 31, 2015, **David E. Burton**, retired as Lead Strategist, Evangelism Group, having served Florida Baptists for 26 years.

Effective December 31, 2015, **Donald S. Hepburn** is expected to retire as Director, Public Relations/Missions Promotion, a position he has held for over 32 years.

**Brenda B. McCollum**, Team Strategist, Strategic Endowed Giving, has served the Florida Baptist Convention since May 18, 2001, and is expected to retire December 31, 2015.

On July 31, 2015, **Frank Moreno**, retired as Team Strategist, Language Church Planting Team, completing 21 years of service with the Florida Baptist Convention.

**Richard L. (Rick) Shepherd**, Team Strategist, Prayer/Spiritual Awakening Team, retired on October 31, 2015, having served Florida Baptists for 15 years.

Effective February 28, 2015, **John Sullivan** retired as the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, having served in the position since February 7, 1989.

#### 36. Florida Baptist Convention Staff Changes

On September 18, 2015, the State Board of Missions authorized the transfer in job assignment of the following Florida Baptist Convention employees:

**Adalberto (Al) Fernandez, Jr.**, Lead Strategist, Church Planting Group, assigned as the Regional Catalyst—Southeast Florida

**Lewis Miller**, Lead Strategist, Church Health Group, assigned as the Regional Catalyst—West Florida

**Glen E. Owens**, Assistant Executive Director/Ministry Coordinator, assigned as the Regional Catalyst—Northeast Florida

### 37. Florida Baptist Convention New Personnel

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on September 18, 2015, the Board elected **R. Wayne Briant**, pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Sarasota, Florida, to serve as the Regional Catalyst for Southwest Florida. Dr. Briant had served the Sarasota church since 1991.

The State Board of Missions, on September 18, 2015, elected **Micah A. Ferguson** to serve as the Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of Executive Director-Treasurer. Prior to accepting the position, Mr. Ferguson served as executive associate at First Baptist Church, Brandon.

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on February 6, 2015, **John Matthew Wofford** was elected by the Board to serve as Baptist Campus Minister, Collegiate Ministries Team, Miami Area. Prior to his election by the Board, Matt Wofford served in an administrative-approved role since 2010, while completing education requirements for the position.

On September 18, 2015, **Jeffery L. Singletary** was elected by the State Board of Missions to serve as Regional Catalyst for Central Florida. Jeff Singletary previously served as pastor of Exciting Central Tampa Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida.

The State Board of Missions, on September 18, 2015, elected **Billy K. Young, Jr.**, to the newly-created position of Lead Catalyst, Next Generation Ministries Group. For the past five years, Billy Young served as the student pastor at First Baptist Church, Brandon, Florida.

### 38. Florida Baptist Convention Staff Transitions

As a part of the transition of the Florida Baptist Convention's organizational structure, multiple board-elected staff positions were eliminated. This resulted in transition of employment for 24 individuals. The Florida Baptist Convention consulted with each employee to determine the best possible outcome for both the employee and the Convention. As a result of these consultations, some employees elected resignation and others retired. Individuals not choosing either of these options were presented separation packages. Each individual was treated in a Christ-like and fair manner during this challenging transition.

### 39. Authorization of Expenditures for Executive Director Emeritus

On November 9, 2014, the State Board of Missions designated Dr. John Sullivan as Executive Director Emeritus. The Emeritus designation specifically assigned Dr. Sullivan the role of ceremonial representative of the State Board of Missions and the Florida Baptist Convention in attending denominational, secular or fraternal events when requested.

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on February 6, 2015, the Board authorized the Director of Business Services to provide travel reimbursement to the Executive Director Emeritus for any reasonable and documented travel-related expenses for: (1) assistance to churches; (2) 2015 SBC annual meeting in Columbus,

Ohio; (3) 2015 Hollinger Trust meeting; and (4) Haiti graduation of theological students in September 2015.

### 40. Executive Director-Treasurer Search Committee: Report on Expenditures

On September 18, 2015, the State Board of Missions authorized \$23,232.15 in EDT Search Committee expenditures to be paid from year 2015 Cooperative Program income in excess of budget and requirements received by December 31, 2015.

### 41. Revision of GuideStone Financial Resources 403(b)(9) Retirement Plan: Addition of Limited Benefit

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on February 6, 2015, the Board authorized a revision to the 403(b)(9) Retirement Plan Adoption Agreement for the Florida Baptist Convention that exists between the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and the GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, Inc., by adding a Limited Retirement Benefit to permit an employee, at age 59-1/2, to withdraw or rollover any or all funds held in the respective employee's retirement account. The Board action further stated that access to and the withdrawal and/or rollover of Convention-provided matching funds from the respective employee's retirement trust account is done at the sole responsibility of the employee.

### 42. Authorization to Transfer Non-Budget Account Funds

On February 6, 2015, the State Board of Missions approved a transfer of \$41,000 in unspent funds from the Brazil Missions Partnership Non-Budget account to the Haiti Missions Partnership Non-Budget account.

### 43. Authorization to Renew Line-of-Credit with Sun Trust Banks of Florida, Inc.

The State Board of Missions on February 6, 2015, acting in its official capacity as the board of directors of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., adopted a Corporate Resolution to secure a \$2,000,000 revolving line-of-credit from the Sun Trust Banks, Inc., and/or its affiliated banks. The Board further authorized the corporate officers of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., to execute the necessary Promissory Note and related documents between the Florida Baptist Convention and Sun Trust Banks of Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, and/or its affiliated banks.

### 44. Spending Rate for Cooperative Program Endowment Fund

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on February 6, 2015, the Board approved setting a spending rate of four percent for the Cooperative Program Endowment Fund for the year 2015.

### 45. Hunger Awareness Day Offering Changed to "Global Hunger Relief"

On February 6, 2015, the State Board of Missions authorized the following:

- (1) Agree in principle that there is Biblical mandate and

Christian responsibility for Florida Baptists to financially respond to the needs of people who are without food and experience hunger on an on-going basis;

- (2) Approve a change in nomenclature of the current Hunger Awareness Day offering to be re-named the Global Hunger Relief offering, effective immediately;
- (3) Affirm the continuation of the promotion of a Florida Global Hunger Relief offering day to be held on the second Sunday of July each year; and
- (4) Affirm the current distribution of a 25-75 percentage split of undesignated hunger relief offering proceeds received by the Florida Baptist Convention, with the understanding that 25 percent shall remain in Florida for statewide hunger relief efforts and that 75 percent shall be sent to the SBC Executive Committee for distribution to the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board.

#### 46. Proposed Legislation on Expansion of Alcohol Sales Venues

The State Board of Missions received a report on February 6, 2015, that the Florida State Legislature was considering a group of legislation which sought to do a major rewrite of the Florida Statutes regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages. Of particular concern to the Board was a nearly hidden provision that would permit general merchandise stores – specifically Wal Mart, Target, Walgreens, Publix and Costco – to sell bottled hard liquor products within their stores.

The Board subsequently requested Florida Baptist Convention staff to send e-mail blasts to all Florida pastors making them aware of the proposed legislation and include a link to the e-mail addresses of all members of the Florida Legislature. Board members were encouraged to contact each pastor in their association to urge them to contact their legislators to express their strong opposition. And finally, the Board called upon the editor of the Florida Baptist Witness to provide adequate news coverage of the moral dilemma being created by the potential rewrite of the Florida Statutes related to beverage alcohol sales.

#### 47. Appointment of Special Workgroup to Review Governing Documents of the Florida Baptist State Convention and the Governing Documents of Specific State Convention Agencies

On February 6, 2015, the State Board of Missions approved the appointment of a special workgroup assigned to review the governing documents (i.e. Articles of Incorporation and/or Constitution and Bylaws) of certain agencies of the Florida Baptist State Convention, as well as the governing documents of the State Convention; with the understanding that the goal would be to propose appropriate changes to the various governing documents that would further clarify the respective State Convention entities' commitment to Biblically-based principles on gender and/or sexual orientation-related issues (i.e. marital status, sex outside of marriage, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, abortion, among others) as defined in The Baptist Faith and Message, as revised in the year 2000.

A workgroup was appointed by the chairman of the Denominational Polity and Practice Committee and included: Craig Attaway, chairman; Kevin Goza and Carlos Lugo. The workgroup met in Lakeland on April 6, 2015, with representatives from the agencies, Florida Baptist Convention administration, the president of the State Board of Missions, as well as legal counsel for the Convention.

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on May 29, 2015, the Board received a summary report from the workgroup and adopted the following:

- (1) That the proposed standardized statement on the role and purpose of The Baptist Faith and Message, revised in the year 2000, that is recommended to be added to either the Constitution or Bylaws of each of the Florida Baptist State Convention agencies, to read as follows:

**The [name of respective agency], first and foremost, is a Christian-faith-based, not-for-profit agency of the Florida Baptist State Convention. At all times, and in all ways, our ministry conduct, values, tenets, principles and practices will remain derived from – and governed by – the Holy Scriptures. As an agency of the Florida Baptist State Convention, we subscribe to and accept The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000, as a document which, at least in part, sets forth our understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures; and**

- (2) That each State Convention agency's governing board to review their Articles of Incorporation to ensure that the governing document adequately sets forth (if not specifically state) the four criteria that qualify the entity for the U.S. government's defined faith-based religious exemption: (1) the organization's Articles of Incorporation should state a religious purpose for the entity; (2) day-to-day operations are in fact in support of religious activities; (3) it is a not-for-profit organization; and (4) the entity is affiliated with a church or other religious organization; and
- (3) That each State Convention agency's governing board, as a result of a review of its governing documents and having determined if any appropriate revisions are required, will make such recommended revisions by amendment to their governing documents in a recommendation to the State Board of Missions for review and final determination and for the possible recommendation to the Florida Baptist State Convention; and
- (4) That the Special Workgroup of the Denominational Polity and Practice Committee continue its work by studying the pros and cons of the use of the terminology "agencies" versus "affiliate" designation of State Convention agencies and institutions within the respective governing documents of these entities as well as the governing documents of the State Board of Missions and the Florida Baptist State Convention, with the understanding that any proposed change in the terminology will be presented to the State Board of Missions for review and final determination.

On August 6, 2015, the workgroup met for a second time with agency representatives to continue its assignment as outlined in the Board action. The Convention's legal counsel made a brief presentation reviewing the legal definition of the "agency" relationship. After much discussion and clarification, the workgroup members approved the use of the terminology "cooperating ministries" to replace all references to the terminology "agencies" or "agencies and institutions" in the appropriate governing documents.

The State Board of Missions on September 18, 2015, approved designating all State Convention-related agencies as "Cooperating Ministries" of the Florida Baptist State Convention, with such terminology being referenced in all official documents of the Florida Baptist Convention corporation and the governing documents of the Florida Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions.

#### 48. Florida Baptist Convention Board-Elected Staff “Word and Deed” Activities

Since the year 2000, all Board-elected employees of the Florida Baptist Convention have filed monthly activity reports that highlight their involvement in what is referred to as “word and deed” activities. These activities are a part of a monthly travel report submitted by all Board-elected employees. Although as many as 11 or more staff persons serve in support roles and do not primarily engage in training and/or consultation, all staff are required to report on the “word and deed” activities. Among other purposes, the report seeks to quantify how Convention staff: (1) serves as a role model in evangelism; and (2) directly helps Florida Baptist churches accomplish the Great Commission.

On May 29, 2015, the State Board of Missions received a report that in the year 2014, the accumulative results of all 50 Board-elected staff (including support personnel and field service personnel) reporting “word and deed” and work-related activities was as follows:

<u>Word and Deed Activities</u>	<u>Average Per Staff Person (50)</u>	
Gospel presentations	3,346	67
Outreach contacts	20,882	418
Professions of faith	5,184	104
Bible studies led	1,220	24
Worship services led	1,254	25

Beginning in 2014, the information collected on the activities of Board-elected field personnel was changed to better reflect the actual work-related activities being performed. Previously data was collected on personal conferences, group conferences, church planting conferences and the number of persons in all conferences. This information was duplicative of the information collected on OGAP events. The new data focuses upon the various types of coaching activities these 39 field personnel were involved.

<u>Work-Related Activities</u>	<u>Average Per Field Personnel (39)</u>	
Coaching Consultations		
– Sessions	3,198	82
Coaching Consultations		
– People	49,341	1,265
Coaching Consultations		
– Churches	12,807	328

#### 49. Resolution of Appreciation for Bob R. Bumgarner

Effective December 31, 2014, Bob R. Bumgarner resigned as the Lead Strategist, Church Health Group, having served the Florida Baptist Convention in various capacities for a combined 17 years. Typically, resolutions of appreciation have been reserved for Board-Elected individuals who retire from service. However, given the length and scope of service rendered by Bob Bumgarner, the State Board of Missions on February 6, 2015, approved the following resolution,

#### RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR BOB R. BUMGARNER

WHEREAS, Bob R. Bumgarner, served the Florida Baptist Convention from 1997 to 2014, when he resigned as the lead strategist, Church Health Group; and

WHEREAS, Bob Bumgarner accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of nine and was baptized in the Calvary Baptist Church, Caribou, Maine; and later accepted the call of God to the Christian ministry and was ordained by the Pleasant View Baptist Church, Derby, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Bumgarner attended Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas, where he received the Bachelor of Science degree in 1985, and earned the Master of Divinity degree in 1988 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and

WHEREAS, during his 17 years with the Florida Baptist Convention, Bob Bumgarner served as: associate director of the Pastoral Ministries Department (1997–2000); director, Pastor/Staff Leadership Development Department (2000–2004); director, Office of Leadership Development (2004–2006); director, Church Development Division (2006–2011); and then as the lead strategist, Church Leadership Development Group, which was subsequently renamed the Church Health Group (2012–2014); and

WHEREAS, in his various leadership assignments, Rev. Bumgarner has given priority attention to helping pastors to become more effective spiritual leaders by mentoring and training them to better understand their spiritual gifts which could be used in leading their congregation to fulfill its mission; and

WHEREAS, as the lead strategist of the Church Health Group, Bob Bumgarner has led his team of professional religious education specialists to think and act “outside the box,” as well as encouraging them to be more proactive in tailoring their training resources to best fulfill the educational and growth needs of individual local churches; and

WHEREAS, Bob Bumgarner’s commitment to Christian ministry and servanthood to his fellow pastors has been encouraged by God’s promises recorded in Psalms 78:70-72, ESV, in which it is recorded, “He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand,” now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board of Missions meeting February 5-6, 2015, at the Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Leesburg, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Bob R. Bumgarner, given to our Lord and to Florida Baptists, and that we assure him and his spouse, Tina, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Bob R. Bumgarner as an expression of our love and appreciation to him.

#### 50. One-Year Cooperative Agreement Between the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and the Florida Baptist Witness, Inc.

On September 18, 2015, the State Board of Missions approved a “Year 2016 Cooperative Agreement” which between the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and the Florida Baptist Witness, Inc., effective January 1, 2016, upon its signing by the duly authorized representatives of each agency and continue in force through December 31, 2016. The agreement contains a provision that both parties review the document during 2016 for the purpose of recommending to the State Board of Missions a proposed one-year or multi-year Cooperative Agreement for future years.

#### 51. Policy Revision: Travel Policy of the State Board of Missions

The State Board of Missions on September 18, 2015, revised the Travel Policy of the State Board of Missions by changing the mileage reimbursement to 50 cents per mile.

The revised policy will be printed in the *Book of Policies*.

**STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS**  
 Recommendations  
 to the  
 Florida Baptist State Convention

**RECOMMENDATION 1: 2016 Florida Baptist Convention Budget**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the year 2016 Cooperative Program Basic Budget of \$29,000,000 based upon the following percentage distribution and the general detail as noted in the attached budget document:

- (a) That all Cooperative Program income receipts be distributed on the following percentage allocation:
  - Southern Baptist Convention causes 51.00%
  - Florida Baptist Convention causes 49.00%
  
- (b) And that the Cooperative Program Basic Budget designated for Florida Baptist Convention causes (or 49% of total Cooperative Program income) be distributed on the following percentage basis:
  - Programs of Mission, Ministry and Support 27.26%
  - Cooperating Ministries 21.74%
    - The Baptist College of Florida 11.44%
    - Florida Baptist Children's Homes 7.88%
    - Florida Baptist Financial Services 0.46%
    - Baptist Retirement Center 0.46%
    - Florida Baptist Witness 1.96%
  
- (c) That all Cooperative Program receipts received by December 31, 2016, and which are in excess of the budgetary requirements specified within the 2016 Cooperative Program budget shall be designated as Cooperative Program Excess Budget funds. Such recommendation and subsequent Board action on the distribution of these Excess Budget funds shall be in keeping with the State Convention's Business and Financial Plan [Bylaw 16, B (3) (a) (b), Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention].

<b>FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION</b>	
	<i>Total</i>
<b>Southern Baptist Convention</b>	
Executive Committee - Southern Baptist Convention	14,790,000
<b>Cooperating Ministries</b>	
Florida Baptist Children's Homes	1,120,000
FBFS / Florida Baptist Retirement Center	65,000
Florida Baptist Witness	279,000
The Baptist College of Florida	1,625,000
<b>Florida Baptist Convention Programs</b>	
Salaries and Benefits (*a)	4,289,500
Executive Director-Treasurer	394,500
Communications Office	37,000
Strategic Initiatives (*b)	544,000
Support Services	1,098,000
Accounting Office	100,000
Information Support Services	163,000
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center	200,000
Stewardship/Church Staff Benefits	57,000
Next Generation Ministries (*c)	657,000
Baptist Campus Ministries	176,000
Regional Catalysts	2,885,000
Missions and Ministries	210,000
Church and Community Ministries	107,000
Disaster Relief	47,000
WMM/Missions Education	60,500
Southeast Regional Center (*d)	95,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,000,000</b>
<b>Percentage of Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Percentage of Florida (\$14,210,000)</b>	



## 2016 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET

Southern Baptist Convention	Cooperating Ministries	Personnel (*e)	Operations	Ministry Investment	Church Planting	Revitalization	Regional Ministries	Next Gen Ministries	Missions	SBM/Annual Meeting	Promotion
14,790,000											
	1,120,000										
	65,000										
	279,000										
	1,625,000										
		4,289,500									
		28,000	40,000	326,500							
		14,000	23,000								
		14,000	80,000							210,000	240,000
		683,000	415,000								
		4,000	96,000								
		8,000	155,000								
			200,000								
		17,000	40,000								
		17,000	5,000					635,000			
		32,200	143,800								
		105,000	30,000		1,200,000	800,000	750,000				
		20,000	5,000						185,000		
		32,000	5,000						70,000		
		17,000	5,000						25,000		
		15,500	5,000						40,000		
			95,500								
14,790,000	3,089,000	5,296,200	1,343,300	326,500	1,200,000	800,000	750,000	635,000	320,000	210,000	240,000
51.00%	10.65%	18.26%	4.63%	1.13%	4.14%	2.76%	2.59%	2.19%	1.10%	0.72%	0.83%
	21.74%	37.27%	9.45%	2.30%	8.44%	5.63%	5.28%	4.47%	2.25%	1.48%	1.69%

Note: the above budget includes only Cooperative Program. Although there are other sources of income, such as conference center fees, those are not included in this budget.

- (\*a) Salaries and benefits includes salaries and benefits for 27 Board Elected Staff and 34 Administrative Approved Staff.
- (\*b) Strategic Initiatives includes the Florida Baptist Convention website, supervision of the Ministry Support Team, State Board of Missions meetings, Florida Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting.
- (\*c) Next Generation Ministries provides overall direction, planning, and evaluation of the Convention's programs of collegiate ministry, children and student ministries, and theological education.
- (\*d) Southeast Regional Center is the Convention's facility located in Hialeah, Florida.
- (\*e) Budgets designated as Personnel related include the respective travel budget for each Board Elected Staff and Post-Retirement benefits for eligible retirees.

**RECOMMENDATION 2: Document Revision: New Article 4, Constitution, Florida Baptist State Convention**

**Note: A Constitutional revision requires an affirmative vote by messengers at two consecutive State Convention meetings.**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention revise the Constitution of the Florida Baptist State Convention, by adding new Article 4, to read as follows (indicated by *italics*) and re-numbering the existing Articles:

**Article 4.** *The Florida Baptist State Convention assigns to the State Board of Missions the authority to act on its behalf in the interim between the annual meetings of the State Convention, with the primary task to have full charge of the Biblically-based Christian mission and missionary work as generally defined by Article 3 of this Constitution. The bylaws of this State Convention, as amended from time to time, shall set forth specific assignments and responsibilities of the State Board of Missions.*

- A. *The State Board of Missions shall serve as the board of directors for its corporate entity, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., whose purpose shall emphasize at all times, and in all ways, ministry conduct, values, tenets, principles and practices that are derived from – and governed by – The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000, a document which, at least in part, sets forth an understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures. As a not-for-profit corporation, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall provide Christian ministry services and resources to cooperating local Southern Baptist churches and Baptist associations primarily within the State of Florida.*
- B. *Additionally, the State Board of Missions, in its State Convention-assigned general oversight responsibilities, shall counsel and encourage the free exchange of ideas and communication between the cooperating ministries of the Florida Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions. It shall be the expectation of the Florida Baptist State Convention, that its cooperating ministries shall accept The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000, as a document which, at least in part, sets forth an understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures.*

**RECOMMENDATION 3: Document Revision: Article 8, Constitution, Florida Baptist State Convention**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention revise Article 8 of the Constitution of the Florida Baptist State Convention, to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*):

**Article 8.** This State Convention may create such boards, commissions, committees and other *cooperating ministries* as may be required to promote the work of this State Convention.

- A. Any and all such *cooperating ministries*, whether or not they receive Cooperative Program funds, shall make annual reports to this State Convention and the State Board of Missions.
- B. In keeping with the Business and Financial Plan of the State Convention as set forth in the Bylaws, boards, commissions and *cooperating ministries* shall provide annual audits for inclusion in the Convention Annual.
- C. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of all boards of trustees or directors of State Convention

*cooperating ministries.* The Executive Director-Treasurer or his designee shall be permitted to attend all regular and special meetings, including executive sessions, of the respective boards and their committees.

- D. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall serve as an ex officio, voting member of any newly-created committee or study group authorized by the State Convention.

**RECOMMENDATION 4: Document Revision: Article 9, Constitution, Florida Baptist State Convention**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention revise Article 9 of the Constitution of the Florida Baptist State Convention, to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*):

**Article 9.** The State Convention reserves the right to elect and remove any and all persons who are nominated to serve as members of convention committees, as well as, persons nominated to serve as a trustee or director of any *State Convention cooperating ministries.* These entities shall specifically include: (1) State Board of Missions; (2) Florida Baptist Children's Homes; (3) The Baptist College of Florida; (4) Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc. (and its several related subsidiaries, including the Florida Baptist Foundation, Inc., *Florida Baptist Retirement Center, Inc.*, and Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc.); and (5) Florida Baptist Witness. The number of persons, terms of service, and qualifications for a trustee or director shall be defined by the Bylaws of the respective *cooperating ministry.* The State Convention's Bylaws shall specify the procedure for the nomination, election and the removal process of a trustee, director or convention committee member.

**RECOMMENDATION 5: Document Revision: Article 12, Constitution, Florida Baptist State Convention**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention revise Article 12 of the Constitution of the Florida Baptist State Convention, to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*):

**Article 12.** The Annual Meeting of this State Convention shall be held each year primarily for the following purposes with time allocated in a priority sequence to ensure the general and specific objectives of the State Convention, as defined in Article 3 of this Constitution, are adequately addressed as follows:

- A. To conduct the business and consider the needs, problems and opportunities of the State Convention and its agencies;
- B. To permit the State Convention's *cooperating ministries* to report on their prior year's activities and to make appropriate recommendations for consideration by the messengers comprising the annual meeting;
- C. To ensure time is allocated on the annual program for the several requirements *specified* by the State Convention's Bylaws;
- D. To elect State Convention officers and to elect persons to fill vacancies on the State Convention's committees and boards as defined in Article 9 of this Constitution;
- E. To hear messages from the State Convention president and the person designated to bring the Convention Sermon; and

- F. When practicable and within the available remaining time, provide appropriate inspirational emphases and/or special emphases to be determined by the program committee (also known as the Committee on Order of Business) as defined in the State Convention's Bylaws.

**RECOMMENDATION 6: Document Revision: Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, Designating State Convention Agencies as "Cooperating Ministries"**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention authorize the revision of all existing Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, by deleting all specific uses of the words or phrases such as "agency" or "agencies and institutions" or "institution" and replace with the phrase "cooperating ministry" or "cooperating ministries" where it is necessary, appropriate and/or feasible.

**RECOMMENDATION 7: Document Revision: Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention Referencing the Florida Baptist Church Site Committee**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention revise the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention by deleting the following Bylaws in their entirety, which make reference to the Florida Baptist Church Site Committee:

- Bylaw 12, G, (5)(h)
- Bylaw 12, G, (7)
- Bylaw 16, D, (4)

**RECOMMENDATION 8: General Provisions to the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention authorize and direct the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention to make any necessary editorial and/or grammatical corrections to any Bylaw of the Florida Baptist State Convention that may be affected by proposed revisions to new and/or existing Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention to ensure clarity, continuity and parity of these Bylaws.

**RECOMMENDATION 9: Document Revision: Bylaw 1, A, Bylaws of the State Board of Missions**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention revise Bylaw 1, A, Bylaws of the State Board of Missions, to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*):

- A. This Corporation is a non-profit corporation of the State of Florida, organized and existing under and by virtue of Chapter 4854, Acts of 1899, laws of Florida and Amended Charter as appears of record in Incorporation Record Book 27, at Pages 291-297 of the current public records of Duval County, Florida. *At all times, and in all ways, our ministry conduct, values, tenets, principles and practices will remain derived from --and governed by-- The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000, a document which, at least in part, sets forth our understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures.*

**RECOMMENDATION 10: Document Revision: Bylaws of the State Board of Missions Referencing the Florida Baptist Church Site Committee**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention revise the Bylaws of the State Board of Missions by deleting the following Bylaws, which make reference to

the Florida Baptist Church Site Committee:

- Bylaw 3, B, (6)(a)(b)(c) and (d) be deleted in its entirety
- Bylaw 3, B, (7)(h) be deleted in its entirety
- Bylaw 4, A, (5) be deleted in its entirety
- Bylaw 7, B, (12) be deleted in its entirety
- Bylaw 7, D, (2), sentence #5 be deleted in its entirety

**RECOMMENDATION 11: Document Revision: Bylaw 7, F, (2), Bylaws of the State Board of Missions**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention revise Bylaw 7, F, (2), (a) and (b), Bylaws of the State Board of Missions, to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*):

- (2) To facilitate the duties of the Loans Committee, a Loans Subcommittee shall be appointed annually as follows:
- (a) The Loans Subcommittee shall consist of *seven members, comprised of three members of the Loans Committee (appointed by the Chairman of the Loans Committee), two members from the Administrative/Personnel Committee (appointed by the Chairman of the Administrative/Personnel Committee), the State Board of Missions president, and the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention. When possible, the members should represent all regions of the state.*
- (b) The Loans Subcommittee is authorized to approve loan applications between regular meetings of the State Board of Missions, including those that *require an exception to the policy.*

**RECOMMENDATION 12: Document Revision: General Provisions to the Bylaws of the State Board of Missions**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention authorize and direct the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention to make any necessary renumbering of subsequent Bylaw provisions, as well as make any editorial and/or grammatical corrections to any Bylaw of the State Board of Missions that may be affected by proposed revisions to ensure clarity, continuity and parity of these Bylaws.

**RECOMMENDATION 13: Document Revision: Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., Amended Bylaw, Article 1, Section 1.2**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention revise the Bylaws of Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., by replacing Article 1 with the following two paragraphs to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*):

**ARTICLE 1  
NAME AND STATEMENT OF BELIEF**

*Section 1.1 Name*

The name of the Corporation shall be Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., a Florida not for profit Corporation (the "Corporation"). The Corporation shall maintain a registered office in the State of Florida and a registered agent at such office and may have other offices within or without the state.

*Section 1.2 Statement of Belief*

*The Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., first and foremost, is*

a Christian-faith-based, not-for-profit cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention. At all times, and in all ways, our ministry conduct, values, tenets, principles and practices will remain derived from – and governed by – the Holy Scriptures. As a cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention, we subscribe to and accept *The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000* as a document which, at least in part, sets forth our understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures.

**RECOMMENDATION 14: Document Revision: Florida Baptist Foundation, Inc., Amended Bylaw, Article 1, Section 1.2**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention revise the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist Foundation, Inc., a subsidiary of the Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., of Jacksonville, Florida, by replacing Article 1 with the following two paragraphs to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*):

**ARTICLE 1  
NAME AND STATEMENT OF BELIEF**

*Section 1.1 Name*

The name of the Corporation shall be Florida Baptist Foundation, Inc., a Florida not for profit Corporation (the “Corporation”). The Corporation shall maintain a registered office in the State of Florida and a registered agent at such office and may have other offices within or without the state.

*Section 1.2 Statement of Belief*

*The Florida Baptist Foundation, Inc., first and foremost, is a Christian-faith-based, not-for-profit subsidiary of the Florida Baptist Financial Services. At all times, and in all ways, our ministry conduct, values, tenets, principles and practices will remain derived from – and governed by – the Holy Scriptures. As a subsidiary of the Florida Baptist Financial Services, we subscribe to and accept The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000 as a document which, at least in part, sets forth our understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures.*

**RECOMMENDATION 15: Document Revision: Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc., Amended Bylaw, Article 1, Section 1.2**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention revise the Bylaws of the Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc., a subsidiary of the Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., of Jacksonville, Florida, by replacing Article 1 with the following two paragraphs to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*):

**ARTICLE 1  
NAME AND STATEMENT OF BELIEF**

*Section 1.1 Name*

The name of the Corporation shall be Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc., a Florida not for profit Corporation (the “Corporation”). The Corporation shall maintain a registered office in the State of Florida and a registered agent at such office and may have other offices within or without the state.

*Section 1.2 Statement of Belief*

*The Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc., first and foremost, is a Christian-faith-based, not-for-profit subsidiary of the Florida Baptist Financial Services. At all times, and in all ways, our ministry conduct, values, tenets, principles and practices will remain derived*

*from – and governed by – the Holy Scriptures. As a subsidiary of the Florida Baptist Financial Services, we subscribe to and accept The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000 as a document which, at least in part, sets forth our understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures.*

**RECOMMENDATION 16: Document Revision: Florida Baptist Retirement Centers, Inc., Amended Bylaw, Article 1, Section 1.2**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention revise the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist Retirement Centers, Inc., a subsidiary of the Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., of Jacksonville, Florida, by replacing Article 1 with the following two paragraphs to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*):

**ARTICLE 1  
NAME AND STATEMENT OF BELIEF**

*Section 1.1 Name*

The name of the Corporation shall be Florida Baptist Retirement Centers, Inc., a Florida not for profit Corporation (the “Corporation”). The Corporation shall maintain a registered office in the State of Florida and a registered agent at such office and may have other offices within or without the state.

*Section 1.2 Statement of Belief*

*The Florida Baptist Retirement Centers, Inc., first and foremost, is a Christian-faith-based, not-for-profit subsidiary of the Florida Baptist Financial Services. At all times, and in all ways, our ministry conduct, values, tenets, principles and practices will remain derived from – and governed by – the Holy Scriptures. As a subsidiary of the Florida Baptist Financial Services, we subscribe to and accept The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000 as a document which, at least in part, sets forth our understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures.*

**RECOMMENDATION 17: Document Revision: Florida Baptist Children’s Homes, Inc., Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention approve the Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, Florida Baptist Children’s Homes, Inc., to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*), which shall supersede and replace the existing Articles of Incorporation of the Florida Baptist Children’s Homes, Inc., a cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention:

**SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN’S HOMES, INC.**

The undersigned, being competent to contract, subscribes to these Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation regarding a corporation not-for-profit under the laws of the State of Florida and certifies as follows:

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of the Corporation shall be:

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN’S HOMES, INC.  
(the “Corporation”).

ARTICLE II – Principal Office and Mailing Address

The address of the principal office of the Corporation is 1015 Sikes Boulevard, Lakeland, Florida 33815, and the mailing address of the Corporation is P.O. Box 8190, Lakeland, Florida 33802.

#### ARTICLE III – Purpose

A. The Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, scientific, educational, or literary purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law) (the “Code”).

B. The Corporation shall be authorized to provide social services and programs as provided by the Corporation’s Board of *Directors to show compassion and meet the needs of* individuals, families, and congregations, in a Christian context of evangelism, missions and education *consistent with The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000 which sets forth, at least in part, our understanding of the Holy Scriptures.*

C. The Corporation is organized for purposes of engaging in any activity or business permitted under the laws of the United States and of the State of Florida and shall have all of the powers enumerated in the Florida Not for Profit Corporation Act, as the same now exists and as hereafter amended, and all such other powers as are permitted by applicable law; provided, however, that the Corporation shall not engage in any activity in which corporations qualified as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code are not permitted to engage.

D. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, the Corporation’s *Directors*, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Article. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

E. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by (i) a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, or (ii) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

F. In the event the Corporation is classified as a private foundation under Section 509 of the Code, (i) the Corporation shall distribute its income each taxable year at such time and in such manner as not to subject itself to tax under Section 4942 of the Code, and (ii) the Corporation shall not engage in any act of self-dealing (as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Code), retain any excess business holdings (as defined in Section 4943(c) of the Code), make any investments in such manner as to subject itself to tax under Section 4944 of the Code, nor make any taxable expenditures (as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Code).

#### ARTICLE IV – Term of Existence

The Corporation shall exist perpetually unless dissolved according to law.

#### ARTICLE V – Directors

A. The Corporation shall be managed by a Board of not less than *three (3) Directors, with the exact number of Directors established from time to time as set forth in the Bylaws of the Corporation.*

B. *Members of the Board of Directors* shall be elected and appointed by *the Board of Directors of the Corporation* or by the

Florida Baptist State Convention in its regular annual sessions, as provided in the Bylaws of the Corporation.

#### ARTICLE VI – Amendment to Articles

Subject to approval by the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon a recommendation from the State Board of Missions, the *Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation* may be further amended by the *Directors* at any regular or special meeting of the *Directors* upon thirty (30) days written notice thereof, and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the *Directors* present at such meeting.

#### ARTICLE VII – Bylaws

Subject to approval by the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon a recommendation from the State Board of Missions, the power to adopt, alter, amend or repeal Bylaws shall be vested in the Board of *Directors*. The Bylaws may be amended by the *Directors* at any regular or special meeting of the *Directors* upon thirty (30) days written notice thereof, and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the *Directors* present at such meeting.

#### ARTICLE VIII – Limitations to Corporate Power

A. Loans to and guarantees by the Corporation shall be contracted on behalf of the Corporation only if authorized by the Board of *Directors and approved by both the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention and the President of the State Board of Missions; provided that if such obligation would be for a principal amount in excess of ten percent (10%) of the Corporation’s operating income for the prior fiscal year, then such loans and guarantees must be approved by the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon a recommendation from the State Board of Missions, instead of the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention and the President of the State Board of Missions.*

B. Any purchase, mortgage, or sale of real estate shall require the approval of *the Corporation’s Board of Directors* and, except as otherwise provided in this Article, is conditioned upon the consent of the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon a recommendation from the State Board of Missions.

C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, consent of the Florida Baptist State Convention is not required to (i) mortgage or sell any real property acquired by this Corporation by gift or otherwise, which does not comprise an integral part of the operation of the Corporation, (ii) *for transactions between the Corporation and affiliated entities, such as supporting organizations as defined under the Internal Revenue Code, or (iii) for purchases of real estate having a purchase price equal to or less than ten percent (10%) of the Corporation’s operating income for the prior fiscal year.*

#### ARTICLE IX – Dissolution

A. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of *Directors* shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all the assets of the Corporation in a manner not inconsistent with the purposes of the Corporation, including to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for tax-exempt purposes, as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, as the Board of *Directors* shall determine.

B. Any assets not disposed of by the Board of *Directors* as provided herein, shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located exclusively for tax-exempt purposes or to such organizations, which are organized and operated exclusively for tax-exempt purposes and which qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed these *Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation* this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Jerry Haag, President

**RECOMMENDATION 18: Document Revision: Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., Second Amended and Restated Bylaws**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention approve the Second Amended and Restated Bylaws, Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*), which shall supersede and replace the existing Bylaws of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., a cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention:

**SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS  
OF  
FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES, INC.**

ARTICLE I

Offices

The principal office of FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES, INC., a Florida not-for-profit corporation (the "Corporation"), in the State of Florida shall be located in the City of Lakeland, County of Polk. The Corporation may have offices at other places within or without the State of Florida as the Board of *Directors* may from time to time determine or as the business of the Corporation may require.

The address of the Corporation's registered office, required by Florida law to be maintained in the State of Florida, may be changed from time to time by the Board of *Directors*. The registered office may be, but need not be, identical to the Corporation's principal office in the State of Florida.

ARTICLE II

Directors

Section 1. Board of Directors. The business of the Corporation shall be managed and its corporate powers exercised by a board of not less than *three (3) Directors*. *The exact number of Directors comprising the board* may be fixed from time to time by the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(a) *Directors* shall be residents of the State of Florida, and must be at least 18 years of age.

(b) *Directors* shall serve without compensation for their services. The Board of *Directors* may authorize and require the payment of reasonable expenses incurred by *Directors* in rendering services to the Corporation.

(c) A *Director* of the Corporation who is present at a meeting of the Board of *Directors* at which action on any corporate matter is taken shall be presumed to have assented to the action taken unless the *Director* votes against the action or abstains from voting in respect to it because of an asserted conflict of interest.

(d) A *Director* shall perform his or her duties as a *Director*, including his or her duties as a member of any committee of the Board of *Directors* upon which he or she may serve, in good faith, in a manner he or she reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the Corporation, and with such care as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances.

(e) In performing his or her duties, a *Director* shall be entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, in each case prepared or presented by: (i) one or more officers or employees of the matters presented; (ii) legal counsel, public accounts or other persons as to matters which the *Director* reasonably believes to be within such persons' professional or expert competence; or (iii) a committee of the board upon which he or she does not serve, duly designated in accordance with a provision of the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, as to matters within its designated authority, which committee the *Director* reasonably *believes* to merit confidence.

(f) In performing his or her duties, a *Director* may consider such factors as the *Director* deems relevant, including the long term prospects and interest of the Corporation, and the social, economic, legal, or other effects of any action on the employees, suppliers, or customers of the Corporation or its subsidiaries, the communities and society in which the Corporation or its subsidiaries operate, and the economy of the state and nation.

(g) A *Director* shall not be considered to be acting in good faith if he or she has knowledge concerning the matter in question that would cause such reliance described in Section 1(e) of this Article II to be unwarranted.

(h) Notwithstanding the above provisions, *Directors* may be immune from civil liability pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 617.0834.

Section 2. Number, Election and Term of Directors.

(a) The *current number of Directors comprising the Board* is twenty-four (24), *unless and until changed in accordance with these Bylaws*.

(b) *Except as described in Section 3 below*, the Board of *Directors* shall be elected and appointed by the Florida Baptist State Convention in its regular annual sessions.

(c) *One third of the total number of Directors* shall be elected annually to take the place of *the same number of Directors* whose terms of office expire.

(d) The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention shall be an ex officio, non-voting member of the Board of *Directors*. The Executive Director-Treasurer or his or her designee shall be invited to attend all regular and special meetings, including executive sessions, of the Board of *Directors*.

(e) A member of the Board of *Directors* shall hold office until his or her resignation, removal from office, or death, or until his or her successor is appointed following the expiration of his or her term. The term of each *Director* shall be three (3) years.

(f) A *Director* who has served two (2) full terms shall not be eligible for re-election until at least one (1) year has elapsed since the date of the end of such *Director's* term of office. *An exception to the foregoing may be made in the case of a Director whose expertise seems to make it advisable that such Director be continued as a member of the board.*

(g) Membership on the Board of *Directors* will automatically be terminated when a *Director* moves from the state, dies, ceases to be a member in good standing of a Baptist Church regularly affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention, or is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board of *Directors*, unless the Board votes to excuse the absence for good and sufficient reasons.

(h) Neither the *President/Chief Executive Officer*, nor any other paid personnel of this Corporation shall serve as a voting *Director*, ex officio or otherwise, of this Corporation.

(i) *At the last regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Directors, the Directors shall elect the officers of the Corporation who shall serve for the following calendar year.*

Section 3. Vacancies. Vacancies in the Board of *Directors*, whether occurring by reason of an increase in the size of the board, or the death, resignation, disqualification, or removal of a *Director*, *may be temporarily filled by an action of the board, until*

such vacancy is permanently filled by the Florida Baptist State Convention in its regular annual meeting. In filling a vacancy, the Board shall appoint a person meeting the qualifications for the board membership set forth in the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Vacancies occurring by reason of the expiration of a Director's term (subject to the appointment of his or her successor), shall be filled by action of the Florida Baptist State Convention. A Director appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office until his or her successor is appointed following the expiration of the term of the position he or she has filled, or his or her earlier resignation, removal, or death.

Section 4. Quarterly and Regular Meetings of the Board. The regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held quarterly in Lakeland, Florida, or at such other place as the President/Chief Executive Officer or the Chairman may decide. Regular meetings of the board shall be held at such place and time thereafter during the year as the President or Chairman may fix, following notice thereof to the Directors. Members of the Board of Director may participate in any regular or special meeting by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

Section 5. Special Meetings of the Board. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time and place by the President/Chief Executive Officer, the Chairman of the board, or by a majority of the Directors. Notice of each special meeting shall be given by the Secretary to each Director not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting. Notice of a special meeting may be given by telephone. Notice of a special meeting, however, need not be given to any Director who signs a waiver of notice either before or after the meeting. Attendance of a Director at a special meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting and waiver of any and all objections to the place of the meeting, the time of the meeting, or the manner in which it has been called or convened, except when a Director states, at the beginning of the meeting, any objection to the transaction of business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. The business to be transacted at, or the purpose of, any special meeting of the Board of Directors must be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be held within or without the State of Florida.

Section 6. Quorum and Voting. Unless provided otherwise by the Articles of Incorporation, a majority of the number of Directors fixed in the manner provided in these Bylaws shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, *except that a quorum shall be a majority of all current Directors if vacancies have caused the total number of Directors to drop below the number otherwise needed for a quorum.* In addition to those Directors who are physically present at a meeting, Directors shall for purposes of these Bylaws be deemed present at such meeting if a conference telephone or similar communications equipment is used, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear and speak to each other at the same time. A resolution passed on the telephone by all the Directors for the time being entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the Directors shall be as valid and effectual as a resolution passed at a physical meeting. The act of a majority of Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, unless provided to the contrary in the Articles of Incorporation of these Bylaws. A Directors who is present at a meeting on which action on any corporate matter is taken shall be deemed in favor of the action taken, unless he or she votes against the action or abstains from voting with respect thereto because of an asserted conflict of interest. A majority of the Directors present, whether or not a quorum exists, may adjourn any meeting of the Board of Directors to another time and place. Notice

of any such adjourned meeting shall be given to the Directors who were not present at the time of adjournment and, unless the time and place of the adjourned meeting are announced at the time of the adjournment, to the other Directors.

Section 7. Board Action Without a Meeting. Any action of the Board of Directors or a committee thereof that is required or permitted to be taken at a meeting may be taken without a meeting if written consent to the action, signed by all the members of the board or committee, is filed in the minutes of the proceedings of the board. Such consent shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote.

Section 8. Compensation. Directors shall not receive any compensation for their services, but shall be entitled to receive compensation for services rendered to the Corporation in any capacity other than as Directors, as may be provided from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Executive and Other Committees. The Chairperson and Vice Chair Persons of the Board of Directors, and the chairpersons of the standing committees shall constitute an executive committee. The Board of Directors, by resolution adopted by a majority of the full board, may designate one or more other committees. Each of the foregoing committees, to the extent provided by resolution adopted by a majority of the full board, shall have and may exercise all the authority of the Board of Directors, except that no committee shall have authority to fill vacancies on any committee thereof, or adopt, amend or repeal the Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation. Further, no committee shall have the powers and authority provided for in this, Section 1. All committees so appointed shall keep such records of the transactions of their meetings as the Board of Directors shall from time to time direct.

The board shall appoint all committee members from then current Directors, may designate one or more Directors as alternate members of a committee who may act in the place of any absent member or members at any meeting of the committee, shall fill vacancies in such committee, may discharge any or all members of such committee, with or without cause, at any time, or may dissolve or deactivate such committee.

Section 10. Removal of Directors. At a special meeting of Directors called expressly for that purpose, any Director may be removed with or without cause by a vote of a majority of the full Board of Directors or by action of the Florida Baptist State Convention. If such Director is a member of the executive committee or any other committee of the Board of Directors, he or she shall cease to be a member of that committee when he or she ceases to be a Director.

Section 11. Definition of "Majority". Wherever used herein, "majority" or "majority of Directors" shall mean more than fifty percent (50%) of the total number of Directors present and voting at a meeting thereof at which a quorum is present.

## ARTICLE III

### Officers

Section 1. Designation of Officers; Removal. This Corporation shall have a Chairperson of the Board of Directors and a Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors, which officers shall serve on a volunteer basis. The Corporation shall also have a President and/or Chief Executive Officer, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers, assistant officers, and agents as the Board of Directors from time to time shall deem advisable. The Board of Directors shall elect the corporate officers annually, which officers shall hold office for the term of one (1) year and until their successors are elected and their term begins, unless sooner removed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall

have the right at any time to remove any one or more of the officers with or without cause. All vacancies in any office of the Corporation shall be filled by the Board of *Directors*. Any person may hold two or more offices. Election or appointment of an officer or agent shall not of itself create contract rights. The failure to elect a Chairperson of the Board of *Directors*, Vice Chairperson of the Board of *Directors*, *President/Chief Executive Officer*, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer shall not affect the existence of the Corporation.

**Section 2. The Chairperson.** The Chairperson of the Board of *Directors* shall serve until terminated as a *Director* or until removed from office by vote of the Board of *Directors* of the Corporation. The Chairperson shall *preside* at meetings of the Board of *Directors*.

**Section 3. Vice Chairperson.** The Vice Chairperson of the Board of *Directors* shall serve until terminated as a *Director* or until removed from office by vote of the Board of *Directors* of the Corporation. The Vice Chairperson shall, in the absence of the Chairperson, *preside* at meetings of the Board of *Directors*.

**Section 4. The President/Chief Executive Officer.** The President/*Chief Executive Officer*, shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and subject to the supervision of the Board of *Directors*, shall exercise general supervision and management over all the property and affairs of the Corporation. The President/*Chief Executive Officer* shall be charged with carrying out the policies and programs adopted or approved by the Board of *Directors*. The President/*Chief Executive Officer* shall have all powers and duties incident to the office of President/*Chief Executive Officer* as well as such further powers and duties as the Board of *Directors* may from time to time prescribe. *In the absence of a President/Chief Executive Officer, the Board of Directors may appoint an interim President/Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation.*

**Section 5. Vice Presidents.** The Board of *Directors* may elect one or more Vice Presidents. At the request of the President/*Chief Executive Officer*, or in his absence or disability *and in the absence of an interim chief executive officer appointed by the board*, a Vice President designated by the Board of *Directors* or in the order of seniority shall have all the powers and duties of the President/*Chief Executive Officer*.

**Section 6. Secretary and Assistant Secretaries.** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all proceedings of the *Directors*, shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices to *Directors* or other notice required by law or by these Bylaws, shall affix the seal of the Corporation to deeds, contracts, and other instruments or writings requiring a seal, when duly signed or when so ordered by the *Directors*, shall authenticate records of the Corporation, shall have charge of all of the corporate records (except the financial records) and such other books and papers as the board may direct, and shall perform all other duties incident to the office of Secretary.

Any one or more Assistant Secretaries elected by the Board of *Directors* shall assist the Secretary in the performance of his or her duties and shall also have such further powers and duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the Board of *Directors*, the President/*Chief Executive Officer* or the Secretary. At the direction of the Secretary or in his absence or disability, an Assistant Secretary shall have the powers and duties of the Secretary.

**Section 7. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers.** The Treasurer shall have custody of all corporate funds, securities, financial records, and evidences of indebtedness of the Corporation, shall receive and give receipts and acquittances for monies paid in on account of the Corporation, shall pay out of the funds on hand all bills, payrolls, and other just debts of the Corporation, of whatsoever nature, upon maturity, shall enter regularly in books to be kept by

him or her for that purposes, full and accurate accounts of all monies received and paid out by him or her on account of the Corporation, and shall perform all other duties incident to the office of Treasurer and as may be prescribed by the *Directors*.

Any one or more Assistant Treasurers elected by the Board shall assist the Treasurer in the performance of his or her duties and shall also have such further powers and duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the Board of *Directors*, the President/*Chief Executive Officer* or the Treasurer. At the direction of the Treasurer or in his absence or disability, an Assistant Treasurer shall have the powers and duties of the Treasurer.

**Section 8. Other Officers.** Other officers and agents appointed by the Board of *Directors* shall be subject to the supervision of and shall be responsible to perform the duties prescribed by the Board of *Directors*.

**Section 9. Vacancies.** A vacancy in any office due to death, resignation, removal, disqualification, creation of a new position, or any other reason may be filled by the Board of *Directors* for the unexpired portion of the term.

**Section 10. Salaries.** To the extent that the officers of the Corporation act as employees of the Corporation, such officers shall be entitled to reasonable compensation for services rendered.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### Book and Records: Corporate Affairs

**Section 1. Books and Records.** The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep as permanent records minutes of the proceedings of its board of *Directors* and committees of *Directors*. Any books, records, and minutes may be in written form or in any other form capable of being converted into written form within a reasonable time. All books and records, including minutes of board meetings, shall be maintained at the principal office of the Corporation, in accordance with any records retention policy in effect from time to time.

**Section 2. Professional Staff.** The Board of *Directors* authorizes the President/*Chief Executive Officer* to employ other professional staff as may be deemed advisable. The President/*Chief Executive Officer* shall prescribe the duties, conditions of employment and compensation of such employees. Members of the professional staff may also serve as officers of the Corporation. *All such employees shall perform their duties subject to the control and direction of the President/Chief Executive Officer.*

**Section 3. Intentionally Left Blank.**

**Section 4. Signatures on Notes, Checks, Etc.** All properly authorized notes, drafts, acceptances, checks, endorsements (other than for deposit), guarantees and other evidences of indebtedness of the Corporation whatsoever, shall be signed by such one or more officers or agents of the Corporation, and shall be subject to such requirements as to countersignature or other conditions, as the Board of *Directors* may specifically designate from time to time. Unless otherwise designated by the Board of *Directors*, notes, drafts, acceptances, checks, endorsements (other than for deposit), guarantees and other evidences of indebtedness of the Corporation whatsoever, shall be signed by the President/*Chief Executive Officer* or his designee.

**Section 5. Execution of Instruments Generally.** Except as provided in Section 4 above, all properly authorized contracts and other instruments requiring execution by the Corporation may be executed and delivered by the President/*Chief Executive Officer* or



any Vice President of the Corporation, and authority to sign any such contracts or instruments, which may be general or confined to specific instances, may be conferred by the Board of *Directors* upon any other person or persons.

Section 6. Financial Reports. The President/*Chief Executive Officer* and the Treasurer shall present to the Board of *Directors* at each quarterly meeting of the board a report, verified by them, showing in appropriate detail (a) the assets and liabilities, including the trust funds, of the Corporation as of the end of the fiscal quarter last preceding the date of the report; (b) the principal changes in assets and liabilities, including trust funds, of the Corporation during such fiscal quarter; (c) the revenues and receipts of the Corporation, both unrestricted and restricted, during such fiscal quarter, including separate data with respect to each trust fund held by or for the Corporation; and (d) the expenses or disbursements of the Corporation during such fiscal quarter, including separate data with respect to each trust fund held by or for the Corporation.

Section 7. Florida Baptist State Convention.

- (a) The officers of the Corporation shall make an annual report to the Florida Baptist State Convention.
- (b) The Corporation will be bound by and will comply with the Business and Financial Plan appearing in the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, as amended from time to time.

Section 8. Board Policy Manual. The Board of *Directors* shall be guided in the carrying out of its responsibilities by the Board Policy Manual, as adopted by the board and revised from time to time, subject to the Articles and Bylaws of this corporation. The Policy Manual may be altered or amended by the Board of *Directors* upon 30 days written notice at any regular or called meeting of said board by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the *Directors*.

ARTICLE V

Corporate Indemnification Plan

Section 1. Definitions. For purposes of this Article V, the following terms shall have the meanings hereafter ascribed to them:

- (a) "Corporation" includes, as the context may require, FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES, INC., any resulting corporation and any constituent corporation (including any constituent of a constituent) absorbed in a consolidation or merger, so that any person who is or was a *Director* or officer of a constituent corporation, or is or was serving at the request of a constituent corporation as a *Director* or officer of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, is in the same position with respect to the resulting or surviving corporation as he or she would have been with respect to such constituent corporation if its separate existence had continued.
- (b) "Expenses" include, without limitation, all costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, and paralegal expenses incurred by the *Director* or officer in, for or related to the Proceeding or in connection with investigating, preparing to defend, defending, being a witness in or participating in the Proceeding, including such costs, expenses, attorneys' fees and paralegal expenses incurred on appeal. Such attorneys' fees shall include without limitation, (a) attorneys' fees incurred by the *Director* or officer in any and all judicial or administrative proceedings, including appellate proceedings, arising out of or related to the Proceeding; (b) attorney's fees incurred in order to interpret, analyze

or evaluate that person's rights and remedies in the Proceeding or under any contracts or obligations which are the subject of such Proceeding; and (c) attorneys' fees to negotiate with counsel for any claimant, regardless of whether formal legal action is taken against him or her.

- (c) "Liability" includes obligations to pay a judgment, settlement, penalty, fine (including an excise tax assessed to any employee benefit plan), and Expenses actually and reasonably incurred with respect to a Proceeding.
- (d) "Not Opposed to the Best Interest of the Corporation" describes the actions of a person who acts in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the Corporation or the participants and beneficiaries of an employee benefit plan, as the case may be and with such care as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances.
- (e) "Other Enterprises" include employee benefit plans.
- (f) "Proceeding" includes any threatened, pending, or complete action, suit, or other type of proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative and whether formal or informal to which the person is a party by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a *Director* or officer of the Corporation or is now or was Serving at the Request of the Corporation as a *Director* or officer of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or Other Enterprise.
- (g) "Serving at the Request of the Corporation" includes any service as a *Director* or officer of the Corporation that imposes duties on such persons, including duties relating to an employee benefit plan and its participants or beneficiaries.

Section 2. Successful Defense. In all events, and notwithstanding the conditions and qualifications set forth in Section 3 below, the Corporation shall indemnify a *Director* or officer who has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any Proceeding or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter therein, against Expenses actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith.

Section 3. Indemnification.

- (a) Subject to Sections 3(c) and (d) below, the Corporation shall indemnify to the fullest extent permitted by law and shall advance Expenses therefor to any *Director* or officer who was or is a party to any Proceeding (other than an action by, or in the right of, the Corporation), against Liability incurred in connection with the Proceeding, including any appeal thereof, provided that such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or Not Opposed to the Best Interests of the Corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.
- (b) Subject to Sections 3(c) and (d) below, the Corporation shall indemnify to the fullest extent permitted by law and shall advance Expenses therefor to any *Director* or officer who was or is a party to any Proceeding by or in the right of the Corporation, against Liability incurred in connection with the Proceeding, including any appeal thereof, provided that such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or Not Opposed to the Best Interests of the Corporation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no indemnification shall

be made under this Section 3(b) in respect of any claim, issue, or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable.

(c) No indemnification under this Section 3 shall be made if a judgment or other final adjudication established that the person's actions or omissions to act were material to the cause of action adjudicated and such actions or omissions constitute either:

- (1) A violation of the criminal law, unless the *Director* or officer had reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was lawful or had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful;
- (2) A transaction from which the *Director* or officer derived an improper personal benefit;
- (3) In the case of a *Director*, a circumstance under which the Liability provisions of Florida Statutes, Section 617.0834 are applicable; or
- (4) Willful misconduct or a conscious disregard for the best interest of the Corporation in a Proceeding by or in the right of the Corporation to procure a judgment in its favor.

(d) Any indemnification under Section 3(a) or Section 3(b) above, unless ordered pursuant to a determination by a court, shall be made by the Corporation only as authorized in a specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the *Director* or officer is proper in the circumstances because he or she has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 3(a) or Section 3(b) above, as applicable. Such determination shall be made by either:

- (1) The Board of *Directors* by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of *Directors* who were not parties to such Proceeding; or
- (2) If such a quorum is not obtained or, even if obtained, a majority vote of a committee duly designated by the Board of *Directors* (in which *Directors* who are parties may participate) consisting solely of two (2) or more *Directors* not at the time parties to the Proceeding; or
- (3) Independent legal counsel:
  - (i) Selected by a vote of the Board of *Directors* prescribed in Section 3(d)(1) above or of the committee prescribed in subsection 3(d)(2) above; or
  - (ii) If a quorum of the *Directors* cannot be obtained for subsection 3(d)(1) above and the committee cannot be designated under subsection 3(d)(2) above, selected by majority vote of the full Board of *Directors* (in which *Directors* who are parties to the Proceeding may participate).

(e) For purposes of determining whether indemnification is proper under Sections 3(a) or 3(b) above, the fact that a Proceeding was terminated by a judgment, order, settlement or conviction or upon plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in, or Not Opposed to the Best Interests of the Corporation or, with respect to any criminal action or Proceeding, that the

person has reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

(f) The foregoing provisions shall not preclude or limit indemnification under the mandatory indemnification provision of Section 2 above or as directed by a court pursuant to Section 4 below.

Section 4. Court Ordered Indemnification. Notwithstanding the failure of the Corporation to provide indemnification and despite any contrary determination of the Board in the specific case, a *Director* or officer of the Corporation who is or was a party to a Proceeding may apply for indemnification or advancement of Expenses, or both, to the court conducting the Proceeding, to the circuit court, or to another court of competent jurisdiction, and such court may order indemnification and advancement of Expenses, including Expenses incurred in seeking court ordered indemnification or advancement of Expenses, if it determines that:

- (a) The *Director* or officer is entitled to mandatory indemnification under Section 2 above, in which case the court shall also order the Corporation to pay such person reasonable Expenses incurred in obtaining court ordered indemnification or advancement of Expenses;
- (b) The *Director* or officer is entitled to indemnification or advancement of Expenses, or both, under Section 3 above; or
- (c) The *Director* or officer is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification or advancement of Expenses, or both, in view of all the relevant circumstances, regardless of whether such person met the standards of conduct set forth in Sections 3(a) or 3(b) above.

Section 5. Advancement of Expenses. Expenses incurred by an officer or *Director* in defending a Proceeding may be paid by the Corporation in advance of the final disposition of such Proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such *Director* or officer to repay such amount if he or she is ultimately found not to be entitled to indemnification by the Corporation pursuant to this Article V. Expenses incurred by other employees or agents of the Corporation may be paid in advance upon such terms or consideration that the Board of *Directors* deems appropriate.

Section 6. Continuing Indemnification. Indemnification and advancement of Expenses as provided in this Article shall continue as, unless otherwise provided when such indemnification and advancement of Expenses was authorized or ratified, to a person who has ceased to be a *Director* or officer and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person (unless otherwise provided when such indemnification and advancement of Expenses was authorized or ratified).

Section 7. Liability Insurance. The Corporation shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a *Director* or officer of the Corporation or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a *Director* or officer of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise against any liability asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in any such capacity or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liability under the provisions of this Article V.

Section 8. Employee and Agents. The Board of *Directors* may authorize indemnification or advancement of expenses in favor of other employees or agents upon such terms or conditions as the Board of *Directors* may deem appropriate under the circumstances,

and may enter into agreement thereof with such employees and agents.

Section 9. Indemnification Hereunder in Addition to Other Rights. The rights of an officer or *Director* hereunder shall be in addition to any other rights such person may have under the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation, as amended to date, or the Florida Not For Profit Corporation Act or otherwise, and nothing herein shall be deemed to diminish or otherwise restrict such person's right to indemnification under any such other provision. It is the intent of this Bylaw to provide the maximum indemnification possible under the applicable law. To the extent applicable law or the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation, as in effect on the date hereof or at any time in the future, permit greater indemnification than is provided for in this Bylaw, the parties hereto agree that the indemnitee shall enjoy by this agreement the greater benefits so afforded by such law or provision of the Articles of Incorporation, and this Bylaw and the exceptions to indemnification set forth in Section 3 above, to the extent applicable, shall be deemed amended without any further action by the Corporation to grant such greater benefits.

Section 10. Indemnification to Fullest Extent of Law. This Article V shall be interpreted to permit indemnification to the fullest extent permitted by law. If any part of this Article shall be found to be invalid or ineffective in any action, suit or proceeding, the validity and effect of the remaining part thereof shall not be affected. The provisions of this Article V shall be applicable to all Proceedings commenced after the adoption hereof, whether arising from acts or omissions occurring before or after its adoption.

Section 11. Limitations. In no event shall the Corporation indemnify an officer or *Director* against any Liability or advance Expenses arising out of or relating to a Proceeding brought by, on behalf of, or for the benefit of, such officer or *Director* against the Corporation.

#### ARTICLE VI

##### Seal

The corporate seal shall have the name of the Corporation between two concentric circles and the words "Corporate Seal Florida" and the year of incorporation in the center of that circle.

#### ARTICLE VII

##### Amendment of Bylaws

Subject to approval by the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon a recommendation from the State Board of Missions, the power to adopt, alter, amend or repeal these Bylaws shall be vested in the Board of *Directors*. The Bylaws may be amended by the *Directors* at any regular or special meeting of the *Directors* upon thirty (30) days written notice thereof, and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the *Directors* present at such meeting.

#### ARTICLE VIII

##### Budgets

Section 1. Budget Methods and Approvals – Operating. Annually, the President/*Chief Executive Officer* shall, in cooperation with the Corporation's department heads, develop for board consideration a detailed proposed operating budget for each department of the Corporation, reflecting income and expenses using the same method of accounting used by the Corporation in preparing its regular financial statements. The detailed proposed operating budget shall be presented to the Board of *Directors* in

or prior to July of each year, with the intent of being presented for approval to meetings that year of the State Board of Missions and the Florida Baptist State Convention. Upon approval by the Florida Baptist State Convention of the summarized budget (with any modifications), the budget shall be officially adopted for the respective year. Notwithstanding the official adoption of any budget, management of the Corporation is not permitted to authorize expenses in excess of income of more than ten percent (10%) for any year-to-date period without specific approval of the Board of *Directors*.

Subject to the limitations described in the preceding paragraph, (a) the President/*Chief Executive Officer* is permitted to reallocate budgeted amounts from one department to another, so long as the total budget remains unchanged, and (b) *Vice Presidents* are permitted to incur expenses for their respective area which vary from the amounts budgeted for individual line items, so long as the total expenses for each such area remain within the total amount budgeted for the department.

Variations (expenses in excess of budgeted amounts) by individual departments must be approved by the President/*Chief Executive Officer*. Variations in the total operating budget in excess of ten percent (10%) annually must be approved by the Board of *Directors*.

Section 2. Disbursement of Restricted Funds. Disbursements of donor-restricted funds, to the extent not covered in specifically approved budgets must be approved in advance by the Board of *Directors*, provided that expenditures of \$100,000 or less in accordance with the stated restriction may be made without prior Board approval. Management of the Corporation must establish proper accounting and tracking of donor-restricted contributions so as to ensure that donor-restricted funds are held until spent for authorized purposes.

#### ARTICLE IX

##### Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be determined by the Board of *Directors*.

#### ARTICLE X

##### Members

The Corporation shall not have any members.

The undersigned, being the duly elected and acting Secretary of the Corporation, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitute the validly adopted and true Bylaws of the Corporation as of the date set forth below.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary

(Corporate Seal)

#### **RECOMMENDATION 19: Florida Baptist Children's Homes: Reclassification of Non-Contiguous Parcel Located in Lakeland, Florida**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention approve the reclassification of a two-acre non-contiguous parcel of land in Lakeland, Florida, owned by FBCH Land Holdings, Inc., as non-integral.

**RECOMMENDATION 20: Document Revision: The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., Amended and Restated Charter (Articles of Incorporation)**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention approve the Amended and Restated Charter (Articles of Incorporation), The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*), which shall supersede and replace the existing Charter of The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., a cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention:

**FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION  
THE BAPTIST COLLEGE OF FLORIDA, INC.**

CHARTER

ARTICLE I  
Name

The name of this Corporation shall be The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., and the place where same shall be located is in the city of Graceville, County of Jackson and state of Florida. Branches thereof may be located in such other places as may be from time to time determined consistent with the provisions of this Charter and of the Bylaws of this Corporation and including Article 10 of the Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution. Extension classes (temporary classes to meet off-campus needs) may be conducted as determined by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE II

Purpose or Purposes for Which Corporation Organized

The purpose of this Corporation shall be to promote, provide for, operate and control a program of education and training for *Christian leaders*, for such period of time as the Florida Baptist State Convention shall deem the need for such a program to exist. Further, to promote, advance, operate and control such other program or programs of education as the Florida Baptist State Convention may from time to time determine and enter upon, as it may direct. To that end, this Corporation shall be entitled to receive and acquire property by gift or purchase, or in trust; to own, possess and hold property of every description and kind; to sell, mortgage, convey, lease, release and dispose of same; to sue and be sued; to enjoy all rights and privileges belonging to and incident to corporations not for profit; and to, in every way, manner and respect, do all things and exercise all powers which a natural person might have, do and exercise. However, same shall be held and exercised only for and on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention subject, at all times, to its direction and control.

The Corporation in its actions and functions is to be a religious, educational, benevolent and charitable body, medium, institution, trustee and agency, serving and doing the will of the Florida Baptist State Convention in the matter of its operating, conducting and managing The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., for and on its behalf, and in holding in trust the assets and properties of The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., for its use, maintenance and operation in accordance with the instructions, direction and authorization of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

ARTICLE III

Qualification of Members and Manner of Admission

The membership of this Corporation shall be composed of twenty-eight (28) members, who shall be known as trustees, and of whom twenty-five (25) shall be elected by the Florida Baptist State Convention in its annual sessions in the same manner as the other officers of the Florida Baptist State Convention are elected,

and the other three (3) of whom shall be ex officio members, to wit: the president of the Florida Baptist State Convention (voting member), the executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist State Convention (nonvoting member) and the person who shall be the president of the College (nonvoting member).

The terms of the trustees, other than the ex officio ones, shall be for a period of three (3) years.

The eligibility of a trustee to serve shall depend upon his or her being a member in good standing of a Baptist church regularly affiliated and cooperating with the Florida Baptist State Convention. Membership of a trustee shall cease when the member moves from the state, dies or ceases to be a member in good standing of a Baptist church regularly affiliated and cooperating with the Florida Baptist State Convention. Membership of a trustee shall be terminated when the trustee is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings, except as the remaining trustees shall vote to excuse the absence for good and sufficient reasons shown. The trustee shall be eligible for re-election, provided that no trustee, other than ex officio trustee, who has served as many as five (5) consecutive years, shall be eligible for re-election at least one (1) year has elapsed following his previous service.

No elected trustee shall receive or be lawfully entitled to receive any salary or other remuneration for services connected with the administration of the affairs of this Corporation, although actual expenses incurred by any such trustee may be refunded. No trustee shall have an individual or personal liability of any kind arising out of or in connection with the transactions or other activities or undertakings of this Corporation, other than such trustee or trustees as may have been bonded or required to be bonded under the Bylaws or by resolution of the trustees.

ARTICLE IV

Terms of Existence

This Corporation shall exist perpetually except as it is dissolved by due process of law.

ARTICLE V

Subscribers

The names and addresses of the original subscribers to the original Articles of Incorporation, whether their names were actually subscribed thereto or not, the same being the trustees elected by the Florida Baptist State Convention at a special session held in Jacksonville, Florida, on the 25th day of June AD 1957, to serve for one (1), two (2) and three (3) years, respectively, were as follows:

For Terms Expiring November 1958

Glen A. Watford	PO Box 383 Graceville, Florida
J. Nixon Daniel	Chipley, Florida
L.O. Calhoun	PO Box 87 Bradley, Florida
H.P. Amos	319 Palm Way Kissimmee, Florida
James L. Monroe	PO Box 4753 Warrington, Florida

For Term Expiring November 1959

J.C. McRae	PO Box 247 Graceville, Florida
Henry Allen Parker	First Baptist Church Orlando, Florida

W.S. Hardin PO Box 133  
Titusville, Florida  
H. Floyd Folsom 370 Grand Concourse  
Miami 38, Florida  
Ralph E. Gwin 1818 Fourth Street  
Palmetto, Florida

For Term Expiring November 1960

Nathan C. Brooks, Jr. 500 North Palafox  
Pensacola, Florida  
Lynwood Seay Marianna, Florida  
Edgar R. Cooper 3405 Atlantic Blvd.  
Jacksonville, Florida  
James H. Griffin Route 1 Box 41-13  
Bartow, Florida  
O.E. Burton 417 Jasmine Way  
Clearwater, Florida

And Ex Officio

J. Earl Stallings Ocala, Florida  
John Maguire Jacksonville, Florida

ARTICLE VI  
Officers

The officers of this Corporation shall consist of a president of the Corporation, who shall serve as chairman of the trustees, a vice president of the Corporation, who shall serve as vice chairman of the trustees, and a secretary of the Corporation, who shall also serve as secretary of the trustees, to be elected annually from and by the trustees at the first regular meeting of the trustees held following the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

There shall be a President of the College, elected by and responsible to the trustees, who shall be charged with the administration and management of the college including all personnel actions necessary to carry out the mission and purpose of the institution.

There shall be an Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the chairman, vice chairman, and immediate past chairman of the trustees, if the latter is still an active trustee of the College, the president of the College (nonvoting member), the secretary of the Corporation and the chairman of each of the standing committees. The Executive Committee shall have such authority as may be conferred upon it by the trustees and by the Bylaws of this Corporation.

There shall be in addition to the Executive Committee five (5) standing committees as follows: (a) Finance Committee, (b) Administrative Committee, (c) Maintenance and Building Committee, (d) Promotion and Publicity Committee and (e) Curriculum Committee. The duties and responsibilities of each standing committee shall be such as are conferred upon them by the trustees and by the Bylaws. The chairman and members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the chairman of the trustees annually from the trustees at or immediately following the meeting of the trustees at which the chairman is elected.

All contracts, deeds, mortgages and other legal instruments as shall have been authorized by the trustees shall be executed by the president of the Corporation or by the vice president of the Corporation and by the secretary of the Corporation. In their absence, such person or persons as the trustees may designate may act pro tempore in his or their stead.

ARTICLE VII  
Officers

The names of the officers as of August 28, 1973, who are to serve until the next election or appointment under these Articles of Incorporation are as follows:

President (Chairman of Trustees)	Joe H. Courson
Vice-President (Vice Chairman of Trustees)	Glen A. Watford
Secretary	William Lester Kitching
President of the College	James E. Southerland

ARTICLE VIII  
Board of Trustees

Exclusive of ex officio members, the Board of Trustees as of August 28, 1973, is constituted of fifteen (15) persons, and the names and addresses of the persons who serve as of that date as trustees and who shall serve until expiration of their present terms, with expiration of terms as indicated, are as follows:

Term Expiring November 1973

C. B. Davis	2500 Orange Avenue Orlando, Florida 32804
N. B. Langford, Jr.	1916 NW Tenth Terrace Gainesville, Florida 32601
John W. Owens	301 N.E. 96th Street Miami Shores, Florida 33138
Henry P. Schage	4019 Woodcock Drive, Suite 200 Jacksonville, Florida 32207
Glen A. Watford	PO Box 314 Graceville, Florida 32440

Term Expiring November 1974

Joe H. Courson	Route 2 Box 752-A Deland, Florida 32720
M.D. Durrance	PO Box 350 Archadia, Florida 33821
W. Arnold Shower	3597 Shell Mound Blvd. Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931
O. Errol Simmons	PO Box 1200 Panama City, Florida 32401
W.T. Ward	PO Box 17395 Tampa, Florida 33612

Term Expiring November 1975

Cornelius B. Davis	1736 New Jersey Road Lakeland, Florida 33803
Joseph P. DuBose, Jr.	1301 East Gadsden St Pensacola, Florida 32501
William Lester Kitching	808 Smith Street Graceville, Florida 32440
Edward H. Parker	Route 1 Box 19 Maitland, Florida 32751
Fred N. Witten	PO Box 447 Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

Ex officio member of the Board of Trustees as of August 28, 1973, as follows:

Joe M. Bamburg President of the Florida Baptist Convention	First Baptist Church Milton, Florida 32570
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James E. Southerland                      Baptist Bible Institute  
 President of the Institute              Graceville, Florida 32440  
 Harold C. Bennett                          Florida Baptist Building  
 Executive Secretary-Treasurer      1230 Hendricks Avenue  
 Florida Baptist Convention              Jacksonville, Florida 32207

#### ARTICLE IX

##### Florida Baptist State Convention Statement of Relationship and Other Provisions

Amendments and changes in the Charter and Bylaws of this Corporation shall be subject to approval by the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon a recommendation from the State Board of Missions or by approval of the State Board of Missions acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

This Corporation shall not create or permit the creation of any liability or indebtedness for operations or capital improvements or otherwise without the consent of the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon recommendation from the State Board of Missions or by approval of the State Board of Missions acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

This Corporation in its work will be bound by and will comply with the Business and Financial Plan appearing in the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, as same may be amended from time to time.

Neither the president of the College (not to be confused with the chairman of the Board of Trustees, who is also president of the Corporation) *nor* the executive director treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall serve as a voting trustee, ex officio or otherwise, of the Corporation.

No vacancy in the office of trustee of this Corporation shall be filled other than by action of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

The mortgage or sale of any of the real property of this Corporation now or hereafter used by it in the furtherance of its objective must be conditioned upon approval by the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon recommendation of the State Board of Missions or by approval of the State Board of Missions acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to property acquired by this Corporation, by gift or otherwise, which does not comprise an integral part of the operation of this Corporation.

Statement of relationship: The State Board of Missions acts for the Florida Baptist State Convention between its annual meetings; thus, the State Board of Missions should counsel the *Cooperating Ministries* of the Florida Baptist State Convention between said annual meetings, and there should be a free exchange between all of the *Cooperating Ministries* of the Florida Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions.

#### ARTICLE X

##### Disposition of Assets on Dissolution

Should this Corporation ever be dissolved, all of its assets shall be distributed to and vested in the Florida Baptist State Convention, a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Florida, or such other trustee body which qualifies under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States Government as an exempt organization, as shall be authorized and directed by the Florida Baptist State Convention or such body as shall succeed to or be successor of the Florida Baptist State Convention, and shall under no circumstances be distributed to any of the individual members, officers or trustees of this Corporation.

#### ARTICLE XI Bylaws

The trustees of this Corporation shall adopt such bylaws and amendments thereto as shall not be inconsistent with the laws of the State of Florida and with these Articles of Incorporation.

##### Amendment to Articles of Incorporation

Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be had only in accordance with law, pursuant to notice to be given as shall be provided in the Bylaws and subject to the approval of the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon a recommendation from the State Board of Missions or by approval of the State Board of Missions acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 21: Document Revision: The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., Amended and Restated Bylaws**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention approve Amended and Restated Bylaws, The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., to read as follows (revisions indicated by *italics*), which shall supersede and replace the existing Bylaws of The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., a cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention:

#### BYLAWS

##### THE BAPTIST COLLEGE OF FLORIDA, INC.

#### Preamble

*The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., first and foremost, is a Christian-faith-based, not-for-profit cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention. At all times, and in all ways, our ministry conduct, values, tenets, and principles and practices will remain derived from – and governed by – the Holy Scriptures. As a cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention, we subscribe to and accept The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000 as a document which, at least in part, sets forth our understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures.*

#### ARTICLE I

##### Membership

The membership of the Corporation shall be as provided in Article III of the Charter and they shall be called trustees. The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., shall be referred to herein as the College. The Florida Baptist State Convention shall be referred to herein as the Convention.

#### ARTICLE II

##### Officers

1. The officers of this Corporation shall be as provided in Article VI of the Charter, and they shall perform all the duties usually performed by such officers pertaining to their respective offices, including those as hereinafter set forth, as well as those provided in the Charter.
2. The chairman shall preside at all meetings, shall appoint all committee members, shall execute all legal papers that require execution and shall be a member (ex officio) of all committees.
3. The vice-chairman shall perform the duties of the chairman in his absence, resignation or death.
4. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings, making at least three copies, one of which shall be

furnished to the president of the College, one of which shall be furnished to the Florida Baptist *State* Convention and the original of which shall be kept by the secretary and be bound yearly and deposited in the vault of the College. All three copies shall bear the signature of the secretary for identification purposes. He shall execute all legal papers that require execution and place the seal of the Corporation on such papers as require the seal. Should a poll of trustees be ordered, the secretary shall have the poll conducted and preserve the returns and results as a part of the minutes.

5. The president of the College shall administer and manage the College, give guidance and direction to the faculty and establish and maintain the curriculum, subject, however, to the direction of the trustees. The trustees shall formulate general and specific policies for the College and the President shall be responsible for implementing these policies. He shall be directly responsible to the trustees for the daily administration and management of the College. The faculty, student body and all employed personnel shall implement the policies which the President of the College executes on behalf of the trustees. The President shall prepare an annual report which shall be included in the annual report of the Convention. He shall be an ex officio nonvoting member of all standing committees.
  6. In addition, the president shall keep all the legal papers, a copy of the minutes, all securities, books, books of account and other records. He shall take care of the funds of the College, holding same subject to the order of the Finance Committee and the trustees. He shall make quarterly reports and an annual report to the trustees of all receipts and disbursements. The annual report shall be audited and included in the annual report to the Convention. He shall prepare, with the help of the Finance Committee, and submit to the trustees, an annual estimate of the needs of the College and a proposed budget. All monies shall be deposited in such depository or depositories as shall be selected by the trustees. All checks issued shall have two signatures as authorized by the trustees. The accounts shall be audited at least once a year and more often if the Convention or the trustees so require. Those authorized to sign checks and other appropriate staff members shall be adequately bonded.
  7. The President of the College shall be elected by the trustees. In selecting the President, the trustees shall elect a presidential search committee which shall seek out a qualified candidate for the office of President. This committee shall be composed of five trustees. Other members of the College's public may be consulted as advisors. The search committee shall present to the full Board of Trustees the credentials of the potential President for the trustees' review and decision.
3. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the trustees. However, meetings may be held with less than a quorum, provided that no decision, resolution, vote or action by less than a majority shall become effective until the trustees not present shall have been polled as hereinafter provided.
  4. When questions and matters for decision arise which cannot be determined by the Executive Committee and a special meeting cannot be conveniently called, or if called and there is not a quorum present, the trustees shall be polled by order of the chairman of the trustees and their vote secured in writing. In all such instances, it shall require the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the trustees before same shall become effective.
  5. Notices of the meetings shall be sent at the direction of the chairman of the trustees in writing at least a week in advance, and where the notice is of a special called meeting the purpose shall be briefly stated. Notices for meetings at which an amendment to the Charter or to the Bylaws is to be considered shall be sent at least ten (10) days in advance, together with a copy of the proposed amendment.
  6. Robert's Rules of Order, as far as applicable, shall be followed when rules of order are needed.

#### ARTICLE IV Voting and Vacancies

1. Each trustee shall have one vote, but proxies shall not be permitted.
2. Should any administrative office in the Corporation become vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by election from the remaining trustees at the next meeting.

#### ARTICLE V Committees

1. There shall be the following standing committees inclusive of the Trustee Executive Committee. The chairman of each shall be appointed annually. They shall serve until their successors are appointed or until they have been relieved. Their duties shall be as listed below and such other duties as may be assigned to them by the trustees:
  - (a) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee shall be composed of the chairman, vice-chairman and immediate past chairman of the trustees, if the latter is still an active trustee of the College, the president of the College (nonvoting member), the secretary of the Corporation and the chairman of each of the five standing committees. The Executive Committee shall meet as often as the chairman of the trustees or the president of the College feels is necessary and shall have authority to act for the trustees between meetings.
  - (b) FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee shall anticipate the financial needs; shall assist the president of the College in preparing tentative budgets for presentation at the annual meeting; shall supervise, monitor purchases and disbursements; shall review the plan for the raising of all finances for maintenance and capital needs of the College, other than those that shall be derived from the Convention and from gifts of donors.

#### ARTICLE III Meetings

1. The annual meeting shall be held at Graceville, Florida. Other meetings may be held elsewhere within the limits of the state of Florida.
2. There shall be an annual meeting in the spring, a pre-convention meeting prior to the meeting of the Florida Baptist *State* Convention and a post-convention meeting following the meeting of the Florida Baptist *State* Convention. The chairman or president may call special meetings. Upon written request of ten or more of the trustees, the chairman shall call special meetings.

- (c) **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:** The Administrative Committee shall work with the president of the College in all matters relating to the administration and management of the College, relating to all personnel, rank and salary-scale policies of faculty and key administrative employees, and shall assume such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees.
- (d) **MAINTENANCE AND BUILDING COMMITTEE:** The Maintenance and Building Committee shall have supervision of the buildings, grounds and expansion and development of the College's physical assets and holdings for maintenance, sanitation, new construction, repair and for general planning for the future.
- (e) **PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE:** The Promotion and Publicity Committee shall promote "good will", secure publicity, handle publications, supervise and direct field agents and correspondence.
- (f) **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:** The Curriculum Committee shall consider all matters relating to the course and curricula of instruction of the College and any proposed changes therein. This committee shall also examine the system of instruction, educational management, rules, discipline, and all other matters pertaining to the educational programs of the College, and report and make recommendations thereon to the Board of Trustees. This committee will seek to promote academic excellence and vocational proficiency. It shall also assume such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees.
2. There shall be such other committees as may be needed from time to time and as shall be authorized by the trustees.
  3. Should there not be unanimity of thinking by the members of any standing or special committee on or pertaining to a matter, then such matter shall be brought to the trustees before the committee may proceed in the matter.

#### ARTICLE VI

##### Business and Financial Plan

The Business and Financial Plan of the Convention, insofar as applicable, shall be binding upon the College and shall not be departed from except upon authorization of the Convention or by approval of the State Board of Missions acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist *State* Convention. In those instances where said Plan is not applicable, the Finance Committee shall make its recommendation to the trustees, who shall determine and establish the policy and plan to be followed in such instance and instances, subject to approval by the Convention or by approval of the State Board of Missions acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist *State* Convention.

#### ARTICLE VII

##### Calendar and Fiscal Years

The calendar year of the college shall be from June 1 of one year through May 31 of the ensuing year. The fiscal year of the college shall be from July 1 of one year through June 30 of the ensuing year.

#### ARTICLE VIII Seal of the Corporation

1. The seal of the Corporation shall be a disk in shape, in the outer circumference of which shall appear the words "THE BAPTIST COLLEGE OF FLORIDA INC." and "A Corporation Not for Profit", and in the center of which shall be the word "SEAL" and the date "1957".
2. The secretary shall be the custodian of the seal and shall affix the same to all writings, documents and legal papers requiring the seal of the Corporation, when so ordered. The seal shall be kept in the *President's* office of the College.

#### ARTICLE IX

##### Amendments

1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been furnished to each trustee, together with a written notice of the meeting and its purpose, at least ten (10) days before the meeting is to be held and that same receives an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the trustees, subject to approval by the Florida Baptist *State* Convention acting upon a recommendation from the State Board of Missions or by approval of the State Board of Missions acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist *State* Convention.
2. Amendments to the Charter may be had in accordance with Article IX of the Charter, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been furnished to each trustee, together with a written notice of the meeting and its purpose, at least ten (10) days before the meeting is to be held and that same receives an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the trustees, subject to approval by the Florida Baptist *State* Convention acting upon a recommendation from the State Board of Missions or by approval of the State Board of Missions acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist *State* Convention.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 22: Florida Baptist State Convention: Date Change for 2016 Annual Meeting**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention change the meeting dates for the year 2016 annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention to **November 14-15, 2016**, with the understanding the location of Clearwater, Florida, would remain the same.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 23: Florida Baptist State Convention: Date and Location of 2022 Annual Meeting**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention approve the year 2022 annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention be held **November 14-15, 2022**, in **Fort Lauderdale, Florida**.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 24: Report on New Church Starts**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention receive as information the following congregations, began as "new church starts," between October 1, 2014, and July 31, 2015, as cooperating churches which have been endorsed and are affiliated with cooperating local Baptist associations as listed, **with the understanding that additional new church starts may be subsequently added;** and



That all congregations, having been endorsed by a cooperating local association as of July 31, 2015, are considered as cooperating local churches with this State Convention, and are entitled to the benefits and privileges as defined by Bylaw 2(B), Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, until such time as the congregation fails to fulfill its commitment during any calendar year, or otherwise fails to maintain the qualifications of an at-large cooperating church as set forth in Bylaw 2(B); and

That the Florida Baptist State Convention hereby reaffirms the scripturally-based and historic Baptist principle of autonomy of each local Baptist church, whose affiliation with this State Convention is based upon voluntary cooperation, and declares that this State Convention's action affirming an endorsement of cooperation, neither creates nor assumes hierarchical fiduciary, partnership or agency relationship between the Florida Baptist State Convention and its corporate entity, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and any one of the following churches:

**2014-15 Report on New Church Starts**  
**(October 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015)**

A total of 55 new churches were reported representing the following cultural, ethnic, and language groups: Anglo (11); African-American (6); Multi-Ethnic (13); Hispanic (15); Haitian (8); Brazilian (1); and Burma (1).

***Beulah Association***

Southridge Community, Lake City (*Anglo*)  
Suwannee River Cowboy, Trenton (*Anglo*)

***Big Lake Association***

First Hispanic Clewiston, Clewiston (*Hispanic*)

***Brevard Association***

Buenas Nuevas, Rockledge (*Hispanic*)

***Emerald Coast Association***

Front Porch, Fort Walton Beach (*Multi-ethnic*)

***Florida Association***

Gracepointe, Tallahassee (*Multi-ethnic*)

***Greater Orlando Association***

Poinciana Hispanic, Orlando (*Hispanic*)  
Rivers of Life, Orlando (*Brazilian*)  
Eglise Evangelique Baptiste de Triomphe, Orlando (*Haitian*)

***Gulf Stream Association***

Gospel Life Baptist Church, Davie (*Anglo*)

***Halifax Association***

Set Free Church, Daytona Beach (*Multi-ethnic*)

***Jacksonville Association***

Primera Iglesia Hispana Bautista de Jacksonville,  
Jacksonville (*Hispanic*)  
Grace Life Church, Orange Park (*Anglo*)  
High Calling Worship Center, Jacksonville (*African-American*)  
Unified Baptist Church, Jacksonville (*African-American*)  
Zomi Christian Church, Jacksonville (*Zomi/Burma*)

***Manatee Southern Association***

King's River, Bradenton (*Multi-ethnic*)

***Marion Association***

Fishermen Baptist Church, Ocala (*Haitian*)  
Summerfield Cowboy Church, Summerfield (*Anglo*)

***Miami Association***

Iglesia Cristiana Dia De Adoracion, Davie (*Hispanic*)  
Blessed Redeemer Baptist Church, Miramar (*Multi-ethnic*)  
Christ Impact Church, Cutler Bay (*Multi-ethnic*)  
Miami Baptist Church French & Creole Outreach, Miami (*Haitian*)  
Iglesia Bautista Leon De Juda, Miami (*Hispanic*)  
Life Point Miami, Homestead (*Multi-ethnic*)  
Movement Christian Church, Homestead (*Multi-ethnic*)  
Iglesia Bautista Palabra De Dios, Hialeah (*Hispanic*)  
Pathway Church, Miami (*Multi-ethnic*)  
Principe De Paz Baptist Church, Miami (*Hispanic*)  
Real Church, Hollywood (*Multi-ethnic*)  
Renewed Bethel Baptist Church, Miami (*African-American*)  
The Summit Church of Homestead, Homestead (*Multi-ethnic*)  
Iglesia Bautista Torre de Bendicion, Medley (*Hispanic*)  
Turning Point of Westchester, Miami (*Hispanic*)  
Word of Truth, Miami (*African-American*)

***Nature Coast Association***

New Life Church, Webster (*Multi-ethnic*)  
Spring Life Church, Brooksville (*Anglo*)

***North Central Florida Association***

The First Church of Gainesville, Gainesville (*African-American*)  
River Cross Ft. Clarke, Gainesville (*Anglo*)

***Northeast Florida Association***

Love of Christ Community Church, Jacksonville (*African-American*)

***Palm Beach Network***

Community Christian Family Fellowship, Lantana (*Haitian*)  
Instrumento De Tu Gloria, Palm Beach (*Hispanic*)  
Lifesong Community Church, Jupiter (*Anglo*)  
Iglesia Bautista Lumbrera, Lake Worth (*Hispanic*)

***Ridge Association***

Thrive Church, Eloise (*Anglo*)

***Royal Palm Association***

The Fountain of Worship, Naples (*Haitian*)  
Galilee Baptist Church, Fort Myers (*Haitian*)

***Seminole Association***

Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Creacion, Deltona (*Hispanic*)

***Southwest Florida Association***

Second Haitian Baptist Church of North Port, North Port (*Haitian*)

***St. Johns River Association***

Iglesia Cristiana del Sur de Putnam, Crescent City (*Hispanic*)

***Suwannee Association***

The Orchard Jasper, Jasper (*Anglo*)  
The Orchard Live Oak, Live Oak (*Anglo*)

***Tampa Bay Association***

Christian Outreach Ministry of Ruskin, Apollo Beach (*Haitian*)

***Treasure Coast Association***

Driftwood Church at the Beach, Jensen Beach (*Multi-ethnic*)  
Iglesia Bautista Port San Lucie, Stuart (*Hispanic*)

**RECOMMENDATION 25: Resolution of Appreciation for Brenda B. McCollum**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the following resolution of appreciation for Brenda B. McCollum:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
FOR  
BRENDA B. McCOLLUM

WHEREAS, Brenda B. McCollum has served the Florida Baptist Convention since the year 2001, and after serving 14 years and 7 months, is expected to retire on December 31, 2015, from service as the Strategist, Strategic Endowed Giving Team, Office of the Assistant Executive Director, Florida Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, Brenda McCollum accepted Christ as her personal Savior at the age of nine and was baptized in the Oakcrest Baptist Church, Ocala, Florida; and responding to the call of God she has been a faithful and committed layperson in the service of the Lord; and

WHEREAS, Brenda McCollum graduated from the University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree; and subsequently earned both the Master of Arts degree in 1988, from the University of Florida, Gainesville, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1993 from the University of Florida College of Law, Gainesville, Florida; and

WHEREAS, during her professional career Brenda McCollum served as a high school teacher, a technical editor, and as legal counsel to the Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, during her 14 years of service with the Florida Baptist Convention, Brenda McCollum has led conferences and seminars, as well as provided personal consultation to Florida Baptists, on estate planning and planned giving opportunities to benefit Baptist mission and ministry causes; and

WHEREAS, as a result of her legal expertise and counsel Florida Baptists have directed her to prepare wills and trusts that are expected to provide over \$84 million to Baptist ministries ranging from local churches to global missions' organizations; and

WHEREAS, as a result of her tireless and committed efforts to provide legal advice and guidance resulting in Florida Baptists committing their financial resources to benefit God's Kingdom, Brenda McCollum has garnered the respect, trust and friendship of pastors and members in churches, both large and small, and of all socio-economic levels; and

WHEREAS, Brenda McCollum's commitment and service to Florida Baptists has been motivated by the scripture passage of II Timothy 1:7 in which God's people are reminded, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind;" now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 9-10, 2015, in Panama City, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Brenda B. McCollum, given to our Lord and to Florida Baptists, and we assure her and her husband Steve of the prayers, love and best wishes of this Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Brenda B. McCollum, as an expression of our love and appreciation to her.

**RECOMMENDATION 26: Resolution of Appreciation for Richard L. Shepherd**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the following resolution of appreciation for Richard L. Shepherd:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
FOR  
RICHARD L. SHEPHERD

WHEREAS, Richard L. (Rick) Shepherd served the Florida Baptist Convention since the year 2000, and after serving 15 years and 3 months, retired on October 31, 2015, from service as the Strategist, Prayer/Spiritual Awakening Team, Evangelism Group, Florida Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepherd accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of 16 and was baptized in the First Baptist Church, Chickasaw, Alabama; and responding to the call of God was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepherd graduated from Mobile College (now University of Mobile), Mobile, Alabama, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1974; and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1977, and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1982; and

WHEREAS, during his ministry career serving in associate pastor and teaching roles that emphasized prayer and spiritual awakening, Dr. Shepherd served churches in Tennessee and Texas; and

WHEREAS, during his 15 years of service with the Florida Baptist Convention, Dr. Shepherd served as director of prayer/spiritual awakening, a task which was committed to providing resources, encouragement and training of Florida Baptist church leaders and members to commit to and organize for personal and corporate prayer; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, Dr. Shepherd has assisted churches and its members to be transformed by prayer resulting in a spiritual awakening that not only strengthened and undergirded the mission and ministry of local churches, but demonstrated the Biblical truth that if we pray first and plan second, Florida Baptists have seen and benefitted from God's response; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Dr. Shepherd's constant focus on encouraging and emphasizing special prayer vigils over the years, Florida Baptists have seen the positive response of God who has heard and worked in their midst, seeing lives changed and Jesus Christ exalted; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepherd's commitment and service to Florida Baptists has been motivated by the scripture passage of Romans 12:1-2 in which God's people are encouraged "to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. . .;" now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 9-10, 2015, in Panama City, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Richard L. Shepherd, given to our Lord and to Florida Baptists, and we assure him and his wife Linda Gail, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Richard L. Shepherd, as an expression of our love and appreciation to him.

**RECOMMENDATION 27: Resolution of Appreciation for Frank Moreno**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the following resolution of appreciation for Frank Moreno:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
FOR  
FRANK MORENO

WHEREAS, Frank Moreno served the Florida Baptist Convention since 1994, and after serving 21 years, retired on July 31, 2015, from service as the Team Strategist, Language Church Planting Team, Florida Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, Frank Moreno accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of 16 and was baptized in the Del Salvador Baptist Church, Valencia, Spain; and responding to the call of God was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Frank Moreno graduated from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, Texas, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1983; attended University of Houston, Houston, Texas, where he earned a Master of Arts degree in 1990; he earned a Master of Arts in Missiology degree in 2002 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas; he also earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2006 from Louisiana Baptist University and Theological Seminary, Shreveport, Louisiana; and in 2014 received the Doctor of Ministry degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, during his ministry career Dr. Moreno served as pastor of several churches in Texas, in addition to serving in various positions with the Union Baptist Association, Houston, Texas, between 1989 – 1994; and

WHEREAS, during his 21 years of service with the Florida Baptist Convention, Dr. Moreno, from 1994 to 2006, served as director, Language Church Planting Department, and from 2006 – 2011 served as Director, Language Division; and between 2011 – 2015 served as the Team Strategist, Language Church Planting Team; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Dr. Moreno provided strong leadership in the church starting efforts among language and ethnic congregations which resulted in over 650 churches being planted and subsequently he led in the separate establishment of statewide fellowships for Hispanic and Haitian pastors and churches; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Dr. Moreno was a part of the Florida Baptist Convention leadership that made the initial contact and participated in the exploratory discussions that led to the establishment of the missions' partnership with the Western Cuba Baptist Convention in 1997, and subsequently Dr. Moreno conducted the first pastor training projects in Cuba until 1999; and

WHEREAS, Brother Moreno's commitment and service to Florida Baptists have been motivated by the scripture passage of Psalms 138:8 which has promised, "The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; thy mercy O Lord, endureth forever: forsake not the works of thine own hands." now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 9-10, 2015, in Panama City, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Dr. Frank Moreno, given to our Lord and to Florida Baptists, and we assure him and his wife Magdalena, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Frank Moreno, as an expression of our love and appreciation to him.

**RECOMMENDATION 28: Resolution of Appreciation for David E. Burton**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the following resolution of appreciation for David E. Burton:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
FOR  
DAVID E. BURTON

WHEREAS, David E. Burton served the Florida Baptist Convention since 1989, and after serving 25 years and 9 months, retired on August 31, 2015, from service as the Lead Strategist, Evangelism Group, Florida Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, David Burton accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of nine and was baptized in the First Baptist Church, Tiptonville, Tennessee; and responding to the call of God was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1973; and

WHEREAS, David Burton graduated from Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975; and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1979; and

WHEREAS, during his ministry career serving in youth, evangelism and pastoral roles, David Burton served churches in Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Florida; and

WHEREAS, during his nearly 26 years of service with the Florida Baptist Convention, Rev. Burton, from 1989 to 2001, served as director of personal evangelism, and in 2001 was named to lead the then Evangelism Division, now called the Evangelism Group, which has been committed to encouraging and training Florida Baptist church leaders and members to communicate the message and spirit of New Testament evangelism; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, David Burton developed several personal evangelism tools and methods – including the Red Dot, Life-Death tracts, Hand-to-Hand evangelism and Love Your Neighbor-Share Christ – which have motivated and helped Florida Baptists to move out of the pew into the marketplace involved in personal evangelism activities; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Rev. Burton's constant focus on encouraging and emphasizing intentional personal soul-winning and church evangelism, Florida Baptist churches have baptized an accumulative total of over 800,000 new believers into God's Kingdom, which in the last seven consecutive years resulted in Florida Baptists leading the Southern Baptist Convention in total baptisms; and

WHEREAS, David Burton's commitment and service to Florida Baptists has been motivated by the scripture passage of Philemon 6 in which God's people are encouraged to, "... be active in sharing your faith for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ;" now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 9-10, 2015, in Panama City, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of David E. Burton, given to our Lord and to Florida Baptists, and we assure him and his wife Kathy, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to David E. Burton, as an expression of our love and appreciation to him.

**RECOMMENDATION 29: Resolution of Appreciation for Donald S. Hepburn**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the following resolution of appreciation for Donald S. Hepburn:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
FOR  
DONALD S. HEPBURN

WHEREAS, Donald Hepburn has served the Florida Baptist Convention since 1983, and after serving 32 years and 8 months, is expected to retire on December 31, 2015, from service as the Director, Public Relations/Missions Promotion, Florida Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, Donald Hepburn accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of 11 and was baptized in the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, Florida; and responding to the call of God to fulltime Christian service at age 17 he has been a faithful and committed layman in the service of the Lord; and

WHEREAS, Brother Hepburn graduated from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970; he earned a Master of Religious Education degree in 1972 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas; and later in 1983 earned the M.S. degree in human relations and organization development from the University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California; and

WHEREAS, during his laity ministry in denominational service, Brother Hepburn, as a communications specialist and since 1972 as an accredited public relations practitioner, served Carson-Newman College, 1968–1970; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1970–1978; and The Southern Baptist General Convention of California, 1978–1983; and

WHEREAS, during his 32-plus years of service with the Florida Baptist Convention, Mr. Hepburn has led in the development and expansion of a program of public relations and communications focused on telling the missions and ministry story of Florida Baptists, which included working on his own time to research and write for publication in *2013 Favored Florida, Volume One: 1784–1939*, which he co-authored with the late Dr. Earl Joiner; and

WHEREAS, as the longtime Convention “wordsmith,” Donald Hepburn has researched and written untold numbers of reports, documents, recommendations and bylaw narrative that have undergirded the efficient work of the State Board of Missions and the Florida Baptist State Convention; and

WHEREAS, as a strong advocate of the scriptural imperative to “let all things be done decently and in order,” Mr. Hepburn has worked with attention to details and tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning of the annual meetings of the State Convention, the quarterly meetings of the State Board of Missions, and numerous other special events; and

WHEREAS, Donald Hepburn’s commitment and faithful service to Florida Baptists has been motivated by the scripture passage of Philippians 4:13 which promises, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me;” now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 9-10, 2015, in Panama City, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Donald S. Hepburn, given to our Lord and to Florida Baptists, and we assure him of the prayers, love and best wishes of

this Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Donald Hepburn, as an expression of our love and appreciation to him.

**RECOMMENDATION 30: Adoption of One Hundred and Thirty-Fifth Annual Report of the State Board of Missions**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the one hundred and thirty-fifth annual report of the State Board of Missions to the Florida Baptist State Convention, covering the period of October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015.



## COOPERATING MINISTRIES

### The Baptist College of Florida

THOMAS A. KINCHEN, Ph.D.  
*President*

The Baptist College of Florida is an institution of higher learning whose focus is "Changing the World through the Unchanging Word®." We have a main campus located in Graceville, Florida and extension sites located in Jacksonville, Orlando (2), Pensacola and Panama City. Distance learning opportunities for degree completion or full degree programs are available via Internet. As a Cooperating Ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention, the college is a vital partner in the mission enterprises of Florida Baptists. Students participate in mission and evangelistic activities in addition to rigorous academics and uplifting worship.

The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to offer associate, baccalaureate and masters' degrees. It holds membership in the National Association of Schools of Music (11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21, Reston, VA 20190: Telephone number 703-437-0700) and the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities. Numerous scholarship funds are available to all qualified students.

#### Admission Requirements:

The Baptist College of Florida practices a comprehensive approach in admission policy. Degree seeking applicants:

- Will have been a Christian with active participation in a local church for at least one year;
- Will provide affirmation of faith and service;
- Will be recommended by a local Christian church;
- Will submit a personal recommendation;
- Will be of strong moral character;
- Will not use tobacco, recreational narcotics, alcohol or any other intoxicants in any form or amount;
- Will be emotionally and socially capable of adjusting to college life;
- Will show evidence of responsibility in personal money management;
- Will submit descriptions of satisfactory resolution of any and all divorces and remarriages;
- Will submit proof of immunizations for measles and rubella as indicated by Rule 6C-6.001(5) Florida Administrative Code before acceptance into BCF;
- Will possess a high school diploma or the equivalent General Education Diploma (GED);
- Will submit official transcripts from any and all institutions of higher education attended;
- Will meet the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) requirements.

Faculty members are committed Christians having impeccable character, church leadership experience and significant field experience. The vast majority of these highly qualified faculty members hold doctoral degrees.

Specialized training is offered in the pastoral, Christian education, Business and music and worship ministries as well as teacher education. Diplomas and degrees offered include:

- Associate of Divinity
- Associate of Arts (Christian Education; Music);
- Bachelor of Arts (Biblical Studies; Business Leadership;

Christian Counseling; Christian Studies; Elementary Education; English; English Secondary Education; History and Social Studies; History and Social Studies Secondary Education; Leadership and Christian Education [Church Administration, Student Ministry or Christian Education Staff]; Ministry [General or Pastoral]; Ministry Studies; Missions; Missions with a Concentration in Aviation; and Music.

- Bachelor of Music (Contemporary Worship Ministry)
- Bachelor of Music Education (Choral or Instrumental)
- Master of Arts in Christian Studies (Biblical Studies, Christian Ministry)
- Master of Arts in Music and Worship Leadership

The curriculum, which is immersed in a strong Christian Worldview, features an excellent mixture of liberal arts courses common to most colleges and universities as well as ministry preparation courses leading to direct ministerial service or graduate study. An extremely high percentage (93%) of our graduates was accepted into graduate school programs or into their chosen field of service.

#### Activity Highlights of 2014-2015:

- Completed construction of Maintenance Center;
- Continued demolition of old student housing units;
- Completed construction of new Dining/Student Center;
- Approved construction of a new Education Center;
- Expanded Missions Aviation program by receiving additional planes;
- Conducted first Elevate music and worship arts camp;
- College was designated as a Best Value for Business Administration programs; and
- College was recognized for its Top Quality program in Christian Counseling.

For further information concerning the programs of study offered at The Baptist College of Florida, contact Sandra Richards; Director of Enrollment Management and Marketing; 5400 College Drive; Graceville, FL 32440; 1-800-328-2660 ext. 415.



## COOPERATING MINISTRIES

### Florida Baptist Children's Homes

JERRY T. HAAG, Ph.D., C.F.P.  
*President*

#### One year can turn a life around!

We have seen it firsthand. As the weeks and months move along, a child in distress can go from mourning to smiling. From being bruised to being embraced. From feeling broken to feeling at home. This past year was one of touching the lives of precious children and families – 132,554 of them!

This past year, children in foster care returned to their families with new hope. Backpacks for boys and girls in need were filled with food. Families became complete when adoptions were finalized. Children in developing nations had their lives change because people across the world care for them through our expanded sponsorship program. Doors of a new safe home were opened for girls victimized by sex trafficking.

Looking forward, we are excited to expand to meet the needs

of children through our Compassion Ministries, new Orphan Care Ministries and new Single Mother's and Children Program! As always, we will keep our focus on changing the life of one more child like \*Olivia. Olivia is a wonderful girl we have come to know through The Porch Light. As a survivor of sex trafficking, Olivia came to us in recent months anxious, hurt and angry. After being with us for a short time, Olivia was invited to go to a conference where she accepted the healing love of Jesus. Olivia experienced change that only Christ can bring, and we are excited about how God will continue to work in her life for His glory! [*\*Name changed for confidentiality reasons.*]

Thank you for coming alongside us to help one more child-like Olivia!

#### **Our Ministries:**

Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Orphan's Heart and The Porch Light are passionate about continuing to help one more child. Through our domestic and international childcare impact, we are changing the lives of orphaned and disadvantaged children in Florida and around the world.

#### **Children and families served from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015:**

We served **132,554** children and families through our domestic and international programs:

- Served **45,632** children and families through Compassion Ministries;
- Served **11,655** meals to children through Compassion Ministries;
- Served **244** children in Residential Care;
- Served **147** children in Emergency Shelter Care;
- Served **35** children through our Adoptions Program;
- Served **750** children in our Foster Care Program;
- Served **38** clients in our Maternity Care Services;
- Served **2,345** family members through all of our programs;
- Served **316** loving Christian foster homes;
- Served **73** forever homes through adoption;
- Received **1,607** inquiries for services or placements;
- Served **3,179** people through our Sanctity of Human Life Program;
- Served **28** girls through The Porch Light and impacted **27,650** through advocacy and prevention;
- Completed **88** short-term mission trips with **1,120** participants with Orphan's Heart;
- Served **37,686** children and **8,293** adults/families through Orphan's Heart; and
- Served **4,479** medical patients through Orphan's Heart.

#### **Florida Baptist Children's Homes Update:**

We are expanding our Compassion Ministries in Jacksonville, Lakeland, Miami and Tallahassee to meet the physical needs of more children and families throughout the state, combat child hunger and poverty and prevent more cases of neglect and abuse – all while sharing the love of Jesus! By partnering with Title 1 elementary schools in Florida, where many of the children are facing dire physical needs (and receiving free or reduced lunch), we will make sure children do not go hungry on the weekends and during the summer months. In these four cities, our Compassion Ministries will host back-to-school events each year and will be a daily source for food, clothing and diapers for families in need. We will also initiate a full-scale mentoring program to build relationships and impact family cultures for Christ!

In the coming year, we will launch our Single Mother's & Children Program to restore single-mom families with hope, comfort, shelter and spiritual guidance while they obtain resources needed to move toward successful independent living.

This year, we launched iServe Kids, a domestic mission trip program that brings lasting change for children in need! Through iServe Kids, groups of adults and youth provide recreational and VBS opportunities for children on one of Florida's Baptist Children's Homes' campuses.

This year, we launched Orphan Care Ministry sites with a vision to have four offices over the next five years throughout the state. Our Orphan Care Ministry sites will have a direct impact on children as we connect with the people/resources needed to change the lives of thousands of children every year! This will be a creative service for the Church body to make a lasting difference for children. The service will work to recruit and empower more foster and adoptive parents, as well as equip churches to provide wrap-around services for children and families facing unthinkable circumstances.

#### **Orphan's Heart Update:**

We are unique in that Orphan's Heart takes the overflow of compassion and concern Florida Baptists hold in their hearts for orphans here, multiplying it to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those around the world. Orphan's Heart helps offer a hope that lasts for true orphans and social orphans by providing critical needs such as life-changing food, life-altering education, life-saving medical access, as well as the message of the Gospel. Through Florida Baptist Children's Homes, The Porch Light and Orphan's Heart, together as Florida Baptists, we can run to these orphaned and abandoned children with the love of Jesus Christ!

Through Orphan's Heart, we are now serving at 29 ministry sites in 14 developing nations! At the Malnutrition Center in Guatemala, we are serving an average of 80 hungry children per day who are receiving nourishment and love from our Christian volunteers and staff. In the past year, we launched an expanded child sponsorship program where individuals, churches and groups can sponsor a child in a developing nation for \$35 a month – providing food, clothes, medicine, educational supplies and more. Currently, 820 children are sponsored and 473 are waiting to be sponsored.

In Nicaragua, South Africa, Cuba, Costa Rica, Tanzania, Romania, Haiti, Latvia and Uganda, we are continuing to provide for children and families in need. Whether it is through a feeding program, the Orphan's Heart sponsorship program or bringing support to orphanages, we are meeting tangible needs while also sharing the life-changing love of Jesus.

Sadly, there are millions in the Dominican Republic living below the national poverty line, including precious children who have overwhelming physical and medical needs. In the past year, Orphan's Heart completed the Community Transformation Center in El Carrizal, where the locals now worship and gather as a community. Since the opening of the center, which was purposely built in the heart of the community, children come from afar to hear Bible stories and learn about Jesus. Orphan's Heart teams are continuing to build homes for families in El Carrizal.

**We are excited about the doors God continues to open as we obediently work to bring everlasting hope to one more child in Florida and around the world!**

***Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27***

Please contact us if you would like to visit one of our campus locations or if you are able to help this ministry in any way. We can be reached by any of the following:

863.687.8811

Children@FBCHomes.org

www.FBCHomes.org/www.OrphansHeart.org



**COOPERATING MINISTRIES**  
Florida Baptist  
Financial Services, Inc.

**EDDIE L. McCLELLAND**  
*President/CEO*

Since 1947, this ministry has carried out its mission to Florida Baptists of promoting charitable planned giving and providing investment management for the gifts and investments that strengthen Southern Baptist ministries today and tomorrow.

Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc. operates through three subsidiary corporations: Florida Baptist Foundation, Church Growth Investment Fund and Florida Baptist Retirement Center. Each of our companies is guided by a team of professional, well-educated and experienced men and women serving in their unique specialized area of ministry.

Florida Baptist Foundation is celebrating its 67th anniversary as the Chartered Trust Agency of the Florida Baptist State Convention. The Florida Baptist Foundation exists: (1) to teach and encourage Florida Baptists the biblical mandates of financial stewardship so more resources will be available for His Kingdom advancement; and (2) to administer the endowment and trust funds that are established by individuals in life and/or at death for the benefit of Kingdom advancement through Baptist ministries that are dear to their hearts.

Florida Baptist Foundation's purpose is for the facilitating and managing gifts and endowments that benefit Baptist ministries. How are we different? What sets us apart? First, and foremost, we exist for one purpose: to honor God in all we do by helping faithful donors and investors who understand the ultimate stewardship of their resources for Kingdom advancement. Secondly, we operate by the highest business and Christian ethical standards and methods as a fiduciary of funds and a facilitator of life-changing legacies. We are a privileged to be your Great Commission support ministry serving all Florida Baptists. How can we help you?

**ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS**

- As of July 31, 2015 Florida Baptist Financial Services companies totaled over \$174.9 million dollars entrusted under management. The Florida Baptist Foundation managed investments totaling \$72.9 million and the Church Growth Investment Fund managed deposits/loans totaling \$101.9 million.
- Over the past 11 years, Florida Baptist Foundation has distributed over \$14 million in distributions of earnings from charitable trust funds to Florida Baptist and Southern Baptist causes during the years 2003-2014. This is another reason that sets us apart.
- As of July 31, 2015, Church Growth Investment Fund had net assets in the fund totaling approximately \$101.9 million dollars.
- Church Growth Investment Fund and Florida Baptist Foundation have advanced approximately \$168 million in loans to our Florida Baptist Churches.
- Each year we undergo extensive outside audits from Independent Accounting firms. For 2014, each of our

companies received excellent "unqualified" opinion audits from the accounting firm of Smoak Davis & Nixon LLP, Certified Public Accountants.

- The Florida Baptist Retirement Center offers services for Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living and Independent Living in Villas, Cottages and apartment style homes. Our skilled nursing center is now certified for both Medicaid and Medicare.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of FBFS, we express appreciation for your continued prayers, encouragement and support you have given to our agency. Please visit our website: [www.floridabaptist.org](http://www.floridabaptist.org) for more information about our ministry.



**COOPERATING MINISTRIES**  
Florida Baptist  
Witness

**KEVIN BUMGARNER**  
*Executive Editor*

The last 12 months have been a time of rapid change for the *Florida Baptist Witness*. The year has presented us with an array of challenges, both predictable and unforeseen, and just as many opportunities to shine. In the fall of 2014, we were continuing to work toward the Nov. 6, 2014, re-launch of new print and digital platforms that were designed to share more news and information, more spiritual insight and, above all, a clear Christian worldview in everything we do as Florida Baptists. At the same time, we were introducing more relevant print and digital formats with the goal of attracting readers from all generations. To that end, we also have greatly expanded our social media presence, and now have thousands of followers across Twitter, Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn and Instagram.

A year later, we continue to focus on executing our content strategy – Connecting Believers and Growing the Kingdom – while finding ways to make that strategy pay off by adding readers and advertisers. During the past year, we have added more than 200 first-time subscribers to the *Florida Baptist Witness*, which is more than in any single year since we've started keeping such records. At the same time, we are trying to find ways to secure churches, organizations and other people groups that hold the potential to bring dozens, or more, subscribers to the table at one time. To that end, we are actively seeking to become the media sponsors of relevant events, and otherwise connect with groups of potential subscribers. On the advertising front, we are in the process of adding contract workers who can scour the state looking for companies that want to reach 100,000 Florida Baptists each month.

What you see here is the two-paragraph summary of a very busy year in the life of the *Florida Baptist Witness*. But, obviously, that's not the entire story.

In February, for instance, Executive Editor Kevin Bumgarner was one of only two state editors who served as a co-presenter at the Association of State Baptist Papers' annual meeting; in April, The *Witness* earned a trio of awards from the Baptist Communicators Association; in May, we got the first interview with Dr. Tommy Green once he had been named the new executive director/treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention; and, in June, Miami reporter Keila

Diaz was asked by the Baptist Press to be part of its expanded team covering the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Columbus. During the year, we continued to expand and upgrade the quality of our content. At various times, we added Bill Bunkley as our "Church and State" columnist, Evelyn Conway as our "Ask the Counselor" columnist and Rod Martin as our "Beyond the Church Door" contributor.

In efforts to grow our audience, we were the official media partner of H.B. Charles Jr.'s "Cutting It Straight" Expository Preaching Conference in Jacksonville earlier this year, and at the State Convention we will play the same role at the baptist21 event. For both events, we will give everyone in attendance a full year's subscription to the *Witness*, which could be an immediate gain of 600 or more subscribers. In addition, we have board members who already have paid for additional subscriptions for some members of their churches, and a businessman serving on the board has paid for subscriptions for the governor, his cabinet and every state lawmaker in Florida. As always, we have offered free copies of the *Witness* on Witness Sunday, which this year was Nov. 8. Thousands of additional papers that were requested by local Baptist churches were scheduled to be distributed on that date.

Beyond all of those opportunities to add subscribers, we are looking for people who would want to scholarship a subscription for every pastor in the state of Florida, and do the same for pastoral ministry majors at The Baptist College of Florida and similar schools in Georgia and Alabama, and inmates at the Hardee Correctional Institute who have completed the Christian ministry degree program offered by the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. If you feel God leading you to get the *Witness* into the hands of these people—or other groups—please let Executive Editor Kevin Bumgarner know at 904.596.3171 or [kbumgarner@goFBW.com](mailto:kbumgarner@goFBW.com).

In the late summer of 2015, the Board of Directors of the *Florida Baptist Witness* also agreed to plans to further increase the advertising revenue coming into the *Witness*. We are in the process of adding an unspecified number of contract workers who will work on a commission-only basis, and the BOD agreed to a plan that will allow the *Witness* to push forward with efforts to generate revenue-producing webinars on a variety of topics that are of interest to Florida Baptists.

It is our hope that with constant attention on quality content, new ways to connect with potential readers, aggressive plans to add subscribers and strategies to increase revenue, the *Witness* will once again find itself on solid financial footing. Thanks to each of you who has been a subscriber, advertiser, board member or friend of the *Witness* during this part of our journey. Your support is greatly appreciated.



**FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION**  
 Committee  
 Appointments

The Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention require that on or before the first day of May of each year, the president and the first and second vice-presidents after giving due regard to the desire of this Convention for responsible lay participation in the activities and governance, shall appoint a Committee on Nominations, consisting of one member from each cooperating association within the state of Florida.

The Committee on Nominations was appointed by President James Peoples, First Vice-President Calvin Carr, and Second Vice-President Ivan Figueroa, and published in the Florida Baptist Witness as follows:

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>
Apalachee	* Norrie Chumley, Bristol
Beulah	Ralph Rodriguez, Lake City
Big Lake	John Garrison, Okeechobee
Black Creek	* Sandra Martin, Orange Park
Brevard	Ralph Nygard, Melbourne
Chipola	John Rollyson, Marianna
Emerald Coast	* James L. Atkinson, Fort Walton Beach
Florida	* Greg Adams, Tallahassee
Florida Keys	Michael Fox, Sugarloaf Key
Gadsden County	Eric Erskine, Havana
Greater Orlando	* Karen Goza, Apopka
Gulf Stream	Donald Minshew, Plantation
Halifax	Luke McKinney, New Smyrna Beach
Harmony	Jamie Brock, Chiefland
Holmes County	Shelly Chandler, Bonifay, <i>Chairman</i>
Jacksonville	* Mark Krevo, Jacksonville
Lafayette	T. Michael Brown, Cross City
Lake County	Thomas Jamieson, Mt. Dora, <i>Vice-Chairman</i>
Manatee Southern	Phillip Hamm, Palmetto
Marion	* Chris M. Spears, Ocala
Miami	Gary Johnson, Miami
Middle Florida	Toney Hill, Greenville
Nature Coast	* Darla Kell, Inverness
New River	Paul Samson, Brooker
North Central Florida	* Paul Waters, Gainesville
Northeast Florida	* Clyde C. Morris, Fernandina Beach
Northwest Coast	Bill Sears, Panama City
Okaloosa	* Jerry Rankin, Crestview
Orange Blossom	Kevin Ahrens, Sebring
Palm-Lake	* Kelli Roads, West Palm Beach
Pasco	Carlton Ellison, Jr., Dade City
Peace River	James McCarty, Port Charlotte
Pensacola Bay	Stan Lewis, Pensacola
Ridge	Timothy Williams, Winter Haven
Royal Palm	Douglas Pigg, Naples
St. Johns River	Tony Clubb, Interlachen
Santa Rosa	* James Cutts, Milton
Seminole	Dan Glenn, DeLand
Shiloh	Kay Morris, Plant City
South Florida	* Richard Williamson, Lakeland
Southwest Florida	* Cathie Warriner, Venice
Sumter	* Arthur Dana Spell, Bushnell
Suncoast	* Floyd E. Miller, Clearwater
Suwannee	Shawn Johnson, Live Oak
Tampa Bay	Jeffery Singletary, Tampa

Taylor  
 Treasure Coast  
 Walton County  
 West Florida

Gary French, Perry  
 James Kepler, Port St. Lucie  
 \* Jennifer Currid, Santa Rosa Beach  
 \* Greg Baxley, Chipley

*Ex Officio Members*

President  
 First Vice-President  
 Second Vice-President

James Peoples, Keystone Heights  
 Calvin Carr, Gainesville  
 Ivan Figueroa, Miami

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, the Committee on Nominations has appointed the following committee for the term 2015:

**COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS**

**MEMBER**

Zeb Cook, Starke, Chairman  
 Jerry R. Chumley, Bristol, Vice-Chairman  
 Fred Boone, Mt. Dora  
 \*Ted Crosby, Jacksonville  
 Rick Giles, Okeechobee  
 Pablito Lucas, Lakeland  
 Jeff Stading, Perry

\*Indicates lay person  
 Others are ordained persons or members of the professional staff of a church or association.

**FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION  
COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS  
REPORT 2015**

The Committee on Nominations of the Florida Baptist State Convention presents the following report for consideration and action by the Florida Baptist State Convention, November 9-10, 2015. **Additional nominees to fill the vacancies (noted with underline in the column “Nominees for Election”) will be presented during the convention.**

Persons listed in the column “Nominees for Election” are **being recommended by the Committee on Nominations for election by the state convention**. Names (in the shaded areas) of other persons currently serving on the board or agency are provided for **information only** and **are not** subject to action by the convention in the year 2015.

**\*Indicates lay person**

**#Indicates nomination to second term**

**STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS  
(91 members)**

Following the association name is the total number of Board members permitted based upon the association’s church membership. The current basis is one Board member for each 13,000 church members. An additional Board member is permitted for each additional 13,000 church members or portion thereof (Bylaw 12,A(1), Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention).

<b>Association</b>	<b>Board Members Continuing Service (Term)</b>	<b>Nominees for Election</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Previous Term(s)</b>
Apalachee (1)	*Jimmy Watson (14-17)			
Beulah (1)	Michael Tatem (14-17)			
Big Lake (1)	*Amelia Garrison (14-17)			
Black Creek (1)	Timothy Martin (13-16)			
Brevard (2)	Stephen Shelhamer (13-16) *Lynne Phillips (14-17)			
Chipola (1)		*Grady Gambil	2015-2016	None
Emerald Coast (2)	Mickey Hawkins (14-17)	Byron Brown	2015-2018	None
Florida (3)	*Mike Strickland (13-16) Curtis Clark (14-17)	Trent Gann	2015-2018	None
Florida Keys (1)	Ozzie Vater (13-16)			
Gadsden County (1)	*Thomas Bush (13-16)			
Greater Orlando (5)	*Robert Beard (13-16) *Ron Pierson (13-16) Rob Arnold (14-17) *Wil Mowdy (14-17)	#Kevin Goza	2015-2018	04-07; 12-15
Gulf Stream (5)	Mark Coleman (13-16) Carlos Lugo (13-16) *Eldaa Roman (13-16)	Jeremy Earnest *Tom Nork	2015-2017 2015-2018	None None
Halifax (1)	*Kenneth Parker (13-16)			

<b>Association</b>	<b>Board Members Continuing Service (Term)</b>	<b>Nominees for Election</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Previous Term(s)</b>
Harmony (1)		Tom Keisler	2015-2018	None
Holmes (1)		_____	2015-2017	_____
Jacksonville (7)	*Linda McNeil (13-16) Scott Yirka (13-16) Richard Powell (14-17) David Tarkington (14-17)	#John Green, IV **Ned Hastings #Randy Williams	2015-2018 2015-2018 2015-2018	12-15 12-15 12-15
Lafayette (1)		#Fred Edwards	2015-2018	12-15
Lake County (2)	*Dale Tibbets (14-17)	Donna Perman	2015-2018	None
Manatee Southern (2)	*Gail A. Adams (14-17)	#Larry Pritchett *Chris Spears	2015-2018 2015-2017	87-88; 88-91; 12-15 None
Marion (2)		Alan Cotney	2015-2018	None
Miami (3)	Otto Fernandez (13-16) Howard Harden (14-17)	**Joe Coats, Jr.	2015-2018	12-15
Middle Florida (1)	*Carol Spivey (13-16)			
Nature Coast (1)	Greg Kell (14-17)			
New River (1)	Zeb Cook (13-16) Calvin Carr (13-16)			
North Central FL (2)	*Ron Davis (14-17)			
Northeast Florida (2)	Jeff Overton (13-16)	#Neil Helton	2015-2018	12-15
Northwest Coast (2)	*Mark Mercer (14-17)	Bill Sears	2015-2018	None
Okaloosa (1)	Alan Kilgore (14-17)			
Orange Blossom (1)		Matthew Crawford	2015-2017	None
Palm Beach (1)	Beverly Bonner (13-16)			
Pasco (1)		Carlton Ellison	2015-2018	None
Peace River (1)		Ron Tipton	2015-2018	None
Pensacola Bay (4)	*Kim Johnson (13-16) Patrick Mobley (14-17)	#Janey Frost #Tim Coleman	2015-2018 2015-2018	12-15 12-15
Ridge (1)	*Jim Durham (14-17)			
Royal Palm (3)	Todd Stearns (13-16)	_____	2015-2017	_____
		Mark Gonzalez	2015-2018	None
St. Johns River (2)	Walter West (13-16)	*Benjamin Rodda	2015-2018	None

<u>Association</u>	<u>Board Members Continuing Service (Term)</u>	<u>Nominees for Election</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Previous Term(s)</u>
Santa Rosa (2)	Michael Wiggins (13-16)	_____	2015-2017	_____
Seminole (2)	*Don Williams (14-16) Glenn Rogers (14-17)			
Shiloh (2)	*Arthur Joe Carter (13-16) Waylon Carlisle (14-17)			
South Florida (3)	Lanelle Pickett (13-16) Wayne Roberts (14-17)	_____	2015-2018	_____
Southwest Florida (1)		Tom Bryant	2015-2016	None
Sumter (1)	Craig Attaway (13-16)			
Suncoast (2)	Danny Bennett (14-16) Michael Wetzel (14-17)			
Suwannee (1)	Phillip Herrington (13-16)			
Tampa Bay (6)	Paul Purvis (13-16) Jeffrey Singletary (13-16)	*Ralph Alderman *Chester Gunn #Mike Kahn Elbert Nasworthy	2015-2016 2015-2017 2015-2018 2015-2018	None None 14-15 02-04; 04-07
Taylor (1)		#Gary French	2015-2018	12-15
Treasure Coast (1)		_____	2015-2018	_____
Walton County (1)		*Richard Pannell	2015-2018	None
West Florida (1)	*Al Guettler (13-16)			

### COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS

(9 members)

<u>Nominees for Election (3)</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Previous Term(s)</u>
Jim Ferguson, Clearwater	2015-2018	None
Javier Sotolongo, Miami	2015-2018	None
Daniel Wade, Winter Haven	2015-2018	09-12

**Chairman:** Daniel Findley, Keystone Heights

**Vice-Chairman:** Paul Luis, Palm Springs

#### Committee Members Continuing Service (6)

*Melanie Clubb, Interlachen (13-16)	Daniel Findley, Keystone Heights (14-17)
Paul Luis, Palm Springs (13-16)	Mark Long, Marianna (14-17)
Gary Roy, Nokomis (13-16)	*James Parrish, Jacksonville (14-17)

**FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES**

(24 members)

<b><u>Nominees for Election (8)</u></b>	<b><u>Term</u></b>	<b><u>Previous Term(s)</u></b>
#*Angie Dennis, Lakeland	2015-2018	09; 12-15
*Darryl Hessler, Jacksonville	2015-2018	07-10; 10-13
#*Larry Alan Reese, Wakulla Station	2015-2018	12-15
David Lewis, Pace	2015-2018	06-09; 09-12
Cliff Lea, Leesburg	2015-2018	None
#*Spicy Ridenour, Orlando	2015-2018	12-15
#*Carolyn Trucano, Sebring	2015-2018	11-12; 12-15
#*Amy Wiggins, Fort Myers	2015-2018	12-15

**Trustees Continuing Service (16)**

*Monica Baker, Live Oak (13-16)	*Mildred C. Bolin, Wauchula (14-17)
*Patricia Davis, Jacksonville (13-16)	*Becky Fager, Naples (14-17)
Wesley Green, Miramar (13-16)	*Lourdes Fernandez, Miami (14-17)
*Nancy Grigsby, Niceville (13-16)	*Ron Locke, Gainesville (14-17)
Bill Hild, Sarasota (13-16)	*Polly McCallum, Palatka (14-17)
Bobby Musselwhite, Milton (13-16)	Alan Moore, Polk City (14-17)
Dale Terjung, Sun City (13-16)	*David Wilkins, Tallahassee (14-17)
Justin Wyatt, Crestview (13-16)	*Todd Woodard, Oviedo (14-17)

**FLORIDA BAPTIST FINANCIAL SERVICES**

(21 members)

<b><u>Nominees for Election (7)</u></b>	<b><u>Term</u></b>	<b><u>Previous Term(s)</u></b>
#Tom Biles, Tampa	2015-2018	03-06; 06-09; 12-15
#William Bartlett, Okeechobee	2015-2018	12-15
#*Christopher Dampier, Lake City	2015-2018	12-15
Victor Boll, Clearwater	2015-2018	None
*John Bozard, Orlando	2015-2018	08-11; 11-14
*Perry Hodges, Fort Lauderdale	2015-2018	01-04; 04-07; 08-11; 11-14
Harvey Webb, Vero Beach	2015-2018	None

**Directors Continuing Service (14)**

*Robert Bray, Port Charlotte (13-16)	*Linda Anderson, Jacksonville (14-17)
Albert Byrd, Jacksonville (13-16)	*Robert E. Barrett, Orange Park (14-17)
*Neal Chancey, Palatka (13-16)	*Herman Bowers, Waldo (14-17)
*Ned Couey, Crestview (13-16)	Rudie Guta, Panama City Beach (14-17)
*Niel Hampton, Sr., Callahan (13-16)	*Nayra Montanez, Oviedo (14-17)
*Pam Hitt, Live Oak (13-16)	David P. Rice, St. Augustine (14-17)
John Holloway, Bartow (13-16)	*Richard Young, Jasper (14-17)

### THE BAPTIST COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

(25 members)

<u>Nominees for Election (8)</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Previous Term(s)</u>
#Tim Williams, Winter Haven	2015-2018	11-12; 12-15
*Rachel Rollyson, Marianna	2015-2018	None
#*Dennis Brown, Niceville	2015-2018	12-15
#Chris Coram, Jacksonville	2015-2018	12-15
#Charles Warren, Starke	2015-2018	12-15
#William Flannigan, Pensacola	2015-2018	12-15
#*Christie Ross, Crestview	2015-2018	12-15
#*Dianne Lovett, Apopka	2015-2018	12-15

#### Trustees Continuing Service (17)

*Fran Carlton, Apopka (13-16)	John Blount, Jacksonville (14-17)
*Sarah Clemmons, Marianna (13-16)	Ron Burks, Bartow (14-17)
Kenric Conway, Panama City (13-16)	*Robert Carlton, Green Cove Springs (14-17)
Howard Gates, Fort Walton Beach (13-16)	John Garrison, Okeechobee (14-17)
*Dozier Johnson, Tallahassee (13-16)	Jimmy Deas, Live Oak (14-17)
Timothy Maynard, Jacksonville (13-16)	*Mark Johnson, Lynn Haven (14-17)
Jerry Oswalt, Graceville (13-16)	*Dan Mauldin, Alachua (14-17)
*Lawrence Taylor, Leesburg (13-16)	*Jeffrey Scott, Live Oak (14-17)
*Elizabeth Traylor, Pensacola (13-16)	

### FLORIDA BAPTIST WITNESS

(15 members)

<u>Nominees for Election (5)</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Previous Term(s)</u>
#Patrick Pfrimmer, Crestview	2015-2018	12-15
#John Rollyson, Marianna	2015-2018	12-15
*Evelyn Conway, Lynn Haven	2015-2018	None
#Luis Aranguren, Coral Park	2015-2018	12-15
#Shelly Chandler, Bonifay	2015-2018	11-12; 12-15

#### Directors Continuing Service (10)

*Debbie Brunson, Jacksonville (13-16)	*Dennis Baxley, Ocala (14-17)
Freddy Davis, Tallahassee (13-16)	*Randy Knepper, Orange Park (14-17)
Randy Huckabee, Okeechobee (13-16)	James Locke, Pensacola (14-17)
Darrell Orman, Stuart (13-16)	*Mark Krevo, Jacksonville (14-17)
Bradley Smith, New Port Richey (13-16)	James Wigton, Cape Coral (14-17)

*The report of the Committee on Nominations was developed by the following committee members:*

<b><u>ASSOCIATION</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>ASSOCIATION</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE MEMBER</u></b>
<b>Apalachee</b>	*Norrie Chumley, Bristol	<b>Northeast Florida</b>	*Clyde Morris, Fernandina Beach
<b>Beulah</b>	Ralph Rodriguez, Lake City	<b>Northwest Coast</b>	Bill Sears, Panama City
<b>Big Lake</b>	John Garrison, Okeechobee	<b>Okaloosa</b>	Jerry Rankin, Crestview
<b>Black Creek</b>	*Sandra Martin, Orange Park	<b>Orange Blossom</b>	Kevin Ahrens, Sebring
<b>Brevard</b>	Ralph Nygard, Melbourne	<b>Palm-Lake</b>	*Kelli Roads, West Palm Beach
<b>Chipola</b>	John Rollyson, Marianna	<b>Pasco</b>	Carl Ellison, Dade City
<b>Emerald Coast</b>	*James Atkinson, Niceville	<b>Peace River</b>	James McCarty, Port Charlotte
<b>Florida</b>	*Greg Adams, Tallahassee	<b>Pensacola Bay</b>	Stan Lewis, Pensacola
<b>Florida Keys</b>	Michael Fox, Sugarloaf Key	<b>Ridge</b>	Timothy Williams, Winter Haven
<b>Gadsden County</b>	Eric Erskine, Havana	<b>Royal Palm</b>	Douglas Pigg, Naples
<b>Greater Orlando</b>	*Karen Goza, Apopka	<b>St. Johns River</b>	Tony Clubb, Interlachen
<b>Gulf Stream</b>	Donald Minshew, Plantation	<b>Santa Rosa</b>	*James Cutts, Milton
<b>Halifax</b>	Lake McKinney, New Smyrna Beach	<b>Seminole</b>	Dan Glenn, DeLand
<b>Harmony</b>	Jamie Brock, Chiefland	<b>Shiloh</b>	Kay Morris, Plant City
<b>Holmes</b>	Shelly Chandler, Bonifay, <i>Chairman</i>	<b>South Florida</b>	*Andrea Bredow, Mulberry
<b>Jacksonville</b>	*Mark Krevo, Jacksonville	<b>Southwest Florida</b>	*Cathie Warriner, Venice
<b>Lafayette</b>	Mike Brown, Cross City	<b>Sumter</b>	*A. Dana Spell, Bushnell
<b>Lake County</b>	Tom Jamieson, Mt. Dora, <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<b>Suncoast</b>	*Floyd Miller, Clearwater
<b>Manatee Southern</b>	Phillip Hamm, Palmetto	<b>Suwannee</b>	Shawn Johnson, Live Oak
<b>Marion</b>	*Chris Spears, Ocala	<b>Tampa Bay</b>	Jeffery Singletery, Tampa
<b>Miami</b>	Gary Johnson, Miami	<b>Taylor</b>	Gary French, Perry
<b>Middle Florida</b>	Toney Hill, Greenville	<b>Treasure Coast</b>	*James Kepler, Port St. Lucie
<b>Nature Coast</b>	*Darla Kell, Inverness	<b>Walton County</b>	*Jennifer Currid, Santa Rosa Beach
<b>New River</b>	Paul Samson, Brooker	<b>West Florida</b>	*Greg Baxley, Chipley
<b>North Central Florida</b>	*Paul Waters, Gainesville		

*Ex Officio Members*

James Peoples, Keystone Heights, President, Florida Baptist State Convention  
 Calvin Carr, Gainesville, First Vice-President, Florida Baptist State Convention  
 Ivan Figueroa, Miami, Second Vice-President, Florida Baptist State Convention

*Staff Resource*

J. Thomas Green, III, Executive Director-Treasurer  
 Patty Vansant, Executive Assistant, Office of Executive Director-Treasurer

## FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION Constitution

*Last Revised November, 2012*

*[Current Version as of November, 2014]*

**Article 1.** This body shall be called the Florida Baptist State Convention.

**Article 2.** The membership of this State Convention shall be composed of messengers from cooperating Baptist churches, which shall include constituted churches and church-type missions, that are in friendly cooperation with this State Convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work, as defined by the State Convention's bylaws.

A. Every cooperating local church shall be entitled to three messengers and one additional messenger for every hundred additional members in excess of one hundred. Each church shall appoint or elect and then certify those members who shall serve as messengers to the State Convention annual meeting. No church may appoint more than ten messengers.

B. A messenger is an appointed or elected representative of their church or church-type mission who is assigned the responsibility to represent their church at the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention. In the role of messenger this individual, acting on the basis of their individual conscience and beliefs, may vote on business and issues. Additionally, the messenger is expected to report back to their church on the actions taken and information shared at the annual meeting.

**Article 3.** The general object of this State Convention shall be to facilitate the union and cooperation of Florida Baptists in the work of upbuilding the kingdom of Christ in the state and throughout the world. Its more specific objects shall be to promote spiritual religion by all Scriptural means; to foster the spirit of worldwide missions; to support Christian and Theological education; to encourage the spirit and practice of liberal and systematic benevolence; and to accept any designated contribution, grant, bequest or devise provided it is consistent with the Convention's (1) mission and priorities, (2) budget process and fiscal restrictions, (3) full ownership and control of the funds or assets, and (4) tax-exempt purposes. As so limited, donor-designated contributions will be accepted for special funds, purposes or uses, and such designations will be honored. The Corporation shall reserve all right, title and interest in and to, and control of such contributions, as well as full discretion as to the ultimate expenditure or distribution thereof in connection with any special fund, purpose or use.

**Article 4.** While independent and sovereign in its own sphere, this State Convention does not claim and will never attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body, whether church auxiliary organization, association, or convention; nor shall this State Convention be limited or restrained by any authority or decisions of such bodies in the promotion of its work.

**Article 5.** The officers of this State Convention shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President and a Recording Secretary. Persons nominated for each office shall be elected by ballot by the end of the second day of each annual meeting by a majority of all votes cast. Newly elected officers shall hold their office from the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected until their successors are elected and take office, which typically shall be a one-year term. The Bylaws shall prescribe the procedures for candidates to be nominated and selected, as well as describe the responsibilities of these officers.

A. Either the President or one of the Vice-Presidents shall be

a layperson other than a person ordained to the gospel ministry or a member of the professional staff of a church. Additionally, either the President or one of the Vice-Presidents shall be a person ordained to the gospel ministry or a member of the professional staff of a church.

B. Nominations for the offices of First Vice-President and Second Vice-President shall not be made until after the election of the President has been announced and declared. After the ballots have been cast or election of these officers, the nomination and election of the Recording Secretary shall be conducted.

C. No person shall be elected as an officer who is not a certified messenger to the State Convention at the time of the nomination. No employee or staff member of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., or any agency, institution or association may serve as an officer of the Florida Baptist State Convention. No employee or staff member of any agency or institution receiving Cooperative Program funds may serve as an officer of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

D. The person elected to serve as either the President or as one of the Vice-Presidents may serve two (2) consecutive one-year terms in the same office. In no case shall a person serve in the same office after serving two consecutive (one-year) terms until as much as one (1) year has elapsed from the time a successor is elected. The person nominated for Recording Secretary may be re-elected annually.

E. Upon the resignation, removal, disability or death of the President, the First Vice-President shall automatically become President, the next in succession to be the Second Vice-President.

F. Upon the resignation, removal, disability or death of the President, the First Vice-President and the Second Vice-President, the Administrative/Personnel Committee of the State Board of Missions shall serve as a nominating committee to nominate a President, a First Vice-President and a Second Vice-President for election by the State Board of Missions, who shall then serve as officers of the State Convention through the next annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

G. Upon the resignation, removal, disability or death of the Recording Secretary, the President of this State Convention and the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall appoint a Recording Secretary to serve until his successor is elected and takes office.

**Article 6.** It shall be the duty of the President, assisted by the Vice-Presidents, to preside over the body, keep order, take the vote on all questions properly brought up, and to perform all other duties usually performed by such officers.

**Article 7.** The Recording Secretary shall assist the staff of the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention in their responsibility for all the papers and documents committed to their care, keeping correct minutes of all proceedings of this State Convention and preparing the same for publication, of which a permanent file shall be preserved, which shall constitute the authentic record of this State Convention. The Recording Secretary may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred for services rendered and may choose an assistant.

**Article 8.** This Convention may create such boards, commissions, committees and other agencies as may be required to promote the work of this State Convention.

A. Any and all such agencies, whether or not they receive Cooperative Program funds, shall make annual reports to this State Convention and the State Board of Missions.

B. In keeping with the Business and Financial Plan of the State Convention as set forth in the Bylaws, boards, commissions and agencies shall provide annual audits for inclusion in the Convention Annual.

C. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of all boards of trustees or directors of State Convention agencies and institutions. The Executive Director-Treasurer or his designee shall



be permitted to attend all regular and special meetings, including executive sessions, of the respective boards and their committees.

D. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall serve as an ex officio, voting member of any newly-created committee or study group authorized by the State Convention.

**Article 9.** The State Convention reserves the right to elect and remove any and all persons who are nominated to serve as members of convention committees, as well as, persons nominated to serve as a trustee or director of any convention-related entity. These entities shall specifically include: (1) State Board of Missions; (2) Florida Baptist Children's Homes; (3) The Baptist College of Florida; (4) Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc. (and its several related divisions of work, including the Florida Baptist Foundation, Inc., Florida Baptist Auxiliary Enterprises, Inc., and Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc.); and (5) Florida Baptist Witness. The number of persons, terms of service, and qualifications for a trustee or director shall be defined by the Bylaws of the respective agency. The State Convention's Bylaws shall specify the procedure for the nomination, election and the removal process of a trustee, director or convention committee member.

**Article 10.** The annual meeting of this State Convention shall be held during the month of November at such time and place as the State Convention may elect. The State Board of Missions may change the meeting place and/or time, including the month, of the annual meeting of the State Convention in any given year.

**Article 11.** The President of the Florida Baptist State Convention may request the State Board of Missions to call a special session of the State Convention. The State Board of Missions on its own initiative, with or without the concurrence of the Convention President, may call special meetings of the State Convention. To call a special session of the Florida Baptist State Convention requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the total membership of the State Board of Missions, under either initiative. The Board members shall be polled by the Executive Director-Treasurer and the member's vote shall be secured in writing.

**Article 12.** The Annual Meeting of this State Convention shall be held each year primarily for the following purposes with time allocated in a priority sequence to ensure the general and specific objectives of the State Convention, as defined in Article 3 of this Constitution, are adequately addressed as follows:

A. To conduct the business and consider the needs, problems and opportunities of the State Convention and its agencies;

B. To permit the State Convention's agencies and institutions to report on their prior year's activities and to make appropriate recommendations for consideration by the messengers comprising the annual meeting;

C. To ensure time is allocated on the annual program for the several requirements required by the State Convention's Bylaws;

D. To elect State Convention officers and to elect persons to fill vacancies on the State Convention's committees and boards as defined in Article 9 of this Constitution;

E. To hear messages from the State Convention president and the person designated to bring the Convention Sermon; and

F. When practicable and within the available remaining time, provide appropriate inspirational emphases and/or special emphases to be determined by the program committee (also known as the Committee on Order of Business) as defined in the State Convention's Bylaws.

**Article 13.** This Constitution or any article thereof may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the messengers present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present, at two (2) successive annual sessions of the State Convention. Notice of any change proposed must be published in the Florida Baptist Witness at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting of the State Convention.

## FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION Bylaws

*Last Revised November, 2014*

### Bylaw 1: Rules of Order

A. Rules of Order: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the State Convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention and these standing rules.

B. Standing Rules: The Committee on Order of Business shall act as the Committee on Standing Rules in presenting any standing rules (parliamentary and non-parliamentary procedural rules) for consideration by the State Convention during the first session of the State Convention meeting.

(1) The Committee on Order of Business, at the time it presents the program for adoption, shall call to the attention of messengers present, the existence of the following permanent rules that shall govern the conduct of business during the State Convention meeting:

(a) For admission to the assembly hall, under certain conditions and at the discretionary order of the State Convention president, to facilitate identification and seating, messengers, visitors, and others may be required to wear the badge issued by the Registration and/or the Credentials Committees.

(b) A resolution offered by an individual messenger(s) shall be in writing, signed by the maker who shall be a registered messenger to the State Convention, and shall be delivered directly to the desk of the Recording Secretary, after the resolution has been introduced. The introduction of a resolution shall be limited to only the title and/or topic of the proposed resolution being presented, with neither further explanation nor discussion.

(c) No messenger shall speak in debate more than twice on the same question during the same session, for no longer than three minutes each time, without the permission of State Convention messengers who may grant such a privilege by a two-thirds vote without debate.

(d) All reports and other material for the permanent record or printed proceedings shall be in typewritten form and, immediately on presentation, shall be delivered to the Recording Secretary.

(e) Nominations for each elected office to be filled by the State Convention shall be limited to one nominating speech of three minutes for each nominee. Nominees for any elected State Convention office shall be: a registered messenger; shall have agreed to be nominated; and shall be present on the platform at the time in which they are nominated.

(f) When more than one candidate is nominated for any convention office, a written ballot shall be taken from all registered messengers present and voting. The Teller's Committee, appointed by the State Convention President, shall collect the ballots, count the ballots, verify and certify the voting results. The chairman of the Teller's Committee shall provide to the State Convention President, on a timely basis as soon as is practicable after the respective vote, a written report on voting results. The report shall include the actual number of ballots cast, the number of votes received by each candidate, and the number of invalid ballots collected.

(2) All motions, resolutions and memorials, except those proposed by the State Board of Missions or by standing committees, and all recommendations made in reports of officers or committees of the State Convention, shall be referred to the Committee on Order of Business. The Committee shall determine appropriate disposition

of these motions, resolutions and memorials. Motions of resolutions and recommendations proposed by the State Board of Missions or by State Convention Committees shall be presented by the Board or proposing committee directly to the State Convention, at a time designated by the Committee on Order of Business.

## **Bylaw 2: Baptist Cooperation**

A. Cooperation: Cooperation is a cornerstone to the very foundation of Southern Baptist life. A basic principle inherent in cooperation is the autonomy of the local church, the Baptist association the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. Inherent in autonomy is the responsibility of this State Convention to define with whom it will cooperate and define what constitutes cooperation.

In recognition of its historic role as the theological guardian of Baptist faith and practice, a cooperating local Baptist association that approves for affiliation any Southern Baptist church for the purposes of this bylaw, those churches will be accepted for affiliation with this State Convention.

It is the desire of the State Convention that each church be affiliated with a cooperating Baptist association and the Southern Baptist Convention. A cooperating church may choose not to be affiliated with a cooperating Baptist association or the Southern Baptist Convention and may choose to cooperate and affiliate with this State Convention. A church, which chooses not to affiliate with a cooperating Baptist association (as herein defined), may seek to affiliate directly with the State Convention by securing Church-at-Large status as defined within these Bylaws.

B. Cooperating Local Church: The State Convention declares that a cooperating Southern Baptist church shall be that autonomous body of Christian believers, which by its free will makes a commitment to and demonstrates cooperation according to the following criteria:

1) Theological: The church shall have specified within its adopted Statement of Faith and Practice and/or governing documents, a declaration that the basis for its theology, faith, practice and polity is the Bible, with the Baptist Faith and Message, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which parallels the tenets of our historic Baptist faith, as the theological framework.

2) Declaration: The church shall express its intent and commitment to cooperate with the Florida Baptist State Convention by delivering a written communication to the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

3) Financial: The church shall annually make a meaningful financial contribution through the Cooperative Program. A contribution of \$250 or more qualifies the church to elect and send messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention annual meeting.

4) Statistical: The church shall provide an annual church statistical profile (a/k/a an ACP) to the local association with which it is associated and/or the State Convention.

### **C. Recognition of New Congregations:**

1) Each year, during the annual meeting of the State Convention, a report shall be made by the State Board of Missions identifying the Southern Baptist churches known to have organized within the past year in Florida and which have made commitments through a respective Baptist association's credentialing process to cooperate and to affiliate. The State Convention shall vote to receive the report on new churches. The State Board of Missions shall send a written notification to the pastor of each church noted

in such report summarizing the Bylaw 2 criteria and benefits of cooperation.

2) The State Convention directs and empowers the State Board of Missions to determine and mediate questions involving churches which seek affiliation with the State Convention on the basis of Church-at-Large status with the Florida Baptist State Convention. A church that seeks Church-at-Large status shall complete the application process as defined by the State Board of Missions' policy on "Baptist Polity and Cooperation," as well as affirm to demonstrate cooperation as defined herein by Bylaw 2B. The recommendations of the State Board of Missions regarding such at-large churches shall be voted upon by the State Convention.

D. Cooperating Baptist Association: The State Convention recognizes that a cooperating Baptist association shall be that duly constituted and autonomous organization of cooperating Southern Baptist churches, which by their collective free will as an association, demonstrate cooperation according to State Convention criteria. The associations which meet the criteria set forth below shall be considered in cooperation with this State Convention, its purposes and work:

(1) Defined Role: The State Convention endorses the historic and traditional role of the Baptist association serving as the theological guardian of Southern Baptist theology, faith, practice and polity of Southern Baptist churches cooperating with the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(2) Recognition: The State Convention accepts the recognition given to a local Southern Baptist church which is made by a cooperating Baptist association.

(3) Participation: Within these bylaws, provision is made for each cooperating, autonomous association to be entitled to a certain number of member(s) to participate on the Committee on Nominations and the State Board of Missions. In addition, a cooperating association is entitled to certain defined benefits provided by the State Convention through its agency, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

(4) Cooperation: Any Baptist association which seeks to be considered cooperating with the Florida Baptist State Convention and its agency, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. shall have specified within its adopted governing documents a declaration that the basis for the theology, faith, practice and polity of its cooperating churches is the Bible with the Baptist Faith and Message, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which parallels the tenets of our historic Baptist faith, as the theological framework. The governing document shall provide for a process by which the association shall determine if each Baptist church seeking affiliation with the association, does affirm commitment to the theology, faith, practice and polity outlined in the Bible, with the Baptist Faith and Message, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which parallels the tenets of our historic Baptist faith, as the theological framework.

E. New Associations: Any Baptist association which seeks to organize or re-organize after the date of this Bylaw [November 2012], in addition to fulfilling the State Convention criteria set forth within Bylaw 2, also must satisfy the following criteria before it shall be recognized as a "cooperating" association with the Florida Baptist State Convention and its agency, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.:

(1) Membership: The association shall be comprised of at least 15 constituted Southern Baptist churches and whose combined total church membership shall be at least 7,000 persons.

(2) Application: The association's executive committee shall prepare and submit an "Application for Cooperation" to be received, reviewed and approved by the State Board of Missions and its appropriate committee.

(3) The State Convention directs and empowers the State Board of Missions, through its appropriate committees to establish guidelines and procedures, by which to receive, review and grant "provisional cooperating acceptance" status to any newly-organized association which seeks to be considered for "unconditional cooperating" status.

(4) When the parameters of cooperation have been met, an association shall be considered ready for presentation to the State Convention. The State Board of Missions may recommend that the Florida Baptist State Convention, during its next annual meeting, confer unconditional cooperating status upon the requesting association.

(5) The year, following approval by the State Convention, and in subsequent years, the newly-organized or re-organized association shall then be eligible for a member on the State Convention's Committee on Nominations and shall qualify for at least one member from its cooperating churches being nominated to serve on the State Board of Missions, as provided for in these bylaws.

F. Southern Baptist Convention: The Florida Baptist State Convention declares that it fraternally cooperates with and supports the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies of work. As a demonstration of this cooperation, the State Convention promotes giving through the Cooperative Program and serves as the conduit for the distribution of Cooperative Program funds given by cooperating churches. To facilitate Baptist cooperation, this State Convention has empowered its State Board of Missions to enter into Cooperative Agreements with selected agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention which relate to mission, ministries, and support services provided by the State Convention agency, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

G. Compliance Remedies — Cooperation: As set forth previously in this bylaw, every cooperating church is expected to demonstrate its commitment to cooperation with the State Convention on an annual basis by doing two things: (1) making an annual meaningful financial contribution through the Cooperative Program; and (2) providing an annual church statistical profile on the health and vitality of the church. A church which fails to fulfill its commitment to the Cooperative Program for three consecutive years shall be counseled regarding such failure. The Florida Baptist State Convention assigns to the State Board of Missions the authority to: 1) investigate the basis for any such failure, and 2) recommend the appropriate corrective action with such church. The procedure for determining the appropriate corrective action shall be developed and implemented by the State Board of Missions. Such procedure shall be set forth in the State Board of Missions' policy on "Baptist Polity and Cooperation."

H. Compliance Remedies — Theological Integrity: Every cooperating church and cooperating association is expected to maintain their commitment to the doctrines set forth in the Baptist Faith and Message, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which parallels the tenets of our historic Baptist faith. Any church or association which undertakes questionable theology, faith, practice or polity, shall be subject to having fellowship withdrawn by the Florida Baptist State Convention. The Florida Baptist State Convention assigns to the State Board of Missions the authority to investigate allegations of such deviation from biblical theology and practice as defined by Southern Baptists and make a final recommendation regarding a church's or association's continued affiliation. The procedure for conducting such investigation and

making any recommendation shall be developed by the State Board of Missions, and set forth in its policy on "Baptist Polity and Cooperation."

### **Bylaw 3: Responsibilities of Officers**

A. **President:** The president of this State Convention shall perform the following duties:

(1) Preside over the annual meeting or any special session of the Florida State Baptist Convention held during the year following his election. In his role as presiding officer, the president:

(a) Shall appoint one or more parliamentarians (one to be designated as chief parliamentarian) who shall provide counsel and interpretation of parliamentary procedure to the presiding officers;

(b) Shall appoint a Tellers Committee of between 8 and 12 persons whose task shall be to collect, count and report to the presiding officer results from any ballots taken by convention messengers;

(c) May designate the first and second vice-presidents to preside over specific convention sessions.

(2) Serve as an ex officio member (non-voting) of each of the convention's boards, agencies, and institutions.

(3) Serve as an ex officio member (non-voting) of the State Board of Missions. Be an ex officio member (voting) of the Administrative/Personnel Committee of the State Board of Missions.

(4) On or before the first day of May of each year, the President and the First and Second Vice-Presidents, after giving due regard to the desire of this State Convention for responsible lay participation in its activities and governance, shall appoint a Committee on Nominations. This Committee shall consist of one member from each cooperating Baptist association within the state of Florida.

(a) The list of committee members is to be submitted for publication in the Florida Baptist Witness before the end of May.

(b) The president shall serve as an ex officio member (voting) of the Committee on Nominations.

(5) Serve as a voting member of the Committee on Order of Business during the year of service as president.

(6) Serve as the ceremonial representative of the Florida Baptist State Convention in attending fraternal or secular events.

(7) Carry out any other duties or responsibilities specifically designated by vote of the messengers attending the annual session of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

B. **First Vice-President:** The first vice-president of this State Convention shall perform the following duties:

(1) Assume the position of president should the office of president become vacant for any reason.

(2) Participate with the president and second vice-president in appointing a Committee on Nominations. The first vice-president shall serve as an ex officio member (voting) of the Committee on Nominations.

(3) Serve as an ex officio non-voting member of the Committee on Order of Business during the year of service as first vice-president.

(4) If requested by the president, preside over one or more sessions of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(5) Assist the convention president by carrying out any other assigned duties.

C. Second Vice-President: The second vice president of this State Convention shall perform the following duties:

(1) Assume the position of president should the office of president become vacant and the first vice-president is unable to serve as president.

(2) Participate with the president and first vice-president in appointing a Committee on Nominations. The second vice-president shall serve as an ex officio member (voting) of the Committee on Nominations.

(3) Serve as an ex officio non-voting member of the Committee on Order of Business during the year of service as second vice-president.

(4) If requested by the president, preside over one or more sessions of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(5) Assist the convention president by carrying out any other assigned duties.

D. Recording Secretary: The recording secretary of this State Convention:

(1) Shall be present at the place of the annual meeting at least one day in advance of the meeting, for the purpose of enrolling the members of this State Convention who shall present themselves with the proper evidence of their right to be enrolled, and this enrollment shall be recognized as constituting this State Convention. The Recording Secretary is authorized to add the names of accredited messengers who arrive later than the opening day.

(2) Shall assist the staff of the Executive Director-Treasurer in recording the proceedings of the State Convention. An original and a copy of these proceedings shall be furnished on a timely basis to the Office of the Executive Director-Treasurer for publication in the Annual.

(3) May be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred for services rendered and may choose an assistant.

#### **Bylaw 4: Committees of the Convention**

The State Convention shall have two categories of committees – appointed and elected – which shall carry out responsibilities specified within these bylaws.

A. Those committees which shall be appointed as prescribed by these bylaws shall be:

- (1) Committee on Nominations
- (2) Committee on Credentials

B. Those committees which shall be elected by messengers to the annual meeting of the State Convention shall be:

- (1) Committee on Order of Business

C. Any and all other standing committees reporting to this State Convention and any and all committees authorized during the sessions of this State Convention, shall be appointed by the Committee on Nominations. An exception to such appointments shall apply when the State Convention specifies committee membership and/or delegates the committee appointment to one or more of the State Convention's officers or to some committee, board or agency of the State Convention.

D. The State Convention establishes the following guidelines which shall be used in the consideration of persons to be nominated and/or elected to serve on Convention committees, boards, corporations or agencies.

(1) No salaried employee or officer of any board, commission, corporation or agency of the Florida Baptist State Convention, and no person receiving a portion of his or her salary from Cooperative Program funds, shall be eligible for election as a member of any of the boards, corporations or agencies of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(2) Salaried employees or officers of any board, corporation or agency of the Florida Baptist State Convention may serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of any such board, corporation or agency.

(3) No person shall serve concurrently on more than one board or agency of the State Convention, except the President of the State Convention.

(4) Any individual may serve concurrently on the board or agency and also serve on an appointed committee of the State Convention.

(5) Trustees and directors of boards, except as provided for by their respective charter, shall be composed as follows:

(a) The members shall be divided into three groups as nearly equal as possible, and one group shall be elected each year to serve three years.

(b) Members who have served two full terms shall not be eligible for re-election until at least one year has elapsed. Exception may be made in the case of a member whose technical service to a given board, or agency in such matters as medical, legal or financial affairs seems to make it advisable that he be continued as a member. The preceding provisions shall not apply to nominees to the State Board of Missions who have served two consecutive terms. Such a person will not be eligible for nomination until a period of three years has elapsed.

(6) Persons nominated to serve on State Convention committees or as trustees or directors of Convention agencies or as a member of the State Board of Missions, should be recognized as having high levels of honesty, sincerity, respect for the integrity of others, committed to the purposes of this State Convention, projection of Christian values and other characteristics of Christian behavior.

(a) Each nominee shall: [1] give evidence of having received Jesus Christ as personal savior and Lord; [2] have been a member for at least one year of their present church, which cooperates with the Florida Baptist State Convention by giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program; [3] be in good standing in their local congregation; [4] give evidence of good stewardship including the tithe through their church; [5] agree to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages and using any other recreational drugs; and [6] support all the principles set forth in the Baptist Faith and Message, revised in the year 2000, or any other

declaration of faith which parallels the tenets of our historic Baptist faith, as the theological framework.

(b) When a person ceases to be a resident member of a cooperating Florida Baptist church, that person shall no longer be eligible to serve as a committee member, trustee, director or member of the State Board of Missions.

(c) Persons elected to serve as either a committee member, trustee, director or member of the State Board of Missions are expected to attend required meetings and perform other responsibilities associated with their assigned task.

#### **Bylaw 5: Composition of Boards**

Trustees or boards of directors of institutions, except as provided for by their charter, shall be composed as follows:

(1) The members shall be divided into three groups as nearly equal as possible, and one group shall be elected each year to serve three years.

(2) For the purposes of these Bylaws, a person's service to fill a temporary vacancy will be considered as a full term only if the individual has served more than one-half of the time specified for the term (i.e. six months of a one-year term, 12 months of a two-year term; or 18 months of a three-year term). This Bylaw provision shall supersede any stated or unstated Bylaw provision for unexpired terms that may appear in the Bylaws of the agencies and institutions of the State Convention.

(3) To ensure diverse representation, no more than one person (including new nominees and those continuing service) from any given cooperating local church shall be permitted to serve on the same board of any given State Convention agency or institution. Additionally, no more than four persons (including new nominees and those continuing service) from any given cooperating local church shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations to serve on the combined boards of all State Convention agencies and institutions. The following shall serve as exceptions to the aforementioned provision:

(a) A State Convention officer or ex-officio member of a Board may hold membership in the same church as an elected Board member and such membership shall not be counted in the preceding restriction;

(b) An individual(s), during the course of their tenure on a State Convention board and who by their choice changes membership to a local church that results in this Bylaw provision being compromised, shall be permitted to continue and complete their potential full term(s) of service.

(4) Members who have served two full terms shall not be eligible for re-election until at least one year has elapsed. The preceding provisions shall not apply to nominees to the State Board of Missions who have served two consecutive terms. Such a person will not be eligible for nomination until a period of three years has elapsed.

(5) Exception may be made in the case of a member whose technical service to a given board, commission, or agency in such matters as medical, legal, or financial affairs seems to make it advisable that he be continued as a member.

#### **Bylaw 6: Concurrent Service**

No person shall serve concurrently on more than one board or agency of the State Convention, except the President of the

State Convention. An exception to this shall be those trustees duly elected by the State Convention to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Florida Baptist Financial Services and who are required to additionally serve as a trustee of one or more of the Florida Baptist Financial Services' subsidiary corporation's board of directors.

#### **Bylaw 7: Committee on Nominations**

This committee shall select persons to serve on selected State Convention committees and shall nominate for State Convention approval, those persons to serve as members of the State Convention's boards and agencies.

A. The committee shall consist of one member from each of the existing cooperating Baptist associations within the state of Florida, all of whom shall be appointed as a result of a joint consultation by the State Convention president, first vice president and second vice president. Service on the committee is normally limited to the year of their appointment, except as provided within this bylaw. In addition the State Convention's president, the first vice-president and second vice-president shall serve on the Committee as ex-officio members with voting privilege.

(1) The officers may select, but shall limit up to two-thirds of its appointed membership, any persons who served on the Committee on Nominations during the prior calendar year. A person who has been annually appointed for each of three consecutive years shall not be eligible for re-appointment until at least three years have elapsed.

(2) The officers will ensure that there is an adequate representation of laity and ordained persons on the committee.

(a) Ordained persons and members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association shall constitute the ordained group. Within this group are included directors of associational missions, whose representation on the Committee shall be limited to two members per year.

(b) No more than three-fifths of the members of the Committee shall be drawn from either the laity or ordained groups.

(c) The officers shall give due consideration to appointing persons who reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity within Florida Baptist churches.

(d) Persons appointed to serve on the Committee shall meet the requirements as defined in Bylaw 4 (6)(a)(b) and (c).

(3) The officers shall make every reasonable effort to identify and select persons from each cooperating association who have demonstrated involvement in the life and work of their respective association. Such individuals shall have been a member of a cooperating church in their respective association for at least two years. However, in no instance shall the State Convention officers be obligated by any recommendation made by the association and its leadership.

B. On or before the first day of October of each year, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, the Committee on Nominations, after giving due regard to the desire of this State Convention for responsible lay participation in its activities and governance, shall appoint the following committees (whose tasks are described in these bylaws) and their respective chairman and vice-chairman. If practicable, the names of these appointees shall be published in the Florida Baptist Witness:

(1) Committee on Credentials

C. On or before the first day of October of each year, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, the Committee on Nominations, after giving due consideration to the desire of this State Convention for responsible lay participation in its activities and governance, shall nominate members for the following committees, boards, commissions, corporations and agencies. If practicable, the names of these nominees shall be published in the Florida Baptist Witness:

- (1) State Board of Missions (hereinafter described)
- (2) Board of Trustees of Florida Baptist Children's Homes
- (3) F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees of potential directors of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes' Supporting Organizations (herein described);
- (4) Board of Trustees of The Baptist College of Florida;
- (5) Board of Directors of Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., who also shall serve as the board of trustees for the Florida Baptist Foundation; Florida Baptist Auxiliary Enterprises, Inc., and Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc.
- (6) Board of Directors of Florida Baptist Witness
- (7) Committee on Order of Business

D. The Committee shall nominate persons to serve on all other boards, corporations and agencies which now are or may hereafter be created by, or which now are or may hereafter be otherwise related to, this State Convention.

E. The Committee shall annually select up to twenty (20) persons to be assigned to what shall be designated as the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees. These persons shall be for the exclusive use by the Board of Trustees of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes (FBCH), who is legally obligated to appoint persons to serve as directors of the Homes' separate Supporting Organizations. These organizations include: FBCH Land Holdings, Inc.; FBCH Landing Holdings II, Inc.; and the Orphan's Heart Foundation, Inc.

(1) The persons nominated to the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees shall meet all criteria as defined in Bylaw 4(6)(a) of the Bylaws, Florida Baptist State Convention and their selection and service shall be governed by applicable provisions defined in Bylaw 4 and Bylaw 5, Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(2) The persons designated for appointment to the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees shall meet all criteria as defined herein this Bylaw 7 of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(3) Appointment to the Pool of Nominees shall only be good of one year. At the end of one year, the Committee on Nominations may determine to re-appoint persons or select new persons to be added to the Pool.

(4) The Board of Trustees of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes shall select persons from the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees, who are annually approved by the Florida Baptist State Convention, to fill vacancies that occur on the several boards of its Supporting Organizations. Those appointed directors shall serve terms of service as provided in the respective governing documents of the Supporting Organizations.

F. In the discharge of its duties, the Committee on Nominations is requested to follow this procedure:

(1) In May of each year the Executive Director-Treasurer will provide to the Florida Baptist Witness a list of those persons

who have been named to serve on the Committee on Nominations. Individual Baptists will be invited to propose the names of worthy individuals, lay and ordained, to be considered for membership on the various committees, boards, corporations and agencies of this State Convention. Employees of the State Board of Mission, corporations and agencies of this State Convention are hereby discouraged, but are not altogether prohibited, from making unsolicited submissions of proposed nominees to these State Convention entities.

(2) The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall serve as staff resource for the Committee. He is responsible for furnishing to each member of the Committee of Nominations, as soon after May 1 of each year as possible, complete information relating to the appointments and nominations to be made by the Committee and written suggestions regarding the proper discharge of the duties of the Committee members.

(3) Each member of the Committee on Nominations is encouraged, upon being appointed, to search out and identify competent persons, both lay and ordained, from their association, to be considered by the Committee on Nominations in the discharge of its duties. In April of each year, the chairman of the Committee on Nominations will notify in writing, both the moderator and the director of missions in each association, of State Board of Missions vacancies which exist in their respective association. And the Nominating Committee chairman will request the committee designated by the association to send written suggested nominees in keeping with Florida Baptist State Convention Bylaw 12,C(3).

(4) The State Convention officers and the chairman of the Committee on Nominations, in consultation with the Executive Director-Treasurer, will select a time and place for the Committee on Nominations to meet during the month of August. The Executive Director-Treasurer will assist in the meeting arrangements and send the meeting notices to Committee members. The chairman of the Committee shall schedule a time period during the Committee on Nominations meeting for the executive officer of each agency and institution of the Florida Baptist State Convention, to discuss with the committee the qualifications required of persons to be nominated to serve on their respective board.

(5) Each Committee member and any interested Florida Baptist should submit nominations to the Executive Director-Treasurer's Office on or before July 1.

(a) All nominees shall be sent a "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaire" for completion and return to the chairman of the Committee on Nominations. This questionnaire shall contain the following information categories:

[1] Personal (name, address, telephone number, occupation, place of employment, length of Florida residency, and classification as either laity or ordained);

[2] Church Statistics for the prior church year as reported on the Annual Church Profile (ACP) [specifically the name of the church of which the nominee is a member, amount the church contributed to the Cooperative Program; percentage of church budget sent through the Cooperative Program; number of resident members; number of baptisms and ratio of baptisms to resident members]; and

[3] Bylaw Qualifying Requirements [as specified in Bylaw 4(6)(a)] written in question format with provision for either a yes/no response or an open-ended response.

[4] The nominee must sign and return the questionnaire to the chairman of the Committee on Nominations in a timely manner.

(b) The chairman will provide the collective nominations, and completed "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaires" received from individual Baptists, associations, and Committee on Nomination members to the Executive Director-Treasurer by August 1.

(c) The Executive Director-Treasurer's Office will duplicate all of the submitted "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaires" and send copies to each member of the Committee on Nominations two weeks prior to their scheduled committee meeting.

(6) Following the Committee on Nominations meeting, the chairman of the Committee will notify in writing and request a response from those persons nominated to serve on the committees, boards, corporations and agencies of the State Convention. The chairman shall submit, on a timely basis, the complete list of nominees, to the Florida Baptist Witness for publication on or before October 15.

(7) In carrying out its assigned task, the Committee shall give due consideration to each potential nominee and the church to which the nominee is a member in good standing.

(a) The committee shall review the "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaire" submitted by each nominee. The committee may not recommend to the State Convention a nominee who has not submitted a completed and signed questionnaire.

(b) The Committee, in considering a nominee, may give consideration to the nominee's church's baptism record and giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program.

(c) The Committee shall give due consideration to nominating persons who reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of Florida Baptist churches.

(8) The Committee on Nominations may, for just cause, replace any person currently serving on a standing State Convention committee or who is serving as a director, trustee or board member of a State Convention agency. Additionally, the Committee on Nominations may, for just cause, replace any person who is eligible for re-election to a standing State Convention committee or who is eligible for re-election as a director, trustee or board member of a State Convention agency. Just cause would specifically include: failure to attend regularly scheduled State Convention committee or agency board meetings (defined as being absent from at least two or more meetings without good and sufficient reason); resignation from a State Convention committee or agency board service; or a person removed from a State Convention committee or agency board service as provided for in Bylaw 12, G(10). The Executive Director-Treasurer will be responsible to provide to the Committee on Nominations each year information on any individual who would be subject to replacement for just cause.

(9) The Committee on Nominations shall nominate persons to fill vacancies which may exist on any board, agency, institution or State Convention committee.

(a) The Committee shall understand that the number of persons required for the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees may fluctuate from year to year. The number of nominees required will be determined by the Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, in consultation with the President, Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. The nominee count shall be based upon a formula consisting of the anticipated total director vacancies to be filled on the FBCH's Supporting Organizations during the following year, plus three additional persons.

(b) Persons who have been named to fill a temporary vacancy by the respective board, agency, institution or State

Convention committee bylaw's procedure, shall be eligible for nomination and election to complete a partial term and/or a new full term. A person's service to fill a temporary vacancy will be considered as a full term only if the individual has served more than one-half of the time specified for the term (i.e. six months of a one-year term, 12 months of a two-year term; or 18 months of a three-year term.)

#### **Bylaw 8: Committee on Credentials**

This Committee shall be responsible for all matters related to the registration and seating of messengers from cooperating Baptist churches as defined in Bylaw 2, Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(1) The Committee shall consist of seven members, including a chairman and vice-chairman, all of whom shall be appointed by the Committee on Nominations.

(2) This committee shall be responsible to review credentials of all messengers, and if necessary, issue credentials to persons who provide adequate evidence that they have been duly elected as a messenger from a cooperating Baptist church or church-type mission.

(a) An acceptable credential shall be the State Convention designated official "messenger card" on which has been completely and properly recorded all requested information concerning the messenger's church, and which is duly signed by the respective church's clerk or moderator.

(b) In the absence of an official messenger card, the Committee may accept an original typewritten communication, preferably appearing on the church's official stationery. The communication must include the following: the name of the duly elected messenger from the respective cooperating church or church-type mission being listed; the total church membership; the church's total gifts to the Cooperative Program during the prior year; the date of the church's authorization of messengers; and the signature of the respective church's clerk or moderator. A single communication may be used to identify all the duly elected messengers.

(c) The Committee shall use the most recently published issue of the Florida Baptist Annual or a listing provided by the State Convention's agency, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., to verify that the messenger's sending church is designated as a cooperating Florida Baptist church and to secure statistical data.

(3) Any question arising on the floor of the State Convention meeting concerning the seating of messengers shall be referred to the Committee on Credentials for consideration. The committee shall report back to the State Convention on a timely basis.

(a) The Committee shall make a reasonable attempt to hear from both the person(s) making the challenge of messenger seating, as well as the messenger(s) being challenged. The Committee is not required to hear presentations from any other persons.

(b) The Committee shall use as their source authority Bylaw 2, of the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, as a means of determining if the messenger represents a cooperating Florida Baptist church.

(c) Any other issues which were cited in the challenge of a specific seating of messenger(s) shall be considered by the Committee members, based upon their collective understanding of Southern Baptist theology, faith, practice and polity.

(d) In attempting to render a decision and recommendation to the State Convention on the messenger seating challenge, the Committee shall have as their options: (1) deny the challenge; (2) sustain the challenge and withdraw the credentials of the challenged messenger(s); (3) present no recommendation and request the State Convention to make a determination; (4) recommend that the challenge issue be referred to the State Board of Missions' Denominational Polity and Practice Committee.

(4) The Committee shall work with the Florida Baptist Convention's staff representative and the local registration committee to facilitate the registration of messengers and visitors.

(5) The Florida Baptist Convention's staff representative shall work with the chairman of the local registration committee in maintaining an up-to-date count of messengers and visitors. This count shall be reported to the Recording Secretary of the Florida Baptist State Convention upon [his] request. A final total count of messengers and visitors will be reported to the Recording Secretary upon completion of the registration.

(6) The chairman of the Committee on Credentials shall assign a member of the committee to the registration area for each State Convention session and shall notify the Florida Baptist Convention's staff representative of the assignment.

(7) The procedures to be followed in the enlistment, assigned tasks, training, and schedule of the local registration committee are delineated by the State Board of Missions' policy on "Florida Baptist State Convention: Annual Meeting."

#### **Bylaw 9. Committee on Order of Business**

This committee shall prepare a suggested order of business for each annual and called special meeting of this State Convention and shall otherwise function as a program committee for each meeting of the State Convention.

(1) The Committee shall consist of twelve (12) members, of which nine (9) shall be regular members, including a chairman and vice-chairman, who shall be elected by the State Convention as hereinafter provided, and three (3) members who shall fill designated permanent positions for a one-year period by virtue of their election as a State Convention officer, as hereinafter provided.

(a) The regular nine (9) members, including the chairman and vice-chairman, shall be elected by this State Convention for a term of three years, except for the lesser terms hereinafter provided. Each of these terms has a staggered starting and ending year to provide for the replacement and addition of at least three new members each year.

(b) The three permanent member positions shall be filled by the then currently elected and serving State Convention officers, specifically the president, first vice-president, and second vice-president. The term of service on the Committee will correspond to the one-year period of service as a Convention officer. The president shall be a voting member of the Committee and the first and second vice-presidents shall be ex officio non-voting members.

(c) The Committee chairman and vice-chairman shall be annually designated by the Committee on Nominations and recommended for approval by the State Convention.

(2) No person who has served a full three-year term or a two-year term, or as much as two years of an unexpired term, shall be eligible for re-election until at least one year has elapsed following his previous service.

(3) The Committee on Order of Business shall act as the Committee on Standing Rules in presenting any standing rules (parliamentary and non-parliamentary procedural rules), as prescribed in Bylaw 1(B) of these Bylaws, for consideration by the State Convention during the first session of the State Convention meeting.

(4) The committee shall present its report for its possible adoption at the first session on the first day of the meeting of the State Convention.

(5) The committee, acting as the program committee, shall be responsible for the arrangements of speakers, reports and program special events.

(6) The committee shall annually select a person to serve as the "convention preacher" to bring the annual convention sermon.

(a) In selecting the convention preacher the committee shall consider only persons who are serving in a cooperating Florida Baptist church and who have served in Florida continuously for the prior seven years. The individual selected shall have a pastoral ministry that reflects effective leadership in outreach, Cooperative Program support and cooperation. The committee also shall give due consideration to persons who reflect the diversity of Florida Baptist churches.

(b) The committee may select an alternate convention preacher who would be ready to substitute for the designated convention preacher, but who otherwise will be assigned to participate in the "Convention at Worship" period in which the annual convention sermon is scheduled.

(7) The committee shall provide adequate time for serious discussion of the business, needs, problems and opportunities of the State Convention.

(8) All matters of business shall be introduced to the State Convention by the end of the morning session of the second day of the annual meeting of the State Convention.

(a) The Committee shall schedule adequate times for miscellaneous business to permit the introduction of new business.

(b) This restriction shall not apply to those reports and/or recommendations previously published in either the Book of Reports or the Florida Baptist Witness, and which the Committee on Order of Business has scheduled for consideration on the third or subsequent day(s) of the State Convention.

(9) All matters of business to be considered during a special session of the State Convention shall be restricted to the specific item(s) for which the special session is convened.

#### **Bylaw 10: Resolutions**

This State Convention shall no longer encourage the presentation of resolutions inasmuch as such recommendations can be appropriately presented as motions by messengers, any standing committee of the State Convention and/or the State Board of Missions. However, any and all motions of resolution offered shall be governed as follows:

(1) A motion of resolution offered by an individual messenger(s) shall be in writing, signed by the maker who shall be a registered messenger to the State Convention, and shall be delivered directly to the desk of the Recording Secretary, after the resolution has been introduced. The introduction of a resolution shall be limited to only the title and/or topic of the proposed motion of resolution being presented.



(2) The messenger's introduction of a motion of resolution shall be presented during the designated time of miscellaneous business. The presentation of a motion of resolution being recommended by the State Board of Missions or a State Convention standing committee shall be presented by the Board or proposing committee directly to the State Convention, at a time designated by the Committee on Order of Business.

(3) All motions of resolution by messengers shall be referred to the Committee on Order of Business that shall determine appropriate disposition of these motions, resolutions and memorials. No motion of resolution may be introduced to this State Convention after the last period of miscellaneous business, unless by unanimous consent of the messengers present and voting.

(4) The consideration of a motion of resolution shall be governed by the Standing Rules that are defined in Bylaw 1,B of these Bylaws.

#### **Bylaw 11: Time, Place and Preacher**

A. The annual meeting time of the State Convention shall be scheduled to occur on the second Monday and Tuesday of the month of November, when practicable, with the session meeting times to be determined by the Committee on Order of Business.

B. The State Convention shall select the future city location for the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention to be held seven years hence, based upon a recommendation by the State Board of Missions.

(1) Such a recommendation shall seek to propose meeting site locations that ensure, when feasible, that four out of every six years the site location shall be in the central area of the state.

(2) Such a recommendation shall propose meeting facilities locations that meet the criteria defined by policies of the State Board of Missions.

C. The Convention directs the Committee on Order of Business to select the "convention preacher" and alternate to bring the annual convention sermon.

#### **Bylaw 12: State Board of Missions**

The State Convention shall elect a governing board to be known as "The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist State Convention," which body is incorporated by the State of Florida under the name of "Florida Baptist Convention, Inc."

##### A. Membership:

(1) The State Board of Missions shall be composed of members elected from within the bounds of each cooperating Baptist association. The geographical distribution of Board members is to be made on the following basis of church membership as recorded in the associational statistical reports which appear in the prior year's published issue of the Florida Baptist Annual.

(a) One Board member for 1-15,000 church members which shall increase by one Board member for each additional 15,000 church members or portion thereof;

(b) Total elected membership of the Board shall be at least 90 members and no more than 99 members. If the total membership is projected to fall below 90 persons or exceed 99 persons in the succeeding year, the basis of church membership shall be adjusted accordingly either by decreasing or increasing by 1,000 church members as needed.

(c) In no instance shall any association be permitted to have more than seven (7) elected Board member representatives.

(2) Persons eligible for membership on the State Board of Missions are hereby divided into two groups – ordained to the gospel ministry and lay person:

(a) One group shall be comprised of ordained persons whether they serve on the staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association. For the purposes of this bylaw, a person who has been ordained to the gospel ministry shall be classified as ordained, whether or not they are serving in a ministry capacity.

(b) The second group shall be comprised of lay persons who are not ordained to the gospel ministry and who are members in good standing with a cooperating local church. No more than three-fifths of the members of said Board shall be drawn from either grouping.

(3) Not more than one person from any given cooperating local church shall serve on the State Board of Missions. An exception would permit an ex officio Board member and a regular Board member to hold membership in the same church and serve on the State Board of Missions concurrently.

(4) No person shall be nominated to serve on the State Board of Missions until after the person has been a member for at least one year of their present church. The Board member's church must be in friendly cooperation with the association which will be represented by the nominee. And the Board member's church must be affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention and give to world missions through the Cooperative Program.

(5) There will be three (3) ex officio members assigned to the Board. These shall include:

(a) The President of the Florida Baptist State Convention who also will be a voting member of the Administrative/Personnel Committee.

(b) The Recording Secretary of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(c) The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

(d) The Recording Secretary and the Executive Director-Treasurer shall be without vote.

(6) The Board shall elect its own president and other officers.

(a) The President and Vice-President of the Board shall be the President and the Vice-President, respectively, of the Corporation.

(b) The Executive-Director Treasurer shall be the General Secretary of the Corporation.

(c) The Assistant Executive Director shall be the Assistant General Secretary of the Corporation.

##### B. Term of Office:

(1) Each member, with the exception of the ex officio members, shall be elected for a three-year term, except when elected to fill an unexpired term and except as hereinafter provided.

(2) The terms of the President of the State Convention,

the Recording Secretary of the State Convention, the Executive Director-Treasurer and the Assistant Executive Director shall be for such periods as they hold their respective offices or positions.

(3) Terms will be for three years, with a Board member being eligible for a second term.

(4) An unexpired term will be considered as a full term if the individual serves more than one-half of the time specified for the term.

(5) Following service on the Board, a person will not be eligible for nomination until a period of three years has elapsed.

(6) A variety of restrictions shall govern continued membership on the Board including the following exceptions:

(a) Membership on the Board shall cease when the Board member either: [1] moves from the state; or [2] moves their church membership to a congregation which cooperates with another association; or [3] ceases to be a member in good standing with a church that is in cooperating fellowship with the local Baptist association and/or the State Convention; or [4] becomes deceased. See item (7) that follows for clarification on residency.

(b) Additionally, a person's membership on the Board shall cease if the church of which they are a member either: [1] no longer cooperates with the local Baptist association; or [2] no longer cooperates with the State Convention, as defined by Bylaw 2 of these Bylaws, or [3] the church affiliates with another Baptist association.

(7) A Board member shall retain membership on the Board should they change church membership to another cooperating Florida Baptist congregation cooperating with the same association from which the Board member was elected to represent. Additionally, a Board member may continue their Board service, although their residence may change, as long as they either continue being a member in good standing or serving on the paid staff of the church cooperating with the same association from which the Board member was elected to represent.

(8) Membership on the Board will automatically be terminated when a member is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board, unless the Board votes to excuse the absence for good and sufficient reasons.

(9) Vacancies will be filled according to provisions outlined in the State Board of Missions Bylaws.

#### C. Method of Election:

(1) Members of the Board, other than ex officio members, shall be elected by the State Convention in annual session.

(2) The Committee on Nominations of the State Convention shall bring nominations for all vacancies.

(3) Due to the recognized Baptist principle of the autonomy of various Baptist bodies, and while recognizing the value of an association's experience and advice, the Committee on Nominations shall not be bound to accept the suggested nominees from an association.

(a) If an association chooses to suggest nominees to the Committee on Nominations, the association should submit at least twice the number of persons required to fill the Board vacancies in that association.

(b) These nominees should be grouped as specified in Bylaw 12.A(2). Specifically, one group shall be comprised of ordained persons and members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association; the second group shall be comprised of lay persons other than members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association.

(4) Notification of the final date for suggestions will be made by the Committee on Nominations in the Florida Baptist Witness.

(5) The Committee on Nominations shall indicate in its report to the State Convention, the total number of years each nominee has previously served on the Board.

#### D. Meetings:

(1) The State Board of Missions shall meet four (4) times annually, one of which meetings shall be held immediately preceding the annual meeting of the State Convention.

(2) Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President of the Board or by the Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, as necessary.

(3) The Florida Baptist Convention will pay expenses for all meetings of the Board, except the pre-convention meeting, unless the Board member's church does not normally provide his expenses to the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

#### E. Organization:

The State Board of Missions shall organize itself to carry out the work of the State Convention as committed to it.

#### F. Committees:

(1) The State Board of Missions shall elect annually an Administrative/Personnel Committee, which also shall act as an executive committee of the Board having full authority to act on behalf of the Board between scheduled Board meetings. The committee shall be composed of the President and Vice-President of the Board, the President of the Florida Baptist State Convention to be a voting member, the Recording Secretary of the Board to be an ex officio non-voting member, the chairmen of the standing committees, and eleven (11) other persons on the Board, to be elected by the Board.

(2) The standing committees shall be: Budget-Allocations, Convention Properties, Program, Loans, Denominational Polity and Practice, and Nomination of Board Committees.

(3) The president of the Board shall serve as chairman of the Administrative/Personnel Committee.

#### G. Special Works:

The State Board of Missions shall have the following special works:

(1) Act for the State Convention in the interim between annual meetings. The State Board of Missions acts for the Florida Baptist State Convention between its annual meetings; thus, the State Board of Missions should counsel the agencies and instrumentalities of the Florida Baptist State Convention between said annual meetings, and there should be a free exchange between all of the agencies and instrumentalities of the Florida Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions.

(2) Have full charge of state mission work, including church building funds and all other loan funds.

(3) Make an annual estimate of the needs of the work supported by this State Convention and fix state objectives for all causes.

(4) Provide for the current financial support in the operation and maintenance of its work.

(a) In carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, the Board shall ensure, by whatever policy and/or procedures are practicable, that the provisions of the State Convention's Business and Financial Plan (as defined in Bylaw 16 of the Bylaws, Florida Baptist State Convention) are followed.

(b) The Board, acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention, shall have the authority to approve financial loans, as defined by these Bylaws, and which are required by an agency, institution or the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

(5) Employ an Executive Director-Treasurer. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall have the following primary responsibilities:

(a) Provide general supervision of all departments of work.

(b) Take charge of the funds of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and hold same, subject to the order of the State Convention or the State Board of Missions, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., the incorporated body, during the recess of the State Convention.

(c) Make an annual report of all receipts and expenditures, which shall be audited and published in the Convention Annual.

(d) Ensure the publication of a Convention Annual each year.

(e) Serve as a non-voting member of all State Convention appointed and elected committees and State Board of Missions committees, or, he shall appoint persons to serve with him or in his behalf, when needful or when it seems wise to him to do so.

(f) Serve as an ex officio, voting member of any newly-created committee or study group authorized by the State Convention.

(g) Serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of all boards of trustees or directors of Convention agencies and institutions. The Executive Director-Treasurer or his designee shall be permitted to attend all regular and special meetings, including executive sessions, of the respective boards and their committees.

(h) Serve as a permanent, voting member of the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee and the Board of Trustees of the Pembroke Foundation.

(i) Provide reasonable secretarial and staff assistance to the State Convention and its committees as specified in the State Convention's Bylaws.

(j) In compliance with requirements by the Convention Corporation's auditor-of-record, the executive director-treasurer shall on a periodic basis submit his monthly travel expense reports to the State Board of Missions' President for review and sign-off.

(6) Develop, review, revise and approve appropriate policies to regulate assistance programs, ministries, services and procedures authorized by either the Florida Baptist State Convention or the Board.

(7) Authorize the establishment of a Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee, which shall operate under Board-approved policy referred to as the Church Site Plan, and procedures defined in the Board's Bylaws.

(8) The State Board of Missions may call special meetings of the State Convention as provided for in Article 12 of the Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution, and procedures defined in the Board's Bylaws.

(9) Employ, upon recommendation of the Executive Director-Treasurer, all professional staff members and such agents and employees as are found necessary to carry out its work.

(10) The Administrative/Personnel Committee of the State Board of Missions is empowered to fully investigate any charges of misconduct which are brought against any elected or appointed official or committee member of the Florida Baptist State Convention or any person serving as a trustee or director of any agency or institution of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(a) The basis for an investigation shall be any misconduct, unscriptural practices or behavior which may bring dishonor to the cause of Christ and to the position in which he or she serves.

(b) There may be any one of several actions which could cause the Administrative/Personnel Committee to undertake an investigation of removal. These would include, but not be limited to:

[1] The individual's resignation or removal from a leadership position in his or her local church or association which was the result of the individual's misconduct, unscriptural practices or behavior which may bring dishonor to the cause of Christ.

[2] Requests by a local church or association that the Administrative/Personnel Committee remove an individual from a statewide elected or appointed leadership position. Such requests, which must be in writing and signed, shall be sent to the President of the State Board of Missions and the Executive Director-Treasurer.

(c) The Administrative/Personnel Committee shall establish its own procedure for investigating the charges. However, the Committee shall make every reasonable attempt to hear from both the party requesting the removal of an individual, as well as the individual being challenged. Once the Committee has made its determination, the Committee shall report its decision on a timely basis, to the parties involved.

(d) If the charges are substantiated and the elected or appointed official chooses not to resign his or her elected or appointed position, the Administrative/Personnel Committee shall then recommend to the State Board of Missions the removal of that elected official, committee member, trustee, or director of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(e) A vote of removal requires a two-thirds vote of the members of the State Board of Missions present at the meeting during which the matter is presented. Should the action for removal be affirmed, the Board shall report its action and the existence of a position vacancy to the Committee on Nominations,

if appropriate, and to the next annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(11) To provide oversight and financial resources for the Florida Baptist Historical Society, a non-corporate fraternal organization of the Florida Baptist State Convention. The Society, through its board of directors, shall promote and encourage the collection and preservation of materials and information related to the history of Southern Baptists in Florida.

(a) The State Board of Missions shall: approve proposed policy and procedures developed by the Society's board of directors; appoint its board of directors; receive annual reports from its board of directors; and provide for an annual operating budget.

(b) As a result of authorization by the State Convention, the Florida Baptist Historical Society is expected to utilize a reasonable portion of the Society's annual operating budget for assisting the Florida Baptist Historical Collection in the acquisition of historical resources.

(12) Shall establish guidelines and procedures by which to review and recommend actions on all pertinent matters pertaining to the theology, faith, practice and polity of Florida Southern Baptists, including the Florida Baptist State Convention, the State Board of Missions, cooperating Florida Baptist churches and cooperating Florida Baptist associations.

(13) The Board shall assign to the appropriate committee the task of receiving, evaluating and recommending to the Board all requests to mortgage, sell or any transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by Florida Baptist State Convention related agencies, institutions, and corporate and non-corporate entities. The assigned committee shall recommend to the Board whether or not to approve such request. Those requests approved by the Board shall then be recommended to the Florida Baptist State Convention for approval of the mortgage, sale or any transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by a State Convention related entity. This requirement shall not apply to land that was received as a gift or by other means and does not constitute an integral part of the entity's operations. Additionally, this requirement shall not apply to the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee, which is governed by Bylaw 3B(6), State Board of Missions.

#### H. Conflicts of Interest:

The State Board of Missions shall adopt and adhere to a "Conflicts of Interest" policy statement and procedures that shall govern the conduct of Board members and employees of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. This policy shall emphasize the fiduciary duty and responsibilities these persons have to exercise their best care, skill and judgment for the sole benefit of the Convention. Each Board member shall be required to annually complete, sign and submit a Board-approved questionnaire on "Conflicts of Interest."

#### I. Quorum:

Fifty-one percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the State Board of Missions.

#### **Bylaw 13: Annual**

There shall be a Florida Baptist Annual published each year, which shall include the minutes of the annual meeting and of any extra sessions and the reports of the various agencies, departments, and committees. In addition, the Annual shall include the statistical reports of cooperating churches; the Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution and Bylaws (which includes the

Business and Financial Plan); the annual audits of each Convention board and agency; and all such other data and material as may from year to year seem desirable. Each year, one copy of the Annual shall be provided to each cooperating Florida Baptist church and Baptist association. Additional copies of the Annual shall be made available on a cost-recovery basis.

#### **Bylaw 14: Quorum**

A. The quorum for conducting business during the annual meeting or a called special session of the Florida Baptist State Convention shall be a minimum of twenty-five (25) percent of those duly registered and seated messengers.

B. Except as otherwise provided in the Constitution or these Bylaws, the act of a majority of the messengers present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the State Convention, where a quorum is present, shall be the act of the State Convention.

#### **Bylaw 15: Altering Bylaws**

These Bylaws may be altered by a majority vote with a quorum present at any session of the annual meeting. Notice of any change proposed must be published in the Florida Baptist Witness at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting of the State Convention.

#### **Bylaw 16: Business and Financial Plan**

##### A. Cooperative Program:

Established in 1925 by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Program is the unified financial appeal for nearly all denominational missions, ministry, and benevolence causes supported by this State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Through the cooperation of individual Baptists and Southern Baptist churches, the Cooperative Program involves the soliciting, securing, dividing and distributing of these funds by cooperating local churches, the State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. All financial resources voluntarily contributed and designated as Cooperative Program and received by the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall be governed by the State Convention's Business and Financial Plan, herein described.

##### B. Convention Budget:

(1) Each department, phase of work or institution, State Convention sanctioned non-corporate or auxiliary entity, supported by the Florida Baptist Convention from Cooperative Program funds shall submit to the Budget-Allocations Committee, for its consideration and recommendation to the State Board of Missions, an itemized estimate and budget of its expected expenditures for the next fiscal year, according to the policy of the Board for making operating budgets.

(2) The Board shall annually develop and recommend to the State Convention a Cooperative Program basic budget for the following year that shall not exceed an increase of three (3) percent of the total Cooperative Program income received during the previous year, as defined by these Bylaws.

(a) The proposed budget shall consist of the budgets of all departments and non-departmental expenditures which have been submitted to the Board and approved by the Board;

(b) The proposed budget shall specify a percentage distribution of Cooperative Program income for State Convention approved priority items, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., the agencies and institutions of the State Convention; and the Southern Baptist Convention.

(c) In developing the annual budget, the "previous year" shall be defined as the period when all Cooperative Program income received occurred between June 1 of the prior year and May 31 of the current year.

(3) The Board may recommend for approval by the State Convention an Advance Section of the Florida Baptist Convention Basic Budget that will propose the distribution of anticipated Cooperative Program income in excess of the amount required for the annual basic budget.

(a) Any Advance Section of the annual Basic Budget shall ensure that the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program will be designated to share in the income in excess of the basic budget at the same percentage rate as it receives from the Basic Budget.

(b) The Board may, for just cause, modify the distribution of the Advance Section income receipts in the year following receipt of the excess income. Such action would require a two-thirds affirmative vote by the Board members voting. The Board shall report such action during the next annual meeting of the State Convention.

#### C. Operation Budgets:

(1) Convention Expense. The State Board of Missions shall recommend to the State Convention all non-departmental budgets, which shall include all expenses of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., not included in the departmental budgets.

(2) Institutions Not Sharing in Cooperative Program Funds. The State Board of Missions may recommend to the State Convention that aid be provided to non-convention institutions ministering to areas of the State Convention territory and promoting that general work which the State Convention is set up to do, and whose policy conforms to the policy of the State Convention, provided such aid shall be appropriated from the annual Maguire State Mission Offering.

(a) All entities aided shall be publicized in the state mission material, and in consideration of such aid, recipients shall present to the Budget-Allocations Committee of the State Board of Missions an annual audit.

(b) Tuition assistance may be granted from Cooperative Program resources as a budget item to aid full-time students at Palm Beach Atlantic University who are committed to Christian ministry as a vocation without complying with any other provision in Bylaw 16,C(2).

(3) Expenses of Committees. Expenses of all standing committees of the State Board of Missions, or committees appointed by the Board or State Convention in session, shall be appropriated from the non-departmental budget (Convention Expense); said expenses must be kept in line with Florida Baptist Convention and Board policies. Itemized accounts of expenses of all Florida Baptist Convention employees and State Convention committee members shall be required and approved by an authorized person before payment.

(4) Departments, Causes and/or Institutions Sharing in Cooperative Program. The departments and institutions sharing in the state's percentage of funds shall make their operating budget in the following manner:

(a) The current operating budget of the departments and institutions shall be made on the basis of cash receipts of the Cooperative Program for the previous year, and any overdraft or

debt incurred within the current year shall be chargeable against the budget of the department or institution for the Convention year immediately following.

(b) In making the annual department and priority item budgets on the basis set forth, no contingent fund is to be set up.

[1] Any unused funds of all departmental budgets shall be transferred to the State Mission Fund unappropriated surplus to meet any unbudgeted expenditures.

[2] Any unused funds in the current budget's pastoral (salary) aid fund may be carried forward and placed in a pastoral assistance reserve fund for use in subsequent years to fulfill pastoral salary assistance requests.

#### D. Creating Debt:

(1) No agency, institution, committee or the Florida Baptist Convention shall create a debt for this State Convention without instruction and authorization from this State Convention, except as provided for in either Bylaw 11,G(4), or that debt request which is in conformity with the following provisions:

(a) An exception to this provision shall be a temporary line-of-credit which shall have a 12-month or less time period for repayment in full. Any new or renewed line-of-credit which an agency or board arranges with a lending institution, must have the prior approval of its governing board of trustees. Any line-of-credit secured by an agency or institution shall be reported to the Convention's Executive Director-Treasurer, who shall make a timely report to the Budget-Allocations Committee of the State Board of Missions at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

(b) Any temporary (12 months or less) line-of-credit which is not paid in full within the time period agreed to by the agency and the lending institution shall be considered a permanent loan. Such reclassified lines-of-credit shall have the timely approval of the agency's board of trustees and the approval of the State Board of Missions. Approval may be secured by the most convenient and expedient means of polling.

(2) The State Board of Missions, acting on behalf of the State Convention, shall have the authority to approve permanent loans, as hereafter provided, requested by an agency, institution, commission or the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. The State Board shall have the authority to approve loan guarantees for churches or other State Convention agencies and institutions as hereafter provided.

(a) This approval shall be limited to loans which: [1] represent 10 percent of the agency's prior year actual operating income; [2] when combined with the respective agency's outstanding debt, does not exceed 15 percent of the agency's total annual income; and [3] have a projected maturity date of 60 months or less.

(b) The church loan guarantee and/or a State Convention agency loan guarantee approved by the State Board shall not be governed by previous item (a). However, the combined value of these loan guarantees shall not exceed 25 percent of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., annual total operating budgetable income.

(c) The approval for loans and/or loan guarantees shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the State Board of Missions, when a quorum is present at a regularly scheduled or call meeting of the Board.

(d) All requests for loan approvals and/or loan

guarantees shall be made to the Convention's Executive Director-Treasurer, at least 10 business days prior to presentation to the State Board of Missions' Budget-Allocations and Administrative/Personnel Committees. Upon approval, either committee may recommend action by the State Board of Missions. The loan or loan guarantee request shall identify: [1] the amount of loan or loan guarantee; [2] annual percentage rate of loan (whether fixed or variable and the terms); [3] amortization schedule; [4] funding sources for repayment; [5] collateral which would be pledged against the loan, if any; [6] purpose for which loan is required; [7] total of all outstanding debt, prior to this request; and [8] date of board of trustee action approving loan request.

(e) All loan and loan guarantee requests approved by the State Board of Missions shall be reported as a part of the Board's report during the next annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(3) The Florida Baptist State Convention shall approve any loan request, by any agency, institution, or the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., which represents: more than 10 percent of the agency's prior year's operating income; and/or when combined with other outstanding debt, causes the agency's total debt to exceed 15 percent of the agency's annual income; and/or which has a projected maturity date of 121 months or longer. The same procedure, as specified in Bylaw 16,D(2)(d) shall be followed, and be approved by the State Board of Missions, before being recommended to the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(4) The Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee shall be empowered to create a debt for the Florida Baptist Convention in purchasing property for church sites as provided in the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Plan.

(5) The Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., shall be empowered to create a debt for itself or one of its auxiliary enterprises, upon the approval of their board of trustees. Any and all indebtedness made by the agency shall be reported on a timely basis to the Florida Baptist Convention's Executive Director-Treasurer who shall make a timely report to the State Board of Missions.

(6) It is understood that the State Board of Missions only may borrow money for current operations or debts of the Board or Florida Baptist Convention in cases of emergency. Such action shall be reported to the next annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

#### E. Convention Year:

The financial affairs of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and all institutions owned, operated or controlled by the State Convention shall be operated on the fiscal year beginning January 1 and closing December 31. An exception to this provision shall be permitted for The Baptist College of Florida, which may operate on a fiscal year beginning July 1 of one year through June 30 of the ensuing year.

#### F. Disbursing Agency:

(1) All moneys for all causes fostered by the State Convention will be forwarded to the Office of the Executive Director-Treasurer, who will act as disbursing officer of all funds of the Florida Baptist Convention.

(2) The Executive Director-Treasurer will disburse all moneys for budgetary items, as requested by various departments, and to all institutions, by direction of the State Board of Missions. He shall also remit monthly to each agency or designated objective,

funds received by the Florida Baptist Convention from churches or any other source. All designated funds received on or before the last day of the month shall be disbursed on or before the 10th day of the next month.

(3) The Executive Director-Treasurer shall make quarterly reports of all moneys received and publish same in the Florida Baptist Witness.

#### G. Distribution of Cooperative Program Funds:

(1) Cooperative Program funds shall be divided between state and Southern Baptist Convention causes as to the percentage voted by the State Convention.

(2) In order that the financial plan and purpose of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., may be operated successfully, the State Convention appeals to the churches to give to world missions through the Cooperative Program and to recognize the wisdom and right of the Convention to allocate its receipts from the Cooperative Program funds, thus assuring an equitable and satisfactory distribution of all Cooperative Program moneys.

(3) Any church may require that its Cooperative Program gifts be withheld from any specified agency, institution or cause, and the money so withheld shall be prorated among the other Florida objects participating in the Cooperative Program division of the budget adopted by the Board and State Convention.

#### H. Special Solicitations:

(1) Any special campaigns for funds or special offerings by any agency or institution owned, controlled or supported by the Florida Baptist State Convention, involving the territory or churches of the State Convention, must first be endorsed and approved by the State Board of Missions acting upon a recommendation of the Administrative/Personnel Committee or the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon a recommendation of the State Board of Missions.

(2) This prerequisite (Bylaw 16,H(1)) does not apply to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, the Maguire State Mission Offering or the Mother's Day Offering for the Florida Baptist Children's Homes.

(3) Any such agency or institution may solicit contributions and gifts from individuals or corporations for capital funds, endowments or special projects, provided the request for funds is made on an individual and personal basis and not through a structured, organized campaign as in team member solicitation and not through cooperating local churches related to the State Convention.

(4) The Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., and its several related divisions of work, including the Florida Baptist Foundation; Florida Baptist Auxiliary Enterprises, Inc.; and the Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc.; however, shall have the right by any means it deems wise, except by special offerings in the churches, to solicit funds by gifts, bequests, investments, or otherwise from any and all cooperating local churches and persons related to the State Convention.

#### I. Designated Gifts:

(1) The State Board of Missions, upon recommendation by its Budget-Allocations Committee and/or the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., may accept on behalf of the Corporation any contribution, including any designated

gift, planned gift, bequest or devise provided it is consistent with the Convention's (1) mission and priorities, (2) budget process and fiscal restrictions, (3) full ownership and control of the funds or assets, and (4) tax-exempt purposes.

(2) As so limited, donor-designated contributions will be accepted for special funds, purposes or uses, and such designations generally will be honored.

(3) The Corporation shall reserve all right, title and interest in and to, and control of such contributions, as well as full discretion as to the ultimate expenditure or distribution thereof in connection with any special fund, purpose or use.

#### J. Investment of Corporate Funds:

The State Convention directs the State Board of Missions to develop, implement and provide on-going oversight to an investment policy that defines the fiduciary guidelines, objectives and constraints of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., in its management of financial resources invested in any Endowment Fund(s), Special Fund(s) and undesignated investment fund(s) established by and for the benefit of the Florida Baptist State Convention, the State Board of Missions, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., the Florida Baptist Historical Society, and/or any financial assistance program operated by the State Board of Missions.

(1) The Board's investment policy shall provide guidelines for the State Board of Missions-designated committee in monitoring and/or providing counsel to the Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, or his designee, in facilitating the prudent management of the Convention Corporation's invested funds. Additionally the Board-designated committee shall affirm the selection, monitor, receive timely reports and provide counsel to any third-party investment manager(s) retained by the Convention Corporation.

(2) The Board-approved investment policy shall define investment principles and management guidelines which shall provide for risk management and encourage adherence to investment discipline, among other issues reflecting financial prudence.

(3) The Board shall ensure that the Convention Corporation shall not invest any funds in any enterprise that is involved in the sale, manufacture, distribution or promotion of alcohol, recreational drugs, tobacco, gambling, and pornography and/or any enterprise knowingly involved in any activity not compatible with basic Christian values, which may be further defined by the State Board of Missions.

#### K. Endowment Funds:

The State Board of Missions, upon recommendation by its Budget-Allocations Committee and/or the Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall approve the establishment of any special purpose endowment funds that benefit the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

(1) Such funds shall be designated to foster, promote and/or underwrite a specific program or ministry that is consistent with the Convention's mission and priorities. Each newly established fund shall have a defined purpose, defined limitations on expenditures, and identified funding sources.

(2) Endowment funds shall be placed with the Florida Baptist Foundation, Inc., for management, unless a compelling reason exists for the Board to authorize the specific endowment fund being placed and managed by some other qualified fiduciary

agency.

(3) Endowment funds established by the Board for a specific purpose may be funded by any one or more options including, but not limited to, annual budget allocations, allocations of Cooperative Program income overages, and/or funding from other sources.

(4) The annual interest earned by an endowment fund may be either (1) added to the fund's principle, or (2) disbursed for the defined purpose of the endowment.

(5) Annual disbursements from an endowment fund shall be included as a source of income with a complementary expenditure on the annual Florida Baptist Convention basic budget for the next fiscal year.

(6) The Board, as the Convention Corporation's directors, shall reserve all right, title and interest in and to, and control of such endowment funds, as well as full discretion as to the ultimate expenditure or distribution thereof in connection with any special fund, purpose or use.

#### L. Trust Funds:

Each agency or institution of the State Convention is hereby instructed and ordered to keep all trust funds and designated gifts (for they are trust funds) sacred to the trust and designation; that they be kept separate from all other funds of such agency or institution; that they are not to be used even temporarily for any other purpose than the purpose specified; and that such funds shall not hereafter be invested in securities of any denominational body or agency.

#### M. Capital Investment:

Any institution of the State Convention shall not create any liability or indebtedness, except as such can or will be repaid from its capital funds budget or moneys provided for this purpose, without the consent of the State Convention or State Board of Missions. In order to secure the approval, the institution must make a written request to the State Board of Missions, stating the needs and provision for repayment.

#### N. Contingent Reserves:

The State Board of Missions shall require the Executive Director-Treasurer to maintain two contingent reserve funds. These funds are to be known as the Florida Baptist Convention Reserve Fund and the Operating Reserve Fund. When practicable, these reserve funds shall be maintained with the Florida Baptist Foundation, a division of Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc. The annual audit of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. shall reflect the balances in each of the reserve funds.

(1) The Florida Baptist Convention Reserve Fund shall maintain a sufficient reserve, as determined by the State Board of Missions, to provide for unexpected emergency expenses, any unfunded liabilities incurred from Board-approved personnel benefit programs, and any other unanticipated mission, ministry and program expenditures deemed appropriate and authorized by the State Board of Missions.

(a) This reserve fund is to be funded annually from income over expenses realized by the State Mission Fund.

(b) To ensure a timely accessibility to these funds, a financial institution, other than the Foundation, may be utilized to maintain all or a portion of these reserve funds.

(2) The Operating Reserve Fund shall attempt to accumulate sufficient funds to provide four months operating funds for the Florida Baptist Convention budget. The fund would be used only should a budget deficit occur due to a decrease in Cooperative Program receipts or should Cooperative Program income not be sufficient to meet necessary budgetary needs.

(a) The reserve fund is to be funded annually from the advance section of the budget until such time as the fund goal is achieved.

(b) Interest earned on monies in the Operating Reserve Fund will remain with the principal.

(c) The State Board of Missions shall have the discretion to expend principal and/or interest income in the fund for needs the Board deems necessary or appropriate.

#### O. Financial Reports:

(1) The Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and all institutions owned, controlled or supported by the State Convention from Cooperative Program funds shall close their books and accounts at the end of their fiscal year and have them audited by a certified public accountant. These annual audits shall be in keeping with standards defined by the Financial Accounting Standards Boards (FASB).

(2) The Convention auditor of record shall be selected and employed by the State Board of Missions. Each State Convention agency shall select and employ their own certified public accountant of record.

(3) Each institution, auxiliary or recipient of funds from the State Convention shall forward two copies of its audit to the Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, as soon as possible, certainly within one hundred and twenty days after the close of the fiscal year.

(a) Additional copies of these agency audits shall be provided to the Budget-Allocations Committee of the State Board of Missions at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled May meeting of the State Board of Missions each year. The members of the Budget-Allocations Committee shall be provided copies of the audit of the Florida Baptist Convention Corporation, and the Budget-Allocations Committee members assigned to the Audit Subcommittee shall be provided copies of all other audits of State Convention agencies, institutions and/or entities.

(b) The Budget-Allocations Committee shall meet with the Convention Corporation's certified public accountant of record at the May meeting of the State Board of Missions each year to hear the auditor's presentation and review the audit and management letter.

(c) The Audit Subcommittee shall annually meet with the certified public accountant(s) of record of each State Convention agency at the May meeting of the State Board of Missions to hear the respective auditor's presentation and review each agency's audit and management letter. The subcommittee shall report its findings to the full Budget-Allocations Committee.

(d) Each annual audit shall include a certification of the certified public accountant as to the handling of the funds and records.

(4) The financial report and the audit of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and the audit of each institution supported from Cooperative Program funds by the State Convention, as well as any

other entity owned or controlled by the State Convention, shall be printed in the Convention Annual each year.

#### P. Handling of Funds:

(1) All persons who handle funds or securities of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., or any institution of the State Convention shall be adequately bonded.

(2) The books of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and all institutions supported by the State Convention from Cooperative Program funds shall be opened for inspection by State Convention officers, members of the Board and any cooperating Baptist.

(3) The securities, deeds, notes and all valuable records shall be kept in a fireproof safe or vault. The Florida Baptist Foundation may, however, deposit funds, securities, wills and legal documents for safekeeping and investment in one or more state or national banks selected by the trustees, each such bank to have a minimum of \$2,000,000 in capital, surplus and undivided profits, and to be a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

#### Q. Expansion Proposals and New Enterprises:

(1) The Administrative/Personnel Committee of the State Board of Missions shall study all requests for expansion in any department, institution or phase of work affecting the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and no report or request for expansion shall go to the Board and/or State Convention for a vote, until it has been studied by the Committee, and must be reported back to the next meeting of the Board or State Convention.

(2) Any expansion proposed will be in keeping with the policy of the Business and Financial Plan of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(3) No new enterprise or institution involving expenditures of Convention funds shall be authorized by the State Convention, except upon favorable action by the State Convention in two succeeding annual meetings; this restriction shall not apply to a recommendation of any department or institution of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., concerning its own work. Any action involving this paragraph shall require a two-thirds vote of the messengers present and voting.

#### R. Former Actions:

This Business and Financial Plan supersedes any Business and Financial Plan previously adopted by the Florida Baptist State Convention.



## STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS: Bylaws

*Last Revised November, 2009*

*[Current Version as of November, 2014]*

### Bylaw 1: Statement of Facts and Intent

A. This Corporation is a non-profit corporation of the State of Florida, organized and existing under and by virtue of Chapter 4854, Acts of 1899, Laws of Florida and Amended Charter as appears of record in Incorporation Record Book 27, at Pages 291-297 of the current public records of Duval County, Florida.

On August 20, 1992, the Florida Baptist Convention filed with the Florida Secretary of State, a Certificate of Reincorporation for the Florida Baptist Convention to comply with a revision in Chapter 617 of the State of Florida Statutes which deals with "Corporations Not-For-Profit."

B. The Bylaws under which this Corporation has been operating were adopted December 7, A.D. 1926, by the Florida Baptist State Convention and by the Florida Baptist State Board of Missions on the 4th day of January, A.D. 1927. Said Bylaws appear on pages 19-21 of the Florida Baptist Annual for 1926. Subsequent revisions of these Bylaws were adopted by the State Board of Missions, on the 2nd day of September, A.D. 1960. These Bylaws were ratified and approved by the Florida Baptist State Convention at its 1960 annual session, held in St. Petersburg, Florida, November 16, A.D. 1960. Subsequently, revisions in specific Bylaws have been made as deemed necessary. It is the intent that the following shall be a complete revision thereof and that upon approval and adoption by the Florida Baptist State Convention, its Mission Board, and this Corporation that same shall supersede and replace all former Bylaws.

C. The name of the mission group or mission board, which is incorporated as: "FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC." is now known as "The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist State Convention." Through the years, this entity has been frequently known and in common parlance referred to by various names, such as: "State Board of Missions of the Baptist Denomination of Florida," "Florida Baptist State Board of Missions," "Florida Baptist Board of Missions," "State Board of Missions," "The State Board of Missions," "The State Mission Board," and "The Florida State Mission Board." While such variations of the name are erroneous or have become obsolete, yet when so referred to they shall be considered as having reference to the mission group or board which is incorporated as "FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION," and for convenience herein the contraction, "State Board of Missions," or "Board" is being used. The Florida Baptist State Convention will be referred to herein as "Convention" or "State Convention." The Florida Baptist Convention will be referred to herein as "Corporation" or the "Corporate Body."

D. These Bylaws shall be included in the annual publication of the Florida Baptist Annual and the Board's Book of Policies. The latest issue of these publications shall include the most recent revisions approved by the Florida Baptist State Convention.

### Bylaw 2: Board of Directors

#### A. Definition

The State Board of Missions functions as the board of directors of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., a Not-for-Profit Corporation. The affairs of the Corporation are managed and directed under the authority of this Board. Persons who serve on the State Board

of Missions are elected and governed by the provisions set forth in the State Convention's Constitution and Bylaws, amended and approved by the duly elected messengers attending the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention, an unincorporated association of cooperating Baptist churches in the State of Florida.

#### B. Members

(1) The State Board of Missions shall be composed of members elected from within the bounds of each cooperating Baptist association. The geographical distribution of Board members is to be made on the following basis of church membership as recorded in the associational statistical reports which appear in the prior year's published issue of the Florida Baptist Annual.

(a) One Board member for 1-15,000 church members which shall increase by one Board member for each additional 15,000 church members or portion thereof;

(b) Total elected membership of the Board shall be at least 90 members and no more than 99 members. If the total membership is projected to fall below 90 persons or exceed 99 persons in the succeeding year, the basis of church membership shall be adjusted accordingly either by decreasing or increasing by 1,000 church members as needed.

(c) In no instance shall any association be permitted to have more than seven (7) elected Board member representatives.

(2) Persons eligible for membership on the State Board of Missions are hereby divided into two groups – ordained to the gospel ministry and lay person:

(a) One group shall be comprised of ordained persons whether they serve on the staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association. For the purposes of this bylaw, a person who has been ordained to the gospel ministry shall be classified as ordained, whether or not they are serving in a ministry capacity.

(b) The second group shall be comprised of lay persons who are not ordained to the gospel ministry and who are members in good standing with a cooperating local church. No more than three-fifths of the members of said Board shall be drawn from either grouping.

(3) Not more than one person from any given cooperating local church shall serve on the State Board of Missions. An exception would permit an ex officio Board member and a regular Board member to hold membership in the same church and serve on the State Board of Missions concurrently.

(4) No person shall be nominated to serve on the State Board of Missions until after the person has been a member for at least one year of their present church. The Board member's church must be in friendly cooperation with the association which will be represented by the nominee. And the Board member's church must be affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention and give to world missions through the Cooperative Program.

(5) There will be three (3) ex officio members assigned to the Board. These shall include:

(a) The State Convention President who also will be a voting member of the Administrative /Personnel Committee.

(b) The Recording Secretary of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(c) The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida

Baptist Convention, Inc.

(d) The Recording Secretary and the Executive Director-Treasurer shall be without vote.

(6) The Board shall elect its own president and other officers.

(a) The President and Vice-President of the Board shall be the President and the Vice-President, respectively, of the Corporation.

(b) The Executive Director-Treasurer shall be the General Secretary of the Corporation.

(c) The Assistant Executive Director shall be the Assistant General Secretary of the Corporation.

### C. Term of Office

(1) Each member, with the exception of the ex officio members, shall be elected for a three-year term.

(a) A person elected to fill an unexpired term may serve for a shorter period.

(b) These Bylaws may specify other exceptions.

(2) The terms of the President of the State Convention, the Recording Secretary of the State Convention, the Executive Director-Treasurer and the Assistant Executive Director shall be for such periods as they hold their respective offices or positions.

(3) Terms will be for three years, with a Board member being eligible for a second term.

(4) An unexpired term will be considered as a full term if the individual serves more than one-half of the time specified for the term.

(5) Following service on the Board, a person will not be eligible for nomination until a period of three years has elapsed.

(6) A variety of restrictions shall govern continued membership on the Board including the following exceptions:

(a) Membership on the Board shall cease when the Board member either: [1] moves from the state; or [2] moves their church membership to a congregation which cooperates with another association; or [3] ceases to be a member in good standing with a church that is in cooperating fellowship with the local Baptist association and/or the State Convention; or [4] becomes deceased. See item (7) that follows for clarification on residency.

(b) Additionally, a person's membership on the Board shall cease if the church of which they are a member either: [1] no longer cooperates with the local Baptist association; or [2] no longer cooperates with the State Convention, as defined by Bylaw 2 of these Bylaws, or [3] the church affiliates with another Baptist association.

(7) A Board member shall retain membership on the Board should they change church membership to another cooperating Florida Baptist congregation cooperating with the same association from which the Board member was elected to represent. Additionally, a Board member may continue their Board service, although their residence may change, as long as they either continue being a member in good standing or serving on the paid staff of the church cooperating with the same association from

which the Board member was elected to represent.

(8) Termination of membership on the Board will be recommended when a member accumulates three (3) consecutive unexcused absences at Board meetings. The Board may vote to excuse a member's single or accumulated absences for good and sufficient reasons.

(a) An absence shall be defined as not being physically present at the actual meeting of the full Board. While attendance at a Board committee meeting is essential for effective Board service, being present at a Board committee meeting shall not be considered in lieu of actual Board meeting attendance.

(b) The Board meeting days shall be those calendar dates annually approved by the Board. Attendance, excused absences, and unexcused absences shall be recorded at every Board meeting, with the exception of a member's absence at a post-Convention meeting shall not be considered as either excused or unexcused.

(c) A Board member who anticipates being absent for "good and sufficient reason" from a regularly scheduled Board meeting, is required to notify the Executive Director-Treasurer's Office no later than one day prior to the Board meeting. The definition of "good and sufficient reason" shall be left to the integrity and determination of the individual Board member.

(d) The Executive Director-Treasurer shall report to the Board all members who have notified him of their anticipated absence. The Board shall take action, then and there, by a simple majority affirmative vote, on a motion, "to excuse the recorded absence of those Board members who have communicated in advance concerning their anticipated absence from this regularly scheduled Board meeting."

(e) Failure to make advance notification of a planned absence, in addition to an actual absence from the Board meeting, shall be counted as an unexcused absence for the purposes of this Bylaw.

(f) The Executive Director-Treasurer immediately following the second meeting at which the member was absent, without excuse or without Board approval of their absence, shall notify a member who accumulates two unexcused absences.

(g) The Executive Director-Treasurer shall notify the Board upon the third consecutive unexcused absence of a member. The Board shall vote by simple majority, whether or not to terminate the membership status of the respective member and declare the existence of a Board vacancy.

(9) Vacancies will be filled according to provisions outlined in Bylaw 7,H,4 of the State Board of Missions Bylaws.

### D. Method of Election

(1) Members of the Board, other than ex officio members, shall be elected by the State Convention in annual session.

(2) The Committee on Nominations of the State Convention shall bring nominations for all vacancies.

(3) Due to the recognized Baptist principle of the autonomy of various Baptist bodies, and while recognizing the value of an association's experience and advice, the Committee on Nominations shall not be bound to accept the suggested nominees from an association.

(a) If an association chooses to suggest nominees to the Committee on Nominations, the association should submit at least twice the number of persons required to fill the Board vacancies in that association.

(b) These nominees should be grouped as specified in Bylaw 2,B(2). Specifically, one group shall be comprised of ordained persons and members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association; the second group shall be comprised of lay persons other than members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association.

(4) Notification of the final date for receiving suggestions will be made by the Committee on Nominations in the Florida Baptist Witness.

(5) The Committee on Nominations shall indicate in its report to the State Convention, the total number of years each nominee has previously served on the Board.

#### E. Conflicts of Interest

The State Board of Missions shall adopt and adhere to a "Conflicts of Interest" policy statement and procedures that shall govern the conduct of Board members and employees of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. This policy shall emphasize the fiduciary duty and responsibilities these persons have to exercise their best care, skill and judgment for the sole benefit of the Convention. Each Board member shall be required to annually complete, sign and submit a Board-approved questionnaire on "Conflicts of Interest."

### **Bylaw 3: Provisions as Established by the State Convention**

#### A. Organization

The State Board of Missions shall organize itself to carry out the work of the State Convention as committed to it.

(1) The State Board of Missions shall elect annually an Administrative/Personnel Committee, which shall act as an executive committee of the Board, to be composed of:

- (a) The President and Vice-President of the Board.
- (b) The President of the Florida Baptist State Convention to be a voting member.
- (c) The Recording Secretary of the Board to be an ex officio non-voting member.
- (d) The chairmen of the standing committees.
- (e) Eleven (11) other persons on the Board, to be elected by the Board.

(2) The other standing committees shall be:

- (a) Budget-Allocations
- (b) Convention Properties
- (c) Program
- (d) Loans
- (e) Denominational Polity and Practice
- (f) Nomination of Board Committees

(3) The president of the Board shall serve as chairman of the Administrative/Personnel Committee.

#### B. Special Works

The State Board of Missions shall have the following special works:

(1) The State Board of Missions acts for the Florida Baptist State Convention between its annual meetings. Consequently, the State Board of Missions should counsel the agencies and institutions of the Florida Baptist State Convention between the State Convention's annual meetings. There should be a free exchange between all of the agencies and institutions of the Florida Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions.

(2) Have full charge of state mission work, including church building funds and all other loan funds.

(3) Make an annual estimate of the needs of the work supported by this State Convention and establish state objectives for all causes.

(4) Provide for the current financial support in the operation and maintenance of its work.

(a) In carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, the Board shall ensure, by whatever policy and/or procedures are practicable, that the provisions of the State Convention's Business and Financial Plan (as defined in Bylaw 16 of the Florida Baptist State Convention Bylaws) are followed.

(b) The Board, acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention, shall have the authority to approve financial loans, as defined by the State Convention's Bylaw 16,D and which are required by an agency, institution or the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

(5) Develop, review, revise and approve appropriate policies to regulate assistance programs, ministries, services and procedures authorized by either the Florida Baptist State Convention or the Board.

(a) To facilitate administration and monitoring of financial assistance programs, the Board may annually appoint three-member oversight committees. These will include, but not be limited to, a Tuition Assistance Committee and a Ministers Emergency Assistance Committee.

(b) All policies of the Board and the Florida Baptist State Convention shall be collected and annually published in a Book of Policies, which shall be made available to any Florida Baptist upon request.

(6) Authorize the establishment of a Florida Baptist Church Site Committee, which shall operate under Board-approved policy referred to as the Church Site Plan.

(a) The Church Site Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Florida Baptist Convention Corporation to purchase, receive, otherwise acquire, and dispose of real and personal property on behalf of the Church Site Committee for the establishment of strategically located churches and missions. The Committee shall be authorized to recommend indebtedness for approval by the State Board of Missions within the guidelines of the Church Site Plan and the State Convention's Business and Financial Plan.

(b) The Administrative/Personnel Committee of the

Board shall recommend any changes to the policies of the Church Site Plan. The Committee also will annually nominate persons to serve on the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee for approval by the Board.

(c) The Convention Properties Committee of the Board will receive at least annually, a report on the work of the Church Site Committee.

(d) The Board shall review and approve all proposed changes to the policies of the Church Site Plan.

(7) Employ an Executive Director-Treasurer. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall have the following primary responsibilities:

(a) Provide general supervision of all departments of work.

(b) Take charge of the funds of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and hold same, subject to the order of the State Convention or the State Board of Missions, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., the incorporated body, during the recess of the State Convention.

(c) Make an annual report of all receipts and expenditures, which shall be audited and published in the Convention Annual.

(d) Ensure the publication of a Convention Annual each year.

(e) Serve as a non-voting member of all State Convention appointed and elected committees and State Board of Missions committees, or, he shall appoint persons to serve with him or in his behalf, when needful or when it seems wise to him to do so.

(f) Serve as an ex officio, voting member of any newly-created committee or study group authorized by the State Convention.

(g) Serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of all boards of trustees or directors of State Convention agencies and institutions. The Executive Director-Treasurer or his designee shall be permitted to attend all regular and special meetings, including executive sessions, of the respective boards and their committees.

(h) Serve as a permanent voting member of the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee and the Board of Trustees of the Pembroke Foundation.

(i) Provide reasonable secretarial and staff assistance to the State Convention and its committees as specified in the Convention's Bylaws.

(j) In compliance with requirements by the Convention Corporation's auditor-of-record, the executive director-treasurer shall on a periodic basis submit his monthly travel expense reports to the State Board of Missions' President for review and sign-off.

(8) Employ, upon recommendation of the Executive Director-Treasurer, all professional staff members and agents and employees as are found necessary to carry out its work.

(9) The Administrative/Personnel Committee of the State Board of Missions is empowered to fully investigate any charges of misconduct which are brought against any elected or appointed official or committee member of the Florida Baptist State Convention or any person serving as a trustee or director of any

agency or institution of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(a) The basis for an investigation shall be any misconduct, unscriptural practices or behavior which may bring dishonor to the cause of Christ and to the position in which he or she serves.

(b) There may be any one of several actions which could cause the Administrative/Personnel Committee to undertake an investigation of removal. These would include, but not be limited to:

[1] The individual's resignation or removal from a leadership position in his or her local church or association which was the result of the individual's misconduct, unscriptural practices or behavior which may bring dishonor to the cause of Christ.

[2] Requests by a local church or association that the Administrative/Personnel Committee remove an individual from a statewide elected or appointed leadership position. Such requests, which must be in writing and signed, shall be sent to the President of the State Board of Missions and the Executive Director-Treasurer.

(c) The Administrative/Personnel Committee shall establish its own procedure for investigating the charges. However, the Committee shall make every reasonable attempt to hear from both the party requesting the removal of an individual, as well as the individual being challenged. Once the Committee has made its determination, the Committee shall report its decision on a timely basis, to the parties involved.

(d) If the charges are substantiated and the elected or appointed official chooses not to resign his or her elected or appointed position, the Administrative/Personnel Committee shall then recommend to the State Board of Missions the removal of that elected official, committee member, trustee or director of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(e) A vote of removal requires a two-thirds vote of the members of the State Board of Missions present at the meeting during which the matter is presented. Should the action for removal be affirmed, the Board shall report its action and the existence of a position vacancy to the Committee on Nominations, if appropriate, and to the next annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(10) The State Board of Missions may call special meetings of the State Convention as provided for in Article 12 of the Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution.

(a) To call a special session of the Florida Baptist State Convention requires a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the total membership of the State Board of Missions.

(b) The Board members shall be polled by the Executive Director-Treasurer and the member's vote shall be secured in writing.

(c) The call and ballot for a special session of the Convention must be sent to each Board member with a written notice of the session and its purpose, at least thirty (30) calendar days before the session is to be held.

(11) To provide oversight and financial resources for the Florida Baptist Historical Society, a non-corporate fraternal organization of the Florida Baptist State Convention. The Society, through its board of directors, shall promote and encourage the collection and preservation of materials and information related to the history of Southern Baptists in Florida.

(a) The State Board of Missions shall: approve proposed policy and procedures developed by the Society's board of directors; appoint its board of directors; receive annual reports from its board of directors; and provide for an annual operating budget.

(b) As a result of authorization by the State Convention, the Florida Baptist Historical Society is expected to utilize a reasonable portion of the Society's annual operating budget for assisting the Florida Baptist Historical Collection in the acquisition of historical resources.

(12) Shall establish guidelines and procedures by which to review and recommend actions on all pertinent matters pertaining to the theology, faith, practice and polity of Florida Southern Baptists, including the Florida Baptist State Convention, the State Board of Missions, cooperating Florida Baptist churches and cooperating Florida Baptist associations.

(13) The Board shall assign to the appropriate committee the task of receiving, evaluating and recommending to the Board all requests to mortgage, sell or any transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by Florida Baptist State Convention related agencies, institutions and corporate and non-corporate entities. The assigned committee shall recommend to the Board whether or not to approve such request. Those requests approved by the Board shall then be recommended to the Florida Baptist State Convention for approval of the mortgage, sale or any transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by a State Convention related entity. This requirement shall not apply to land that was received as a gift or by other means and does not constitute an integral part of the entity's operations. Additionally, this requirement shall not apply to the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee, which is governed by Bylaw 3,B,(6), State Board of Missions.

C. Quorum

Fifty-one percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

**Bylaw 4: Officers**

The officers of this Corporation shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a General Secretary, to be known as Executive Director-Treasurer, and an Assistant General Secretary, to be known as Assistant Executive Director.

A. President — The President of the State Board of Missions shall be the President of the Corporation. He shall perform the following duties:

(1) Preside over all meetings of the Administrative/Personnel Committee and the State Board of Missions.

(2) Exercise all powers, duties, and functions incident to the presidency of similar corporations. With the Executive Director-Treasurer or the Assistant Executive Director, execute deeds, mortgages, and contracts relating to the purchase, sale, and encumbrancing of real property.

(3) Appoint the Nomination of Board Committees Committee, using the other Board-elected officers to assist him if he so desires.

(4) Appoint all special committees deemed necessary and appropriate by the Board.

(5) Serve as a permanent voting member of the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee.

(6) Serve as an ex officio voting member of all standing and special committees of the Board.

(7) In compliance with requirements by the Convention Corporation's auditor-of-record, the Board President shall on a periodic basis receive, review and sign off on the monthly travel expense reports of the executive director-treasurer.

B. Vice-President — The Vice-President of the State Board of Missions shall be the Vice-President of the Corporation. He shall perform the following duties:

(1) Assist the President in the performance of his duties.

(2) In the absence or disability of the President, perform the duties of the President, including the execution of deeds, mortgages, and contracts relating to the purchase, sale and encumbrancing of real property.

(3) Perform any other duties as requested by the Board.

C. Recording Secretary — The Recording Secretary of the State Board of Missions shall perform the following duties:

(1) Record the minutes of all meetings of the Board.

(2) Perform any other duties as requested by the Board.

D. Executive Director-Treasurer — The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall perform the following duties:

(1) Supervise and direct the entire mission program of the Convention, being subject at all times, to the direction and control of the State Board of Missions.

(2) Perform those duties designated by the Corporation as described in Bylaw 3,B(7) of these Bylaws.

(3) He shall execute with the President or Vice-President of the Corporation, all deeds, mortgages, and contracts relating to the purchase, sale, and encumbrancing of real property. He shall execute, in the name of the Corporation, partial releases and satisfactions of mortgages, subordination and subrogation agreements, conditional release agreements or reverter and reversion clauses contained in deeds or other documents for the life of any mortgage, trust indenture or bond, and shall affix or place the corporate seal upon all legal papers which require same.

(4) Maintain complete and permanent records and accounts, and shall be the custodian of all property, books, papers, records, insurance policies, bonds, and other effects belonging to the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., or pertaining to the work and affairs of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., the Board and the Corporate body.

(5) Upon leaving the office, deliver to his successor, or such person as the Board shall designate, all property, books, papers, records, insurance policies, bonds, and effects of the Florida Baptist Convention, the Board and the Corporation.

(6) Issue all notices for meetings of the Board or State Convention.

(7) Perform all such other duties as may be requested by the State Convention or the Board.

E. Assistant Executive Director — The Assistant Executive Director of the Florida Baptist Convention shall perform the following duties:

(1) Assist the Executive Director-Treasurer in the

performance of his duties.

(2) Perform the duties of the Executive Director-Treasurer in the absence or disability of the Executive Director-Treasurer. This task shall include the execution, along with the President or Vice-President, of deeds, mortgages, and contracts relating to the purchase, sale and encumbrancing of real property. He shall execute, in the name of the Corporation, partial releases and satisfactions of mortgages, subordination and subrogation agreements, conditional release agreements or reverter and reversion clauses contained in deeds or other documents for the life of any mortgage, trust indenture or bond, and shall affix or place the corporate seal upon all legal papers which require same.

(3) Perform all other such duties as shall be assigned to him by the Executive Director-Treasurer and as may be requested by the State Convention or the Board.

#### **Bylaw 5: Meetings**

A. The State Board of Missions shall meet four (4) times annually, one of which meetings shall be held immediately preceding the annual meeting of the State Convention.

B. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President of the Board or by the Executive Director-Treasurer as necessary.

C. The Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., will pay expenses for all meetings of the Board, except the pre-convention meeting, unless the Board member's church does not normally provide for expense reimbursement to attend the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

D. Meetings shall be held at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly, Leesburg, Florida, at least once a year and rotate to other locations within the limits of the State of Florida (i.e.: near institutions and agencies of the Florida Baptist State Convention) as needed and approved by the Board.

E. Although a quorum shall be specified in Bylaw 3,C, of these Bylaws, meetings may be held with less than a quorum, provided that no decision, resolution, vote, or action by less than a majority of Board members shall become effective.

F. Notices of regular meetings shall be sent by the Executive Director-Treasurer in writing at least ten (10) days in advance.

(a) Notices of special called meetings shall include the purpose for the meeting, unless it is of a confidential nature.

(b) Notices for meetings at which amendments to the Bylaws or the Charter are to be considered, shall include a copy of the proposed amendments.

G. Robert's Rules of Order Revised, so far as applicable, shall be followed when rules of order are needed.

#### **Bylaw 6: Voting and Vacancies**

A. Each member shall have one vote.

(1) The Recording Secretary of the Florida Baptist State Convention, the Executive Director-Treasurer and the Assistant Executive Director, shall not be permitted to vote on any issue.

(2) Proxies shall not be permitted.

B. Should any office in the Corporation become vacant,

the vacancy shall be filled by election from within the Board. This provision shall not apply to the Executive Director-Treasurer or the Assistant Executive Director.

#### **Bylaw 7: Committees**

##### **A. General Provisions**

(1) There shall be the following standing committees namely: Administrative/Personnel, Budget-Allocations, Convention Properties, Program, Loans, Denominational Polity and Practice, and Nomination of Board Committees.

(2) The members of the standing committees, with the exception of the Nomination of Board Committees, shall be elected by the State Board of Missions during the first regular meeting after the meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(3) The Nomination of Board Committees Committee shall be appointed by the President of the State Board of Missions.

(4) The standing committees shall be entitled to have and elect subcommittees from their own members. Such subcommittees shall be responsible and report to the standing committee which elects them.

(5) Members of the Nomination of Board Committees Committee may serve on one additional committee, since their main function is at the beginning of the Convention year.

B. Administrative/Personnel — The membership of this committee shall be as set forth in Bylaw 3,A(1). The duties of the Administrative/Personnel Committee shall be:

(1) To function between meetings of the State Board of Missions, acting as an executive committee of the Board having full authority to act on behalf of the Board, with the understanding that such actions shall be subsequently reported to the Board. If requested to do so by the Administrative/Personnel Committee, and/or as a result of bylaw or other legal requirements, the full Board shall vote whether or not to ratify such actions.

(2) To give general direction to the operations of the State Board of Missions.

(3) To serve as the Personnel Committee.

(a) To review the position descriptions, specification sheets, and make recommendations to the State Board of Missions for the employment of professional (Board-elected) staff.

(b) To determine and recommend to the Budget-Allocations Committee the annual salary adjustments (merit and cost-of-living) if any, for inclusion in the annual budget.

(c) To annually review and approve all personnel policies for the staff of the Florida Baptist Convention.

(4) To assure that all recommendations to the State Board of Missions and to the State Convention are in keeping with the Constitution, Bylaws and Business and Financial Plan, and to make recommendations regarding changes in the official documents of both the Florida Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions.

(5) To serve as the liaison between the Florida Baptist Convention and other Baptist groups in denominational relationships.

(6) To establish guidelines and policies related to the

program of stewardship and the promotion of the Cooperative Program.

(7) To evaluate and recommend to the State Board of Missions all proposals related to program expansion and to the establishment of new programs of the Florida Baptist Convention.

(8) To relate to the GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in providing retirement and annuity benefits for the staff, pastors and other church workers related to the Florida Baptist Convention.

(9) To review legal matters related to the Florida Baptist Convention as needed.

(10) To give general direction to the program of public relations of the Florida Baptist Convention.

(11) To recommend all changes to the policies of existing financial assistance programs for approval by the State Board of Missions.

(12) To annually nominate persons to serve on the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee for approval by the State Board of Missions.

(13) To annually nominate persons to serve on the Board of Directors of the Florida Baptist Historical Society for approval by the State Board of Missions. The committee shall have the option to receive recommendations on nominees from the then current Society's board of directors.

(14) To carry out any special works as defined by Bylaw 12,G, of the Florida Baptist State Convention Bylaws.

(15) To accept the responsibility of other matters not assigned to other committees of the State Board of Missions.

C. Budget-Allocations— The duties of the Budget-Allocations Committee of the State Board of Missions shall be:

(1) To serve as the budget planning and budget control committee of the State Board of Missions, and to recommend the annual budget of the Florida Baptist Convention to the State Board of Missions.

(2) To examine all audits of the agencies of the Florida Baptist State Convention, including the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and to report on each to the State Board of Missions.

To facilitate the fulfillment of this requirement, the Committee shall follow two procedures, one for the Convention Corporation, and a separate parallel procedure for the other agencies of the State Convention.

(a) Each agency shall select and employ a certified public accountant to conduct an annual audit of their financial records and accounts in keeping with standards defined by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). Copies of these annual audits shall be secured and distributed according to the procedures defined by the "Business and Financial Plan" [Bylaw 16(O), Bylaws, Florida Baptist State Convention].

(b) The Budget-Allocations Committee shall meet with the Convention Corporation's certified public accountant of record at the May meeting of the State Board of Missions each year to hear the auditor's presentation and review the audit and management letter.

(c) Each year the chairman of the Budget-Allocations Committee shall appoint a five member Audit Subcommittee selected from the membership of the Budget-Allocations Committee.

(d) The Audit Subcommittee shall annually meet with the certified public accountant(s) of record for each State Convention agency at the May meeting of the State Board of Missions to hear the respective auditor's presentation and review each agency's audit and management letter. The Subcommittee shall report its findings to the full Budget-Allocations Committee.

(e) The Budget-Allocations Committee shall receive the report on the audit of the Convention Corporation and the Audit Subcommittee's report on the audits of the State Convention agencies and make a determination for a final report to the State Board of Missions.

(f) In the event that issues identified in any agencies' audit management letter need further consideration (including the Convention Corporation), the Audit Subcommittee shall follow these procedures:

[1] Letters will be sent from the Audit Subcommittee to the chief executive officers and board chairmen of each agency/institution requiring written responses to comments and recommendations in audit management letters.

[2] The Audit Subcommittee will meet each year before the summer meeting of the Budget-Allocations Committee to review the written responses from agencies/institutions. Chief executive officers of the agencies/institutions will be present for the meeting if requested by the Audit Subcommittee.

[3] Copies of all audit reports and written responses to audit management letters are to be kept in an ongoing confidential file in the Business Services Division Office.

[4] Each year, prior to the May meeting with the auditors, the director of the Business Services Division will advise the Audit Subcommittee chairman of the file and any ongoing concerns from prior years.

[5] Ongoing, unresolved concerns will be referred to the Budget-Allocations Committee if additional action is deemed necessary.

(3) To coordinate and oversee all planned giving activity of the Florida Baptist State Convention, Inc. These tasks shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) To review the development, implementation of and compliance with the Board's policies on planned giving;

(b) To establish and monitor guidelines for the evaluation and acceptance of non-cash gifts;

(c) In consultation with the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, to recommend to the Board for its review and final determination on the acceptance by the Corporation any contribution, including any designated gift, planned gift, bequest or devise that may or may not conform to existing policies on planned giving;

(d) To establish guidelines and review any proposal that involves the naming of a Convention owned real property, facility or building in the honor and/or memory of any person(s) living or deceased, and to make such appropriate recommendations to the Board for its review and final determination;

(e) To receive status reports from the Executive Director-Treasurer on the filing of appropriate notification and registration forms with the appropriate state government regulators related to charitable solicitation, charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts;

(f) To review staff administration goals and benchmarks for implementing planned giving policies and obtaining planned gifts;

(g) To ensure that the intent and spirit of the State Convention's "Business and Financial Plan" dealing with "Designated Gifts" is followed.

(4) To monitor all Endowment Fund(s), Special Fund(s) and undesignated investment fund(s) established by and for the benefit of the Florida Baptist State Convention, the State Board of Missions, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., the Florida Baptist Historical Society, and/or any financial assistance program operated by the State Board of Missions. Such monitoring tasks may include, but not be limited to the following:

(a) To serve as the Board's Investment Committee for any Endowment, Special Fund(s) or undesignated investment fund(s) which were not previously assigned to any other entity and which tasks shall include: recommending to the Board all investment objectives and policies of the respective funds; determining the overall asset allocation of investments; appointing and evaluating investment managers; monitoring the implementation and performance of the fund(s); and ensuring that procedures are consistent with the State Convention's Business and Financial Plan, and/or the Internal Revenue Code, and/or the Florida Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act, to the extent applicable.

(b) To receive and review the annual investment performance reports of any and all funds as required by Board policy;

(c) To review and recommend to the Board any disbursements as required by Board policy or the respective fund's operating guidelines;

(d) To review and recommend to the Board any donor requests for special provisions, memorials or other special recognitions associated with their financial contribution to any existing or newly established Endowment Fund or Special Fund; and

(e) To review and recommend to the Board any revisions, additions, and deletions to Board policies which govern any one and/or all Endowment Fund(s), Special Fund(s), or undesignated investment fund(s).

(f) Each year the chairman of the Budget-Allocations Committee shall appoint a three-member Investment Subcommittee selected from the membership of the Budget-Allocations Committee. The chairman shall designate the subcommittee's chairman and vice-chairman.

[1] The subcommittee shall meet at least three times a year, generally prior to the scheduled meetings of the Board. And if necessary the subcommittee may meet at other times and, if feasible, by electronic video and/or other audio means.

[2] The subcommittee shall be responsible to generally perform the fiduciary responsibilities assigned to the Budget-Allocations Committee related to endowment funds, special funds and undesignated investment funds as herein defined in Bylaw 7C(4),(a)(b)(c)(d)(e). The subcommittee shall advise the Budget-Allocations Committee of any germane investment and related

issues that require the attention and/or action of the Committee and/or the State Board of Missions.

[3] The specific responsibilities of the subcommittee shall be to provide counsel to the Convention staff (i.e. Executive Director-Treasurer, Business Services Division Director, and Accounting Director, among others) regarding: investment objectives and policies; allocation of assets that comprise the Convention's endowment funds, special funds and undesignated investment funds; the selection and retention of any third-party investment managers and/or advisors; and any related tasks.

[4] The subcommittee shall receive reports from Convention staff at each meeting regarding: the several endowment funds, special funds and undesignated investment funds; the respective funds' year-to-date balances; the respective funds' earnings and/or loss performances; and any other germane matters to inform the subcommittee on the overall performance of the Convention's invested funds.

[5] The subcommittee shall report to the Budget-Allocations Committee, during its regularly scheduled meetings, on the status of the Convention's several endowment funds, special funds and undesignated investment funds.

(5) To consider all requests for expenditures not included in the budget and/or previously approved by the State Board of Missions.

(6) To consider requests of the Florida Baptist State Convention institutions and boards for loans whether or not repayment of the loan requires funds from the Florida Baptist Convention.

(7) To review the budget reports of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and other Florida Baptist agencies and non-corporate entities related to the State Board of Missions. The Executive Director-Treasurer will review Cooperative Program income at each meeting of the State Board of Missions and provide an analysis of budgetable income.

(8) To assure that the Business and Financial Plan of the Florida Baptist State Convention is followed by all institutions and boards of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(9) To receive and evaluate all budget requests for funds required by Florida Baptist Convention ministries, programs and non-corporate entities, which are the responsibility of the State Board of Missions. The Committee shall receive and evaluate all requests to conduct any special campaigns and offerings proposed by Florida Baptist State Convention agencies, institutions, non-corporate entities, including Florida Baptist Convention programs.

(10) To accept other responsibilities as assigned by the State Board of Missions.

D. Convention Properties — The duties of the Convention Properties Committee of the State Board of Missions shall be:

(1) To study the needs for properties of the programs of the Florida Baptist Convention and make recommendations to the State Board of Missions regarding the acquisition of new property, the sale of Florida Baptist Convention-owned property, the construction of new buildings and the major remodeling or repairing of existing buildings and equipment, including major improvements on Convention property.

(2) The Committee shall receive, evaluate, and recommend to the Board all requests to mortgage, sell or any



transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by Florida Baptist State Convention related agencies, institutions and corporate and non-corporate entities. The assigned committee shall recommend to the Board whether or not to approve such request. Those requests approved by the Board shall then be recommended to the Florida Baptist State Convention for approval of the mortgage, sale or any transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by a State Convention related entity. This requirement shall not apply to land that was received as a gift or by other means and does not constitute an integral part of the entity's operations. Additionally, this requirement shall not apply to the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee, which is governed by Bylaw 3,B,(6), State Board of Missions.

(3) To propose necessary budget requests to the Budget-Allocations Committee for recommendation to the State Board of Missions.

(4) To assure that all legal requirements are met regarding Florida Baptist Convention properties.

(5) To assure proper maintenance of all properties and equipment of the Florida Baptist Convention.

(6) To receive at least annually a report on the work of the Florida Baptist Convention Church Site Committee.

(7) To accept other responsibilities as assigned by the State Board of Missions.

E. Program — The duties of the Program Committee of the State Board of Missions shall be:

(1) To work in cooperation with and receive regular reports from the appropriate institutional or agency representatives in order to view the total work of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(2) To assist institutions and agencies of the Florida Baptist State Convention in preparing program changes to be recommended to the Administrative/ Personnel Committee for action by the State Board of Missions.

(3) To consider programs not assigned to an institution or agency of the Florida Baptist State Convention to be recommended to the Administrative/ Personnel Committee for action by the State Board of Missions.

(4) To review with the Executive Director-Treasurer, the programs of work under the direction of the State Board of Missions and to bring to the attention of the Administrative/Personnel Committee needs not being met by existing programs.

(5) To hear requests, set goals and recommend allocations and methods of promotion of the Maguire State Mission Offering to be recommended to the Budget-Allocations Committee for action by the State Board of Missions.

(6) To receive annually a report from the Florida Baptist Historical Society on its assignment to promote the preservation of history of Southern Baptists in Florida.

(7) To receive at each meeting of the committee, a report on the Ministers Emergency Assistance Program.

(8) The chairman of the Program Committee will serve as a member of the Theological Education Advisory Committee.

(9) To accept other responsibilities as assigned by the State Board of Missions.

F. Loans — The duties of the Loans Committee of the State Board of Missions shall be:

(1) To administer the program of Financial Assistance to Churches and Mis-sions, being responsible for action on applications for loans, in accordance with the policies of the State Board of Missions. In the case of an exception to the policy, a recommendation will be made to the Administrative/Personnel Committee for action by the State Board of Missions.

(2) To facilitate the duties of the Loans Committee, a Loans Subcommittee shall be appointed annually from the membership of the Loans Committee. The following procedures shall be followed:

(a) The Loans Subcommittee shall consist of five members to be appointed annually by the chairman of the Loans Committee. The vice-chairman of the Loans Committee shall serve as chairman of the Subcommittee.

(b) The Loans Subcommittee is authorized to approve loan applications between regular meetings of the State Board of Missions provided the loans do not require an exception to the policy.

(3) To recommend necessary changes in the policies of the State Board of Missions related to financial assistance to churches and missions to the Administrative/ Personnel Committee for action by the State Board of Missions.

(4) To accept other responsibilities as assigned by the State Board of Missions.

G. Denominational Polity and Practice — The duties of the Denominational Polity and Practice Committee of the State Board of Missions shall be:

(1) To review, develop and recommend action by the Board on all pertinent matters pertaining to the theology, faith, practice and polity of Florida Southern Baptists, including the Florida Baptist State Convention, the State Board of Missions, cooperating local churches and cooperating associations.

(2) To review, develop and recommend any changes, revisions and additions to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(3) To review, develop and recommend any changes, revisions and additions to the Bylaws of the State Board of Missions.

(4) To review, develop and recommend any changes, revisions and additions to the Policies of the State Board of Missions which are not assigned to any other committee of the Board.

(5) To serve as the credentials committee of the Board in reviewing and recommending action by the Board regarding any church which seeks status as a Church-at-Large.

(6) To ensure that all churches and missions started or sponsored by the Florida Baptist Convention, within a reasonable time after being constituted, fulfill all the criteria required of a cooperating Baptist church as defined by the bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(7) To serve as the credentials committee of the Board in reviewing and recommending action by the Board regarding any new or reorganized Baptist association applying for unconditional status as a cooperating Baptist association as defined by the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(8) To review and recommend appropriate action(s) to be taken as a result of any cooperating local church which, during the prior year, fails to fulfill the criteria of a cooperating church as defined by the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(9) To develop procedures, which this committee shall follow, when requested to review, assess and make a recommendation to the Board, concerning the theology, faith, practice and polity of a cooperating Florida Baptist church or cooperating Baptist association. Such a review shall occur only upon the specific written request from duly authorized leadership of a cooperating Florida Baptist church or a cooperating Florida Baptist association.

(10) To accept other responsibilities as assigned by the State Board of Missions.

H. Nomination of Board Committees — The membership of the Nomination of Board Committees Committee shall be five in number. The duties of the committee shall be:

(1) To recommend the nomination of committee personnel for election by the State Board of Missions. The election shall be conducted during the first regular meeting of the State Board of Missions after the meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Committee chairmen and vice-chairmen shall be designated by the Nomination of Board Committees Committee.

(2) To assure a proper balance of personnel on each committee.

(3) To fill necessary committee vacancies during the year.

(4) To fill a vacancy on the State Board of Missions (if the vacancy occurs before the May meeting of the Board) the committee shall make a temporary appointment, as soon as practicable, of a person from the association where the vacancy has occurred.

(a) The executive board of the affected association may submit from two (2) to five (5) nominees for consideration by the Nomination of Board Committees Committee.

(b) This temporary appointment shall be subject to the approval by the State Board of Missions, with the understanding that such approval shall be effective until the next annual State Convention meeting.

(c) The Committee on Nominations of the Florida Baptist State Convention shall recommend a nominee, to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term, which may or may not be the Board's temporary appointee, for final approval by the State Convention.

(d) If a vacancy occurs following the May meeting of the State Board of Missions, the vacancy shall remain until the next annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

(5) To nominate personnel for special committees established during the year as requested.

(6) To accept other responsibilities as assigned by the State Board of Missions.

#### **Bylaw 8: Business and Financial Plan**

The Business and Financial Plan of the State Convention, which may be amended from time to time, shall be binding upon this Corporation and is hereby made a part of these Bylaws by reference.

#### **Bylaw 9: Calendar and Fiscal Years**

The Calendar and Fiscal Years of the Corporation shall be from January 1 through December 31.

#### **Bylaw 10: Seal**

A. The corporate seal shall be the one which has been in use through the years, which is disk in shape, and which has the words "FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION" and "ORGANIZED NOV. 1854" in the outer circle, and in the center appears an open Bible, with a lamp in front of it.

B. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall be the custodian of the seal and shall affix same to all writings, documents, and legal papers requiring the seal of the Corporation. The seal shall be kept in the business office of the Corporation.

#### **Bylaw 11: Amendments**

A. Amendments to these Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the State Board of Missions as follows:

(1) A copy of the proposed amendment must be sent to each Board member, with a written notice of the meeting and its purpose, at least ten (10) days before the meeting is to be held.

(2) Amendments to the Bylaws must receive an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members.

(3) Following adoption by the State Board of Missions, amendments to the Bylaws must be approved by the Florida Baptist State Convention before they can become operative.

(4) Any amendment to these Bylaws, duly approved by the State Board of Missions and the Florida Baptist State Convention, may create an unintentional error in the numbering sequence, editorial formats, or other typographical recording. In those instances, editorial corrections may be made to this document without Board action.

B. Amendments to the State Board of Missions Charter may be made in accordance with law and following these procedures:

(1) A copy of the proposed amendment must be sent to each Board member, with a written notice of the meeting and its purpose, at least ten (10) days before the meeting is to be held.

(2) Amendments to the Charter must receive an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members.

(3) Following adoption by the State Board of Missions, amendments to the Charter must be approved by the Florida Baptist State Convention before they can be presented to legal authorities for approval.

#### **Bylaw 12: Repealing Clause**

A. All Bylaws and parts of Bylaws in conflict herewith or which are not included herein shall stand repealed by the adoption of these Bylaws, which must also have the ratification and approval of the State Convention, and from the date of such ratification and approval by the State Convention, these Bylaws shall be in full force and effect.





# P R O G R A M

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Florida Baptist State Convention  
154th Annual Meeting  
Meeting in the Facilities of the  
First Baptist Church  
Panama City, Florida  
November 9-10, 2015

## **Mission Statement** **Florida Baptist Convention**

The mission of the Florida Baptist Convention is to inspire and to equip – through word and deed – Florida Baptist churches and associations to accomplish the Great Commission.

—*Adopted by State Board of Missions, September, 1999*



*The expenses for accommodating and facilitating the annual State Convention meeting are paid for by the Cooperative Program of the Florida Baptist Convention.*



**STATE CONVENTION THEME:  
"MOVING FORWARD"**

**Officers of the Convention**

President, James M. Peoples, Keystone Heights  
First Vice-President, Calvin J. Carr, Gainesville  
Second Vice-President, Ivan Figueroa, Miami  
Recording Secretary, Randy D. Huckabee, Dade City  
Parliamentarians, James H. Deas, Live Oak;  
Craig E. Culbreth, Jacksonville

**Committee on Order of Business**

Justin Kirksey, *Chairman*, Starke  
Brian Calhoun, *Vice-Chairman*, Molino  
Melanie Clubb, Interlachen  
Daniel Findley, Keystone Heights  
Tina Kimbro, Tampa  
Mark Long, Marianna  
Paul Luis, Palm Springs  
James Parrish, Jacksonville  
Gary Roy, Nokomis

**Convention Meeting Coordination**

Convention Manager—Donald S. Hepburn  
Program Coordinator—Micah Ferguson  
Facilities Coordinator—Phillip Hanes  
Registration/Credentials Coordinator—Lonnie D. Wright  
News Media Coordinator—Barbara Denman  
Support Staff—Patty Vasant  
Music Coordinators—Terry Williams and Scott Stanland

## **STANDING RULES FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION**

Messengers are advised that the procedural rules that will govern the business sessions of the annual meeting are defined by the Bylaws, Florida Baptist State Convention, specifically Bylaw 1, titled “Rules of Order.” The highlights of those procedural rules are as follows:

**A. Rules of Order:** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the State Convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention and these standing rules.

**B. Standing Rules:** The Committee on Order of Business shall act as the Committee on Standing Rules in presenting any standing rules (parliamentary and nonparliamentary procedural rules) for consideration by the State Convention during the first session of the State Convention meeting.

(1) The Committee on Order of Business, at the time it presents the program for adoption, shall call to the attention of messengers present, the existence of the following permanent rules that shall govern the conduct of business during the State Convention meeting:

(a) For admission to the assembly hall, under certain conditions and at the discretionary order of the State Convention president, to facilitate identification and seating, messengers, visitors, and others may be required to wear the badge issued by the Registration and/or the Credentials Committees.

(b) A resolution offered by an individual messenger(s) shall be in writing, signed by the maker who shall be a registered messenger to the State Convention, and shall be delivered directly to the desk of the Recording Secretary, after the resolution has been introduced. The introduction of a resolution shall be limited to only the title and/or topic of the proposed resolution being presented, with neither further explanation nor discussion. (See Guidelines for Handling a Motion of Resolution on next page.)



(c) No messenger shall speak in debate more than twice on the same question during the same session, for no longer than three minutes each time, without the permission of State Convention messengers who may grant such a privilege by a two-thirds vote without debate.

(d) All reports and other material for the permanent record or printed proceedings shall be in typewritten form and, immediately on presentation, shall be delivered to the Recording Secretary.

(e) Nominations for each elected office to be filled by the State Convention shall be limited to one nominating speech of three minutes for each nominee. Nominees for any elected State Convention office shall be: a registered messenger; shall have agreed to be nominated; and shall be present on the platform at the time in which they are nominated.

(f) When more than one candidate is nominated for any convention office, a written ballot shall be taken from all registered messengers present and voting. The Teller's Committee, appointed by the State Convention President, shall collect the ballots, count the ballots, verify and certify the voting results. The chairman of the Teller's Committee shall provide to the State Convention President, on a timely basis as soon as is practicable after the respective vote, a written report on voting results. The report shall include the actual number of ballots cast, the number of votes received by each candidate, and the number of invalid ballots collected.

(2) All motions, resolutions and memorials, except those proposed by the State Board of Missions or by standing committees, and all recommendations made in reports of officers or committees of the State Convention, shall be referred to the Committee on Order of Business. The Committee shall determine appropriate disposition of these motions, resolutions and memorials. Motions of resolutions and recommendations proposed by the State Board of Missions or by State Convention Committees shall be presented by the Board or proposing committee directly to the State Convention, at a time designated by the Committee on Order of Business.

## **GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING A MOTION OF RESOLUTION**

In November 13, 2000, the Administrative/Personnel Committee of the State Board of Missions approved the following procedures for handling a motion of resolution.

1. During the first Miscellaneous Business session, a person introduces his/her motion or resolution by stating the subject. The presiding officer will seek to clarify, if necessary, the intent of the motion/resolution.
2. A written copy of the motion will be brought to the Recording Secretary's desk located at the front edge of the platform.
3. The Committee on Order of Business will set the time for discussion of the motion or resolution. If there is no other miscellaneous business scheduled, the committee could recommend consideration at the time the motion is made.
4. The time for discussion of particular motions/resolutions will be announced by the presiding officer.
5. At the appointed time set by the Committee on Order of Business, the maker of the motion will be permitted to speak to his/her motion/resolution. As a motion/resolution it will be considered by the Convention body, which may choose to debate, amend, table, refer, approve or defeat the recommendation.
6. The presiding officer, in consultation with the parliamentarian, will determine if a motion can be acted upon immediately, rule the motion out of order, or refer it to the Committee on Order of Business.

### **Assistance – First Aid**

Persons requiring first aid assistance should go to the Information Counter located in the Church Lobby. Volunteers are provided by First Baptist Church.

### **Copyright Notice**

All hymns which are currently copyrighted are used by permission of the Christian Copyright Licensing, Inc., (CCLI) Portland, Oregon, which has issued a license (#890178) to the Florida Baptist Convention to reprint and visually project selected hymns. Those hymns without a copyright notice are in the public domain.

### **Tellers Committee**

During the Tuesday morning business session, the State Convention President will announce the names of persons he has appointed to serve as Tellers during business sessions when ballots are collected.

### **Web Broadcast**

The proceedings of the Florida Baptist State Convention are being broadcast over the Internet. It is available at [www.flbaptist.org](http://www.flbaptist.org) during those periods the State Convention is in session.

**YEAR 2015**  
**FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION**  
**CONVENTION THEME: MOVING FORWARD**

*“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”* Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV)

**MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 9, 2015**  
JAMES PEOPLES, PRESIDING

**Convention Theme: Moving Forward**  
**Session Theme: Forward in Faith**

- 6:30 p.m.** Musical Prelude: Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra, Terry Williams, director
- 6:45 p.m.** **Convention Convenes**  
President’s Welcome
- 6:55 p.m.** Welcome and Prayer  
Craig Conner, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Panama City
- 7:00 p.m.** Congregation Worship Music
- 7:05 p.m.** Enrollment of Messengers/  
Randy D. Huckabee  
Committee on Order of Business Report/  
Justin Kirksey  
Presentation of FBSC Officers and  
Parliamentarians
- 7:10 p.m.** Introduction/Executive Director-Treasurer,  
Florida Baptist Convention/  
Michael Tatem, president,  
State Board of Missions

**7:15 p.m.** Musical Worship: Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra

**\*7:25 p.m. Biblical Message**

J. Thomas Green

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**8:00 p.m.** Musical Worship: Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra

**\*8:10 p.m. Biblical Message**

Don Wilton

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**\*8:45 p.m.** Closing Prayer/Erik Cummings

**8:50 p.m.** State Board of Missions

Reception for new Executive

Director-Treasurer

[Across the courtyard to Fellowship Hall]

\*No Later Than

## **TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

JAMES PEOPLES, PRESIDING

**Convention Theme: Moving Forward**

**Session Theme: Forward in Unity**

- 8:45 a.m.** Musical Prelude: The Baptist College of Florida/Music Division, William Davis, director
- 8:55 a.m. Convention Convenes**  
Prayer/Steven Kyle  
Congregation Singing Music led by The Baptist College of Florida/Music Division
- 8.57 a.m.** Musical Worship: The Baptist College of Florida/Music Division
- 9:05 a.m.** Cooperating Ministry Report/The Baptist College of Florida/Thomas A. Kinchen
- 9:15 a.m.** State Board of Missions Report (#1)/Michael Tatem
- 9:50 a.m.** Election of Convention Officer (President)
- 9:52 a.m.** Miscellaneous Business
- 9:57 a.m.** Scripture and Prayer/Kenric Conway
- 10:01 a.m.** Congregation Worship Music
- \*10:06 a.m. Biblical Message/Charles Kelley**
- 
- 10:36 a.m.** Moving Forward In The Regions
- 10:49 a.m.** Committee on Nominations Report/Shelly Chandler
- 10:59 a.m.** Election of Convention Officer (President Run-off or First Vice-President)



**11:03 a.m.** Cooperating Ministry Report/ Florida Baptist  
Financial Services/Eddie McClelland

**11:13 a.m.** Moving Forward With The Next Generation

**11:25 a.m.** Musical Worship: Baptist College of Florida  
Music Division

**\*11:30 a.m.** **Convention Sermon/**  
Stephen E. (Spike) Hogan

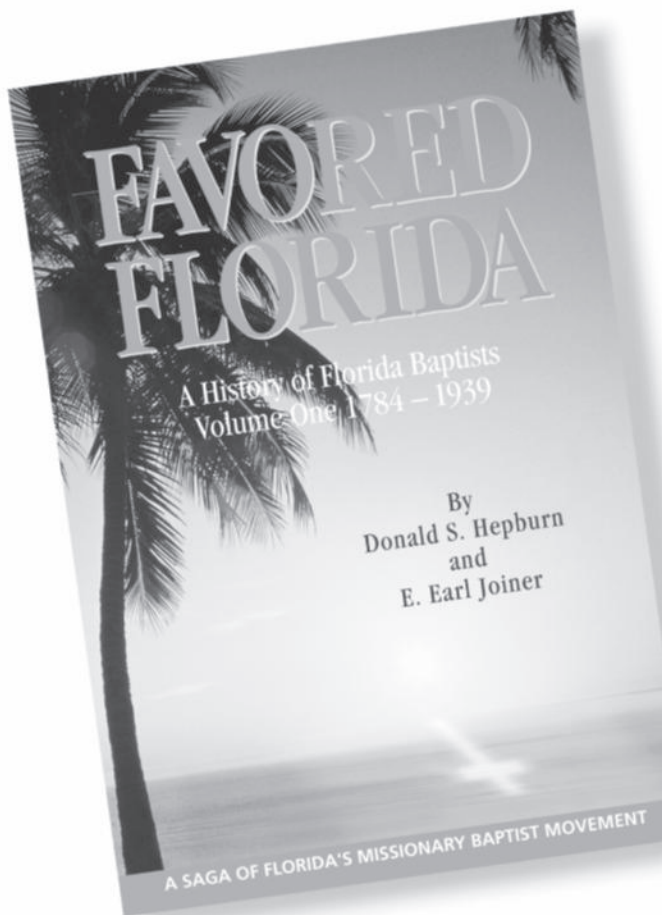


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**12:00 p.m.** Prayer of Adjournment/  
John Garrison

\*No Later Than

**A Saga That's Been Over**



This book is available at the Florida



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*Favored Florida: A History of Florida Baptists, Volume One: 1784-1939*, is the saga of the times, places, events and the faithful people called Florida Baptists. For 200 years these faithful people have sought to be God's heirs of promise in leading the Missionary Baptist movement in Florida.

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Every cooperating Florida Baptist church was sent a complimentary copy of a DVD digital version of *Favored Florida*. Only a limited quantity of hard-bound editions are available for sale while quantities last.

ptist Historical Society exhibit booth.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 10, 2015

CALVIN CARR, PRESIDING

**Convention Theme: Moving Forward**

**Session Theme: Forward in Mission**

- 1:55 p.m.** Musical Prelude: Voices of Mobile,  
University of Mobile, Mobile, Alabama,  
Roger Breland, director
- 2:00 p.m.** **Convention Convenes**  
Prayer/Jean Doret
- 2:02 p.m.** Musical Worship
- 2:07 p.m.** Scripture and Prayer/Scott Wilson
- 2:12 p.m.** Crossover Report: Love Northwest  
Florida/Troy Varnum; Phyllis Poland
- 2:17 p.m.** Cooperating Ministry Report/Florida Baptist  
Witness/Kevin Bumgarner
- 2:27 p.m.** Moving Forward in Missions/Ministry
- 2:37 p.m.** Musical Worship
- 2:42 p.m.** State Board of Missions Report (#2)/  
Michael Tatem  
Florida Baptist Historical Society Presentation/  
Judith Jolly
- 3:02 p.m.** Election of Officers (Second Vice-President/  
Recording Secretary)
- 3:07 p.m.** Memorial Recognition
- 3:12 p.m.** Moving Forward with Support Services
- 3:17 p.m.** Musical Worship
- \*3:27 p.m.** **President's Message**  
James Peoples



**4:02 p.m.** Cooperating Ministry Report/  
Florida Baptist Children's Homes/Jerry Haag

**4:12 p.m.** Musical Worship: Voices of Mobile

**\*4:18 p.m.** **Biblical Message**/Kevin Ezell



**\*4:53 p.m.** Closing Prayer/Darren Gaddis

\*No Later Than

# TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 10, 2015

IVAN FIGUEROA, PRESIDING

## Convention Theme: Moving Forward Session Theme: Forward For God's Glory

- 7:00 p.m. Musical Worship: Combined Choirs:  
First Baptist Church, Panama City/  
St. Andrews Baptist Church, Panama City
- 7:10 p.m. **Convention Convenes**  
Prayer/John Green
- 7:12 p.m. Recognition of Past Convention Officers  
and Newly Elected Officers
- 7:15 p.m. Musical Worship  
Congregation Worship Music  
Inspirational music by combined choirs
- 7:30 p.m. Scripture and Prayer/Peter Cittelli
- 7:35 p.m. Musical Worship
- \*7:40 p.m. **Biblical Message**/Fred Luter
- 
- 8:15 p.m. Musical Worship
- \*8:25 p.m. **Biblical Message**/Ronnie Floyd
- 
- 9:00 p.m. Closing Remarks  
and Prayer/FBSC President



\*No Later Than

## **PROGRAM PERSONNEL**

ROGER BRELAND, director, Voices of Mobile, University of Mobile, Mobile, Alabama

KEVIN BUMGARNER, executive editor, Florida Baptist Witness, Inc., Jacksonville

CALVIN J. CARR, first vice-president, Florida Baptist State Convention; and pastor, North Central Baptist Church, Gainesville

SHELLY CHANDLER, chairman, Committee on Nominations, Florida Baptist State Convention; and pastor, First Baptist Church, Bonifay

COMBINED CHOIRS: First Baptist Church, Panama City/St. Andrew Baptist Church, Panama City

PETER CITTELLI, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Miramar, West Park; and president, Fellowship of Hispanic Churches for the Gulf Stream Association

CRAIG CONNOR, pastor, First Baptist Church, Panama City

KENRIC CONWAY, pastor, Family of God Baptist Church, Panama City

CRAIG CULBRETH, assistant parliamentarian, Florida Baptist State Convention; and lead catalyst, Missions and Ministries Group, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville

ERIK CUMMINGS, pastor, New Life Baptist Church of Carol City, Miami

WILLIAM H. DAVIS, chairman, Music Division, The Baptist College of Florida, Graceville

JAMES H. DEAS, appointed parliamentarian, Florida Baptist State Convention; and member, Westwood Church, Live Oak

JEAN DORET, pastor, Bethany Haitian Baptist Church, Tampa; and president, Haitian State Fellowship

- KEVIN EZELL, president, North American Mission Board,  
Alpharetta, Georgia
- IVAN FIGUEROA, second vice-president, Florida Baptist State  
Convention; and staff member, Riverside Baptist Church,  
Miami
- RONNIE FLOYD, senior pastor, Cross Church, Springdale,  
Arkansas; and president, Southern Baptist Convention
- DARREN GADDIS, pastor, First Baptist Church, Ocala
- JOHN GARRISON, pastor, Oakview Baptist Church,  
Okeechobee
- J. THOMAS GREEN, executive director-treasurer, Florida  
Baptist Convention, Jacksonville
- JOHN T. GREEN, IV, pastor, Shindler Drive Baptist Church,  
Jacksonville
- JERRY HAAG, president, Florida Baptist Children's Homes,  
Inc., Lakeland
- STEPHEN E. (SPIKE) HOGAN, lead pastor, Chets Creek  
Church, Jacksonville
- RANDY D. HUCKABEE, recording secretary, Florida Baptist  
State Convention; and pastor, First Baptist Church,  
Dade City
- JUDITH JOLLY, chairman, Florida Baptist Historical Society;  
and member, First Baptist Church, Dade City
- CHARLES KELLEY, president, New Orleans Baptist  
Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana
- THOMAS A. KINCHEN, president, The Baptist College of  
Florida, Inc., Graceville
- JUSTIN KIRKSEY, chairman, Committee on Order of  
Business, Florida Baptist State Convention; and pastor,  
First Baptist Church, Starke

STEVEN KYLE, pastor, Hiland Park Baptist Church,  
Panama City

FRED LUTER, senior pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church,  
New Orleans, Louisiana

EDDIE L. MCCLELLAND, president, Florida Baptist Financial  
Services Inc., Jacksonville

JAMES M. PEOPLES, president, Florida Baptist State  
Convention; and pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Keystone  
Heights

PHYLLIS A. POLAND, staff, Northwest Coast Baptist  
Association, Panama City

MICHAEL A. TATEM, president, State Board of Missions; and  
pastor, Parkview Baptist Church, Lake City

TROY VARNUM, director of missions, Northwest Coast  
Baptist Association, Panama City

SCOTT WILSON, pastor, First Baptist Church, Melbourne

DON WILTON, senior pastor, First Baptist Church,  
Spartanburg, South Carolina

## **FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION STAFF**

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-TREASURER

**J. Thomas Green, Executive Director-Treasurer**

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

**Micah Ferguson, Director**

COMMUNICATION

**Barbara L. Denman, Director**

SUPPORT SERVICES GROUP

**Stephens L. Baumgardner, Assistant Executive Director**

### **Accounting**

Charles Staton, Director

### **Church Staff Benefits/Stewardship**

Gary Townsend, Director

### **Convention Facilities/LYBCC**

Donald Sawyer, Director

### **Information Support Services**

Lonnie D. Wright, Director

REGIONAL CATALYSTS GROUP

Lewis Miller/**West Florida**

Glen E. Owens/**Northeast Florida**

Jeffery L. Singletary/**Central Florida**

R. Wayne Briant/**Southwest Florida**

Al Fernandez/**Southeast Florida**

### **Multicultural Church/Leadership Catalyst**

Emanuel Roque

### **Hispanic Church Catalyst**

Deris Coto

### **African-American/Multicultural Consultant**

Patrick Coats

### **Haitian Church Consultant**

John Voltaire

### **Music/Worship Consultant**

Terry Williams



MISSIONAL and MINISTRIES GROUP

**Craig E. Culbreth, Lead Catalyst**

**Church and Community Ministries**

Marcus O. Johnston, Catalyst

**Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministries**

Delton Beall, Catalyst

**Migrant Ministries**

Misael Castillo, Catalyst

**WMU/Missions Education Ministries**

Cynthia Bradley, Catalyst

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES GROUP

**Billy K. Young, Jr., Lead Catalyst**

**Collegiate Ministries**

Rahul Agarwal, Baptist Campus Minister,  
Tampa Area

Lance Beauchamp, Baptist Campus Minister,  
Tallahassee Area

Brad Crawford, Baptist Campus Minister,  
Orlando Area

Eddie L. Gilley, Baptist Campus Minister,  
Gainesville Area

Tony C. Olesky, Baptist Campus Minister,  
Pensacola Area

Barry Sproles, Baptist Campus Minister,  
Jacksonville Area

Matt Wofford, Baptist Campus Minister,  
Miami Area

# NOTES

# NOTES



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