



156th Annual Meeting | 163 Years Since Organization
Year 2016 – 2017 Convention Guide Book

Held in the facilities of the
BELL SHOALS BAPTIST CHURCH
2102 Bell Shoals Road | Brandon, Florida 33511

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Welcome to Bell Shoals Baptist Church and the 156th annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Serving as our state convention president for the past year has been an incredible joy, as I have witnessed firsthand just a few of the many ways Florida Baptists are making a difference for God's kingdom.

Our theme for this year's meeting is Eyes on Eternity. Each moment, every person we encounter is one instant closer to spending eternity either in heaven or hell. God has placed us where we are and given us the gifts and opportunities we have so that we can reach this generation with the saving message of Christ. That's why meetings like this one are so important.

In the hours we spend together over these days, we will learn how God is working throughout Florida Baptist churches to reach people with the gospel, we will be stirred by God's Spirit through His word to live with eternity in mind, and we'll meet with the Lord as we seek Him in prayer and worship.

I am thankful that we can serve the Lord together during these crucial days. I'm praying that God will work in your life and mine as we focus on Jesus and His purposes for us as His people. May the Lord bless you, encourage you, and use you as you keep your eyes on eternity!

With joy,

Dr. Stephen N. Rummage
President, Florida Baptist State Convention

Bienvenido a Bell Shoals Baptist Church y la 156 reunión anual de la convención Bautista de Florida. Sirviendo como el presidente de nuestra convención estatal durante el último año ha sido un increíble gozo, mientras he observado de primera mano alguna de las muchas maneras como los Bautistas de Florida están haciendo una diferencia para el reino de Dios.

Nuestro lema para la reunión de este año es Mirando a la Eternidad. Cada momento, cada persona que encontramos está un instante más cerca de pasar la eternidad en el cielo o infierno. Dios nos ha puesto donde estamos y nos ha dado dones y oportunidades que tenemos para alcanzar a esta generación con el mensaje de salvación en Jesucristo. Por eso es que reuniones como esta son tan importante.

En las horas que pasaremos juntos en estos días, aprenderemos como Dios está trabajando a través de las iglesias Bautistas de Florida para alcanzar a personas con el Evangelio, seremos movido por el Espíritu de Dios a través de Su Palabra para vivir con la eternidad en mente, y nos encontraremos con el Señor mientras le buscamos en oración y adoración.

Estoy agradecido que podemos servir al Señor juntamente durante estos días cruciales. Estoy orando que Dios trabaje en tu vida y la mía mientras enfocamos en Jesús y Sus propósitos para nosotros como Su pueblo. ¡Que el Señor le bendiga, anime, y use mientras miramos a la eternidad!

Bienvenue à l'Eglise Baptiste Shoals et à la réunion annuelle de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride. Servir en qualité de Président de la convention d'Etat a été une joie immense, car cela m'a permis d'être témoin de plusieurs manières sur la façon dont les Baptistes de la Floride sont en train de faire une différence dans le Royaume de Dieu.

Notre thème pour cette réunion annuelle est "Yeux sur l'Eternité". Chaque moment, et chaque personne que nous rencontrons est momentanément plus près de passer l'éternité ou bien en enfer ou bien au ciel. Dieu nous a placé où nous sommes et nous a donné les dons et les opportunités dont nous avons en vue de toucher cette génération avec le message du salut de Christ. C'est la raison pour laquelle des réunions de ce genre sont importantes.

Durant les heures que nous aurons à passer pendant ces jours, nous apprendrons comment Dieu, à travers les églises baptistes de la Floride, agit en vue d'atteindre les gens avec l'évangile, et nous rencontrerons l'Esprit de Dieu à travers Sa Parole aux fins de vivre avec l'éternité à l'esprit, et nous rencontrerons le Seigneur pendant que nous le cherchons dans la prière et dans l'adoration.

Je suis reconnaissant que nous puissions servir le Seigneur ensemble au cours de ces jours combien importants. Je prie que Dieu travaille dans votre vie et la mienne pendant que nous nous fixons les regards sur Jésus et Ses buts pour nous comme Son peuple. Que le Seigneur vous bénisse, vous encourage, et vous utilise pendant que vous fixez vos yeux sur l'éternité!



It is exciting to gather with our Florida Baptist family for our annual meeting. This year has been filled with testimonies of amazing and miraculous victories in Christ through our churches. We gather to celebrate all that God is doing in Florida!

We are extremely grateful and thankful for Bell Shoals Baptist Church and Pastor Stephen Rummage for hosting our family reunion. Your hospitality is a great blessing to all the messengers gathered for this meeting. Thank you, Dr. Rummage for the challenge of Eyes on Eternity.

My prayer is for the Presence of the Lord to fall upon our family time. Please join me in praying for a powerful moving of God throughout our sessions. I pray that you will be inspired and uplifted through preaching, worship, testimonies, fellowship, and decisions that we experience together in Christ.

Tommy Green

Dr. Tommy Green
Executive Director-Treasurer
Florida Baptist Convention

Es emocionante reunirnos con nuestra familia Bautista de Florida para nuestra reunión anual. Este año ha estado lleno de testimonios de victorias milagrosas y maravillosas en Cristo a través de nuestras iglesias. ¡Nos reunimos para celebrar todo lo que Dios está haciendo en Florida!

Estamos extremadamente agradecidos por Bell Shoals Baptist Church y el Pastor Stephen Rummage por ser nuestros anfitriones en esta reunión familiar. Su hospitalidad es una gran bendición a todos los mensajeros en esta reunión. Gracias Dr. Rummage por el desafío de Mirando a la Eternidad.

Mi oración es que la presencia del Señor caiga sobre nuestro tiempo junto como familia Bautista. Por favor únanse en oración pidiendo un mover poderoso de Dios a través de nuestras sesiones. Oro que seas inspirado y edificado a través de la predicación, adoración, testimonios, compañerismo, y decisiones que experimentemos juntos en Cristo.

C'est une joie de rassembler avec la Famille Baptiste de la Floride pour notre rencontre annuelle. Cette année a été remplie avec des témoignages des miracles et victoires en Jésus Christ à travers nos églises. Nous rassemblons ici pour célébrer tout ce que Dieu est en train de faire dans la Floride!

Nous sommes extrêmement reconnaissant pour l'Eglise Baptiste Bell Shoals et Pasteur Stephen Rummage pour héberger notre réunion de famille. Votre hospitalité est une grande bénédiction pour tous les messagers ici réunis à cette rencontre. Merci Dr. Rummage pour le défi de fixer nos Yeux sur l'Eternité.

Ma prière est que la Présence du Seigneur tombe sur notre moment ensemble. Je vous prie de vous joindre à moi dans la prière pour un mouvement divin puissant à travers nos sessions. C'est ma prière que vous soyez inspirés et exaltés dans la prière, l'adoration, les témoignages, la communion, et les décisions que nous expérimentons ensemble en Christ.



State Board of Missions members gather August 24, 2017, to dedicate the new Baptist Building in Jacksonville.



*Welcome to
Bell Shoals!
It's our honor
to host the
2017 Florida
Baptist State
Convention.*

 **Bell Shoals**
BAPTIST CHURCH
real hope. new life.

Dr. Stephen Rummage
Senior Pastor
bellshoals.com

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| List of Officers, Convention Meeting Staff, Tellers and Credentials Committee | 6 |
| Standing Rules/Guidelines for Handling a Motion | 7 |
| Pastors Conference Program | 8 |
| Program Personnel Directory | 12 |
| Florida Baptist Convention Staff Directory | 13 |
| Florida Baptist State Convention Program | 14 |
| Story: | 17 |
| Story: | 18 |
| State Board of Missions Report | 20 |
| Story: | 28 |
| State Board of Missions Recommendations | 30 |
| Story: | 44 |
| Cooperating Ministry Report - Baptist College of Florida | 46 |
| Cooperating Ministry Report - Florida Baptist Financial Services | 47 |
| Cooperating Ministry Report - Florida Baptist Witness | 48 |
| Cooperating Ministry Report - Florida Baptist Children's Homes | 48 |
| Story: | 51 |
| Story: | 52 |
| MEMORIAL | 53 |
| Story: | 54 |
| Committee on Nominations Report | 56 |
| Story: | 62 |
| Story: | 64 |

Eyes on Eternity

Officers of the Convention

President, Stephen Rummage, Brandon
First Vice-President, Javier Sotolongo, Hialeah Gardens
Second Vice-President, Boyd Bunting, Panama City
Recording Secretary, Randy D. Huckabee, Dade City
Parliamentarian, James H. Deas, Live Oak

Committee on Order of Business

Daniel Findley, *Chair*, Keystone Heights
Hal Kitchings, *Vice-Chair*, St. Petersburg
Jim Ferguson, Clearwater
Jeff Lehman, Kissimmee
James Parrish, Jacksonville
Javier Sotolongo, Hialeah Gardens
Dan Wade, Winter Haven

Credentials Committee

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Chris Coram, <i>Chair</i> | Rick Giles |
| Pablito Lucas, <i>Vice-Chair</i> | Shane Johnson |
| Alan Brumback | Jeff Stading |
| Ben Bush | |

Tellers Committee

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| John Rollyson, <i>Chair</i> | Chris Elrod |
| Darin Kress | Carlos Ludwig |
| Chris Akin | Walter Jackson |
| Peter Citelli | Zeb Cook |

Convention Meeting Coordination

Convention Manager – Micah Ferguson
Registration/Credentials Coordinator – Lonnie Wright
Communications/News Coordinator – Mark MacDonald
Support Team – Charlene Allen, Jennie Oswald, Patty Vansant

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.)

(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

On 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.

A copy of the Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution and Bylaws is located at the Registration Desk; or online at www.flbaptist.org/FBSCgovdocs.

Assistance – First Aid

Persons requiring first aid assistance should go to the Information Counter located in the Church Lobby.

Copyright Notice

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Web Broadcast

The proceedings of the Florida Baptist State Convention are being broadcast over the Internet. It is available at www.flbaptist.org during those periods the State Convention is in session.

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*FLORIDA BAPTIST
PASTORS CONFERENCE*
2K17

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A C T S 2 0 : 2 4

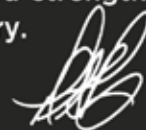
A WORD FROM THE PASTORS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



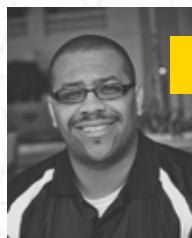
Paul Purvis

LEAD PASTOR // FBC TEMPLE TERRACE

Welcome to the 2017 Florida Baptist Pastors Conference. It is our desire that you walk away encouraged by what you will encounter over these next two days. The statistics are alarming: only 10% of pastors who begin in ministry retire from ministry, 50% of pastors quit ministry within 5 years of beginning, and as many as 1700 pastors nationwide leave the ministry each month. While these figures give some indication of the challenges you face, we believe God wants you to **FINISH!** We have assembled a team of gifted and passionate pastors, and each one knows what it's like to walk through real ministry challenges. We believe you and the ministry you serve will be blessed during our time together. Please know that you have been prayed for, and are being prayed for - our prayer is simple, may God give you strength to finish well as a testimony to the gospel of the grace of God and for His glory.

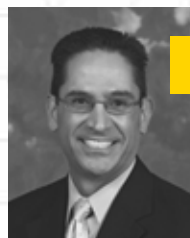


VICE PRESIDENTS



Chip Luter

**Campus Pastor
at Idlewild Sulphur Springs**



Otto Fernandez

**Senior and Discipleship
Pastor at Riverside
Church**

WORSHIP LEADERS

SUNDAY EVENING



**Buck
Buchanan**

Buck Buchanan serves as Pastor of Worship Ministries at First Baptist Church of Temple Terrace located right here in the Tampa Bay Area. He has been serving on staff at FBCTT since February 2012. He is serving this weekend alongside the volunteer Worship Team at FBCTT.

MONDAY MORNING

Benji and Jenna Cowart have been leading worship for almost 20 years and are both originally from the Nashville, TN area. Together Benji and Jenna have cut their own songs independently on their albums, as well as other artists' including Meredith Andrews.

Benji also has written songs on various albums including "Redeemed" and "The Only Name (Yours Will Be)", which both reached #1 on Billboard Charts.



**Benji & Jenna
Cowart**

MONDAY AFTERNOON



**Chris & Mary
Kuti**

Former members of First Baptist Church of Temple Terrace, Chris and Mary Kuti are now serving their ministry at Life.Church in Oklahoma City, OK, where Chris serves as Worship Pastor. Chris is also one of the former members of the CCM duo Chris & Conrad.

FLORIDA BAPTIST
PASTORS CONFERENCE
2K17

SPEAKER SCHEDULE



Dr. Willy Rice

He is the Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Florida. He served as President of the Florida Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference in 2004, and President of the Florida Baptist Convention from 2006-2008. He also served as the President of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference in 2015. He is the author of *Discover Dynamic Life* and *Before You Go*.

SUNDAY PM 11.12.17
6:00 PM

Dr. Johnny Hunt

He is Senior Pastor of *First Baptist Church Woodstock*, in Woodstock Georgia, author of many books and devotionals including *"Demolishing Strongholds"*, and President of the Southern Baptist Convention from 2008-2010. Dr. Hunt has led the Timothy + Barnabas Pastors and Wives Retreat for 24 years in 29 nations around the world.



Dr. Charles Lowery

President and CEO of *Lowery Institute for Excellence, Inc.*, a non-profit training and consulting organization. For ten years he was pastor of Hoffmantown Church, which was one of the fastest growing churches in America. Hoffmantown baptized over 3000 people during his years there and planted Sagebrush Church that now runs over 12,000.

MONDAY AM 11.13.17
8:30 AM

Rocky Purvis

Born and raised in South Carolina, he is the *Senior Pastor of Northside Baptist in Lexington, SC*. He also pastored in FL for 16 years. He was saved at age 9 under the ministry of his father, Don Purvis, and surrendered to God's call to ministry at age 18. Married to Sherrie for 34 years, they have 4 children (one who passed away in May 2017) and 4 grandchildren. All three living children are serving in ministry.



Erik D. Cummings

He is the *Senior Pastor of New Life Baptist Church of Carol City* and served as the Moderator of the Miami Baptist Association and President of the Florida Baptist Convention African American Fellowship from 2009-2011. He also served as Secretary of the National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention from 2014 to 2016.

FLORIDA BAPTIST
PASTORS CONFERENCE
2K17

SPEAKER SCHEDULE



Bernie Cueto

Born and raised in Miami, Bernie is proud of his Hispanic heritage and was raised in an environment that embraced cultural diversity. He serves as campus pastor to nearly 4,000 students, faculty, and staff at Palm Beach Atlantic University. He also serves as an Associate Professor for Biblical and Theological Studies. In addition to his role at PBA, he serves as the Teaching Pastor for Family Church (Gardens Campus).

MONDAY PM 11.13.17
1:00 PM

Dr. Robert Smith Jr.

He served as pastor of the New Mission Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati, OH for 20 years. Dr. Smith currently serves as *Professor of Christian Preaching* and holds the Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity at *Beeson Divinity School*. Award-winning author and editor, his works include *Doctrine that Dances* and *The Oasis of God*.



Dr. Steve Gaines

He is the Senior Pastor at *Bellevue Baptist Church*, Memphis, TN and is currently serving as *President of the Southern Baptist Convention*. Dr. Gaines is both an author and has published a musical worship CD. His latest books are *Pray Like it Matters*, *Share Jesus Like it Matters* and the re-release of his devotional book, *Morning Manna*.

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BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
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OF TOURISM
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Program Personnel

Brian Bair, pastor, South Point, Tallahassee

Rick Blackwood, pastor, Christ Fellowship, Palmetto Bay

Boyd Bunting, second vice-president, Florida Baptist State Convention; and member, First Baptist Church, Panama City

Shelly Chandler, chair, Florida Baptist Witness; and pastor, First Baptist Church, Bonifay

H.B. Charles Jr., pastor, Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, Jacksonville

James H. Deas, appointed parliamentarian, Florida Baptist State Convention

Kevin Ezell, president, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, GA

Daniel Findley, chair, Committee on Order of Business, Florida Baptist State Convention;
and pastor, First Baptist Church, Keystone Heights

Steve Gaines, president, Southern Baptist Convention; and pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, TN

J. Thomas Green, executive director-treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville

Jerry Haag, president, Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., Lakeland

Randy D. Huckabee, recording secretary, Florida Baptist State Convention; and pastor, First Baptist Church, Dade City

Judith Jolly, chair, Florida Baptist Historical Society; and member, First Baptist Church, Dade City

Thomas A. Kinchen, president, The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., Graceville

Lito Lucas, pastor, Philippine International Christian Fellowship, Lakeland

Eddie L. McClelland, president, Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., Jacksonville

Jason Milsaps, pastor of music & worship, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon

Frank Page, CEO, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, Nashville, TN

Lanelle Pickett, Sr., pastor, Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Bartow

Felipe Rodriguez, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Getsemani, Miami

Stephen N. Rummage, president, Florida Baptist State Convention; and pastor, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon

Javier Sotolongo, first vice-president, Florida Baptist State Convention; and pastor, Estrella De Belen, Hialeah

Michael A. Tatem, president, State Board of Missions; and pastor, Parkview Baptist Church, Lake City

Carlos Tellez, pastor, Primera Iglesia Bautista de Coral Park, Miami

George Thomasson, pastor of multisite development, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon

Tommye Walker, pastor, Sylvania Heights First Baptist Church, Ft. Walton Beach

Terry Williams, music and worship consultant, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville

Florida Baptist Convention Staff

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-TREASURER

J. Thomas Green, III, Executive Director-Treasurer

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Micah Ferguson, Director

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Mark MacDonald, Catalyst

SUPPORT SERVICES GROUP

Stephens L. Baumgardner, Director

Accounting | Charles Staton, Director

Convention Facilities/LYBCC | Donald Sawyer, Director

Information Support Services | Lonnie D. Wright, Director

REGIONAL CATALYSTS GROUP

West Florida | Lewis Miller

East Florida | Craig E. Culbreth

North Florida | Gary Townsend

Central Florida | Jeffery L. Singletary

Southwest Florida | R. Wayne Briant

Southeast Florida | Al Fernandez

Hispanic Church Catalyst | Emanuel Roque

Haitian Church Catalyst | John Voltaire

Black/Multicultural Catalyst | Patrick Coats

Music/Worship Consultant | Terry Williams

MISSIONS and MINISTRIES GROUP

Myles Dowdy, Lead Catalyst

Community Ministries | Marcus O. Johnston, Catalyst

Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministries | Delton Beall, Catalyst

Migrant Ministries | Misael Castillo, Catalyst

Women's Missions & Ministries/Missions Education | Cynthia Bradley, Catalyst

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES GROUP

Billy K. Young, Jr., Lead Catalyst

Collegiate Ministries

Nathan Schneider, 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

Ricky Bailey, Baptist Campus Minister, Miami Area



Monday Evening, November 13, 2017

- 6:45 p.m. Musical Prelude** | Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra
- 7:00 p.m. Convention Convenes**
- 7:05 p.m. Welcome and Prayer**
- 7:15 p.m. Enrollment of Messengers**
Enrollment of Messengers | Randy D. Huckabee
Committee on Order of Business Report | Daniel Findley
Presentation of FBSC Officers and Parliamentarian | Stephen Rummage
- 7:20 p.m. Veteran Recognition**
- 7:28 p.m. Musical Worship** | Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra
- 7:45 p.m. Biblical Message** | Steve Gaines
President, Southern Baptist Convention
Pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, TN
- 8:20 p.m. Musical Worship** | Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra
- 8:25 p.m. President's Message** | Stephen Rummage
President, Florida Baptist Convention
Pastor, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon, FL
- 9:05 p.m. Closing Prayer**

Tuesday Morning, November 14, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. Musical Prelude**
- 9:15 a.m. Convention Convenes**
- 9:17 a.m. Musical Worship** | Baptist College of Florida
- 9:27 a.m. Cooperating Ministry Report - The Baptist College of Florida**
Thomas A. Kinchen, President
- 9:35 a.m. State Board Of Missions Report #1**
Michael Tatem, President, State Board of Missions
- 10:05 a.m. Election Of Officer (President)**
- 10:10 a.m. Miscellaneous Business**
- 10:15 a.m. Musical Worship** | Bell Shoals Worship Team
with Baptist College of Florida Orchestra and Choir
- 10:23 a.m. Right Beside You: Regional Report**
- 10:35 a.m. Committee on Nominations** | Stan Lewis, Chair
- 10:40 a.m. Election of Officers** | President Run-off or First Vice-President
- 10:45 a.m. Right Beside You: Multicultural Report**
- 11:00 a.m. Musical Worship** | Bell Shoals Worship Team
- 11:11 a.m. Biblical Message** | H.B. Charles, Jr.
Senior Pastor, Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church
- 11:50 a.m. Prayer of Adjournment**

Tuesday Afternoon, November 14, 2017

- 1:55 p.m. **Musical Prelude** | Bell Shoals Worship Team
- 2:00 p.m. **Convention Convenes** | Prayer
- 2:02 p.m. **Florida Baptist Historical Society Report**
- 2:10 p.m. **Greeting from SBC Executive Committee** | Frank Page
CEO, SBC Executive Committee
- 2:15 p.m. **Cooperating Ministry Report - Florida Baptist Witness**
Shelly Chandler, Chair
- 2:23 p.m. **Elections of Officers** | Second Vice President & Recording Secretary
- 2:31 p.m. **Cooperating Ministry Report - Florida Baptist Financial Services**
Eddie McClelland, President
- 2:39 p.m. **Cooperating Ministry Report - Florida Baptist Children's Homes**
Jerry Haag, President
- 2:47 p.m. **Musical Worship** | Bell Shoals Worship Team
- 2:56 p.m. **Right Beside You: Next Generation Report**
- 3:08 p.m. **Right Beside You: Missions and Ministry Report**
- 3:20 p.m. **Memorial Recognition**
- 3:26 p.m. **Musical Worship**
- 3:34 p.m. **Biblical Message** | Kevin Ezell
President, North American Mission Board
- 4:10 p.m. **Biblical Message** | Tommy Green
Executive Director, Florida Baptist Convention
- 5:00 p.m. **Prayer of Adjournment**

Tuesday Evening, November 14, 2017

- 6:45 p.m. **Musical Prelude** | Bell Shoals Worship Choir, Orchestra & Kids Choir
- 7:00 p.m. **Convention Convenes and Recognition of Past Convention Officers and Newly Elected Officers**
- 7:05 p.m. **Musical Worship** | Bell Shoals Worship Choir, Orchestra & Kids Choir
- 7:22 p.m. **Convention Sermon** | Carlos Tellez
Pastor, Primera Iglesia Bautista, Coral Park, Miami, FL
- 8:03 p.m. **Special Music** | Bell Shoals Worship Team
- 8:14 p.m. **Biblical Message** | Rick Blackwood
Pastor, Christ Fellowship, Palmetto Bay, FL
- 8:49 p.m. **Closing Prayer**



Florida Baptist
Financial Services, Inc.

*“We serve an array of individuals and churches
who all share the common belief
that God owns everything and has simply
appointed us as managers and trustees
over part of that which is His.”*

Estate Planning

Charitable Trusts
Charitable Gift Annuities
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Elevate Church focuses on public testimonies in beach baptism

Beneath the bright, hot sun of a not unusual Miami afternoon, a group of 11 men and women from Elevate Church professed their faith in Christ publicly through their baptisms in the shallow waters of Key Biscayne.



Neither lack of parking or shade could keep their families from cheering them on.

As part of the Florida Baptist Convention's Acts 2:41 emphasis on beach baptisms on Sunday May 7, churches across Florida headed to their nearest beach to baptize new Christians in their congregations.

Louis Egipciano, pastor of Elevate Church in Miami Lakes, who performed the baptisms, described the group as very diverse. Some had become believers just weeks before and others have been believers for months and maybe even longer.

Egipciano applauded the Convention's beach baptism emphasis.

"My favorite part of beach baptisms is how public it is...the worst invention probably was a baptistry because it's the most hidden form of a public testimony," he told those gathered as he began the baptism ceremony.

Fifteen year old Catherine Girón, grew up in the church and accepted Christ as her savior some years ago.

"I have been in church my whole life but I recently decided that I wanted to take this step of faith and the fact that it happened to be at the beach was not planned but I'm happy that it is this way," she said moments before walking into the cool waters.

Her sister, Claudia, stood in the sand and watched from afar as her sister was dipped and remerged from the salty key waters.

"I've talked to her many times about being baptized and she's very independent and said she wanted to come to that decision

on her own. I'm very happy to see her make this public statement of faith today," she said.

Daniel Rodriguez, pastor of assimilation at Elevate, led the group through the new members class. Some had passed the class just weeks before and others had passed months ago but have waited until now to be baptized because of scheduling.

As their families sought shade on the shore or followed them into the water, 11 men and women followed Jesus's steps and made their public professions of faith in Him. With soaked shirts and shorts and hair dripping, the group jumped and shouted and celebrated their baptisms.

Egipciano, taking the opportunity to share with those in the watching crowd who were not perhaps believers yet, said "These waters have no saving power, they are just a symbol—and outward expression—of a decision to follow Christ, the only one with the power to save.

Christ should not be the best kept secret."

by Margaret Colson



Acts 2:41 Sunday
Baptizing Coast-to-Coast

Save the Date to join with other Florida Baptist churches for a statewide day of celebrating new life in Jesus Christ.

Sunday 5.6.18

Florida Baptist Convention

www.flbaptist.org/Acts241

Backpacks of food change lives in South Florida

In South Florida an estimated 300,000 children go to bed hungry. When they arrive at school each day, they struggle with issues like poor health, emotional problems and failing academic performance.

Christ Fellowship Church in Miami, through The Backpack Program administered by Caring for Miami, is making a difference in the lives of these children, said Panos Kourtesis, executive director of Caring for Miami, a legal non-profit auxiliary of Christ Fellowship.

Since its inception four years ago the program has quadrupled in size, feeding more than 1,200 needy children from 40 Miami-Dade public schools, all the way from North Miami to Florida City.

At the beginning of the academic year, school counselors identify the students most in need, said Kourtesis, and those students receive a backpack. Each Friday, the backpack is filled with ziplock bags of food for the weekend, including two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners and two snacks, along with handwritten notes of encouragement.

Because most homeless students live in motels or cars, the food must be easy to prepare, easy to open and require no refrigeration. Students pick up their backpacks of food on Friday and return the empty backpacks on Monday, to be filled again for the next weekend.

This year The Backpack Program was honored with the District-Wide Exemplary Dade Partner Award for Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The cost for a backpack of food for each child for the entire school year is about \$150, and the effort is funded by Christ Fellowship, individual donations and community partnerships.

"We feed the children physically by feeding hungry stomachs with food. We feed the children emotionally and spiritually by feeding hungry hearts with handwritten notes of encouragement," said Kourtesis.

Una iniciativa de aliviar el hambre en la comunidad es honrada por el sistema escolar público Miami-Dade

Mochilas de comida cambian vidas en el sur de Florida

En el sur de Florida se estima que 300,000 niños se acuestan con hambre. Cuando llegan a la escuela cada día, ellos luchan con asuntos como una salud pobre, problemas emocionales y logros académicos que van fallando.

Christ Fellowship Church en Miami, a través del programa de mochilas administrado por Caring for Miami, está haciendo una diferencia en la vida de estos niños, dijo Panos Kourtesis, Director ejecutivo de esta auxiliar sin fines de lucro de Christ Fellowship.

Desde sus comienzos hace cuatro años el programa se ha cuadruplicado en tamaño, alimentando a más de 1200 niños en necesidad de 40 escuelas públicas en Miami Dade, desde el norte de Miami hasta Florida City.

Al comienzo del año académico los consejeros identifican a estudiantes que están en mayor necesidad, dijo Kourtesis, y esos estudiantes reciben una mochila. Los estudiantes recogen sus mochilas de comida el viernes y la devuelven vacías el lunes para hacer ya ser llenadas de nuevo el próximo fin de semana.

Este año el programa de mochilas fue destacado y honrado con un premio de socio ejemplar en el sistema escolar de Miami-Dade.

El costo para una mochila de comida para cada niño durante el año entero escolar es de \$150 y los esfuerzos son patrocinados por Christ Fellowship, donaciones individuales y socios de la comunidad.



The effort runs the 36 consecutive weeks of the school year and requires more than 50 volunteers weekly to deliver the food. Every month as many as 100 people come together at various packing events to package the food.

Christ Fellowship pastors "tell me all the time that a family came to church because they received a backpack," said Kourtesis, and many members of families who receive boxes of food have made professions of faith.

Kourtesis noted the progression of interaction between program volunteers and school staff. At the beginning of the academic year, school staff may say, "The church people are here." By mid-year, school staff are asking volunteers for prayer, and by the end of the school year, many school staff profess their Christian faith, he said.

"It is a blessing to see how the Lord uses the food to not only feed children, but also as a tool to connect with others along the way," explained Kourtesis.

Feeding the 300,000 hungry children in South Florida is not a task that Christ Fellowship and Caring for Miami can do alone. Kourtesis' dream is that networks of churches in Miami join together "to be stewards of the children in their own part of the city," he said.

"I see Jesus in this program."

by Margaret Colson

"Nosotros alimentamos los niños en sus necesidades físicas con comidas para sus estómagos. Alimentando los niños en sus corazones emocional y espiritualmente cuando le damos notas escritas a mano para animarlos", dice Kourtesis

Refuerzos se hacen por 36 semanas consecutivas en el año escolar y requieren más de 50 voluntarios semanales para llevar las comidas. Cada mes se reúnen 100 personas en varios lugares en eventos de armar las mochilas.

Los pastores de Christ Fellowship "me cuentan a menudo que una familia vino Iglesia por medio de las mochilas" dijo Kourtesis, Y muchos miembros de familias que reciben cajas de comida han hecho profesiones de fe.

Kourtesis nota el progreso de interacción entre los voluntarios del programa y empleados de la escuela. Al comienzo del año académico la empleomanía de la escuela puede decir que "las personas de la iglesia están aquí". A mitad de año ellos están pidiéndole a los voluntarios oración, y al fin de año muchos de estas personas de la escuela profesan fe Cristiana, él dijo.

"Es una bendición ver como el señor usar la comida para no solamente alimentar niños, pero con una herramienta para conectarlo a través del camino," explicó Kourtesis.

Alimentando 300,000 niños hambrientos en el sur de Florida no es una tarea que Christ Fellowship y Caring for Miami pueden hacer solos. Kourtesis sueña que redes de iglesias en Miami se unan "para ser mayordomos de los niños en su propia parte de la ciudad," el dijo.

"Veo a Jesus en este programa."

Initiative de lutte contre la faim honorée par les Ecoles Publiques de Miami-Dade

Sacs à dos d'aliments changent des vies dans le Sud de la Floride

Environ 300,000 enfants vont au lit affamés dans le Sud de la Floride. Arrivés à l'école chaque jour, ils se battent contre une santé précaire, des problèmes émotionnels, une performance académique défailante ainsi que d'autres difficultés.

L'Eglise Christ Fellowship à Miami, à travers le Programme Backpack administré par Caring pour Miami est en train de faire une différence dans la vie de ces enfants, explique Panos Kourtesis, directeur exécutif de Caring pour Miami, une entité légale à but non lucratif et auxiliaire de l'Eglise Christ Fellowship à Miami.

Depuis son début environ 4 ans de cela, le programme a quadruplé en dimension, nourrissant plus de 1,200 enfants nécessiteux de 40 écoles publiques de Miami-Dade, partant de North Miami à Florida City.

Au début de l'année académique, les conseillers des écoles identifient les étudiants les plus nécessiteux, expliquait Kourtesis, et ces étudiants recevaient le sac à dos. Chaque vendredi, le sac à dos est rempli avec des ziplocks d'aliments pour la fin de semaine incluant deux petit-déjeuners, deux lunches, deux soupers avec snacks ainsi que des notes manuscrites d'encouragement.

Du fait que la majorité des étudiants sans domicile fixe habitant dans les motels ou voitures, le repas doit être facile à préparer, facile à ouvrir et ne requérant aucune réfrigération. Les étudiants réclament leurs sacs à dos le vendredi et retournent les sacs vides le lundi pour être remplis à nouveau pour la prochaine fin de semaine.

Cette année le Programme Backpack a été honoré et récompensé avec le District-Wide Exemplary Dade Partner pour les Ecoles Publiques de Miami-Dade.

Le coût du sac à dos rempli d'aliments pour chaque enfant est d'environ \$150, et l'effort est financé par l'Eglise Christ Fellowship, les donations individuelles et les partenariats communautaires.

"Nous nourrissons les enfants physiquement en nourrissant leur ventre affamé avec de la nourriture. Nous nourrissons les enfants émotionnellement et spirituellement en remplissant leurs cœurs affamés avec des notes manuscrites d'encouragement," expliquait Kourtesis.

L'effort s'étend sur les 36 semaines de l'année scolaire de manière consécutive et requiert plus de 50 volontaires chaque semaine en vue de livrer les aliments. Chaque mois environ 100 personnes se joignent dans différents endroits en vue de préparer les aliments.

Les pasteurs de Christ Fellowship "disent souvent une famille vient à l'église parce qu'elle a reçu un sac à dos d'aliments", disait Kourtesis, et nombreuses autres familles ayant reçu des boîtes d'aliments et ont fait profession de foi.

Kourtesis notait la progression des interactions entre les volontaires du programme et le staff de l'école. Au début de l'année académique, le staff de l'école dirait "les gens de l'église sont ici." Au milieu de l'année, le staff de l'école demandait aux volontaires de prier, et à la fin de l'année académique, plusieurs membres de l'équipe académique professaient leur foi en Christ, disait-il.

"C'est une bénédiction de voir comment Dieu utilise les aliments pour non seulement nourrir les enfants, mais aussi comme un instrument pour connecter avec les gens tout au long du chemin," expliquait Kourtesis.

Nourrir les 300,000 enfants affamés dans le Sud de la Floride n'est pas une tâche que l'Eglise Christ Fellowship et Caring pour Miami peuvent accomplir seules. Le rêve de Kourtesis est de voir un réseau d'églises à Miami se joignent "pour être les intendants des enfants dans leurs zones respectives de la ville," expliquait-il.

"Je vois Jésus dans ce programme". "Veo a Jesus en este programa."



FLORIDA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Remembering the Legacy of Florida Baptists is Our Ministry and Mission

A legacy is the story of a person's or organization's life, the things they did, goals they accomplished, and even their shortcomings in their efforts to bring the gospel to the Florida mission field. Preserving legacies ensures that the memories and history of the past are not forgotten by the present or future generations of Florida Baptists.

The dual ministry and mission of the Florida Baptist Historical Society are to research, preserve and promote the legacy of Florida Baptists. The Society seeks to preserve the legacies of: Florida Baptist pastoral leaders and laity; collect the histories of past and present functioning Baptist churches; and secure the records of cooperating ministries and events, all of which are historically significant to Florida Baptists.

If the Society can assist your church in preserving its legacy contact us at:

FLORIDA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

J. THOMAS GREEN, III
Executive Director-Treasurer

One Hundred and Thirty-Seventh Annual Report to the Florida Baptist State Convention Brandon November 13-14, 2017

The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist State Convention respectfully submits this 137th annual report of the Board to the State Convention. There are 3,042 churches and missions affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention, with a total membership of 1,002,953.

The State Board of Missions is pleased to present this report to the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in Brandon, Florida, November 13-14, 2017. This report covers the period of October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.

1. Officers of the State Board of Missions

The 99 members of the State Board of Missions elected the following officers during the organizational meeting of the Board on November 15, 2016, in Clearwater, Florida:

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

On August 25, 2017, the Board learned Vice-President John Green had moved out of state and therefore resigned from the State Board of Missions. Michael Orr, pastor of First Baptist Church, Chipley, Florida, was elected to serve as Vice-President.

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 14, 2016 | Clearwater |
| November 15, 2016 | Clearwater |
| March 31, 2017 | Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center |
| August 25, 2017 | Jacksonville |

3. Members of the State Board of Missions

The Bylaws of the State Board of Missions provide for the appointment of a Nomination of Board Committees Committee, to be comprised of the three officers of the Board and two other members appointed by the Board president. The following persons served on the Nomination of Board Committees Committee for 2016-17:

Mike Tatem, President, SBM
John Green, Vice-President, SBM
Gail Adams, Recording Secretary, SBM
James Peoples, At-Large Member, SBM
Richard Powell, At-Large Member, SBM

Each member of the State Board of Missions was appointed by the committee and elected by the Board to serve on one of the following standing committees (*indicates lay persons):

ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Michael Tatem (2014-17), *Chair*
John T. Green, IV (2015-18), *Vice-Chair*
Beverly Bonner (2016-19)
Tim Coleman (2015-18)
Janey Frost (2015-18)
Kevin Goza (2015-18)
*Ned Hastings (2015-18)
Greg Kell (2014-17)
*Rod Martin (2016-19)
Tim Martin (2016-19)
*Linda McNeil (2016-19)
*Wil Mowdy (2014-17)
James Peoples (2016-19)
Richard E. "Ricky" Powell (2014-17)
Paul Purvis (2016-19)
Stephen Rummage, President, FBSC (2016-17)
Bill Sears (2015-18)
Todd Stearns (2016-19)
Brian Stowe (2016-17)
*Dale Tibbets (2014-17)

Ex Officio Non-Voting Member

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

BUDGET-ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

*Ned Hastings (2012-15), *Chair*
Curtis Clark (2014-17), *Vice-Chair*
Alan Cotney (2015-18)
*James Davis (2016-18)
Howard Harden (2014-17)
Alan Kilgore (2014-17)
Noel Lozano (2016-19)
Patrick Mobley (2014-17)
Elbert Nasworthy (2015-18)
*Tom Nork (2015-18)
Michael Orr (2016-19)
*Ken Parker (2016-19)
Larry Pritchett (2015-18)
*Carol Spivey (2016-19)
David Tarkington (2014-17)
*Christina Vargas (2016-17)
Michael Wiggins (2016-19)

CONVENTION PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

*Wil Mowdy (2014-17), *Chair*
Danny Bennett (2014-17), *Vice-Chair*
*Gail Adams (2014-17)
*Jodi Aiken (2016-19)
Robert Arnold (2014-17)
*Stella Cottrell (2016-19)
Jeremy Earnest (2015-17)
Gary French (2015-18)
*Grady Gambill (2016-19)
*Chester Gunn (2015-17)
Neil Helton (2015-18)
Tom Keisler (2015-18)
*Garry McCray (2016-18)
*Mark Mercer (2014-17)

- *Ron Pierson (2016-19)
- *Jimmy Watson (2014-17)
- *James Welch (2015-17)

DENOMINATIONAL POLITY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE

- Kevin Goza (2012-15), *Chair*
- *Ralph Alderman (2016-19), *Vice-Chair*
- Craig Attaway (2016-19)
- *Arthur J. "Joe" Carter (2016-19)
- Matthew Crawford (2015-17)
- *Jim Durham (2014-17)
- Eddie Eaton (2015-17)
- Fred Edwards (2015-18)
- David Ellis (2016-18)
- Mike Fox (2016-19)
- *Patrick Inglett (2016-19)
- *Ericka Ludwig (2016-17)
- Carlos Lugo (2016-19)
- Stephen Shelhamer (2016-19)
- Danny Slavich (2016-18)
- Ron Tipton (2015-18)
- *Donald Williams (2014-17)

LOANS COMMITTEE

- Tim Martin (2016-19), *Chair*
- *Joseph Coats, Jr. (2015-18), *Vice-Chair*
- Silair Almeida (2016-19)
- Bob Barrett (2016-18)
- *William Bethea, Sr. (2015-17)
- *Thomas A. "Tab" Bush (2016-19)
- Rick Giles (2016-17)
- Asa Greear (2016-19)
- Shawn Johnson (2016-19)
- *Teresa Juarbe (2016-17)
- Mike Kahn (2015-18)
- *Donald Miller (2015-18)
- *Maria Monroe (2016-19)
- *Benjamin Rodda (2015-18)
- Kaleb Schmidt (2016-19)
- *Chris Spears (2015-17)
- *Carol Spivey (2016-19)
- Michael "Mike" Wetzel (2013-17)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

- Tim Coleman (2012-15), *Chair*
- David Chauncey (2015-17), *Vice-Chair*
- Tom Bryant (2016-19)
- Trent Gann (2015-18)
- Matthew Gilmore (2016-19)
- Mark Gonzales (2015-18)
- *Anna Guy (2016-19)
- Mickey Hawkins (2014-17)
- Travis Laney (2016-18)
- Bobby Patton (2016-18)
- Donna Perman (2015-18)
- *Guy-Ernst Philippi (2016-17)
- *Lynne Phillips (2014-17)
- Wayne Roberts (2014-17)
- Glenn Rogers (2014-17)
- *Steve Simmons (2016-19)
- Matt Swain (2016-18)

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 May.

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on March 31, 2017, the Board learned of the resignations of Waylon Carlisle, Shiloh (medical issues); Carl Ellison, Pasco (moved out of association); Amelia Garrison, Big Lake (moved out of state); and Bill Bethea, Royal Palm (schedule conflicts). The Nomination of Board Committees Committee appointed the following persons to temporarily fill the vacancies:

Rick Giles, Big Lake
Teresa Juarbe, Pasco

Brian Stowe, Shiloh
Timothy Pigg, Royal Palm

5. Gifts to World Missions

Gifts to world missions through the Cooperative Program from churches and missions for the period of January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, totaled \$29,920,395.

Florida Baptists responded well to other mission causes. Designated giving for the period of January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, totaled \$10,930,879. Designated giving included contributions to the three main mission offerings:

| MISSION OFFERING | AMOUNT |
|--|-------------|
| Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, 2016 | \$6,016,498 |
| Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, 2016 | \$2,432,733 |
| Maguire State Mission Offering, 2016 | \$ 720,057 |

6. 2016 Maguire State Mission Offering Report

On March 31, 2017, staff reported at the close of the Convention's accounting year on December 31, 2016, a total of \$720,057 had been received for the year 2016 Maguire State Mission Offering. The 2016 gifts represented 86.75 percent of the offering goal of \$830,000. The total number of churches contributing to the offering continued to decline to 675 from the 712 participating the prior year. Convention staff recommended and the Board approved, that the line items for Regional Ministry and Promotion be eliminated as funding items so that national and international items could be funded at just under 90 percent of the target goals. The Board approved the distribution of \$720,057 in year 2016 Maguire State Mission Offering proceeds as follows:

2016 MAGUIRE STATE MISSION OFFERING REPORT

| Recipient | Goal | Actual Allocation |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Haiti Partnership | 120,000 | 108,022 |
| Western Cuba Partnership | 85,000 | 76,516 |
| Eastern Cuba Partnership | 40,000 | 36,008 |
| West Virginia Partnership | 40,000 | 36,008 |
| Montreal Partnership | 15,000 | 13,503 |
| Church Site | 220,000 | 220,000 |
| Migrant Ministries | 32,500 | 32,500 |
| Health Ministries | 42,500 | 42,500 |
| Jail/Prison Ministries | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Mobile Dental | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| Children's Camp | 17,000 | 17,000 |
| Collegiate Missions | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Disaster Relief | 75,000 | 75,000 |
| Internationals | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Regional Ministries | 50,000 | 0 |
| Publicity | 30,000 | 0 |
| TOTAL | \$830,000 | \$720,057 |

7. 2017 Maguire State Mission Offering

During the March 31, 2017, meeting of the State Board of Missions, the executive director-treasurer shared a bold new initiative to focus on church planting and revitalization efforts in South Florida. A key element of this vision was to begin to direct funds from the state mission offering to this region of our state. By utilizing the state mission offering to create a global fund for a South Florida emphasis, this would allow every Florida Baptist church to become a supporting church of the SEND effort of the North American Mission Board in South Florida. Additionally, the Board approved the 2017 State Mission Offering goal of \$830,000 with the understanding that convention staff was still working on the allocation plan for the offering proceeds. The desire was to thoroughly evaluate the financial needs of the existing ministry items funded in the mission offering and then begin to move these ongoing funding requirements into the Cooperative Program budget of the Florida Baptist Convention.

By the time the State Board of Missions met for its August 25, 2017, meeting, there was a renewed enthusiasm and excitement for the vision in South Florida. The Board subsequently reaffirmed the 2017 State Mission Offering goal of \$830,000 and authorized 100% of the offering to be allocated to the SEND South Florida Global Fund for Ministry. The Board further approved that any overage received above the goal of \$830,000 be directed to the SEND South Florida Global Fund for Ministry.

8. The Baptist College of Florida

In the year 2016, The Baptist College of Florida received a total of \$1,644,330 from the Florida Baptist Convention:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Cooperative Program | \$ 1,625,000 |
| Designated Gifts | <u>\$ 19,330</u> |
| | \$ 1,644,330 |

9. Florida Baptist Children's Homes

During the year 2016, the Florida Baptist Children's Homes received a total of \$2,120,030 from the Florida Baptist Convention:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cooperative Program | \$ 1,120,000 |
| Designated Gifts | <u>\$ 1,000,030</u> |
| | \$ 2,120,030 |

10. Florida Baptist Financial Services

During the year 2016, Florida Baptist Financial Services received \$65,000 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. 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.

The following persons currently serve on the Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors:

Jerry Chumley, Bristol (2017-2019)
David Elder, St. Augustine (2015-2018)

Dana Greatrex, Oak Hill (2016-2018)
David Hecht, Panama City (2015-2018)
Donald S. Hepburn, Jacksonville (2015-2018)
Judith Jolly, Dade City (2015-2018)
David Lema, Hialeah (2017-2019)
Thomas A. Kinchen, President, Baptist College of Florida, Graceville (Permanent)
J. Thomas Green, III, Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville (Permanent)

In the year 2016, the Florida Baptist Historical Society received a budget of \$50,000 from the Florida Baptist Convention.

12. Meetings of the State Board of Missions

On March 31, 2017, the State Board of Missions approved a change in location for their August 24-25, 2017, meeting from the Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center to the new convention office building located in Jacksonville. In addition, the Board set the dates for the 2018 meetings, with the expectation that a recommendation to define the locations would be presented at their November meeting, after the Board had met in Jacksonville in August.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| April 4-6, 2018 | TBD |
| | (Orientation for new members to be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018) |
| August 23-24, 2018 | TBD |
| November 12, 2018 | Miami |
| | (Pre-Convention Meeting) |
| November 13, 2018 | Miami |
| | (Organizational Meeting) |

13. Appointment of Audit Subcommittee

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on March 31, 2017, the chairman of the Budget-Allocations Committee appointed the following persons to serve on the Audit Subcommittee for the year 2017:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Curtis Clark, <i>Chair</i> | Elbert Nasworthy |
| Howard Harden | Tom Nork |
| Patrick Mobley | |

Ex Officio: Ned Hastings, Chair, Budget-Allocations Committee

14. Report on Florida Baptist Convention Audit

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on August 25, 2017, the Board received as information the following report on the Florida Baptist Convention audit for 2016:

The audit of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., for the year ending December 31, 2016, is presented as an unmodified opinion of the financial statements that were found to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

15. Report on Florida Baptist State Convention Agency Audits

On August 25, 2017, 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, 2016, through December 31, 2016
- (2) Florida Baptist Financial Services Audit Report, January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016
- (3) The Baptist College of Florida Audit Report, July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016

- (4) Florida Baptist Witness Audit Report,
January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016

The opinion expressed by the auditors on the financial statements of each of the institutions was unmodified, 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 cooperating ministries.

16. Appointment of Loans Subcommittee

On March 31, 2017, the State Board of Missions approved the appointment of the following persons to serve on the Loans Subcommittee for the year 2017:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Joseph Coats, Jr., <i>Chair</i> | Timothy Martin |
| Janey Frost | Mike Wetzel |
| Greg Kell | |

Ex Officio Voting Members

Mike Tatem, President, State Board of Missions
Tommy Green, Executive Director-Treasurer

17. Financial Assistance: Loans to Churches and Missions

From October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017, the State Board of Missions approved financial assistance from funds administered by the Board to the following churches and missions:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Blue Creek Baptist Church, Perry | \$150,000 |
| Chipola Family Ministries | \$100,000 |
| Eglise Baptiste Philadelphie, Ocala | \$100,000 |
| First Baptist Church, Cape Coral | \$150,000 |
| First Baptist Church, Homestead | \$150,000 |
| First Baptist Church, Homosassa | \$60,000 |
| First Baptist Church, South Daytona | \$100,000 |
| Kingdom Covenant Baptist Church, Miami | \$100,000 |
| Lake Talquin Baptist Church, Tallahassee | \$25,000 |
| Midway Unity Fellowship, Quincy | \$150,000 |
| New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Fort Myers | \$10,000 |
| One Hope Church, Port St. Lucie | \$51,000 |
| Piney Grove Baptist Church, Cottondale | \$40,000 |

18. Financial Assistance: Church Planting and Revitalization

The 2017 Cooperative Program budget allocated \$2,000,000 towards church planting and revitalization grants through the Florida Baptist Convention. The following churches received funds during the period of October 1, 2016, through August 31, 2017:

West Region

Calvary Baptist Church, Milton
First Baptist Church, Apalachicola
First Baptist Church, Chipley
First Baptist Church, Eastpoint
Sylvania Heights, Ft. Walton Beach
Hiland Park Baptist Church, Panama City
Lakeview Baptist Church, Pensacola
Live Oak Baptist Church, Crestview
Myrtle Grove Baptist Church, Pensacola
New Bethel Baptist Church, Jay
Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola
Point Baptist Church, Pensacola
Village Baptist Church, Destin
West Pensacola Baptist Church, Pensacola
West Pittman Baptist Church, Holmes

North Region

First Baptist Church, Horseshoe Beach
First Baptist Church, Weirsdale
Greater Faith Baptist Church, Gainesville

Lake Asbury Baptist Church, Green Cove Springs
The Summit Church, High Springs

East Region

Anastasia Baptist Church, St. Augustine
Ancient City Baptist Church, St. Augustine
Blessed Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
Calvary Baptist Church, Palatka
Central Baptist Church, Melbourne
Central Baptist Church, Sanford
Chets Creek Church, Jacksonville
College Park Baptist Church, Palatka
First Baptist Church, Jacksonville
First Baptist Church, Jacksonville Beach
First Baptist Church, Middleburg
First Baptist Church, Mt. Tabor, Palatka
First Baptist Church, Orange Park
First Baptist Church, Orange Park (Oak Harbor)
First Baptist Church, Orange Park/Shiloh BC (Fleming Island)
First Baptist Church, San Mateo
Grove Church, Titusville
Mercy Hill Church, Yulee
Moultrie Baptist Church, St. Augustine
Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Hastings
Murray Hill Baptist Church, Jacksonville
Northwest Baptist Church, Cocoa
Paran Baptist Church, Grandin
Parkview Baptist Church, Fort Pierce
Parkwood Baptist Church, Jacksonville
Shindler Drive Baptist Church, Jacksonville
Southside Baptist Church, Jacksonville
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
Tabernacle Baptist Church, Palatka
Westview Baptist Church, Sanford

Central Region

Calvary Baptist Church, Holiday
Christ Community Church, Lecanto
Church of The Way, Tampa
City Place Church, South Florida
College Road Baptist Church, Ocala
Common Ground Church, Lake Worth
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Inverness
Crossroads Church, New Port Richey
Dover Shores Baptist Church, Orlando
Emmanuel Haitian, Orlando
First Baptist Church, Bartow
First Baptist Church, Dade City
First Baptist Church, Homeland
First Baptist Church, Temple Terrace
Heartland Community Church, Winter Haven
New Beginnings Community Baptist Church, Clearwater
New City Church, Plant City
New Covenant Family Center, Brandon
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Hudson
New Philadelphia Worship Center, St. Petersburg
North Oak Baptist Church, Citrus Springs
Northgate Baptist Church, Tampa
Open Arms Church, Wesley Chapel
Red Level Baptist Church, Crystal River
Seminole Heights Baptist Church, Tampa
Skycrest Community Church, Clearwater
South Tampa Fellowship, Tampa
Tampa Shores Community Church, Clearwater
The Fellowship Church, Leesburg
Zion Hope Baptist Church, Lakeland

Southwest Region

Cornerstone Baptist Church, Okeechobee
Eben-ezer Haitian Baptist Church, Murdock

First Baptist Church, Charlotte Harbor
 First Baptist Church, Immokalee
 First Baptist Church, Sarasota
 First Haitian Baptist Church, Naples
 King's River Church, Bradenton
 Sarasota Baptist Church, Sarasota

Southeast Region

Calvary Fellowship Church, Miramar
 Christ Centered Church, Aventura
 Christ City Church, Miami
 Christ Fellowship Church, Palmetto
 ChristWay Baptist Church, Miramar
 Church by the Glades, Coral Springs
 Core Community Church, Homestead
 Family Church, West Palm Beach
 First Baptist Church, Cutler Ridge
 First Baptist Church, North Miami
 First Baptist Church of Tequesta, Jupiter
 First Baptist Church, Weston
 Glendale Missionary Baptist Church, Miami
 Haitian Evangelical Baptist Church, Miami
 Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Plantation, Plantation
 Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Westland, Hialeah
 Iglesia REAL, Hollywood
 Lakeview Baptist Church, Delray Beach
 New Life Baptist Church, Carol City
 Pembroke Road Baptist Church, Miramar
 Redemption Church, Miami
 Renewing Life Church, Miami
 Restoring Grace Community Church, Fort Lauderdale
 Riverside Baptist Church, Miami
 Turning Point Baptist Church, Miami
 Westside Baptist Church, Boynton Beach

19. Financial Assistance: Disaster Relief

The year 2017 brought several major storms to the state of Florida, which resulted in extensive damage to churches, homes and property from one end of the state to the other. Because of the generosity of Southern Baptists, the Florida Baptist Convention could provide immediate assistance to those who needed it most. The following is a list of churches that received financial assistance for disaster relief:

East Region

Beach House Church, Daytona Beach
 Blackrock Baptist Church, Yulee
 Dunns Creek Baptist Church, Palatka
 First Baptist Church Harbor Oaks, Port Orange
 First Baptist Church, Bunnell
 Hollyford Baptist Church, Jacksonville
 King Street Baptist Church, Merritt Island
 Mandarin Baptist Church, Jacksonville
 Oceanway Baptist Church, Jacksonville
 Orsino Baptist Church, Merritt Island
 Parkwood Baptist Church, Jacksonville
 Set Free by the Sea, Yulee
 Tabernacle Baptist Church, Palatka
 Thomas Creek Baptist Church, Callahan

Central Region

City Awakening, Orlando
 First Baptist Church South Daytona
 First Baptist Church, Avon Park
 First Baptist Church, Lake Wales
 First Baptist Church, Winter Haven
 Fishhawk Fellowship, Lithia
 Killarney Baptist Church, Winter Park
 Trinity Baptist Church, Apopka

Southeast Region

Christian Church of Reference, North Lauderdale
 East Hialeah Baptist Church, Hialeah
 Eben-Ezer Haitian, Miami
 Emmanuel Holiness, Fort Lauderdale
 First Baptist Church Big Coppit, Key West
 First Baptist Church, Big Pine Key
 First Baptist Church, Islamorada
 First Baptist Church, Marathon
 First Haitian Baptist Church, North Lauderdale
 Gardens Baptist Church, West Park
 Iglesia Bautista Poder De Dios, Miami Beach
 Iglesia Bautista Resurreccion, Miami
 Layton Community Baptist Church, Layton
 New Beginnings Fellowship, Homestead
 New Life Baptist Church, Davie
 Sheridan Hills Baptist Church, Hollywood
 South Florida Haitian Evangelical Baptist Church, Dania Beach
 Sugarloaf Baptist Church, Summerland Key
 Wayside Baptist Church, Miami
 Westview Baptist Church, Miami

Southwest Region

Bethesda Haitian, Naples
 First Baptist Church Estero
 First Baptist Church, Cape Coral
 First Baptist Church, Fort Myers Beach
 First Baptist Church, Immokalee
 First Baptist Church, North Fort Myers
 First, Ellenton, Palmetto
 Friendship Baptist Church, Immokalee
 New Hope Baptist Fellowship, Cape Coral
 North Naples Baptist Church, Naples
 Suncoast Baptist Church, Homosassa Springs

20. Ministers Emergency Assistance Program

On November 14, 2016, the State Board of Missions appointed David Chauncey, Gainesville, to serve on the Ministers Emergency Assistance Committee for the term 2016-2019. Ricky Powell, Jacksonville, was appointed to serve as chairman for the year 2016-2017. Rob Arnold, Orlando, also serves on the committee.

During the period of January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, nine individuals received \$12,939.95 in assistance through the Ministers Emergency Assistance Program. In addition, from January 1, 2017, through March 15, 2017, one person received \$1,435.02 in assistance.

From March 16, 2017, through July 31, 2017, one individual received \$500 in assistance through the Ministers Emergency Assistance Program.

21. 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 2017:

Ned Hastings, *Chair*
 Ken Parker

Michael Wiggins

22. Florida Baptist Convention New Board-Elected Positions

The State Board of Missions on November 14, 2016, approved the position of **Black Multicultural Church Catalyst, Regional Catalyst Group**.

23. Florida Baptist Convention Revision of Board-Elected Position

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on August 25, 2017, the Board revised the position of Director of Communications and changed the nomenclature to **Strategic Communication Catalyst**.

24. Florida Baptist Convention Elimination of Board-Elected Position

On November 14, 2016, the State Board of Missions eliminated the position of **Team Strategist, Church Staff Benefits/Stewardship**.

25. Florida Baptist Convention New Board-Elected Personnel

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on November 14, 2016, the Board elected **Myles P. Dowdy** to serve as Lead Catalyst, Missions and Ministries Group, effective January 1, 2017. Dr. Dowdy previously served as Minister of Counseling/Administration at First Baptist Church, Brandon, Florida.

The State Board of Missions elected **Ricky Bailey** on August 25, 2017, to serve as the Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry—Miami. Prior to accepting the position, Ricky Bailey served as College Pastor at Christ Fellowship Church in Palmetto.

Mark MacDonald was elected by the State Board of Missions on August 25, 2017, as the Strategic Communication Catalyst. Mr. MacDonald served as owner and president of Be Known for Something, a communications and marketing firm.

On August 25, 2017, the State Board of Missions elected **Nathan Schneider** as Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry—Tampa, Next Generation Ministry Team. Prior to joining the Florida Baptist Convention staff, Nathan Schneider served as the student pastor at Redemption Church in Saraland, Alabama.

26. Florida Baptist Convention Board-Elected Personnel Changes

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on November 14, 2016, the Board elected **Patrick D. Coats** as Black Multicultural Church Catalyst, effective January 1, 2017. Patrick Coats previously served in a part-time role while also serving as senior pastor of the Kingdom Covenant Baptist Church in Homestead, Florida.

Craig E. Culbreth was elected by the Board on November 14, 2016, to serve as the Regional Catalyst for the East Region, effective January 1, 2017. Prior to accepting the new position, Dr. Culbreth was the Lead Catalyst for the Missions and Ministries Group.

On November 14, 2016, the State Board of Missions elected **Gary D. Townsend** to serve as the Regional Catalyst for the North Region, effective January 1, 2017. Gary Townsend had previously served the Florida Baptist Convention as Team Strategist, Church Staff Benefits/Stewardship.

Matt Wofford resigned in December 2016 as Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry—Miami, to pursue other opportunities.

Glen E. Owens, retired effective February 4, 2017, completing over 27 years of service in multiple roles, most recently as the Regional Catalyst for the Northeast Region.

In March 2017, **Rahul Agarwal** resigned as Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry—Tampa, to accept a position on a church staff.

Effective August 31, 2017, **Barbara L. Denman** retired as Director of Communications, having served Florida Baptists for nearly 30 years.

27. 2016 Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Budget Overage Distribution

As of December 31, 2016, gifts to the Cooperative Program in Florida totaled \$29,920,395. The 2016 CP budget had been based on a projection of \$29,000,000. The faithful giving of Florida Baptist churches resulted in a budget overage of \$920,395. During the March 2016 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the executive director-treasurer informed the Board that the SBC portion of any month-to-month CP overage would be released in real-time to the SBC Cooperative Program. This amounted to a total of \$469,401 in additional funds being sent throughout the year. The remaining Florida portion of the overage amounted to \$450,993.

On March 31, 2017, the State Board of Missions allocated the Florida portion of the 2016 Cooperative Program Budget in the amount of \$450,993 to defray expenses related to the modernization of the new Florida Baptist Convention offices located at 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida.

28. Status Report on Sale of Baptist Building, 1230 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida

In March 2016, an agreement was signed with a developer to purchase the Convention-owned property located at 1230 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville. Throughout the next 15 months, the buyer performed many inspections, made applications for permits and exceptions and met with numerous county and state officials to obtain permission to use the property to build a high density residential facility. All preliminary steps to the purchase of the property were finalized and completed to the satisfaction of the buyer and on June 6, 2017, all purchase/sale documents were electronically signed and delivered to the closing attorney. Shortly thereafter, \$6,150,000 was deposited into the bank account of the Florida Baptist Convention. A great shout of thanks and rejoicing was given to the Lord as the sale was finalized.

At the Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Tommy Green, Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, and a host of Florida Baptist pastors, publicly presented a check in the amount of \$3,136,500 to the Southern Baptist Convention. This gift, which represents 51% of the sale price of the building, had previously been enthusiastically endorsed by the State Board of Missions.

Of the remaining proceeds from the sale of the building, \$2.3 million was used to purchase a 28,500 square-foot building located at 6850 Belfort Oaks Place in Jacksonville to provide office space for the Jacksonville staff, as well as meeting facilities available for use by Florida Baptist churches and others. In addition, \$700,000 was sent to The Baptist College of Florida to endow the John Sullivan Chair of Baptist History. The remaining \$13,500 was retained for ministry in the state.

29. Status Report on Purchase of Belfort Oaks Property, Jacksonville, Florida

During the August 2016 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the Board authorized the negotiation and purchase of property located at 6850 Belfort Oaks Place in Jacksonville, Florida, to provide office space for the Jacksonville staff. This transaction was successfully completed and closed on December 20, 2016, at a cost of \$2.3

million. The convention team relocated to the new offices at the end of February.

The State Board of Missions met at the new location on August 24-25, 2017, and received a report on expenses related to the relocation of staff and the necessary renovation of the new Baptist Building. The following is a summary of the expense categories related to the property purchase and relocation:

| ITEM | COST |
|---|----------------|
| Due Diligence | 12,820 |
| General Contractor (Wall repair, painting, carpeting, tile, refurbishing doors) | 324,790 |
| Sealing the building | 26,932 |
| Technology | 41,953 |
| Outside signage | 10,027 |
| Blinds | 19,804 |
| New telephone system | 12,032 |
| Furniture | 40,307 |
| Repairs/Maintenance | 11,369 |
| Tree Removal | 7,250 |
| Moving | 2,716 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 510,000 |

30. Setting a Spending Rate for Cooperative Program Endowment Fund

The State Board of Missions on March 31, 2017, set a spending rate of three percent for the Cooperative Program Endowment Fund for the year 2017.

31. Establishment of Capital Reserve Fund

On August 25, 2017, the State Board of Missions authorized the transfer of \$350,000 from the Operating Reserve Fund to create a Capital Reserve Fund, with the understanding that Capital Reserve Funds would be used only for large expenditures that cannot be funded by budgetary maintenance funds. The source of funding for future contributions to the Capital Reserve Fund will be determined by the State Board of Missions at a later date.

32. Florida Baptist Witness Assets

In July, the Executive Editor of the Florida Baptist Witness resigned to accept a position with a local church. At the request of the Witness Board chairman, Executive Director-Treasurer Tommy Green met with the executive committee of the Witness Board and assured the committee that regardless of the direction they chose, the Florida Baptist Convention remained ready to help. Convention staff also prepared a proposal for the Witness Board to consider, which recommended bringing the Florida Baptist Witness under the care of the Communications Department of the Florida Baptist Convention. The executive committee heard this proposal and indicated their desire to proceed in this direction.

On August 1, 2017, the Witness Board of Directors voted to dissolve the Florida Baptist Witness corporation effective December 31, 2017, and return the Witness publication to the Florida Baptist Convention. Additionally, the Witness Board voted to enter into a management agreement with the Florida Baptist Convention through December 31, 2017, whereby, the Florida Baptist Convention staff will manage and operate the day-to-day business of the Florida Baptist Witness to complete the remaining print editions of the Witness through the end of the year.

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on August 25, 2017, the Board approved a recommendation to accept the assets of the Florida Baptist Witness corporation upon its dissolution on December 31, 2017. Additionally, the Board approved revisions to the Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution and Bylaws, eliminating the Florida Baptist Witness as a cooperating ministry. These revisions will be recommended to messengers for approval during the 2017 annual meeting.

33. Commission to Study Florida Baptist Convention Partnership with Confraternité Missionnaire Baptiste d'Haiti

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on March 31, 2017, the Board endorsed a commission of Florida Baptist Haitian pastors to be named by the State Haitian Fellowship, to review the Florida Baptist Convention's partnership with the Confraternité Missionnaire Baptiste d'Haiti.

The following individuals were enlisted and are serving on the Commission:

Evens Jules, Delray Beach, Chairman
 Wilem Philippi, North Lauderdale, Vice-Chairman
 Wadler Jules, Miami, Secretary
 Emile Jean, Jacksonville, Assistant Secretary
 Elicien Elusme, Fort Myers, Member
 Maxi Saint Fleur, Orlando, Member
 Doret Jean, Tampa, Member
 Myles Dowdy, FBC Representative
 John Voltaire, FBC Representative

The Commission was subdivided into three different groups to study the following topics:

- Relationship of CMBH with FBC
- Relationships of CMBH with Haitian Pastors State Fellowship
- Analyze and strengthen the Haitian Pastors State Fellowship
- Review CMBH's charts and constitutions

On August 25, 2017, the State Board of Missions received a progress report provided by Commission Chairman Pastor Evens Jules.

The Commission started to work since their appointment in April 2017 at Lake Yale. On May 20th, we met in Lake Park where we subdivided the Commission into three sub-commissions:

- The Haitian State Fellowship
 This sub-commission is responsible to explore, understand the operational model of the Haitian State Fellowship from its beginning until now. To accomplish their work, the sub-commission will meet, interview some key people to collect information about the structure of the State Fellowship, its functioning, its relationship with CMBH in Haiti, and its relationship with the FBC. They are also responsible to identify the challenges that the Fellowship has been facing so that we can make the necessary recommendations. The members of this sub-commission are: Pastor Jean Emile from Jacksonville and Pastor Evens Jules from Delray Beach.
- CMBH in Haiti
 Composed of Pastor Willem Fillippi of Gulf Stream Association, and Pastor Maxi Saint Fleur of Orlando, this sub-commission is focused on the work of CMBH in Haiti, its structure, its modus operandi, and its ministries. They will identify and analyze the weaknesses and the strengths of CMBH.

- CMBH and FBC

The third sub-commission is responsible to understand the past and present relationship between the Florida Baptist Convention and CMBH in Haiti. This commission is formed of three Pastors: Jean Doret from Tampa, Boston Elisme, Wadler of Fort Myers area and Jules of Miami.

After many meetings, interviews and readings, the Commission begins to have a good amount of information that can help them have a good understanding of the functioning of CMBH and the Haitian State Fellowship. Many members of the Commission went to Haiti and used their visit and mission trips to contact directors of missions, pastors and staff of CMBH. Pastor Evens Jules was in the Western part of the country, Pastor Willem Phillippi in the North-Western part, Pastor Jean Doret in the North and Pastor Wadler Jules in West and North West.

The first commission interviewed the key pastors who helped with the conception, the birth and beginning of CMBH in Haiti. To date they have interviewed: Dr. Renaud Balzora who was the Haitian ministry director for FBC, Pastor Wilner Maxy of Emmanuel of Miami, Pastor Jacques Dumornay of First Haitian Baptist Church of Pompano Beach and Dr. Christian Sanon. These interviews helped the commissioners notice the shared responsibilities that existed between FBC and the Haitian State Fellowship to support the work of CMBH. The sub-commission also notices the different reality that exists now and is working on understanding what led to the changes.

Some members of the second sub-commission went to Haiti and spoke to many local pastors to understand the functioning of the churches. Pastor Phillippi reported to the commission that there is a disconnect between the churches that he visited with CMBH. His trip to Haiti and his conversation with many pastors helped him identify many positive areas in the ministry of CMBH and also many weaknesses, and challenges.

The third sub-commission identified the different kind of support that FBC has been providing to CMBH. The members of the commission also identified the way CMBH receives and manages the support.

The commission may struggle in some areas but we have already made great progress through the contacts and conversations with Haitian pastors in Florida and members of CMBH in Haiti. We will soon contact some current and former members/employees of the FBC about works in Haiti through CMBC. We look forward to providing a final report along with our recommendations by early October. All the members of the commission understand very well that their work requires a lot of prayer, wisdom and understanding. This is why we are committed to individually and corporately spending time in prayer to seek God's direction so that we can accomplish this work in a way that will be pleasing to Him, in a way that will advance the work of His kingdom.

34. State Board of Missions Policies: Policy Manual Eliminations

The streamlined and modernized model of ministry implemented by the executive director-treasurer has resulted in a reorganized staff structure centered around the local church. Because of the updated and efficient structure, many of the State Board of Missions policies have become obsolete.

During a meeting on March 31, 2017, the Board approved the elimination of the following policies from the State Board of Missions Policy Manual:

- (1) Florida Baptist Convention Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund
- (2) Church-Pastor-Staff Relations Ministry
- (3) Florida Baptist Witness Subscriptions
- (4) Maguire State Mission Offering
 - selected process deletions
 - a. Funding Request Approval Process
 - b. Funding Guidelines Process
 - c. Guidelines for Shared Receipts
- (5) Public Affairs Program
- (6) Theological Education in Florida



Dr. Tommy Green, Dr. John Sullivan and Dr. Tom Kinchen celebrate the recent naming of the John Sullivan Chair of Baptist History and the dedication of the Florida Baptist History and Heritage Center at The Baptist College of Florida.

3,000 plus attend Sharper! conferences across state

More than 3,000 Florida Baptist pastors and ministry teams were renewed, equipped, challenged and sharpened during Sharper! ministry conferences held simultaneously across the state Feb. 23.



Displaying a commitment to “pull back the curtain” of their own ministries, 22 Florida Baptist churches from Pensacola to Miami hosted and coordinated the meetings at their facilities, inviting ministry teams from across their regions to attend.

“Sharper! was a great unifying event for the state of Florida for Florida Baptists because everyone was doing it,” said Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, who hosted the training event attended by 75 participants. “Churches of all sizes came together. We even drew some from Alabama.”

Traylor added, “even if no one showed up it helped our own team to bring us together to ask ‘why do we do what we do’ and ‘how did we get here.’”

Offering the training event in multiple churches “on your own turf” was significant, Traylor added, because it did not require travel from the pastors’ ministry fields and offered practitioners as ministry models.

A Sharper! conference at South Biscayne Church in North Port drew 108 participants, said Pastor John Cross, who called the experience “unbelievable. It was one of the greatest things I have done in my 26 years as a Florida Baptist.”

“The collaboration was great,” he said. “It was more than ‘y’all’ come and learn.”

Each church had the responsibility to determine topics and choose leaders from their own staff or enlist others to lead break-out sessions. Cross asked Christian coach Mark Brown of Charis Counseling to come and “encourage the executive pastors” attending that the South Biscayne conference.

The Sharper! Conference was sponsored and funded by the Florida Baptist Convention, as well as by grants from the North American Mission Board. This was the first event of its kind. Florida executive director Tommy Green also termed the event a unifying moment for Florida Baptists. “The unity of the 3,000 plus individuals across Florida involved in Sharper! reminds us that we are always better together,” he said.

“Sharper! provided a high quality opportunity for our pastors to learn from each other. The churches who hosted Sharper! established relevant and practical training sessions in ministry,” he added.

Forrest Smith, director of missions for the West Florida Baptist Association, attended the Sharper! Conference hosted by First Baptist Church of Panama City.

“I believe that this type of peer learning format could be extremely beneficial for encouraging and sharpening fellow leaders in the faith,” he said.

“From evangelism to student ministry to policy and procedures, and every other area of ministry, this was extremely helpful. Not only for our association, but also in how we can help our congregations be more effective at reaching the lost and building God’s kingdom.”

Ben Sutton was among pastors from the West Florida association that participated in the Sharper! conference at First Panama City.

“I got more information than I know what to do with,” said Sutton, pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church in Chipley. “The philosophy of worship material was particularly helpful since we are looking for a worship leader. As a young pastor, this information will really help me think through those things.”

Terry Ryan, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cutler Ridge, expressed appreciation to Family Church in West Palm Beach for “opening their doors and hearts” to those attending the Sharper! conference there.

“I have attended many conferences in my life, but this was by far the best! The team at Family Church was real, honest, open and a blessing. Taking nine members of his church to the conference, Ryan added. “Every one of them was excited and talkative about what we learned. We will be back next year.”

by Barbara Denman

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STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS

Recommendations to the Florida Baptist State Convention

Recommendation 1: 2018 Florida Baptist Convention Budget

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the year 2018 Cooperative Program Basic Budget of \$30,000,000 based upon the following distribution and the general detail as noted in the attached budget document:

- 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%

- 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 basis:

Programs of Mission, Ministry and Support \$11,710,000
Cooperating Ministries
 The Baptist College of Florida \$1,650,000
 Florida Baptist Children's Homes \$1,140,000
 Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center \$200,000

- That all Cooperative Program receipts received by December 31, 2018, and which are in excess of the budgetary requirements specified within the 2018 Cooperative Program budget shall be designated as Cooperative Program Excess Budget funds. Furthermore, the Board directs that 55% of such excess funds be immediately distributed to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. Further recommendations and subsequent Board action on the distribution of the remaining 45% of 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].

| Florida Baptist State Convention | | |
|---|------------|--|
| | Total | |
| Southern Baptist Convention | | |
| Executive Committee - Southern Baptist Convention | 15,300,000 | |
| Cooperating Ministries | | |
| Florida Baptist Children's Homes | 1,140,000 | |
| The Baptist College of Florida | 1,650,000 | |
| Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center | 200,000 | |
| Florida Baptist Convention Programs | | |
| Accounting Office | 100,000 | |
| Baptist Campus Ministries | 177,500 | |
| Community Ministries | 214,225 | |
| Disaster Relief | 112,750 | |
| Executive Director-Treasurer Ministries | 219,000 | |
| Florida Baptist Witness | 200,000 | |
| Florida Theological Education Support (*a) | 100,000 | |
| Migrant Ministries | 54,355 | |
| Missions and Ministries | 316,400 | |
| Next Generation Ministries (*b) | 578,500 | |
| Pastor Protection Insurance (*c) | 100,000 | |
| Personnel (*d) | 4,596,120 | |
| Regional/Multicultural Catalysts | 2,735,000 | |
| Southeast Regional Center | 95,500 | |
| Strategic Communications | 233,000 | |
| Strategic Initiatives (*e) | 329,000 | |
| Support Services | 1,236,000 | |
| Technology Services Office | 213,000 | |
| WMM/Missions Education | 99,650 | |
| Total | 30,000,000 | |
| Percentage of Total | 100.00% | |
| Percentage of Florida (\$14,700,000) | | |

Southern Baptist Convention 2018 Cooperative Program Budget

| Southern Baptist Convention | Cooperating Ministries | Personnel | Operations | Ministry Investment | Church Planting | Revitalization | Regional Ministries | Next Gen Ministries | Missions | SBM/Annual Meeting | Promotion/Communication |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 15,300,000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1,140,000 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1,650,000 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 200,000 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 100,000 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 177,500 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 20,500 | | | | | | 193,725 | | |
| | | | 22,000 | | | | | | 90,750 | | |
| | | | 70,000 | 128,000 | | | 21,000 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 200,000 |
| | | | | 100,000 | | | | | | | |
| | | | 16,500 | | | | | | 37,855 | | |
| | | | 25,000 | | | | | | 291,400 | | |
| | | | 30,500 | | | | | 548,000 | | | |
| | | | | 100,000 | | | | | | | |
| | | 4,596,120 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 195,000 | | 1,100,000 | 750,000 | 690,000 | | | | |
| | | | 95,500 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 23,000 | | | | | | | | 210,000 |
| | | | 94,000 | | | | 15,000 | | | 220,000 | |
| | | 500,000 | 736,000 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 213,000 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 20,500 | | | | | | 79,150 | | |
| 15,300,000 | 2,990,000 | 5,096,120 | 1,839,000 | 328,000 | 1,100,000 | 750,000 | 726,000 | 548,000 | 692,880 | 220,000 | 410,000 |
| 51.00% | 9.97% | 16.99% | 6.13% | 1.09% | 3.67% | 2.50% | 2.42% | 1.83% | 2.31% | 0.73% | 1.37% |
| | 20.34% | 34.67% | 12.51% | 2.23% | 7.48% | 5.10% | 4.94% | 3.73% | 4.71% | 1.50% | 2.79% |

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) Florida Baptist Theological Education funds are allocated to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to help provide theological education in Florida for pastors and other ministerial staff.

(*b) Next Generation Ministries includes Student and Children's Ministry Funding which provides training, equipping and conferencing for student pastors and children ministry leaders as well as quality camp experiences.

(*c) Pastor Protection Insurance allocates funds to participate in a Guidestone ministry that provides limited life and disability insurance to eligible lead/senior pastors.

(*d) Personnel includes salaries and benefits for 27 Board Elected Staff, 18 Administrative Approved Staff as well as benefits for certain Convention retirees.

(*e) Strategic Initiatives includes supervision of the Ministry Support Team, State Board of Missions meetings, Florida Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting.

Recomendaciones de la Junta de Misiones del Estado a la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida

Recomendación 1: 2018 - Presupuesto de la Convención Bautista de Florida

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida adopte para el año 2018 el Presupuesto Básico del Programa Cooperativo de \$30,000,000 basado en la siguiente distribución y el detalle general como anotado en el documentado de presupuesto adjunto:

- Que todos los recibos de ingreso del Programa Cooperativo sean distribuidos en el porcentaje de asignación siguiente:

Causas de la Convención Bautista del Sur 51.00%
Causas de la Convención Bautista de Florida 49.00%

- 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 basis:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Programas de Misión, Ministerio y Apoyo | \$11,710,000 |
| Ministerios en Cooperación | |
| The Baptist College of Florida | \$1,650,000 |
| (Colegio Bautista) | |
| Florida Baptist Children's Homes | \$1,140,000 |
| (Hogares de Niños) | |
| Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center | \$200,000 |

- Que todo lo recibido para el Programa Cooperativo hasta el 31 de diciembre del 2018, y lo que haya en exceso de los requerimientos presupuestarios en el Presupuesto del Programa Cooperativo del 2018, debe ser designado a los fondos del Exceso de Presupuesto del Programa Cooperativo. La Junta dirige que 55% de tales excesos sean inmediatamente distribuidos al Programa Cooperativo de la Convención Bautista del Sur. Dicha recomendación y la subsecuente acción de la distribución del restante 45% de estos fondos de Exceso de Presupuesto deberán estar en consonancia con el Plan Financiero y de Negocios de la Convención del Estado. [Estatuto 16, B (3)(a)(b), Artículos de Constitución de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida].

Recommandations du Bureau d'Etat des Missions à la Convention Baptiste d'Etat de la Floride

Recommandation 1: Budget 2018 de la Convention Baptiste d'Etat de la Floride

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride adopte le Budget de Base du Programme Coopératif 2018 d'un montant de \$30,000,000 basé sur la distribution et les détails généraux comme indiqués dans le document du budget ci-joint:

- Que tous les revenus du Programme Coopératif soient distribués sur la base d'allocation de pourcentage suivant:

Les causes de la Convention Baptiste du Sud 51.00%
Les causes de la Convention Baptiste de la Floride 49.00%

- Et que le Budget de Base du Programme Coopératif alloué aux causes de la Convention Baptiste de la Floride (ou 49% du total des revenus du Programme Coopératif) soit distribué sur les bases suivantes:

Programmes de Mission, Ministère et Support \$11,710,000
Ministères de Coopération

Le Collège Baptiste de la Floride \$1,650,000
La Maison des Enfants Baptistes de la Floride \$1,140,000
Le Centre Baptiste de Conférence à Lake Yale \$200,000

- Que tous les revenus reçus du Programme Coopératif au 31 décembre 2018 et qui sont en excès aux exigences budgétaires spécifiés dans le budget 2018 du Programme Coopératif soient désignés comme excédent budgétaire des fonds du Programme Coopératif. De surcroît, le Bureau ordonne que 55% de cet excédent budgétaire soit immédiatement distribué au Programme Coopératif de la Convention Baptiste du Sud. D'autres recommandations additionnelles et actions subséquentes du Bureau concernant la distribution des 45% restant de l'excédent budgétaire devant être alignés en relation au Plan d'Affaires et Financier de la Convention d'Etat [Bylaw 16, B (3)(a)(b), Constitution de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride].

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

Recommendation 2:
Document Revision: Article 9, Constitution,
Florida Baptist State Convention
 (This is the second reading of this version of Article 9.)

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 (deletion indicated by **~~bold-strikethrough~~** and addition indicated by ***bold italics***):

Nota: Una revisión Constitucional requiere un voto afirmativo de los mensajeros en dos reuniones consecutivas de la Convención del Estado.

Recomendación 2: Revisión de Documento: Artículo 9, Constitución, Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida (esta es la segunda lectura de esta versión del artículo 9)

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida revise el artículo 9 de la Constitución de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida, para que lea como sigue, (lo que se quitó está indicado por una **~~línea oscura~~** y adiciones están indicadas por ***itálicas***):

Note: Une revision constitutionnelle réquiert un vote affirmatif par les messagers pendant deux sessions consécutives de la Convention d'Etat.

Recommandation 2: Revision de Document: Article 9, Constitution, Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride revise l'Article 9 de la Constitution de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride, qui doit-être lu comme suit (effacer ce qui est **~~rayé en gras~~** en addition de ce qui est indiqué en ***italique gras***):

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; **and (6) Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc.** 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 3: Governing Documents: Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc.

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention approve the following Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc.:

Recomendación 3: Documentos que Gobiernan: Centro de Conferencia Bautista Lake Yale, Inc.

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida apruebe los siguientes Artículos de incorporación y Estatutos, Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc.:

Recommandation 3: Documents de Gouvernance: Centre de Conférence Baptiste Lake Yale, Inc.

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride approuve les articles suivants de la Constitution et des lois du Centre de Conférence Baptiste Lake Yale, Inc.:

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER, INC.

The undersigned persons, desiring to organize a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the state of Florida and the provisions of the United States Code promulgated by and for the Internal Revenue Service; with all of the rights, powers and privileges of a corporation so-organized under the United States Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida, hereby make and file these Articles of Incorporation, and certify as follows:

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of the Corporation shall be: LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER, INC. (the "Corporation").

ARTICLE II - Principal Office and Mailing Address

The address of the principal office of the Corporation shall be 39034 County Rd 452, Leesburg, Florida 34788, and the mailing address of the Corporation shall be 39034 County Rd 452, Leesburg, Florida 34788

ARTICLE III - Purpose

- The Corporation is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, educational, or other proper purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code").

- The Corporation is organized for purposes of engaging in any activity or business that is: 1) consistent with the Holy Bible and the Baptist Faith & Message, 2000, and 2) permitted under the laws of the United States and of the State of Florida.

- The Corporation shall be authorized to provide social

services and programs as provided by the Corporation's Directors in a context of Christian 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.

- The Corporation 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.

- 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.

- 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.

ARTICLE IV - Term of Existence

The Corporation shall exist perpetually unless dissolved according to law.

ARTICLE V – Incorporator

The name and street address of the incorporator to these Articles is:

Name: Don Sawyer

Address: 39034 County Road 452, Leesburg, FL 34788

The incorporator of these Articles hereby assigns to this corporation any and all of his rights to constitute a corporation.

ARTICLE VI – Registered Agent

The name and address of the Registered Agent for the Corporation is Don Sawyer whose address is located at 39034 County Road 452, Leesburg, FL 34788.

ARTICLE VII - Directors

- 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.

- As set forth in the Bylaws, members of the Board of Directors shall be elected and appointed by the Florida Baptist State Convention in its regular annual sessions, as provided in the Bylaws of the Corporation (or by the existing Board of Directors of the Corporation between said meeting of the Convention).

- The initial slate of Directors shall be comprised of the following individuals:

Name: Address:

- (To Be Named by the Committee on Nominations and voted on in a separate report.)

2.

3.

ARTICLE VIII - Amendment to Articles

Subject to approval by the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon a recommendation from the State Board of Missions, the Articles of Incorporation 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 three-quarters (3/4) vote of the Directors present at such meeting.

ARTICLE IX - 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 X – Limitations to Corporate Power

- Loans to, and guarantees by, the Corporation shall be contracted on behalf of the Corporation only if authorized by the Board of Directors; 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.

- Any purchase, mortgage, or sale of real estate that shall affect or encumber in any way the main campus of the Corporation (i.e., the real-property conveyed by the Florida Baptist State Convention to the Corporation) either during the life of the Corporation or upon its dissolution, shall require the approval of the Corporation's Board of Directors and is conditioned upon the consent of the Florida Baptist State Convention acting upon a recommendation from the State Board of Missions.

ARTICLE XI - Dissolution

A. In the event of 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 by distributing them to the Florida Baptist State Convention, Inc. (provided said organization is then exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Code). Should said organization not then be exempt, the Corporation will then otherwise dispose of the remaining assets 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed these Articles of Incorporation this ____ day of _____, 2017.

LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER, INC.

By: Don Sawyer, Incorporator

CERTIFICATE DESIGNATING PLACE OF BUSINESS OR DOMICILE FOR THE SERVICE OF PROCESS WITHIN THIS STATE, NAMING AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED.

Pursuant to Section 48.091, *Florida Statutes*, the following certificate (the "Certificate") is submitted:

That LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER, INC., organized under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal office, as indicated in these Articles, in the City of Leesburg, Lake County, Florida, has named Don Sawyer, located at 39034 County Road 452, Leesburg, FL 34788, as its agent to accept service of process within the State of Florida.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Having been named to accept service of process for the above-stated corporation, at the place designated in this Certificate, I hereby accept the appointment to act in this capacity and agree to comply with the provision of said act relative to keeping open said office.

Don Sawyer, Registered Agent

BYLAWS of the LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER, INC.

Article I – Offices

The principal office of LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER, INC., a Florida not-for profit corporation (the "Corporation"), in the State of Florida shall be located in the City of Leesburg, in Lake County. 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 – Officers & Directors

Board of Directors. The business of the Corporation shall be managed and its corporate powers exercised by a board of not less than nine (9) Directors. The exact number of Directors comprising the board may be fixed from time to time by the Florida Baptist State Convention.

Directors shall:

- Be residents of the State of Florida,
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- 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.)

- 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.

- 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.

- 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 Corporation whom the Director reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented; (ii) legal counsel, public accountants 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.

- 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.

- 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 to be unwarranted.

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

Number, Election, and Term of Directors.

The Corporation shall be managed by a Board of nine (9)

Directors, unless and until changed in accordance with these Bylaws. 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. 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.

The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist State 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.

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. 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.

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 meeting of the Board of Directors, unless the Board votes to excuse the absence for good and sufficient reasons.

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.

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.

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 filled by an action of the board for the remaining term of the vacant position, appointing a person meeting any 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.

Quarterly and Regular Meetings of the Board. The regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held quarterly at such 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 Directors 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.

Special Meetings of the Board. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time and place—within or without the State of Florida—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 of the board, however, need not be given to any Director who signs a waiver of notice either before or after the meeting. 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.

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, unless said Director states, at the beginning of the meeting, any objection to the transaction of business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

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, unless provided to the contrary in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws. A Director 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.

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.

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; provided however, such services do not in any way amount to or create an impermissible conflict of interest (as prohibited by state law and Florida Baptist State Convention policy).

Committees. The Board of Directors, by resolution adopted by a majority of the full board, may create and populate one or more committees. Each of the committees, to the extent provided by resolution adopted by a majority of the full board, shall have and may exercise all the authority delegated to it by 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. 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 only 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.

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 any 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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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 the 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 III – Books 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. 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 4. Execution of Instruments Generally. Except as provided for 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 5. 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. Florida Baptist State Convention.

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

Section 6. 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 IV – Corporate Indemnification Plan

The Corporation shall indemnify any and all of its Directors, Officers, employees, attorneys or agents where any such person was, is, or is threatened to be made a party to any action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of such person's action or inaction as a Director, Officer, employee, attorney, or agent of the Corporation, but only if such person was acting in good faith and in an manner such person believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interest of the Corporation. The indemnification provided for in the previous sentence shall be in accordance with and to the fullest extent now or hereafter permitted by the laws of the State of Florida. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, any other right to which those seeking indemnification otherwise may be entitled. The Corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any such person or persons whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against liability under the provisions of these Bylaws. Such indemnification shall include all cost of defense, including attorneys' fees actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such action, suit or proceeding and amounts paid or incurred in connection with reasonable settlements made with a view of curtailing the costs of litigation. In discharging their duty, any Director, Officer, employee, or agent, when acting in good faith, may rely upon information, opinions, reports, or statement, including financial statements and other financial data, in each case prepared or presented by: (1) one or more Officers or employees of the Corporation whom the Director, Officer, employee, or agent reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented; (2) counsel, public accountants, or other persons as to matters that the Director, Officer, employee, or agent believes to be within that person's professional or expert competence; or (3) in the case of a Director, a committee upon which he or she does not serve, as to matters within the committee's designated authority. This obligation to indemnify and/or provide a defense shall cease if at any time it is discovered that the officer or Director in question acted contrary to Holy Scripture, in violation of law or otherwise acted in any way that was dishonest or lacking complete candor.

Article V – 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 VI – 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 VII – Budgets

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.

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

Article VIII – Fiscal Year

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

Article IX – Members

The Corporation shall not have any members. The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing constitute the validly adopted and true Bylaws of the Corporation as of the date set forth below.

Dated: _____, 2017

_____, President

_____, Chairman of Board

_____, Director

_____, Director

Recommendation 4: Article 9, Constitution, Florida Baptist State Convention
(This is the first reading of this version of Article 9.)

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 (deletion indicated by **bold-strikethrough**):

Recomendación 4: Revisión de Documento: Artículo 9, Constitución, Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida. (esta es la primera lectura de esta versión del Artículo 9)

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida revise Artículo 9 de la Constitución de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida para que lea como sigue, (lo que se quitó está indicado por una **línea oscura**):

Recommandation 4: Revision de Document: Article 9, Constitution de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride (Celle-ci est la première lecture de la version de l'Article 9.)

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride revise l'Article 9 de la Constitution de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride, pour lire comme suit (effacer ce qui est indiqué en **gras-rayé**):

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~~, and (6) Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc. 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: Bylaw 7, Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention revise Bylaw 7,C, Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, to read as follows (revision indicated by **bold-strikethrough** and renumber subsequent items):

Recomendación 5: Revisión de Documento: Artículo 7, Estatutos de la Junta de Misiones del Estado

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida revise el Artículo 7,C a los Estatutos de la Junta de Misiones del Estado de Florida para que lea como sigue: (revisión indicado por indicado por una **línea oscura** y enumeración siguiente puntos):

Recommandation 5: Revision de Document: Arrêté 7, Constitution de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride revise l'Arrêté 7, C, de la Constitution de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride, pour lire comme suit (revision indiquée en **gras-rayé** et nouvelle numérotation des items suivants):

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 cooperating ministries. If practicable, the names of these nominees shall be published in the *Florida Baptist Witness*:

- State Board of Missions (hereinafter described);
- Board of Trustees of Florida Baptist Children's Homes;
- F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees of potential directors of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes' Supporting Organizations (herein described);
- Board of Trustees of The Baptist College of Florida;
- 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 Retirement Center, Inc., and the Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc.;
- ~~Board of Directors of Florida Baptist Witness~~;
- Board of Directors of Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc.; and
- Committee on Order of Business.

Recommendation 6: Document Revisions: Bylaws of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention revise the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes, to read as follows (deletion indicated by **bold-strikethrough** and addition indicated by **bold italics**):

Recomendación 6: Revisión de Documentos: Estatutos de Florida Baptist Children's Homes

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida revise los Estatutos de Florida Baptist Children's Homes, que lea como sigue (lo que se quitó está indicado por una **línea oscura** y adiciones están indicadas por **itálicas**):

Recommandation 6: Revisions de Document: Constitution de la Maison des Enfants Baptistes de la Floride

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride revise l'Article 9 de la Constitution de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride, qui doit-êtré lu comme suit (effacer ce qui est **rayé-en-gras** en addition de ce qui est indiqué en **italique gras**):

Article II: Directors

Section 2.

- 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 4.

~~**Quarterly Annual 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. An annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held each year following notice thereof to the directors. Regular meetings of the board shall be held following notice thereof to the directors at such place and time thereafter during the year as the Board of Directors may fix. Annual or regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be held within or without the State of Florida.~~ Members of the Board of Directors 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 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 Article II, or in Article III, 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.

All members of the board will be appointed by the officers to serve on one or more standing committees of the board. The officers shall also appoint a chairperson for each committee.

The ~~board~~ **officers** 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.

Article IV: Book and Records; Corporate Affairs Section 6.

Financial Reports. The President/Chief Executive Officer and the Treasurer shall present to the Board of Directors at each ~~quarterly~~ **regularly scheduled** 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 funds ~~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 funds ~~held by or for the Corporation~~.

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.

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

Recommendation 7: Florida Baptist State Convention: Revised Annual Meeting Schedule

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the following revised annual meeting schedule for the Florida Baptist State Convention through the year 2024:

Recomendación 7: Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida: Revisión de Fecha y Lugar de Reuniones Anuales:

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida adopte el siguiente calendario anual revisado de reuniones para la Convención Bautista de Florida hasta el año 2024:

Recommandation 7: Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride: Horaire Révisé des Réunions Annuelles

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride adopte l'horaire révisé suivant pour les réunions annuelles de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride allant jusqu'à l'an 2024:

2017 November 13-14 – Brandon
2018 November 12-13 – Miami
2019 November 11-12 – Orlando
2020 November 9-10 – Lakeland
2021 November 8-9 – Pensacola
2022 November 14-15 – Tampa
2023 November 13-14 – Fort Lauderdale
2024 November 11-12 – Jacksonville

Recommendation 8: Report on New Church Starts

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention receive as information the following congregations, began as “new church starts,” between September 1, 2016, and October 15, 2017, 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

Recomendación 8: Reporte de Nuevas Iglesias

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida reciba información de las siguientes congregaciones, comenzadas como “nuevas iglesias”, entre Septiembre 1, 2016 y Octubre 15, 2017, como iglesias cooperativas que han sido aprobadas y están afiliadas con asociaciones Bautistas locales, **con el entendimiento que nuevas iglesias adicionales pueden ser adicionalmente añadidas**

Recommandation 8: Rapport sur le Demarrage des Nouvelles Eglises

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride reçoit l'information concernant les congrégations ayant débuté comme “démarrage de nouvelles églises”, entre le 1er septembre 2016 et le 15 Octobre 2017, en tant qu'églises coopérées lesquelles ont été endossées et affiliées à des associations et coopérations baptistes locales comme indiquées, **avec la possibilité d'addition de nouvelles églises; et**

That all congregations, having been endorsed by a cooperating local association as of October 15, 2017, are considered as cooperating local churches with this State Convention, and are entitled to the benefits and privileges as defined by Bylaw 2(B)1, Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, until such time as the congregation fails to fulfill the commitment during any calendar year as set forth in Bylaw 2(B)(2); and

That the Florida Baptist State Convention hereby reaffirm the scripturally-based and historic Baptist principle of autonomy of each local Baptist church, whose affiliation with this State Convention's action affirming an endorsement of cooperation, neither creates nor assumes a 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.

2016-17 Report on New Church Starts (September 1, 2016 – October 15, 2017)

Black Creek

Calvary Haitian Baptist Church, Orange Park

Brevard

Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida, Melbourne

Florida

Southpoint Church, Tallahassee

Greater Orlando

Lighthouse Baptist Church, Sanford
Discovery Life Church, Apopka

Gulf Stream

Iglesia Bautista Misericordia, Pembroke Pines
Amazing Grace Church, Plantation

Cruciform Church, Miramar
Iglesia Cristiana Un Nuevo Corazon, Fort Lauderdale
Gardens Hispanic Baptist Mission, West Park
Iglesia Bautista Miramar, West Park

Jacksonville

Fresh Start Church, Middleburg
St Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
Unity Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville

Lake County

Congregacion Bautista Bet-El Inc, Tavares
Eben-Ezer Haitian Baptist Church of Clermont, Clermont

Manatee Southern

Redemption Church Manatee, Bradenton

Miami

Full Harvest Christian Church, Tamarac
Ciudad de Refugio, Miami
Source of Grace Church, Miami
Levantate Pronto, Miami
One Family, Miami
Redeeming Grace Church, West Palm Beach
Harvest Miami, Biscayne Park
City Church, Miami
Fraternidad Cristiana, Miami
New Hope Nueva Esperanza Ministries Inc., Miami

Nature Coast

Union Missionary Baptist Church, Port Richey

North Florida

Countryside Baptist Church, Lake City

Palm Beach

Calvary Church, Jupiter
Eglise De La Grande Commission, Sunrise
Emmanuel Evangelical Baptist Church, Delray Beach
Promise Life Chapel, Wellington

Pasco

Iglesia Biblica de Dade City

Royal Palm

Fellowship Church, Ave Maria

Southwest Florida

First Tabernacle Baptist Church, North Port
The Well Baptist Church, Venice

Suncoast

Bay Cities Fellowship, Oldsmar
Indian Rocks en Espanol, Largo

Tampa Bay

New Victory Baptist Church, Tampa
South Hills Church Inc, Ruskin
House of Restoration in Christ, Tampa

Treasure Coast

Agape Fellowship Baptist Church, Port St Lucie
Chapel in the Woods Cowboy Church, Vero Beach
Church Family of God, Fort Pierce
Grace Church, Fort Pierce
Jesus Center Community Church, Fort Pierce
Eglise Baptiste Pierre Angulaire, Port St Lucie

Walton County

Faith Baptist Church, Santa Rosa Beach

Recommendation 9: Church-at-Large, Florida Baptist State Convention, Endorsement of Cooperation

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention endorse the following congregations as cooperating “churches-at-large,” recognizing the churches have submitted a “Commitment of Cooperation” document and thereby pledge to affiliate and cooperate with this State Convention by providing annual financial contributions and statistical information to the State Convention:

Recomendación 9: Iglesias afiliadas libremente, Convención Bautista de Florida, Aprobación de Cooperación

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida apruebe las siguientes congregaciones como iglesias afiliadas libremente (“church at large”), reconociendo que las iglesias han sometido un documento de Compromiso de Cooperación y afirman estar afiliadas y en cooperación con esta Convención Estatal por medio de proveer contribuciones anuales financieras e información de estadísticas a la Convención estatal:

Recommandation 9: L’Eglise non liée à une association, Convention d’Etat Baptiste de la Floride, Edossement de Cooperation

Le Bureau d’Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d’Etat Baptiste de la Floride endosse les congrégations suivantes comme “églises non liée à une association locale” mais en coopération avec la Convention d’Etat, tout en reconnaissant qu’elles ont soumis un document intitulé “Engagement de Coopération” et de fait ont promis de s’affilier et de coopérer avec cette Convention d’Etat en fournissant les contributions financières annuelles ainsi que les informations statistiques à la Convention d’Etat:

Calvary Lighthouse United Church, Davie, Florida
Ebenezer Memorial Baptist Church, U.S. Virgin Islands
Faith Baptist Church, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida
St. Paul Baptist Church, U.S. Virgin Islands
The Shepherd’s Fold Community Church, U.S. Virgin Islands

That these congregations, having been endorsed by the State Convention as cooperating local churches affiliated “at-large,” are entitled to the benefits and privileges as defined by Bylaw 2(B)1, Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, until such time as the congregation fails to fulfill the commitment during any calendar year as set forth in Bylaw 2(B)(2); and

That the Florida Baptist State Convention hereby reaffirm the scripturally-based and historic Baptist principle of autonomy of each local Baptist church, whose affiliation with this State Convention’s action affirming an endorsement of cooperation, neither creates nor assumes a 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.

Recommendation 10: Resolution of Appreciation for Glen E. Owens

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the following resolution of appreciation for Glen E. Owens:

Recomendación 10: Resolución de aprecio por Glen E. Owens

Recommandation 10: Résolution d’Appréciation pour Glen E. Owens

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR GLEN E. OWENS

WHEREAS, Glen E. Owens served the Florida Baptist Convention since 1989, and after serving 27 years and four months, retired February 4, 2017, from service that spanned multiple roles, including Interim Executive-Director Treasurer, Assistant Executive Director and most recently, Regional Catalyst for the Northeast Region; and

WHEREAS, Glen Owens accepted Christ as his personal Savior at age 9 and was baptized in Mount Olive Baptist Church in Crossroads, Louisiana; and was ordained to the gospel ministry by Oakland Heights Baptist Church in Longview, Texas, in 1956; and

WHEREAS, the El Dorado, Arkansas, native graduated from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana, in 1969 and continued his theological studies at Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and at Broadmoor Bible Institute, an extension of New Orleans Theological Seminary, in Shreveport, Louisiana; and received the Doctor of Christian Letters (Honoris Causa) from the Baptist College of Florida, Graceville, Florida, in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens was certified as a Fellow in Church Business Administration by the National Association of Church Business Administration in Fort Worth, Texas, 1983 and 2003; and qualified as a Certified Church Business Administrator by the Southern Baptist Church Business Administration Association in Fort Worth, Texas in 1988; and was named as a member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians, 2004; and

WHEREAS, almost immediately after John Sullivan was elected as executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, he tapped Glen Owens as assistant executive director who became Dr. Sullivan’s most trusted advisor and confidant; and with Dr. Sullivan’s retirement in 2015, Owens’ leadership was recognized when he was elected to serve as interim executive director, joining the ranks of only two other acting executive directors in the history of the Florida Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, Glen Owens created more accountability of the Convention staff and programs to ensure they benefitted Florida Baptist churches and were a means toward better effectiveness through the establishment of the OGAP system, an acronym for objective, goals and action plans, which guided the Convention’s direction for more than two decades and was expanded to include the strategic plan, program budget and Convention calendar; and

WHEREAS, his love for the local church was seen in more than 30 pastoral interims he served in Florida Baptist churches, where he ministered to and guided some of Florida Baptists’ most significant churches during a time of transition, often providing wise and healing counsel to troubled congregations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens carried the role of leading Florida Baptists’ moral concerns/religious liberty assignment, working with the Convention’s liaison in the Florida legislature to mount Florida Baptists’ opposition to declining moral issues in the state;

and served as a trustee of the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission from 2005-2013; and

WHEREAS Glen Owens' commitment and service to Florida Baptists has been motivated by the Apostle Paul's confession found in Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile;" now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 13-14, 2017, in Brandon, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Glen E. Owens, given to our Lord and Florida Baptists, and that we assure Glen and his wife, Susan, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this Convention; and

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

Recommendation 11: Resolution of Appreciation for Barbara L. Denman

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the following resolution of appreciation for Barbara L. Denman:

Recomendación 11: Resolución de aprecio por Barbara L. Denman

Recommandation 11: Résolution d'Appréciation pour Barbara L. Denman

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR BARBARA L. DENMAN

WHEREAS, Barbara L. Denman served the Florida Baptist Convention since 1987, and after serving nearly 30 years to the day, retired August 31, 2017, as director of Communications; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Denman accepted Christ as her personal Savior at age 8 and was baptized in First Baptist Church, Columbia, South Carolina; and made a public commitment to church-related vocation in 1976, at Shandon Baptist Church, Columbia, South Carolina; and while attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, she defined her call in religious communications; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia, South Carolina, native graduated from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, in 1976; and continued her theological studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where she earned a Masters of Religious Education Degree in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Denman served Southern Baptists in several communications roles, including Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, 1977-1979; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri, 1979-1982; and the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention, Atlanta, Georgia, 1982-1987; and

WHEREAS, in her role with the Florida Baptist Convention, Barbara Denman has directed numerous communications and

promotional campaigns, including Florida Baptists' annual Maguire State Mission Offering and Global Hunger Relief Offering, and through the success of these campaigns, Mrs. Denman was recognized by the Baptist Communicators Association (BCA) nine times with the Arthur S. Davenport Award for exceptional achievement in public relations and development; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Denman's influence as a Southern Baptist communicator extends beyond Florida as she has served in numerous BCA leadership positions, including president, program vice-president, membership vice-president, treasurer, and newsletter editor; and

WHEREAS, her passion for telling the story of Florida Baptists has had Mrs. Denman traversing the Sunshine State, traveling from large cities to small rural enclaves, often on the front lines of breaking news, such as covering the heartbreak of hurricanes making landfall and Florida Baptist disaster relief volunteers sharing the hope of Jesus Christ in the storms' aftermaths; and

WHEREAS Barbara Denman's commitment and service to Florida Baptists has been motivated by the words of 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain," now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 13-14, 2017, in Brandon, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Barbara L. Denman, given to our Lord and Florida Baptists; and that we assure Barbara and her husband, Dick, of the prayers, love, and best wishes of this Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Barbara L. Denman as an expression of our love and appreciation to her.

Recommendation 12: Adoption of One Hundred and Thirty-Seventh Annual Report of the State Board of Missions

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the one hundred and thirty-seventh annual report of the State Board of Missions to the Florida Baptist State Convention, covering the period of October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.

Recomendación 12: Adopción del reporte Anual 137 de la Junta de Misiones Estatal.

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida adopte el reporte anual 137 de la Junta de Misiones a la Convención Bautista de Florida, para el periodo que cubre Octubre 1, 2016 hasta Septiembre 30, 2017.

Recommandation 12: Adoption du Cent Trente Septième Rapport Annuel du Bureau d'Etat des Missions

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride adopte le cent trente septième rapport annuel du Bureau d'Etat des Missions à la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride, couvrant la période du 1er octobre 2016 au 30 septembre 2017.

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Haitian church rebuilds after devastating fire

In February 2016 when flames roared through Beraca First Haitian Baptist Church in Haines City, the congregation, with no insurance coverage, lost everything. Everything, that is, except for its faith in God and its partnership with Florida Baptists.



The building and all contents were a total loss. Thankfully, although there were people in the building at the time of the fire, no one was injured, and no lives were lost as the fire raged.

On the Sunday morning following the Tuesday evening fire, the congregation met on the church lawn, with the church's charred remains seeming to steel their resolve to move forward under God's leadership.

The church had known hardship before; it had been damaged extensively by Hurricane Jeanne in 2004.

"The building is burnt. But we are not defeated," pastor Fritz Paul told those who had gathered, according to local news reports.

"We serve a living God. We serve the most powerful God. We know our God will provide, so there is no defeat for us," said the pastor.

In the coming days, much of God's provision for the church would come through the support of Florida Baptists.

NorthRidge Church, Haines City, which had helped launch the Haitian church years earlier, opened its doors and heart to the church without a home. Beraca First Haitian Church met in NorthRidge facilities as its church home was being rebuilt.

"It has been our heart to support their ministry, and this was an opportunity to put faith into action. It was our heart and desire that since the church burned without any insurance coverage, this could help alleviate further financial stress upon the congregation," said NorthRidge senior pastor David Myers.

"This was our opportunity and I believe our God-given responsibility to love our daughter church," he said.

NorthRidge members could empathize with the Haitian church's experiences. Like its daughter church, NorthRidge Church had lost everything in a fire in 2007, although NorthRidge Church had insurance.

Grateful for its comfortable "home away from home" at NorthRidge, the Beraca congregation still needed significant funds to rebuild.

Again, Florida Baptists were there to help. Rebuilding was made possible by a loan from the Church Growth Investment Fund, a subsidiary of Florida Baptist Financial Services. Church Growth Investment Fund is a registered investment fund in the state of Florida that offers investment in certificates of participation (like time certificates and savings accounts) and uses the funds to make loans to qualified churches affiliated with the Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, said Michael Rhine, director of church finance for Florida Baptist Financial Services.

In April 2017, approximately 14 months after the devastating fire, Beraca First Haitian Baptist Church had reason to celebrate. It flung open the doors of its new building and offered praise to God for seeing them through their tough days.

The Haitian church's first worship service in its new building was "a great celebration to honor God for all His goodness towards them," said John Voltaire, Florida Baptists' Haitian church catalyst.

"Pastor Fritz is a true man of God who understands that sometimes the greater the suffering, the greater the blessing in ministry," he said.

The pastor, he said, as was "very grateful for the grace of God and the support of the Florida Baptist Convention" after the ferocious fire.

Today, there's no looking back for the Haitian congregation.

"They are excited and look forward to continue serving God while impacting their community," said Voltaire.

by Margaret Colson

Une Eglise Haïtienne Reconstruite après un Feu Dévastateur

En Février 2016, quand un feu dévorant ravageait l'Eglise Baptiste Haïtienne Beraca dans la ville de Haines, dépourvue de couverture d'assurance, la congrégation a tout perdu - tout, à l'exception de sa foi en Dieu et de son partenariat avec les Baptistes de la Floride.

Le bâtiment et tout son contenu étaient totalement détruits. Dieu merci, les personnes qui s'y trouvent au moment du désastre ont eu la vie sauve, ne subissaient ni la mort ni blessures.

Le dimanche matin succédant au feu de jeudi soir, la congrégation se réunissait sur la cour de l'église, avec les carcasses carbonisées du bâtiment comme point de résolution dans leur volonté d'avancer sous le leadership de Dieu.

L'église a connu dans le passé de moments difficiles; elle a été largement endommagée par le cyclone Jeanne en 2004.

"Le bâtiment est brûlé. Mais nous ne sommes pas vaincus," disait Pasteur Fritz Paul à tous ceux qui étaient présents, a rapporté les journaux d'actualité locaux.

"Nous servons un Dieu vivant. Nous servons le Dieu Tout-Puissant. Nous savons que notre Dieu y pourvoira, donc il n'y a pas de défaite pour nous," disait le pasteur.

Dans les jours qui suivent, la grande partie des provisions de Dieu proviendrait des supports des Baptistes de la Floride.

L'église NorthRidge de la ville de Haines ayant aidé dans les années antérieures au lancement de la congrégation Haïtienne, a ouvert ses portes et son cœur à l'église sans abri. La Première Eglise Baptiste Haïtienne Beraca réunissait aux locaux de NorthRidge attendant la reconstruction de ses locaux propres.

"Cela a été notre cœur pour supporter l'église Béraca, et cet indicent a été pour nous l'opportunité de mettre notre foi en action. Cela a été notre cœur et notre désir, d'alléger certaines responsabilités financières sur la congrégation dont le bâtiment sans couverture d'assurance a été détruit," disait David Myers, Senior pasteur à NorthRidge.

"Ceci a été notre opportunité et je crois qu'il est de notre responsabilité divine d'assister et d'aimer notre église-fille," disait-il.

Les membres de NorthRidge pourraient sympathiser avec les expériences de l'église Haïtienne. Comme son église-fille, l'église NorthRidge avait tout perdu lorsqu'en 2007, un feu avait tout ravagé, bien que l'église NorthRidge ait été couverte d'une police d'assurance.

Reconnaissante pour sa confortable "maison loin de chez soi" à NorthRidge, la congrégation de Beraca a besoin de fonds importants pour sa reconstruction.

Encore, les Baptistes de la Floride étaient prêts à aider. La reconstruction de l'église était possible grâce à un prêt de Church Growth Investment Fund, une filiale des Services Financiers Baptistes de la Floride. Church Growth Investment Fund est un fonds d'investissement enregistré dans l'Etat de la Floride et qui offre des investissements dans des certificats de participation

(comme les certificats de temps et les comptes d'épargne) et utilise les fonds pour accorder des prêts à des églises qualifiées affiliées à la Convention Baptiste de la Floride et à la Convention Baptiste du Sud, a déclaré Michael Rhine, directeur des finances des églises pour les Services Financiers des Baptistes de la Floride.

En avril 2017, environ 14 mois après le feu dévastateur, la Première Eglise Baptiste Haïtienne Beraca avait sa raison de célébrer. Elle a ouvert les portes de son nouveau bâtiment et a offert des louanges à Dieu pour les avoir visité dans ses jours difficiles.

Le premier service d'adoration de l'église Haïtienne dans son nouveau bâtiment était "une grande célébration pour honorer Dieu pour toute Sa bonté envers eux," disait John Voltaire, Catalyseur des Eglise Haïtiennes pour les Baptistes de la Floride.

"Pasteur Fritz est un vrai homme de Dieu qui comprend que des fois, plus la souffrance est grande, plus les bénédictions dans le ministères seront grandes," disait-il.

Le Pasteur, disait-il, était "très reconnaissant de la grâce de Dieu et des supports de la Convention Baptiste de la Floride" après ce feu féroce.

Aujourd'hui, il n'y a plus de regards retrospectifs pour la congrégation Haïtienne.

"Ils sont enthousiasmés et attendent avec impatience de continuer à servir Dieu tout en faisant un impact sur leur communauté" disait Voltaire.



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COOPERATING MINISTRIES The Baptist College of Florida

THOMAS A. KINCEN, Ph.D.
President

The Baptist College of Florida is an institution of higher learning whose trademark is “**Changing the World through the Unchanging Word®**.” Our home campus is made up of properties in Graceville and Marianna, Florida with distance sites in Jacksonville and Orlando. 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 local, North American and international missions, Disaster Relief and evangelistic activities in addition to rigorous academics and uplifting worship.

ACCREDITATION:

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.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

The Baptist College of Florida practices a comprehensive approach in admission policy. This approach takes into consideration academic, personal, and spiritual aspects of the individual's life. Specific admission requirements are listed in the College Catalog.

FACULTY:

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.

FINANCES:

The College offers top-quality postsecondary education at a very affordable cost. Financial aid is available to qualifying students through Federal, State, Denominational and local sources. Every effort is made to ensure that financial burdens on students are kept at the lowest possible level.

ACADEMICS:

The College confers degrees at the Associate, Baccalaureate, and Masters levels. These degrees are offered in the general areas of Pastoral Ministries, Christian education, Business, Music and Worship ministries and Teacher Education. Academic offerings include twenty-three undergraduate and two graduate level programs. These programs are described in detail in the College Catalog.

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 of our graduates go into graduate school programs or into their chosen field of service.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016-2017:

- Conducted third Elevate music and worship arts camp.
- College began renovation and expansion of the ninety acre Blue Springs Baptist Conference Center property as an addition to the campus.
- College began construction of new athletic fields on the Blue Springs campus.
- College conducted its first summer camping schedule on its Blue Springs campus with over 1,500 participants.
- Over 200 decisions for Christ were made by camp participants at the Blue Springs campus.
- College began construction of a Teacher Education Center on the Graceville campus.
- College established the John Sullivan Chair of Baptist History.
- College dedicated the Florida Baptist History and Heritage Center housing the Archives of the Florida Baptist Convention on the Graceville campus.
- **Recognitions Received by the College**
 - Ranked as one of the 50 Most Affordable Online Universities in the Nation
 - Ranked as #21 in Most Affordable Bible Colleges in the Nation
 - Selected as one of the Best Colleges in Florida
 - Ranked as #8 Student Loan Hero in helping students afford tuition and avoid debt
 - MA in Christian Studies ranked #17 in the Nation by Affordable Colleges
 - 2017 Best Value School Award
 - Recognized in Top Private Colleges and Universities by Florida Trend
 - Ranked #1 in Safest Small Colleges and Universities in America
 - Ranked #13 in the Best 30 Universities in Florida
 - Ranked #1 among 50 safest small colleges and universities
 - Ranked #9 as one of the most affordable and top quality colleges online
 - Best Online History Degree and Best Online School in Florida
 - BA in Elementary Education and Bachelor of Music Education programs ranked #2 for quality and affordability

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



COOPERATING MINISTRIES Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc.

EDDIE L. McCLELLAND
President/CEO

Since 1947, this ministry has carried out in 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 69th anniversary as the Chartered Trust Cooperating Ministry 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? (1) Because 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. (2) 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 August 31, 2017 Florida Baptist Financial Services companies totaled over \$192.1 million dollars entrusted under management. The Florida Baptist Foundation managed investments totaling \$75.1 million and the Church Growth Investment Fund managed deposits/loans totaling \$117.0 million.
- Over the past 14 years; Florida Baptist Foundation has distributed over \$21.6 million in distributions of earnings from charitable trust funds to Florida Baptist and Southern Baptist causes during the years 2003-2016. This is another reason that sets us apart.
- As of August 31, 2017, Church Growth Investment Fund had net assets in the fund totaling approximately \$117.0 million dollars.
- Church Growth Investment Fund and Florida Baptist Foundation have advanced approximately \$180 million in loans to our Florida Baptist Churches.
- Each year we undergo extensive outside audits from Independent Accounting firms. For 2016, each of our companies received excellent "unmodified" 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 for more information about our ministry.



COOPERATING MINISTRIES Florida Baptist Witness

Shelly Chandler
Chairman, FBW Board of Directors

For over 130 years, the Florida Baptist Witness has told the story of Florida Baptists and their work for the Kingdom of God. Any organization that is blessed to be 130 years old goes through change. Today, I am excited to share with you the recent news regarding the future of the Florida Baptist Witness.

In July, our board learned that our Executive Editor, Kevin Bumgarner, was following God's call to a new ministry position. Over the last three and half years, he has used his talents and leadership to move the Witness to a new level of journalistic excellence. Because of his departure, the Board of Directors immediately began discussions about our future direction and made some important decisions. With prayerful consideration, we looked at different options. One of which was with Dr. Tommy Green, Executive Director – Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention. Dr. Green ensured the Witness Board that regardless of the direction chosen that he and the convention remained committed to supporting the Florida Baptist Witness. He also shared a plan for how he believed the Witness could become part of the overall communications strategy of the convention. Our Board has voted to proceed with this plan. The new direction provides many key benefits to Florida Baptists including:

- Free digital access to all Witness news and stories
- Reduced Operating Cost – Freeing up financial resources to be released through the Cooperative Program to other mission and ministry opportunities in Florida
- More stories of how God is working through the local church across our state
- Continued access to some of your favorite content including the Bible Study commentaries

Change is upon us as we launch into the future. The final print issue of the Witness was just printed and is available during our annual meeting to all messengers. Additionally, the board is committed to placing resources into the long-term indexing and archiving of the Witness to ensure that it remains for centuries to come. Your help towards this project is greatly appreciated.

These decisions did not come easily, but as the elected representatives by our convention to oversee this important tool for Florida Baptists. We are confident we have made the right choice in placing the Witness back into the care of the Florida Baptist Convention.

On behalf of our entire Board, thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our Lord through the Florida Baptist Witness.



COOPERATING MINISTRIES Florida Baptist Children's Homes

JERRY T. HAAG, Ph.D., C.F.P.
President/CEO

Amy* was living in an emergency shelter, broken and confused, questioning how she was going to provide a home for her two sons. As a single mom, she was working as a caretaker for the elderly but only making minimum wage.

Amy soon found hope and relief through our Brave Moms program. Since entering the program 11 months ago, she received her CNA certificate and finished first in her class! Soon after receiving her certification, Amy got a job in a nursing home facility earning more money and eventually a raise. Amy worked hard to purchase a reliable vehicle, move into her own apartment and save a significant amount of money for emergencies.

Amy was ready to graduate from the Brave Moms program!

Because of the support Amy received in the Brave Moms program, she was able to focus on her faith, family and job. Amy's two sons are now thriving because they were able to flourish in a safe environment while she worked toward a better life for her family. Most importantly, through this transition Amy has shown spiritual growth in every aspect of her journey.

Amy's story is a wonderful example of how children and families are welcoming hope into their lives because of one more prayer, one more volunteer and one true and faithful God! We seek to provide children and families with the consistent compassion and care through our Christ-centered services.

Over the past year, we served 178,073 children and adults and more than 5 million meals in Florida and around the world. From our Brave Moms program to the growth of Compassion Ministries to the expansion of our Child Sponsorship Program, it is amazing to see all the wonderful things God has done to impact one more child for his glory!

*Name changed for confidentiality reasons.

OUR MINISTRIES:

Florida Baptist Children's Homes, The Porch Light and Orphan's Heart are passionate about helping 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 INDIVIDUALS SERVED FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 TO AUGUST 31, 2017:

- During this period, **Florida Baptist Children's Homes, The Porch Light and Orphan's Heart** had the privilege of impacting a total of **178,073 children and individuals** in the loving and life-changing name of Christ!
- We are welcoming hope into the lives of children and individuals at **24 ministry sites in 20 cities**. Internationally, we are bringing the Gospel of Christ to children and

individuals at **more than 30 ministry sites** in **16 countries** through **Orphan's Heart**.

- We provided **more than 5 million meals to children and individuals** in need. By meeting the tangible need of food for hungry children and their family members, **hundreds of thousands** of seeds were planted to share the love of Christ.
- Our volunteers gave a total of **94,163 hours** of their time - the equivalent of **3,923 days** of providing hope for one more child!
- Domestically, a total of **94,163 days** of childcare were provided. Along with such service, God's people generously gave more than just their time as we received **147,838 donations** of household items.
- Last fall, we conducted our sixth annual diaper drive to help meet the very real needs of children! We collected **more than 525,000 diapers** to help defray childcare costs for our foster parents in Florida as well as the Malnutrition Center in Guatemala. Our goal for Orphan Sunday 2017 is to collect **600,000 diapers** to help better meet this growing need.
- We welcomed hope by serving **1,250 children** in foster care. Also, **205 children** were served in residential care along with **141 children** in our emergency shelters.
- We impacted **68,314 individuals** through advocacy, training and awareness. **More than 3,200 of those individuals** were impacted through our **Sanctity of Human Life** program.
- **The Porch Light** continues to provide outstanding services as **more than 20,000 individuals** were impacted through advocacy, training and awareness. **The Porch Light** also provided **1,385 days** of care to victims of child sex trafficking in our safe home. In April, **The Porch Light** hosted the first Florida Anti-Trafficking Advocacy Day in Tallahassee which included a legislative prayer breakfast, survivor educational panel and press conference on the steps of the Historic Capitol. Last year, **The Porch Light** safe home became the first certified safe home in the state of Florida. Also, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) approved and commended **The Porch Light's** training curriculum, which is viewed as a strong model by organizations throughout the state.
- We continue to meet the needs of single mothers and their children through our **Brave Moms** program. We provided **68 single mothers and their children** places to live, spiritual nourishment, mentors and resources to get on paths to self-sufficiency.
- **Compassion Ministries** continues to meet the tangible needs of children, and thus, opened doors to share the love of Jesus! **More than 100,000 meals were provided to children and individuals** through our weekend backpack programs so they would not be hungry on the weekends. Specifically, at the **Harold Clark Simmons Compassion Center** in Lakeland, we served **1,664 clients**!
- Internationally, we served **101,297 children and individuals** through **Orphan's Heart**. With the help of **1,027 participants** through **77 mission trips**, we served **more than 1.1 million meals** and provided medical care for **9,951 patients**. More specifically, in places like El

Carrizal, Dominican Republic, **14 homes** were completed, leaving only **10 more homes** to be constructed to finish the 100-home community transformation project. Also, thanks to individual and group sponsorships, a total of **389 children** were sponsored, where this past June we celebrated our **800th child sponsorship**!

Every year, Florida Baptist Children's Homes offers churches an opportunity to participate in a special offering for children. We are thankful for every dollar given, and we are steadfast in our resolve to help children in need because of it. We would like to invite every Florida Baptist church to be part of our annual offering in 2018. Every church that participates will be equipped with tools needed to help make it a success, including: a video, offering envelopes, information about our areas of need and more! To learn more about how your church can make an impact for children through this special offering, contact Stephen Robert at Stephen.Robert@FBCHomes.org.

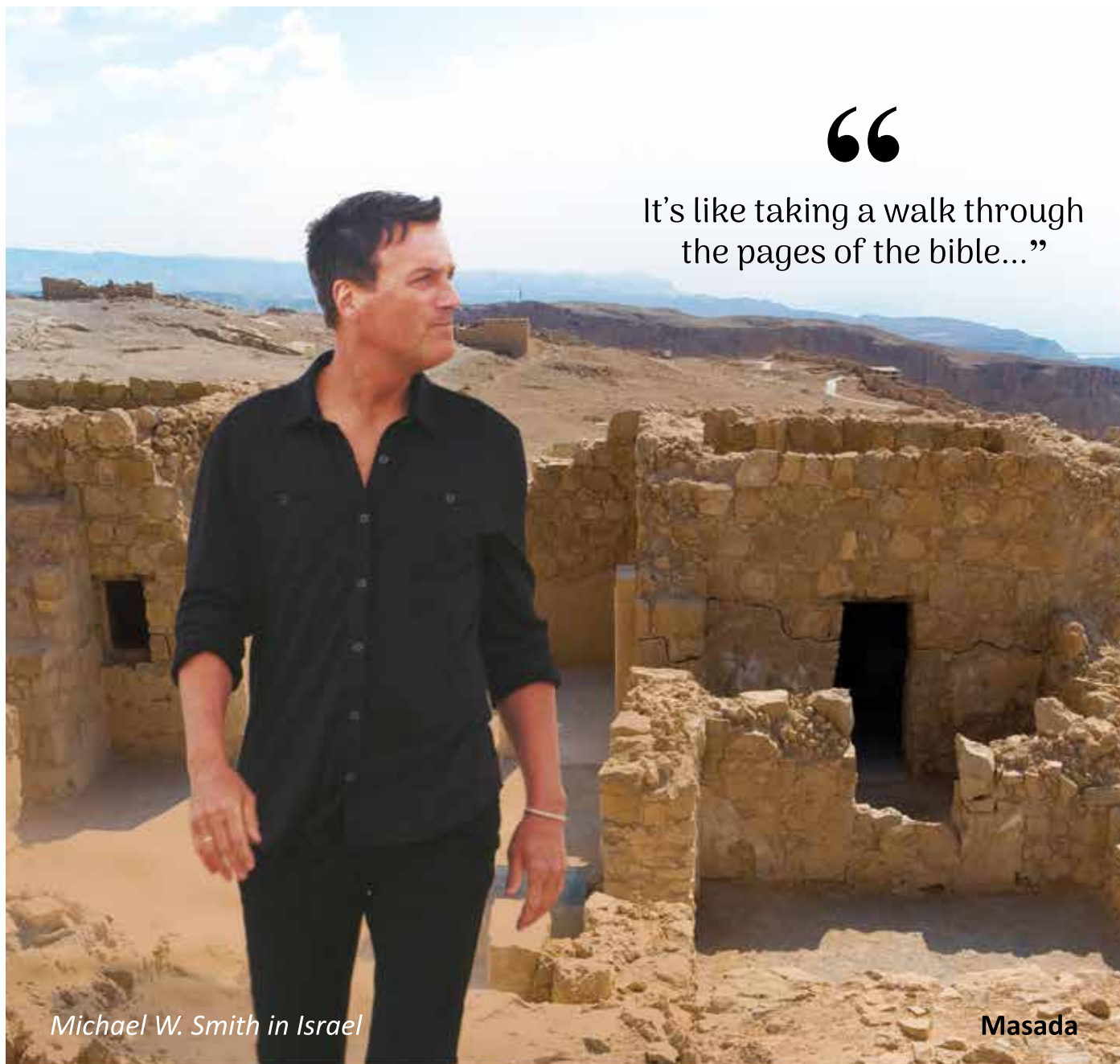
We are thankful for the steadfast ways God continues to use our ministry for his glory, and we diligently look to the future as we work to give eternal hope to ONE MORE CHILD. **Thank you to every Florida Baptist for making a difference in the lives and eternities of children. With your partnership, we can continue to do immeasurably more for children in need!**

Please contact us if you would like to visit one of our campus locations or if you are able to bring help to children in care. We can be reached through any of the following:

- 863.687.8811
- Children@FBCHomes.org
- FBCHomes.org
- ThePorchLight.org
- OrphansHeart.org

“

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the pages of the bible...”



Michael W. Smith in Israel

Masada

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Neighboring churches partner for in the gospel

Located just off U.S. 1 on Palm Coast Parkway, separated by nothing more than a small strip of land, two Florida Baptist churches are more than neighbors; they are partners in the Gospel.

First Baptist Church of Palm Coast and Palm Coast Community Church (PC3) have been next-door neighbors for the past 10 years. Through the years the two churches have intentionally chosen to look for ways to share the good news of Jesus Christ together.

A recent partnership opportunity came in the fall of 2016 when Hurricane Matthew pounded the east coast of Florida.

The disaster relief “effort was too large for any one church to handle, so cooperative efforts were imperative,” said Kevin Lautar, senior pastor of First Palm Coast.

Together, the two churches—with a narrow footpath connecting them—housed Baptist DR workers and staff, provided space for a feeding unit and multiple recovery vehicles while helping coordinate local volunteer efforts.

Partnering together “expanded the number of DR teams we could handle and support,” said Billy Wight, PC3 senior pastor, resulting in more people being helped and receiving a Gospel witness.

Other nearby churches also pitched in to help as thousands of meals were prepared and delivered daily while clean-up efforts were underway.

“The witness for the gospel was on full display for the community as local churches partnered together to help their neighbors recover from the effects of the storm,” said Lautar. As volunteers shared the gospel in the midst of their relief efforts, several community residents made professions of faith.

As life in the community returns to its normal rhythms, life among the churches and church leaders has found a new harmony.

“The pastors in the churches have become more closely knit together in relationship and are looking for ways to cooperate in ministry. The storm was a catalyst for unity in the local body that has lasted beyond the storm,” said Lautar.

Although unusual for two churches—particularly churches from the same denomination—to be so close geographically, the decision came about when property next to First Baptist Church, Palm Coast, became available around 2007. The pastors from both churches met and prayed about the possibility of two churches being next door to each other, recalled Lautar.

“It was discussed that, since the styles are so different and the need for Bible-believing and preaching churches was so great, we should cooperate together to reach the community of Palm Coast,” said Lautar.



The unique aspects of each church are seen in worship styles, church organization and leadership approach, appealing generally to people of different ages and at different stages in their Christian journeys.

Still, the two churches “are similar,” said Wight, “in that we are both focused on reaching Palm Coast for Christ.”

With such a commitment to partnership among the churches, “the Kingdom wins,” said Wight. “When the community sees churches working together for the benefit of the community, they literally see the love of Christ.”



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28304 R3-17

Florida Baptists present \$3,136,500 gift to SBC from sale of building

Flanked by more than two dozen Florida Baptist pastors, Tommy Green, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, presented a gift of \$3,136,500 to the Southern Baptist Convention during the Executive Committee report June 13 in Phoenix.

The gift was 51 percent of \$6,150,000 received from the sale of the former Baptist Building located in downtown Jacksonville, which was completed June 7.

The 51 percent allocation is in keeping with the Convention's CP budget that sends 51 percent to the Cooperative Program and retains 49 percent for Florida Baptist ministries.

"This gift is over and above our regular CP giving and specific to the sale of this property," said Green, to the applause of thousands in attendance.

He noted that the pastors on the platform "represent our Florida Baptist family, among many, who are seated in the Convention Center. Florida Baptists enthusiastically in 2015 made a strategic decision concerning the division of Cooperative Program dollars given in our state."

Prior to 2015, Florida had retained 59 percent of CP gifts in the state. The 2015 decision "led to a paradigm shift which changed our CP formula to releasing 51 percent to the SBC CP and retaining 49 percent of CP dollars in Florida."

Green was named as Florida's state exec in 2015 and immediately began the process of shifting more funds to the SBC. "51/49 is more than a business plan but a consistent driving missions mandate for Florida Baptists," he said.

"This decision of sending more than we keep of CP dollars from our churches has resulted in a reversal of a decade-long decline in CP dollars in Florida," Green shared with the Convention.

"We are now trending upward and rejoice in a \$3 million increase from Florida Baptist churches to the SBC CP this past year. Florida Baptist ministries continue at a high level, and we are grateful to report a 4.5 percent increase in baptisms through Florida Baptist churches this past year."

"Our prayer is that God will multiply these dollars in taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth."

Acknowledging the gift, Frank Page, president, SBC Executive Committee said the money will "go straight into the mission fund" and expressed appreciation to Florida Baptists on "behalf of all Southern Baptists and the sake of the gospel."

The money retained in Florida provided \$2.3 million for the purchase of a 28,568-square foot Convention Building in South Jacksonville; \$700,000 to endow the John Sullivan Chair of Baptist History at the Baptist College of Florida; and \$13,500 for ministry in the state.



Remembering Faithful Servants

...He would give you—a land with large and beautiful cities that you did not build, houses full of every good thing that you did not fill them with, wells dug that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant...

Deuteronomy 6:10-11

Florida Baptist pastors have a tremendous legacy to follow. You serve in fields where many seeds were sown long before you arrived. God has used many mighty men throughout the Sunshine State for His glory and countless lives have been altered for eternity through the ministry of pastors. We pause now to reflect on our Christian heritage and the men that have gone before us. The following is a listing of pastors who were called home over the last year to their eternal reward.

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| RAY JOHNSON | 1/28/2017 |
| LARRY MATHENY | 1/24/2017 |
| JAMES HARVEY | 7/25/2017 |
| JAMES A. OBRECHT, JR. | 3/8/2017 |
| GEORGE A. HENDERSON, JR. | 6/27/2017 |
| GERALD BAGWELL | 9/11/2017 |
| GABRIEL CRUZ | 1/26/2017 |
| J. L. HOWARD | 3/9/2017 |
| DENNIS BROWN | 5/26/2017 |
| HAROLD O. TAYLOR | 7/18/2017 |
| MICHAEL CASTLE | 1/23/2017 |
| TODD FOSTER | 11/18/2016 |
| CHARLES KNIGHT | 8/6/2017 |
| JOHN STACEY | 10/5/2017 |

This list of names reflects individuals that the Florida Baptist Convention has been made aware of.

Taking the gospel to the schools

If you were to send a missionary into a hostile environment in the Sunshine State, where would you send that missionary? Perhaps the inner city --or a community known for drug or sex trafficking-- or a prison?



How about the community's school system?

Jason Jones, senior pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church in Old Town, believes students today are in "one of the most hostile environments--with peer pressure, drug abuse, sexual influence, self-esteem issues, poverty, divorced homes, incarcerated parents and just a complete decline in quality moral beliefs, to name a few. The list goes on for struggles we see children facing."

Jones, who served as a youth pastor before accepting his current senior pastorate role in August 2014, prayed about the onslaught of Satan that he saw in schools.

"Satan is patient. He could launch an all-out assault on the pastors and churches of America and get into a war with the strongest members of the church, but he would be wasting his time. Instead, Satan is choosing to attack our next generation, one that is still learning -- or not learning -- about God and is still vulnerable," he said.

After much prayer, Jones sensed God directing him to do something that some might call radical to reach students for Christ.

"The Lord opened my eyes and revealed that He wanted us to send a missionary to one of the most hostile environments around -- our school system. God laid on my heart that we needed to stop waiting for the children to come to church hungry for the Word; we needed to take the active Word to them," he said.

Gary Townsend, Florida Baptists' north Florida regional catalyst, said, "God has given Jason a God-sized vision to take the gospel to the schools of Dixie County, one of the lower-end

school districts in the state. He did not approach this task with a hell-fire and brimstone approach. He and his team approached this from a very logical perspective."

The logical approach began with Jones consulting with a lawyer.

"We got complete understanding of what is allowed and how we would need to operate our vision inside the school system," explained Jones.

Next Jones consulted with school administrators to gain their support. The final piece was to hire a full-time student pastor whose main focus would be schools. Jonathan Engstrom answered the call and began serving Dixie County schools in September.

Although the school mission project was launched just over four months ago, the church already has outreach programs in four schools -- two elementary, one middle school and one high school. "We are trying to impact students from kindergarten through twelfth grade," said Jones.

According to Billy Young, Florida Baptists' next generation catalyst, Pastor Jones is cracking "the 4-14 Window. Over 70 percent of Christians come to know Christ from the age of 4 to age 14. That's why is it so important to share Christ with kids. The gospel matters."

Two mornings each week, the church hosts Bible studies for students before school. When the first Bible study was offered at Old Town Elementary School for children in grades three through five, 150 children showed up, said Townsend.

Additionally, the church has hosted several school supply drives, collected clothing and shoes for children in need, provided substitute teachers and helped with physical education programs. In addition, Engstrom tutors students two days a week and also serves as a basketball coach and pitching coach for the baseball team.

Students aren't the only ones receiving attention. Teachers' lives have been impacted positively too and .New Prospect is considering a ministry specifically designed to support teachers in tough school environments.

In its school mission project, the church is following a three-step process: earn the right to be on campus, begin deeper spiritual learning with students through Bible study and connect the students with area churches, explained Jones.

Five other area churches are "helping with the harvest this work is producing," said Townsend.

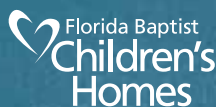
Already, Jones said, "The Spirit is definitely moving on these campuses and in the lives of students. I see an active open door to share the Word of God with students that I never dreamed would be possible.

AS WE KEEP OUR EYES ON ETERNITY, WE REMEMBER JORDYN.

Jordyn grew up in one of our cottages. His sister's life was tragically taken at the hands of an abuser, and Jordyn's childhood was woven with unimaginable pain.

IT WAS ALSO THREADED WITH UNSPEAKABLE JOY.

Upon coming to live on our campus, Jordyn remembers kindness from his house parents, biscuits 'n' gravy for breakfast, Friday night football games and being able to be a kid. He recalls that Sunday mornings were for church, and that he no longer had to worry so much, scrap for food and live in fear. Now as an adult, Jordyn says what made the greatest impression was the unconditional love he experienced. Jordyn knows this was evidence of the love of Christ — one that he could know for all eternity.



Learn more at FBCHomes.org.

There are more children in our care who desperately need food, shelter and love. They need the body of Christ to answer His call to care for the fatherless. Will your church say "yes" to coming alongside us to help children in need? At our 24 locations throughout the state of Florida, including the first certified safe home for child victims of sex trafficking, and around the world at our 16 international ministry sites, your church can show hurting children and families the life-changing love of Christ. **MAKE 2018 THE YEAR YOU JOIN US IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND GIVING LIKE NEVER BEFORE.**

FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

REPORT 2017

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 13-14, 2017.

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 2017.

STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS (97 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 14,000 church members. An additional Board member is permitted for each additional 14,000 church members or portion thereof (Bylaw 12,A(1), Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention).

| Association | Board Members Continuing Service (Term) | Nominees for Election | Term | Previous Term(s) |
|---------------------|---|--|------------------------|---------------------|
| Apalachee (1) | | James Thorpe (lay) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Big Lake (1) | | Rick Giles (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Black Creek (2) | Timothy Martin (ord) (16-19) Matthew Swain (ord) (16-18) | | | |
| Brevard (2) | | Lynne Phillips (lay) Bob Wilson (ord) | 2017-2020 2017-2019 | 14-17 None |
| Chipola (1) | Grady Gambill (lay) (16-19) | | | |
| Emerald Coast (2) | Rod Martin (lay) (16-18) | Jeremy Gates (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Florida (2) | Stella Cottrell (lay) (16-19) Trent Gann (ord) (15-18) | | | |
| Florida Keys (1) | | Charles Rosenbalm (ord) | 2017-2019 | None |
| Gadsden County (1) | | Jimmy Evans (lay) | 2017-2019 | None |
| Greater Orlando (5) | Kevin Goza (ord) (15-18) Maria Monroe (lay) (16-19) Ron Pierson (lay) (16-19) | Karl Fennimore (lay) David Schorejs (ord) | 2017-2020 2017-2020 | None None |
| Gulf Stream (6) | Tom Nork (lay) (15-18) Carlos Lugo (ord) (16-19) Silair Almeida (ord) (16-19) Kaleb Schmidt (ord) (16-19) Danny Slavich (ord) (16-18) | Guy Ernst Phillipi (lay) | 2017-2020 | 16-17 |
| Halifax (1) | Kenneth Parker (lay) (16-19) | | | |
| Harmony (1) | Tom Keisler (ord) (15-18) | | | |
| Holmes (1) | | Eddie Eaton (ord) | 2017-2020 | 15-17 |

| Association | Board Members Continuing Service (Term) | Nominees for Election | Term | Previous Term(s) |
|-----------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jacksonville (7) | Ned Hastings (lay) (15-18) Linda McNeil (lay) (16-19) Anna Guy (lay) (16-19) Jim Davis (lay) (16-18) | Elijah Simmons (ord) Jeff Stockdale (ord) David Tarkington (ord) | 2017-2020 2017-2018 2017-2020 | None None 14-17 |
| Lafayette (1) | Fred Edwards (ord) (15-18) | | | |
| Lake County (2) | | Josh Gussler (lay) Wendy Phillips (lay) | 2017-2020 2017-2018 | None None |
| Manatee Southern (1) | Larry Pritchett (ord) (15-18) | | | |
| Marion (2) | Alan Cotney (ord) (15-18) | Chris Spears (lay) | 2017-2020 | 15-17 |
| Miami (5) | Joe Coats, Jr. (lay) (15-18) Noel Lozano (ord) (16-19) | Lourdes Fernandez (lay) Wadler Jules (ord) Terry Ryan (ord) | 2017-2020 2017-2018 2017-2019 | None None None |
| Middle Florida (1) | Carol Spivey (lay) (16-19) | | | |
| Nature Coast (1) | Garry McCray (lay) (16-18) | | | |
| New River (1) | | Scott Stanland (ord) | 2017-2019 | 15-16 |
| North Central FL (2) | Patrick Inglett (lay) (16-19) | David Chauncey (ord) | 2017-2020 | 15-17 |
| North Florida (1) | | Terry Elixson (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Northeast Florida (2) | Neil Helton (ord) (15-18) Steve Simmons (lay) (16-19) | | | |
| Northwest Coast (2) | Bill Sears (ord) (15-18) | Carl Fondren (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Okaloosa (1) | | Tadd Anderson (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Orange Blossom (1) | | Mitchell Landress (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Palm Beach (2) | Beverly Bonner (ch staff) (16-19) Travis Laney (ord) (16-18) | | | |
| Pasco (1) | | Teresa Juarbe (lay) | 2017-2018 | None |
| Peace River (1) | Ron Tipton (ord) (15-18) | | | |
| Pensacola Bay (4) | Janey Frost (ch staff) (15-18) Tim Coleman (ord) (15-18) Jodi Aiken (lay) (16-19) | Christina Vargas (lay) | 2017-2020 | 16-17 |
| Ridge (2) | | Linda Maiden (lay) Scott Markley (ord) | 2017-2020 2017-2018 | None None |
| Royal Palm (3) | Mark Gonzales (ord) (15-18) Todd Stearns (ord) (16-19) | Timothy Pigg (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |

| Association | Board Members Continuing Service (Term) | Nominees for Election | Term | Previous Term(s) |
|-----------------------|--|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| St. Johns River (2) | Benjamin Rodda (lay) (15-18) Asa Greear (ord) (16-19) | | | |
| Santa Rosa (2) | Michael Wiggins (ord) (16-19) | James Welch (lay) | 2017-2020 | 15-17 |
| Seminole (2) | | Glenn Rogers (ord) Charlie Higgins (ord) | 2017-2020 2017-2019 | 13-14; 14-17 None |
| Shiloh (2) | Joe Carter (lay) (16-19) | Brian Stowe (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| South Florida (3) | Donald Miller (lay) (15-18) Matt Gilmore (ord) (16-19) | Wayne Roberts (ord) | 2017-2020 | 14-17 |
| Southwest Florida (1) | Tom Bryant (ord) (16-19) | | | |
| Sumter (1) | Craig Attaway (ord) (16-19) | | | |
| Suncoast (2) | Danny Bennett (ord) (16-19) | Michael Wetzel (ord) | 2017-2020 | 14-17 |
| Suwannee (1) | Shawn Johnson (ord) (16-19) | | | |
| Tampa Bay (6) | Mike Kahn (ord) (15-18) Elbert Nasworthy (ord) (15-18) Ralph Alderman (lay) (16-19) Paul Purvis (ord) (16-19) Bobby Patton (ord) (16-18) | Chester Gunn (lay) | 2017-2020 | 15-17 |
| Taylor (1) | Gary French (ord) (15-18) | | | |
| Treasure Coast (2) | | Zachary Jarrach (lay) Robert Neiman (ord) | 2017-2018 2017-2020 | None None |
| Walton County (1) | | Timothy Francis (lay) | 2017-2018 | None |
| West Florida (1) | Michael Orr (ord) (16-19) | | | |

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS (9 members)

| Nominees for Election (4) | Term | Previous Term(s) |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Boyd Bunting, Panama City (lay) | 2017-2019 | None |
| Dan Glenn, DeLand (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Stan Lewis, Pensacola (ord) | 2017-2020 | 01-04 |
| Richard Stewart, Tallahassee (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |

Chairman: Hal Kitchings, St. Petersburg (ord) | **Vice-Chairman:** Stan Lewis, Pensacola (ord)

Committee Members Continuing Service (5)

| | |
|--|---|
| Jim Ferguson, Clearwater (ord) (15-18) Javier Sotolongo, Miami (ord) (15-18) Daniel Wade, Winter Haven (ord) (15-18) | Hal Kitchings, St. Petersburg (ord) (16-19) Jeff Lehman, Kissimmee (ord) (16-19) |
|--|---|

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES (24 members)

| Nominees for Election (11) | Term | Previous Term(s) |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Susan Krause, Wauchula (lay) | 2017-2018 | None |
| Robert McNorton, Pensacola (lay) | 2017-2018 | None |
| Lanelle Pickett, Lakeland (ord) | 2017-2019 | 16-17 |
| Herbert Beck, Jacksonville (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Patricia Davis, Lake City (lay) | 2017-2020 | 87-90; 90-93; 99-00; 00-03; 06-09; 10-13 |
| William Hild, Sarasota (ord) | 2017-2020 | 10-13 |
| Spike Hogan, Jacksonville (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Sheri Jamieson, Mt. Dora (lay) | 2017-2020 | 16-17 |
| Ron Locke, Gainesville (lay) | 2017-2020 | 06-07; 07-10; 10-13; 14-17 |
| Phillip Nation, Palmetto (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| David Wilkins, Tallahassee (lay) | 2017-2020 | 03-06; 06-09; 14-17 |

Trustees Continuing Service (13)

| | |
|---|---|
| Darryl Hessler, Jacksonville (lay) (15-18) | Stephanie Orr, Chipley (lay) (16-19) |
| Larry Alan Reese, Wakulla Station (lay) (15-18) | Melody Scott, Live Oak (lay) (16-19) |
| Cliff Lea, Leesburg (ord) (15-18) | Dale Terjung, Brandon (lay) (16-19) |
| Carolyn Trucano, Sebring (lay) (15-18) | Daniel Walker, Plant City (lay) (16-19) |
| Diane Strack, Orlando (lay) (16-18) | Janet Wicker, Naples (lay) (16-19) |
| Kim Wilbanks, Lakeland (lay) (16-18) | Justin Wyatt, Crestview (ord) (16-19) |
| Bobby Musselwhite, Milton (ord) (16-19) | |

FLORIDA BAPTIST FINANCIAL SERVICES (21 members)

| Nominees for Election (8) | Term | Previous Term(s) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Niel Hampton, Callahan (lay) | 2017-2018 | 10-13 |
| Rudie Guta, Panama City Beach (ord) | 2017-2020 | 98-01; 01-04; 05-08; 14-17 |
| John Clifford Huxford, Miami (lay) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Gary Linton, Tallahassee (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Harold McNeil, Jacksonville (lay) | 2017-2020 | 09-12; 12-15; 16-17 |
| Timothy Russell, Lake City (lay) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Allison Scott, Live Oak (lay) | 2017-2020 | 02-05; 05-08; 09-12; 12-15; 15-17 |
| Lester Wilkinson, Port Orange (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |

Directors Continuing Service (13)

| | |
|--|--|
| Tom Biles, Tampa (ord) (15-18) | Albert Byrd, Jacksonville (ord) (16-19) |
| William Bartlett, Okeechobee (ord) (15-18) | Clell Coleman, Davie (ord) (16-19) |
| John Bozard, Orlando (lay) (15-18) | Donald Cooley, Jacksonville (ord) (16-19) |
| Christopher Dampier, Lake City (lay) (15-18) | Robert Gramley, DeFuniak Springs (lay) (16-19) |
| Perry Hodges, Fort Lauderdale (lay) (15-18) | Pam Hitt, Live Oak (lay) (16-19) |
| Harvey Webb, Vero Beach (ord) (15-18) | Archie Jackson, Green Cove Springs (ord) (16-19) |
| Robert Bray, Port Charlotte (lay) (16-19) | |

THE BAPTIST COLLEGE OF FLORIDA (25 members)

| Nominees for Election (9) | Term | Previous Term(s) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Otto Fernandez, Miami (ord) | 2017-2018 | None |
| Ron Burks, Bartow (ord) | 2017-2020 | 14-17 |
| Calvin Carr, Gainesville (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Mark Johnson, Panama City (lay) | 2017-2020 | 14-17 |
| Dan Mauldin, Gainesville (lay) | 2017-2020 | 14-17 |
| Mark Mercer, Panama City (lay) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Michael Tatem, Lake City (ord) | 2017-2020 | None |
| Gary Yeldell, Keystone Heights (lay) | 2017-2020 | None |
| | 2017-2020 | |

Trustees Continuing Service (16)

| | |
|--|---|
| Chris Coram, Jacksonville (ord) (15-18) | Sarah Clemmons, Marianna (lay) (16-19) |
| William Flannigan, Pensacola (ord) (15-18) | Alfred Guettler, Chipley (lay) (ord) |
| Dianne Lovett, Apopka (lay) (15-18) | Rich Kincl, Tallahassee (ord) (16-19) |
| Rachel Rollyson, Marianna (lay) (15-18) | Timothy Maynard, Jacksonville (ord) (16-19) |
| Christie Ross, Crestview (lay) (15-18) | Douglas Nellums, Pensacola (lay) (16-19) |
| Charles Warren, Starke (ord) (15-18) | Marvin Pittman, Bartow (lay) (16-19) |
| Tim Williams, Winter Haven (ord) (15-18) | Ronny Raines, Bradfordville (ord) (16-19) |
| Fran Carlton, Apopka (lay) (16-19) | Lawrence Taylor, Leesburg (lay) (16-19) |

LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER (9 members)

| Nominees for Election (9) | Term | Previous Term(s) |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| Eric Blamick, Eustis (lay) | 2018-2019 | None |
| Jessica Flinn, Leesburg (lay) | 2018-2019 | None |
| Debra Winningham, Winter Garden (lay) | 2018-2019 | None |
| Charles Roesel, Bushnell (ord) | 2018-2020 | None |
| Mike Ballard, Apopka (ord) | 2018-2020 | None |
| Donna Perman, Eustis (ch staff) | 2018-2020 | None |
| David Burton, Middleburg (ord) | 2018-2021 | None |
| Henry Gonzalez, Hialeah Gardens (ord) | 2018-2021 | None |
| Joel Griffing, Howey-in-the-Hills (lay) | 2018-2021 | None |

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

| ASSOCIATION | COMMITTEE MEMBER | ASSOCIATION | COMMITTEE MEMBER |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Apalachee | Kyle, Peddie, Hosford | Northeast Florida | Neil Helton, Fernandina Beach |
| Big Lake | *Patty Garvin, Moore Haven | Northwest Coast | Carl Fondren, Panama City |
| Black Creek | Russell Franklin, Green Cove Springs | Okaloosa | Tadd Anderson, Crestview |
| Brevard | Ralph Nygard, Melbourne | Orange Blossom | John Girdley, Lake Placid |
| Chipola | *Rachel Rollyson, Marianna | Palm Beach | *Kelli Roads, West Palm Beach |
| Emerald Coast | *Frank Moore, Destin | Pasco | Randy Huckabee, Dade City |
| Florida | Ronny Raines, Bradfordville | Peace River | *Deborah Spurgeon, Arcadia |
| Florida Keys | <i>Member moved out of association</i> | Pensacola Bay | Stan Lewis, Pensacola, Chairman |
| Gadsden County | Mark Moore, Chattahoochee | Ridge | Dennis Kirkland, Lake Alfred |
| Greater Orlando | *Alan Hair, Orlando | Royal Palm | Douglas Pigg, Naples |
| Gulf Stream | *Adrian Roman, Plantation | St. Johns River | Tony Clubb, Interlachen |
| Halifax | Ken Parker, Port Orange | Santa Rosa | Justin Gambrell, Milton |
| Harmony | Jamie Brock, Chiefland | Seminole | *Nicki Glenn, DeLand |
| Holmes | Mike Browning, Bonifay | Shiloh | Kay Morris, Plant City |
| Jacksonville | Herbert Beck, Jacksonville | South Florida | Franklin Street, Lakeland |
| Lafayette | Jarrett Thomas, Cross City | Southwest Florida | *Catherine Warriner, Venice |
| Lake County | Cliff Lea, Leesburg | Sumter | *Lisa Attaway, Wildwood |
| Manatee Southern | Phillip Hamm, Palmetto | Suncoast | *Kellie Kitchings, St. Petersburg |
| Marion | *Matthew Files, Ocala | Suwannee | Shawn Johnson, Live Oak |
| Miami | Ivan Figueroa, Miami | Tampa Bay | Ed Hancock, Brandon |
| Middle Florida | Dean Spivey, Pinetta | Taylor | Gary French, Perry |
| Nature Coast | LaVaughn McNary, Tarpon Springs | Treasure Coast | Tim O'Carroll, Ft. Pierce |
| New River | Paul Samson, Brooker | Walton County | *Gloria Dillard, Panama City Beach |
| North Central Florida | Phil Young, Gainesville | West Florida | Tim Patton, Chipley |
| North Florida | Robert Bass, Lake City | | |

Ex Officio Members

Stephen Rummage, President, Florida Baptist State Convention

Javier Sotolongo, Hialeah Gardens, First Vice-President, Florida Baptist State Convention

*Boyd Bunting, Panama City, Second Vice-President, Florida Baptist State Convention

Staff Resource

J. Thomas Green, III, Executive Director-Treasurer

Micah Ferguson, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Patty Vansant, Executive Assistant, Office of Executive Director-Treasurer

*Indicates lay person

Pensacola believers lift up unifying power of gospel in march and rally

An interdenominational, multicultural gathering of Christ's followers "lifting up the unifying power of the gospel" brought hundreds of persons together for a 'Unity in the Community' march and rally in southwest Pensacola March 19.



The event, spearheaded by Ron Lentine, pastor of Myrtle Grove Baptist Church, drew as many as 500 persons representing nine Christian denominations and four Florida Baptist churches.

"We experienced an overwhelming sense of joy and celebration that was expressed by people representing different cultures and races, including members from Vietnamese, Filipino, Hispanic, African- American churches," said Lentine.

The march began at Myrtle Grove United Methodist Church and concluded at Escambia High School where the rally was held in the football stadium.

"The unifying factor for all of those people groups and churches was the cross of Christ," Lentine said. "We set aside differences denominationally and rallied around the cross and the simple gospel message."

The Sunday night rally capped off a weekend of activities, as the Strength Team shared feats of their power at local schools and the Myrtle Grove church on Friday and Saturday nights. The team also spoke to students on Sunday afternoon at the Myrtle Grove Methodist church prior to the march, presenting a motivational challenge and leading the students on the march.

Stretched out for nearly a mile, walkers of all ages hoisted up signs, proclaiming praise for God and scripture verses, while being led by a color guard and motorcycle riders. One walker carried a large wooden cross along the route.

The rally at the high school offered prayer, music and speakers representing the multiple denominations and cultures. Lentine said the focus from the very beginning was to "lift up the transforming power of the gospel that can change the human heart and truly unite people of all races and cultures into one family."

Lentine believes grassroots neighborhood unity movements could spark a fire of revival across the nation.

"We pray that our Unity in the Community march and rally would have a rippling effect as it goes across social media causing other believers to seek to do the same in their communities."

by Barbara Denman

Los creyentes de Pensacola muestran el poder unificador del Evangelio en una marcha y reunión

Una reunión inter-denominacional y multicultural de seguidores de Cristo, mostrando el poder unificador del evangelio, logró a cientos de personas para una "marcha de unidad" en la comunidad el 19 de marzo en el suroeste de Pensacola.

El evento, guiado por Ron Lentine, pastor de Myrtle Grove Baptist Church, reunió hasta 500 personas representando a nueve denominaciones Cristianas y cuatro iglesias Bautistas de Florida.

"Experimentamos un sentido sobre abrumador de gozo y celebración que fue apesadado por personas representando distintas culturas y razas, incluyendo miembros de iglesias Vietnamitas, Filipinas, Hispana y Afroamericana," dijo Lentine.

La marcha comenzó en Myrtle Grove United Methodist Church y concluyó en Escambia High School donde la reunión se hizo en un estadio de fútbol.

"El factor unificador para tu esas personas, grupos e iglesias fue la cruz de Cristo," dijo Lentine. "Dejamos a un lado las diferencias denominacionales y nos unimos en la cruz y el simple mensaje del Evangelio."

La reunión del domingo por la noche concluyó la semana de actividades, mientras el equipo de fortaleza compartía sus muestras de poder en escuelas secundarias y la Iglesia Myrtle Grove el viernes sábado por la noche. El equipo también le habló a estudiantes el domingo por la tarde en la iglesia metodista antes de ir a la marcha, presentando un desafío motivacional y guiando a estudiantes a la marcha. Estirando por casi una milla de largo, lo que caminaban de todas las edades tenían carteles programando alabanzas a Dios y versículos bíblicos, mientras eran guiado por un grupo de banderas y motocicletas. Uno que caminaba en la ruta llevaba una cruz de madera grande.

La reunión en la escuela secundaria ofreció oraciones, música y conferencistas representando varias denominaciones y culturas. Lentine dijo que el enfoque del comienzo era de levantar el poder transformador del Evangelio que cambia el corazón humano y verdaderamente une a personas de toda las razas y culturas en una familia."

Lentine cree que movimientos de unidad locales a nivel de los barrios pudieran prender una chispa de avivamiento en esta nación. "Oramos que nuestra marcha y reunión de unidad en la comunidad pueda tener un efecto consecuente mientras se da a conocer a través de medios sociales causando a otros creyentes a hacer lo mismo en su comunidad."



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Post Irma Update

A full week before Hurricane Irma devastated the state of Florida with high winds and flooding rains, Florida Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers were hard at work, planning the response effort that might be needed if the storm impacted the Sunshine State.



Forty-eight of Florida's 67 counties were declared major disaster areas by FEMA, allowing people in those counties to apply for assistance as they repaired damage to homes and properties. Schools in those counties also waived their lunch fees to ease the financial strain on families struggling under the weight of costly repairs and living without electricity.

USA Today estimated that on September 11th, 7.2 million people were without power across the state.

Florida Baptist Disaster Relief State Director Delton Beall said Hurricane Irma was the most challenging disaster DR has faced in his five years with the Convention.

"Irma was a full-grown mad dog," Beall said.

When the winds died down and the rain finally stopped, Florida Baptists all over the state jumped in to help their communities get back to normal. Many spent time volunteering with fellow

church members, neighbors and Florida Baptist Disaster Relief. Many more gave money to enable DR to extend its reach and its impact. Florida Baptist Convention Catalysts immediately dispersed to assess the needs of the churches they serve and provide support and resources. Southern Baptists from Alabama, Louisiana, Virginia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania brought additional feeding units and volunteers to serve at the eight command centers in the hardest hit areas of the state, including Fort Myers, Naples, Cape Coral, Lutz, Palm Coast, Miami and Big Pine Key. At publication time, 556,896 meals had been served.

The buzz of chain saws filled the air as Disaster Relief established six clean up/recovery sites in areas that saw the most wind and flood damage. Teams of volunteers helped repair roofs, mud out flooded homes, cut up fallen trees and clear debris from homes and properties, each time leaving a Bible and praying with the people they had helped.

In the midst of Irma recovery, Hurricane Maria formed and quickly strengthened to a Category 5 monster. Maria set its sights on the Caribbean Islands, many of which had been left reeling after Irma's visit. The Florida Baptist Convention and Florida Baptist Disaster Relief immediately redirected some personnel to determine how best to serve Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands, both of which were particularly hard-hit. Coordinating with the North American Mission Board for maximum response, Florida Baptists have been able to offer the people of the islands the help and hope they themselves have so recently received.

The spirit of cooperation that characterizes Southern Baptists was felt and the Gospel was on display as neighbors helped neighbors and churches helped other churches recover from storm damage and regain a sense of normalcy. Volunteers became the very hands and feet of Jesus to so many who were rocked by nature's devastation. Sixty-five people made professions of faith as volunteers demonstrated the love of Jesus and offered prayers of hope in the One who calms the storm.

