



157th Annual Meeting | 164 Years Since Organization
YEAR 2017 – 2018 CONVENTION GUIDE BOOK

Held in the facilities of the
WAYSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
7701 SW 98th Street | Miami, Florida 33156

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Welcome to Miami for the 157th annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention. The past months have been momentous in every describable way for our larger Southern Baptist family. While there are great challenges before us, those challenges bring with them opportunities to pray fervently, seek God with humility and repentance, and then trust Him to graciously use His church to reach this generation with the saving message of Jesus.

Faithful is the theme for our meeting this year. In Isaiah 54:10, the Lord says, “The mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you.” Our God indeed is faithful to us. I’m praying that in our lives and the precious churches we serve throughout our Florida Baptist Convention, we will be faithful in proclaiming the Word of God, praying, giving, meeting the needs of others, and cooperating together as we pursue God’s mission.

During this year’s annual meeting, we will celebrate the faithfulness of God as He has blessed and used Florida Baptist churches to reach people with the gospel. We will also have opportunity to commit ourselves to continued faithfulness to Him in the days to come and to depend on His faithfulness to uphold, empower, and guide us.

I praise God that we are serving the Lord together! May our God move mightily in these decisive days to encourage us and challenge us so that He might find us faithful.

With joy,

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

Bienvenido a Miami para la 157 reunión anual de la Convención Bautista de Florida. Los últimos meses han sido un gran momento en cada manera descriptible para nuestra familia más amplia Bautista del Sur. Aunque estos sean grandes desafíos delante de nosotros, esos desafíos traen con ellos oportunidades de orar fervientemente, buscar a Dios con humildad y arrepentimiento, y entonces confiar en El para que use a Su iglesia con gracia para alcanzar a esta generación con el mensaje salvador de Jesús.

Fiel es el tema para nuestra reunión este año. En Isaías 54:10 el Señor dice, “Porque los montes se moverán, y los collados temblarán, pero no se apartará de ti mi misericordia”. Nuestro Dios de verdad es fiel a nosotros. Estoy orando que en nuestras vidas y las iglesias preciosas que servimos a través de la Convención Bautista de Florida, seremos fieles en proclamar la Palabra de Dios, orar, ofrendar, suplir las necesidades de otros, y cooperar juntos mientras hacemos la misión de Dios.

Durante la reunión anual de este año, celebraremos la fidelidad de Dios con la cual El ha bendecido y usado a las iglesias bautistas de Florida para alcanzar a las personas con el evangelio. También tendremos la oportunidad de comprometernos a fidelidad continua en los días venideros y depender de Su fidelidad para mantener, apoderar, y guiarnos.

¡Alabo a Dios que estamos sirviendo al Señor juntos! Que nuestro Dios se mueva poderosamente en estos días decisivos para animarnos y desafiarnos para que El nos encuentre fieles.

Con gozo,
Dr. Stephen Rummage

Bienvenue à Miami pour la 157ème rencontre annuelle de la Convention Baptiste d’Etat de la Floride. Les mois passés ont été importants de toute manière descriptible pour notre plus large famille des Baptistes du Sud. Au milieu des défis qui se trouvent devant nous, ces défis sont accompagnés d’opportunités pour prier avec ferveur, chercher Dieu avec humilité et repentance, et ensuite vous confier en Lui pour utiliser votre église avec grâce pour atteindre cette génération avec le message du salut de Jésus.

Fidèle est le thème de notre rencontre cette année. Dans Esaïe 54:10, le Seigneur dit, “Quand les montagnes s’éloigneraient, Quant les collines chanceraient, Mon amour ne s’éloignera point de toi”. Notre Dieu nous est en fait fidèle. Je continue de prier pour que dans nos vies et dans les précieuses églises que nous servons à travers la Convention Baptiste de la Floride, nous serons fidèles dans la proclamation de la Parole de Dieu, dans la prière, dans le don, dans la satisfaction des besoins des autres, et dans la coopération et dans la poursuite de la mission de Dieu.

Au cours de la rencontre de cette année, nous célébrerons la fidélité de Dieu en ce qu’il nous a bénis et utilisé les églises Baptistes de la Floride pour atteindre le peuple avec l’évangile. Nous aurons aussi l’opportunité de nous engager à une fidélité renouvelée en Lui dans les jours à venir et à dépendre sur Sa fidélité pour nous tenir, nous rendre capable, et nous guider.

Je glorifie Dieu que nous servions le Seigneur ensemble! Que notre Dieu agisse puissamment en ces jours décisifs pour nous encourager et nous mettre au défi afin qu’il puisse nous trouver fidèles.

Avec joie,
Dr. Stephen N. Rummage



Welcome to the Annual Family Gathering of the Florida Baptist State Convention for 2018. We are deeply appreciative of Wayside Baptist Church and Pastor David Moore for graciously hosting our meeting. My prayer is that we will experience the power and presence of the Lord during our time together. I pray that God will unite and unify our Florida Baptist Family for the great work of the Gospel across Florida and to the nations. We will be considering business matters that are driven by Kingdom ministry and set the tone of our ministry together. The diversity of Florida Baptists will be celebrated through our decisions and experiences over these days in Miami.

I am very thankful for the incredible leadership of Dr. Stephen Rummage, the President of the Florida Baptist Convention. Dr. Rummage has developed the flow of the Convention around the theme of 'Faithful'. We will be blessed by messages dealing with different aspects of 'Faithful' from the Word of God. We will experience anointed worship and praise unto our Lord. You will hear from pastors of exciting ways that God is moving across our Florida. We have planned follow up complimentary meal meetings with these pastors in which you will have a Q & A opportunity with them.

Thank you for coming to Miami and may God richly bless our time together as a family!

Dr. Tommy Green
Executive Director-Treasurer
Florida Baptist Convention

Bienvenido a la reunión anual de familia de la Convención Bautista de Florida para el 2018. Estamos profundamente agradecido a Wayside Baptist Church y el Pastor David Moore por ser nuestro anfitrión. Mi oración es que experimentemos el poder y presencia del Señor durante nuestro tiempo junto. Oro que Dios una y unifique nuestra familia Bautista de Florida para la gran obra del evangelio a través de Florida y a las naciones. Estaremos considerando asuntos de negocio que son manejados por ministerio del reino y es el enfoque de nuestro ministerio juntos. La diversidad de los Bautistas de Florida será celebrada a través de nuestras decisiones y experiencias a través de estos días en Miami.

Estoy muy agradecido el increíble liderazgo del Dr. Stephen Rummage, el Presidente de la Convención Bautista de Florida. Dr. Rummage ha desarrollado el flujo de la Convención alrededor del tema "Fiel". Seremos bendecidos por los mensajes tratando con distintos aspectos de este concepto de "Fiel" a través de la Palabra de Dios. Experimentaremos adoración ungida y alabanza al Señor. Escucharás de pastores en maneras emocionantes como Dios se está moviendo a través de Florida. Hemos planificado reuniones de cena con estos pastores con los cuales tendrás oportunidad de preguntas y respuestas con ellos.

¡Gracias por venir a Miami y que Dios les bendiga ricamente en nuestro tiempo juntos como familia!

Tommy

Bienvenue à la Réunion Familiale Annuelle 2018 de la Convention Baptiste de la Floride. Nous sommes profondément reconnaissants à l'Eglise Baptiste Wayside et au Pasteur David Moore d'avoir gracieusement hébergé notre rencontre. Ma prière est que nous fassions l'expérience de la puissance et de la présence du Seigneur pendant notre temps ensemble. Je prie pour que Dieu unisse et unifie notre famille Baptiste de la Floride pour la grande œuvre de l'Évangile à travers la Floride et les nations. Nous examinerons les questions d'affaires relevant du service du Royaume, et donnerons ensemble le ton de notre ministère. La diversité des Baptistes de la Floride sera célébrée à travers nos décisions et nos expériences de ces jours à Miami.

Je suis très reconnaissant pour le leadership incroyable du Dr. Stephen Rummage, Président de la Convention Baptiste de la Floride. Dr. Rummage a développé le flux de la Convention autour du thème "Fidèle". Nous serons bénis par des messages traitant de différents aspects de "Fidèle" de la Parole de Dieu. Nous ferons l'expérience d'un culte oint et de louange à notre Seigneur. Vous entendrez des pasteurs nous raconter comment Dieu agit dans notre Floride. Nous avons prévu des réunions de suivi avec ces pasteurs pour un repas gratuit au cours duquel vous aurez l'occasion de poser des questions et entendre leurs réponses.

Merci d'être venu à Miami et que Dieu bénisse richement notre temps ensemble en tant que famille!

Tommy

DEGREES

Master's
Christian Studies
Music and Worship Leadership

Bachelor's
Biblical Studies
Business Leadership
Christian Studies
Education Studies
Elementary Education
English
English Secondary Education
History & Social Studies
History & Social Studies Secondary Education
Leadership & Christian Education
Ministry
Ministry Studies
Missions
Missions with a Concentration in Aviation
Psychology
Music
Bachelor of Music
Worship Leadership
Education

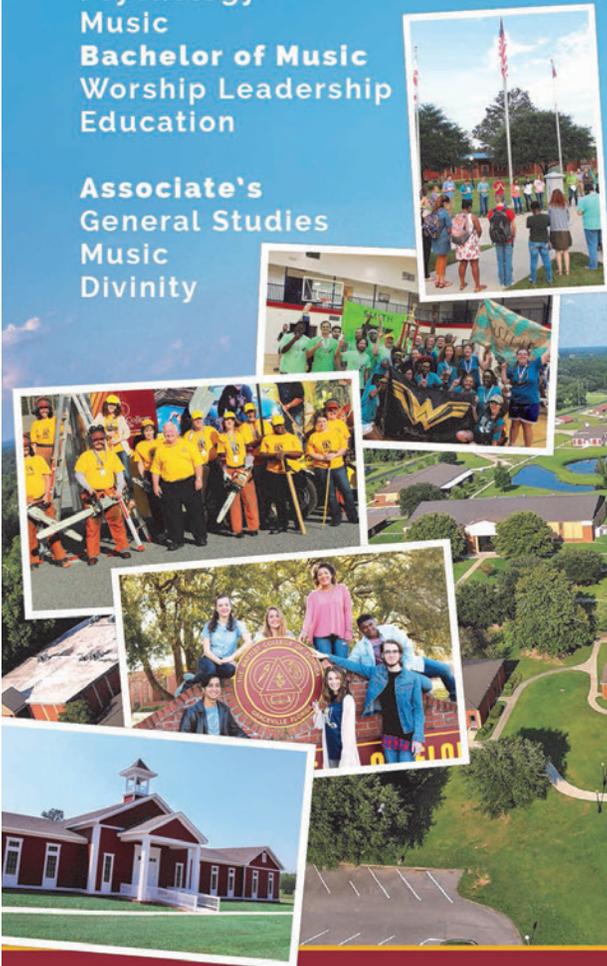
Associate's
General Studies
Music
Divinity



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Faithful

OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION

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

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS

Hal Kitchings, *Chair*, St. Petersburg
Stan Lewis, *Vice-Chair*, Pensacola
Boyd Bunting, Panama City
Richard Stewart, Bradfordville
Dan Glenn, DeLand
Jim Ferguson, Clearwater
Jeff Lehman, Kissimmee
Javier Sotolongo, Hialeah Gardens
Dan Wade, Winter Haven

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Chris Coram, <i>Chair</i>	Shane Johnson
Alan Brumback, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Scott Douglas
Ben Bush	Steve Loy

TELLERS COMMITTEE

Carlos Finale	Carlos Mederos
Chris Hudson	Jordan Nesbitt
Marc Hughes	Jonathan Palaci
Reginald Joseph	Fabian Portunato
Loti Marc	

CONVENTION MEETING COORDINATION

Convention Manager - Micah Ferguson
Registration/Credentials Coordinator - Lonnie Wright
Communications/News Team - Mark MacDonald,
Nicole Kalil, Keila Diaz, Jennie Oswald
Support Team - Charlene Allen, Phillip Hanes,
Scott Stanland, Patty Vansant, Heather Yonce

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.

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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.

2018 FLORIDA BAPTIST PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

CONTENDING
FOR THE

FAITH

2 TIMOTHY 4:2



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



ERIK D. CUMMINGS, SR.

**LEAD PASTOR
NEW LIFE OF CAROL CITY
MIAMI, FLORIDA**

Welcome to South Florida and the 2018 Florida Baptist Pastor's Conference. It is my prayer that you will be strengthened, encouraged, and renewed during our time together. As proclaimers of His Word, we face many challenges and obstacles. Each day we climb through the ropes and into a ring filled with our own personal pressures and anxieties as well as those of the people we shepherd and serve. We train and spar daily to be able to withstand the blows of the world. It is my prayer that our time together will challenge and encourage you to stand firm and strong in the faith. I pray that you and your ministry will have the opportunity to embrace and affirm your personal commitment to the transformational truths of God's Word. I pray that you will continue to fight the good fight of faith as you endeavor to impact your community at large.

Enjoy the conference and remember – we are "Contending for the Faith!"

VICE PRESIDENTS



MATT CRAWFORD
EAST CAMPUS PASTOR
CITY CHURCH TALLAHASSEE



FREDDIE HINSON, JR.
SENIOR PASTOR
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

WORSHIP LEADERS

UNITED IN WORSHIP

FEATURING:

MICAH WHITLEY

JERMAINE GREEN

GERRY SOSSA

STEPHANIE COATS

RASHARD WRIGHT

COURTNEY WRIGHT

LAVONYA BRYAN

CAROLINA ALBERT

ACCOMPANIED BY:

RICHARD TOUSSAINT - KEYS

PASTOR COURTNEY BRYAN - ORGAN

PASTOR HENRY PEOPLES - BASS

PASTOR HOYT BYNUM, JR. - AUX/KEYS

CHRIS SOWERBY-THOMAS - DRUMS



SPEAKER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH @ 6PM



DR. CLAYTON CLOER

Dr. Clayton Cloer is the Senior Pastor of the Church at the Cross in Orlando, Florida. He served as a board member of the Florida Baptist Convention and President of the Pastor's Conference in 2009. During his time in ministry, he has studied missions and traveled overseas to many of our mission fields. Dr. Cloer is married to the girl of his dreams Linda, and they have two sons, Nathan and James.

Bob Franquiz is the Founding and Senior Pastor of Calvary Fellowship in Miramar, Florida. He is the author of seven books, including *Pull: Making your Church Magnetic* and *Begin: First Steps for the Journey of Faith*. Prior to entering pastoral ministry, he played guitar for a christian hardcore band "Strongarm". He considers his greatest achievement as marrying his "just out of high school" sweetheart, Carey. They have three children: Mia, Alexander, and Olivia.



BOB FRANQUIZ

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CAROLINA ALBERT

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PASTOR COURTNEY BRYAN - ORGAN

PASTOR HENRY PEOPLES - BASS

PASTOR HOYT BYNUM, JR. - AUX/KEYS

CHRIS SOWERBY-THOMAS - DRUMS

PROGRAM PERSONNEL

Ralph Alderman, second vice-president, Florida Baptist State Convention;
and member, Exciting Central Tampa Baptist Church, Tampa

Bill Davis, chair of worship and music, The Baptist College of Florida, Inc., Graceville

James H. Deas, appointed parliamentarian, Florida Baptist State Convention;
and member, The Orchard Community Church, Live Oak

Arley DeJesus, pastor, Church Family of God, Fort Pierce

Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor, Cross Church, Springdale, Arkansas

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

Gary Johnson, associational mission strategist, Miami Baptist Association, Miami

Evens Jules, senior pastor, Bethel Evangelical Baptist Church, Delray Beach

Patrick Jules, senior pastor, Bethel Evangelical Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale

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

Hal Kitchings, chair, committee on order of business; and pastor, Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, St. Petersburg

Samuel Louis-Jean, pastor, Calvary Haitian Baptist Church, Orange Park

Chip Luter, campus pastor, The Springs, Tampa

F inny Matthews, president, Alpha International Ministries, Greensboro, North Carolina

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

Sean McMahon, associational mission strategist, Florida Baptist Association, Tallahassee

Jason Millsaps, pastor of music and worship, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon

Alberto Ocaña, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Northside, Hialeah

Sing Oldham, vice-president, convention communications and relations, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville

Michael J. Orr, president, State Board of Missions; and pastor, First Baptist Church, Chipley

Ronny Raines, chair, Committee on Nominations; and pastor, First Baptist Church, Bradfordville

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

Don Sawyer, executive director, Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center

Jimmy Scroggins, lead pastor, Family Church, West Palm Beach

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

Jay Strack, president and founder, Student Leadership University, Orlando

Lonnie Wesley, pastor, Greater Little Rock Baptist Church, Pensacola

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

Lennox Zamore, pastor, Exciting Central Tampa Baptist Church, Tampa

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

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Stephens L. Baumgardner, Director

Accounting | Charles Staton, Director

Information Support Services | Lonnie D. Wright, Director

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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

Ricky Bailey, Baptist Campus Minister, Miami Area

Lance Beauchamp, Baptist Campus Minister, Baptist College of Florida

Brad Crawford, Baptist Campus Minister, Orlando Area

Eddie L. Gilley, Baptist Campus Minister, Gainesville Area

Tony C. Olesky, Baptist Campus Minister, Pensacola Area

Nathan Schneider, Baptist Campus Minister, Tampa Area

Barry Sproles, Baptist Campus Minister, Tallahassee Area



MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 12, 2018

- 6:45 p.m. **Musical Prelude** | Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra
- 7:00 p.m. **Convention Convenes**
- 7:05 p.m. **Welcome and Prayer**
- 7:10 p.m. **Enrollment of Messengers**
Enrollment of Messengers | Randy D. Huckabee
Committee on Order of Business Report | Hal Kitchings
Presentation of FBSC Officers and Parliamentarian | Stephen Rummage
- 7:15 p.m. **Veteran Recognition**
- 7:22 p.m. **Musical Worship** | Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra
- 7:43 p.m. **Biblical Message** | Ronnie Floyd
senior pastor, Cross Church, Springdale, Arkansas
- 8:18 p.m. **Musical Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 8:22 p.m. **President's Message** | Stephen Rummage
president, Florida Baptist State Convention
senior pastor, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon, FL
- 9:02 p.m. **Closing Prayer**

TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

- 8:45 a.m. **Musical Prelude**
- 9:00 a.m. **Convention Convenes**
- 9:02 a.m. **Musical Worship** | Convention Worship Team with Wayside Hispanic Church Worship Team
- 9:12 a.m. **State Board of Missions Report**
Michael Orr, president, State Board of Missions
- 9:42 a.m. **Election of Officer (President)**
- 9:47 a.m. **Miscellaneous Business**
- 9:52 a.m. **Right Beside You: Church Revitalization**
- 10:04 a.m. **Musical Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 10:13 a.m. **Biblical Message** | Tommy Green
- 10:48 a.m. **Committee on Nominations** | Ronny Raines, chair
- 10:56 a.m. **Election of Officers** | President Run-off or First Vice-President
- 11:01 a.m. **Right Beside You: SEND South Florida**
- 11:14 a.m. **Musical Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 11:23 a.m. **Biblical Message** | Evens Jules
senior pastor, Bethel Evangelical Baptist Church, Delray Beach
- 11:58 a.m. **Prayer of Adjournment**

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

- 1:45 p.m. **Musical Prelude** | Convention Worship Team with Baptist College of Florida Worship Team
- 2:00 p.m. **Convention Convenes** | Prayer
- 2:02 p.m. **Greeting from SBC Executive Committee** | Sing Oldham, VP Convention communications and relations, SBC Executive Committee
- 2:09 p.m. **Cooperating Ministry Report | The Baptist College of Florida**
Tom Kinchen, president
- 2:17 p.m. **Elections of Officers** | Second Vice President & Recording Secretary
- 2:23 p.m. **Cooperating Ministry Report | Florida Baptist Financial Services**
Eddie McClelland, president
- 2:31 p.m. **Memorial Recognition**
- 2:36 p.m. **Cooperating Ministry Report | Florida Baptist Children's Homes**
Jerry Haag, president
- 2:44 p.m. **Musical Worship** | Baptist College of Florida Worship Team
- 2:51 p.m. **Right Beside You: Church Multiplication**
- 3:03 p.m. **Cooperating Ministry Report** | Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center
Don Sawyer, executive director
- 3:14 p.m. **Musical Worship** | Baptist College of Florida Worship Team
- 3:22 p.m. **Biblical Message** | Finny Matthews
president, Alpha International Ministries, Greensboro, North Carolina
- 3:57 p.m. **Right Beside You: Evangelism and Baptism**
- 4:10 p.m. **Musical Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 4:15 p.m. **Convention Sermon** | Jimmy Scroggins
lead pastor, Family Church, West Palm Beach
- 4:55 p.m. **Prayer of Adjournment**

TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

- 6:45 p.m. **Musical Prelude** | Convention Worship Team with Miami Multicultural Choir
- 7:02 p.m. **Convention Convenes and Recognition of Past Convention Officers and Newly Elected Officers**
- 7:08 p.m. **Musical Worship** | Convention Worship Team with Miami Multicultural Choir
- 7:21 p.m. **Biblical Message** | Chip Luter
campus pastor, The Springs, Tampa
- 7:56 p.m. **Right Beside You: Unity – One Family**
- 8:09 p.m. **Musical Worship** | Convention Worship Team with Miami Multicultural Choir
- 8:19 p.m. **Biblical Message** | Jay Strack
president and founder, Student Leadership University, Orlando
- 8:54 p.m. **Closing Prayer**

How Long, O Lord?

WOMEN, BIBLICAL COUNSELING, AND THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING



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SOUTH FLORIDA CHURCH FINDING A WAY FORWARD AFTER SCHOOL SHOOTING

As church families gathered around the nation on Sunday, many congregations prayed for all affected by the mass school shooting that took place in Parkland, Fla. on Feb. 14.

Tommy Green, executive director-treasurer, asked that everyone in our Southern Baptist family take time during worship to pray for the families affected by the tragedy that took the lives of 17 staff and students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

“Our prayer is for God to grant comfort, mercy, and peace to these families,” he said.

And that’s exactly what happened at Church by the Glades in Coral Springs, a congregation that has been particularly hard-hit. Abe Matos, who serves as student pastor there, said Sunday’s worship service was powerful.

“Something powerful happens when we don’t know why something occurred but we worship anyway,” he said.

Matos estimates that hundreds of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students attend Church by the Glades. Five members of his congregation were either injured or killed in the attack.

As victims’ names were released, the leadership at Church by the Glades wasted no time making phone calls and hospital visits to anyone connected to their church. Matos said that staff



leaders are showing up to any public event in their immediate area connected to the shootings. They are also trying to attend every viewing, whether or not they knew the victim personally. In doing so, the hope is that they not only minister to a grieving family, but other grieving students also.

“It doesn’t matter if they’re Jewish or Mormon,” he said. “We’re showing up everywhere and anywhere in hopes of recognizing someone and ministering to them right then and there.”

Billy Young, Next Gen Catalyst for the Convention, said being there to love and listen is the most important thing you can do for students after a tragedy.

In the coming days, as students continue to process the shootings and the losses they’ve suffered, Matos wants students to know that Church by the Glades is a safe place for them to gather with classmates and friends to mourn and support each other. He hopes students will see it as a part of their personal healing.

“If that’s the only coping mechanism we give them – that when something bad happens you run to God’s house – we have equipped them for a life time,” he said.

By Nicole Kalil, Florida Baptist Convention, February 19, 2018

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Florida Baptist Convention | *Right Beside You.*

FLORIDA BAPTISTS PARTNER TO HELP DISPLACED CHILDREN

Iglesia Bautista Northside in Hialeah is known as a church “que practica el amor” or in English: “A church that practices love.” And through their partnership with His House Children’s Home, they are living up to their motto.



Four months ago, the church welcomed about 90 teenaged boys and girls from His House International to Sunday worship and have continued to do so every Sunday since.

“This was a blessing we were not expecting,” said Alberto Ocaña, Northside’s pastor.

A former member of the church who is also an employee at the organization arranged for the group to meet at Northside for worship.

“Before they used to visit a different house of worship every Sunday, but the staff has felt welcomed here and the children have pushed to continue coming,” said Ocaña.

His House Children’s Home is a private non-profit, faith-based organization dedicated to providing a safe, home-like environment to minors in state custody. Through His House International, the

organization also cares for unaccompanied minors who have fled their home countries due to homelessness, gang violence, economic hardship and abuse.

The boys and girls who attended worship on Sunday at Northside came from Central and South American countries like Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador and Bolivia. Some have faith backgrounds but many do not. So when the group arrived, the church quickly moved to start two new Sunday school classes to accommodate them and minister to their specific spiritual needs.

“They have been through an incredible journey to get to this country,” said Noel Morera, Sunday school teacher to the His House boys; “and my main focus is to share Christ and His love with them.” Already 10 boys and 5 girls have been baptized.

One of the questions Morera is asked most often is “why am I in this situation.” It is certainly a difficult question to answer, but Morera has found that by walking them through the book of Acts, their anxieties are comforted as they learn about the hardships the apostles also faced. “For some sleeping has been difficult because they have many worries so I tell them that God is in control and that has helped them.”

“One of the challenges we’ve faced has been classroom space,” said Ocaña. “The boys currently meet for class in the gazebos and the girls are in an air-conditioned classroom and we’ve also purchased 100 new foldable chairs to provide seating for them.”

The Florida Baptist Convention has come alongside the church with a grant to help cover the cost of serving hot lunch to the group every Sunday.

“Pastor Ocaña showed me the ministry to these children [and] it was really touching to see how the church embraced them,” said Al Fernandez, Southeast Regional Catalyst for the Florida Baptist Convention. “Not only did they embrace them but they also fed them.”

The result of the outpouring of love from the church into the His House boys and girls is hard to imagine, continued Fernandez. “They might stay or go back to their countries but their lives have been forever changed by the Gospel.”

By Keila Diaz, Florida Baptist Convention, July 31, 2018

La Convención Bautista de la Florida se une para ayudar a los niños desplazados

La Iglesia Bautista Northside en Hialeah es conocida como “una iglesia que practica el amor” y a través de su colaboración con His House Children’s Home está haciendo realidad su lema. Desde hace unos cuatro meses la iglesia ha recibido en su servicio de adoración a unos 90 niños y niñas adolescentes procedentes de His House International. “Esta ha sido una bendición que no esperábamos!” dice el pastor Alberto Ocaña.

Fue un antiguo miembro de esta congregación, quien también trabaja para His House, quien hizo los arreglos para que esto ocurriera. El pastor Ocaña nos comenta que “anteriormente ellos participaban en el servicio de adoración del domingo con otra congregación pero el personal y los niños han sentido el calor de nuestra bienvenida y la atención que les hemos brindado y han pedido continuar asistiendo”.

His House Children’s Home es una organización religiosa, privada y no lucrativa, dedicada a proveer a los niños bajo custodia del gobierno de un entorno seguro y hogareño. His House también se ocupa de cuidar de los niños que llegan al país sin sus padres, huyendo de sus países de origen debido a la falta de un hogar, la violencia de las pandillas, la pobreza y el abuso.

Los niños y niñas que asisten a I.B. Northside los domingos vienen de países en Centro y Suramérica como Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador y Bolivia. Algunos tienen antecedentes de fe personal o en sus familias pero la mayoría no y ante esta realidad la iglesia se movilizó rápidamente para acomodar y comenzar dos nuevas clases de enseñanza bíblica y así poder ministrar a sus necesidades espirituales específicas.

“Ellos han hecho un increíble recorrido para llegar a este país” nos dice Noel Morera, maestro de los niños en la Escuela Dominical, “y mi tarea principal es compartir con ellos el Evangelio y el amor de Cristo”. Diez niños y cinco niñas han sido bautizados en este tiempo. Una de las preguntas que más frecuentemente los niños hacen a Morera es “por qué estoy en esta situación?” y esta es por cierto una pregunta difícil de contestar, pero él ha encontrado que yendo con ellos a través del libro de los Hechos sus preocupaciones y ansiedades se ven aliviadas mientras aprenden de las dificultades que los primeros cristianos enfrentaron. “Para algunos dormir ha sido difícil porque tienen muchas preocupaciones y temores , pero yo les digo que Dios está en control y eso los ha ayudado a ellos”.

El pastor Ocaña comparte que “uno de los desafíos que esta situación ha traído a la iglesia es el espacio para acomodar las dos nuevas clases. Los niños fueron acomodados en los gazebos exteriores mientras las niñas lo hacen en espacios climatizados interiores y compramos 100 nuevas sillas plegables para que pudiesen estar sentados con comodidad durante sus clases”.

La Convención Bautista de la Florida ha venido a respaldar este esfuerzo de IB Northside con una ofrenda que ayuda a cubrir los gastos de servir almuerzo cada domingo. “El pastor Ocaña me mostró el ministerio a estos niños y esto fue realmente impactante ver cómo la iglesia los ha acogido”, dice Al Fernández, Catalítico para la Region Sureste de la FBC. “No solamente los han acogido sino que también los alimentan.”

“El resultado de esta expresión de amor de la Iglesia Northside hacia los niños de His House es incalculable”, continúa Fernández, “Ellos quizás pueden quedarse o regresar a sus países pero sus vidas han sido cambiadas para siempre por el Evangelio.”



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

J. THOMAS GREEN, III
Executive Director-Treasurer

**One Hundred and Thirty-Eighth Annual Report
to the
Florida Baptist State Convention
Miami
November 12-13, 2018**

The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist State Convention respectfully submits this 138th annual report of the Board to the State Convention. There are 3,065 churches and missions affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention, with a total membership of 934,316.

The State Board of Missions is pleased to present this report to the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in Miami, Florida, November 12-13, 2018. This report covers the period of October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

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 13, 2017, in Brandon, Florida:

- President: Michael J. Orr, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Chipley, Florida
- Vice-President: Noel D. Lozano, Pastor
Turning Point Baptist Church
Miami, Florida
- Recording Secretary: Janey S. Frost, Member
West Pensacola Baptist Church
Pensacola, Florida

2. Meetings of the State Board of Missions

The State Board of Missions met on the following dates:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>
November 13, 2017	Brandon, Florida
November 14, 2017	Brandon, Florida
April 6, 2018	Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center
August 24, 2018	Jacksonville, Florida

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 2016-18:

- Mike Orr, President, SBM
- Noel Lozano, Vice-President, SBM
- Janey Frost, Recording Secretary, SBM
- Trent Gann, At-Large Member, SBM

Kevin Goza, 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

- Mike Orr (2016-19), *Chair*
- Noel Lozano (2016-19), *Vice-Chair*
- Danny Bennett (2017-20)
- Beverly Bonner (2016-19)
- David Chauncey (2017-20)
- Tim Coleman (2015-18)
- Alan Cotney (2015-18)
- Janey Frost (2015-18)
- Kevin Goza (2015-18)
- *Ned Hastings (2015-18)
- *Rod Martin (2016-19)
- Tim Martin (2016-19)
- *Linda McNeil (2016-19)
- Timothy Pigg (2017-20)
- Paul Purvis (2016-19)
- Stephen Rummage (2017-18), *President, FBSC*
- Todd Stearns (2016-19)
- Brian Stowe (2017-20)
- Michael Wetzel (2017-20)
- Michael Wiggins (2016-19)

Ex Officio Non-Voting Member
Janey Frost (2015-18), *Recording Secretary,
State Board of Missions*

BUDGET-ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

- *Ned Hastings (2015-18), *Chair*
- David Tarkington (2017-20), *Vice-Chair*
- *Ralph Alderman (2016-19)
- *James Davis (2016-18)
- *Karl Fennimore (2017-20)
- Carl Fondren (2017-20)
- Gary French (2015-18)
- Asa Greear (2016-19)
- *Anna Guy (2016-19)
- Neil Helton (2015-18)
- Elbert Nasworthy (2015-18)
- *Ken Parker (2016-19)
- Larry Pritchett (2015-18)
- David Schorejs (2017-20)
- Bill Sears (2015-18)
- Ron Tipton (2015-18)
- *Christina Vargas (2017-20)

CONVENTION PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

- Danny Bennett (2017-20), *Chair*
- *Jodi Aiken (2016-19), *Vice-Chair*
- *Joe Carter (2016-19)
- *Stella Cottrell (2016-19)
- Terry Elixson (2017-20)
- *Grady Gambill (2016-19)
- Matthew Gilmore (2016-19)
- Mark Gonzales (2015-18)
- *Chester Gunn (2017-20)
- Tom Keisler (2015-18)
- *Garry "Goose" McCray (2016-18)
- *Tom Nork (2015-18)
- *Lynne Phillips (2017-20)
- *Steve Simmons (2016-19)
- *Chris Spears (2017-20)

DENOMINATIONAL POLITY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE

- Kevin Goza (2015-18), *Chair*
- Craig Attaway (2016-19), *Vice-Chair*
- Tom Bryant (2016-19)
- Eddie Eaton (2017-20)
- Fred Edwards (2015-18)
- *Josh Gussler (2017-20)
- *Patrick Inglett (2016-19)
- Shawn Johnson (2016-19)
- Wadler Jules (2017-18)
- Travis Laney (2016-18)
- Carlos Lugo (2016-19)
- Robert Neiman (2017-20)
- Wayne Roberts (2017-20)
- Glenn Rogers (2017-20)
- Danny Slavich (2016-18)
- Jeff Stockdale (2017-18)
- Matt Swain (2016-18)

LOANS COMMITTEE

- Tim Martin (2016-19), *Chair*
- *Joseph Coats, Jr. (2015-18), *Vice-Chair*
- Rick Giles (2017-20)
- *Teresa Juarbe (2017-18)
- Mike Kahn (2015-18)
- *Tommy Leathers (2017-18)
- *Donald Miller (2015-18)
- *Maria Monroe (2016-19)
- *Ron Pierson (2016-19)
- *Benjamin Rodda (2015-18)
- Charles Rosenbalm (2017-19)
- Kaleb Schmidt (2016-19)
- *Carol Spivey (2016-19)
- Scott Stanland (2017-19)
- David Warr (2017-19)
- *James Welch (2017-20)
- Bob Wilson (2017-19)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

- Tim Coleman (2015-18), *Chair*
- Trent Gann (2015-18), *Vice-Chair*
- Silair Almeida (2016-19)
- Tadd Anderson (2017-20)
- *Lourdes Fernandez (2017-20)
- *Timothy Francis (2017-18)
- Jeremy Gates (2017-20)
- Charlie Higgins (2017-19)
- *Zachary Jarrach (2017-18)
- Mitchell Landress (2017-20)
- Scott Markley (2017-18)
- Bobby Patton (2016-18)
- *Guy-Ernst Philippi (2017-20)
- Terry Ryan (2017-19)
- Elijah Simmons (2017-20)
- *James Thorpe (2017-20)

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.

Immediately following the April meeting of the Board, two members notified the executive director-treasurer of their resignations: Jodi Aiken (Pensacola Bay) – moved out of state; and Silair Almeida (Gulf Stream) – personal reasons. Because these two vacancies occurred prior to May and in accordance with the Bylaws, they were temporarily filled by the following persons:

- Ted Traylor, Pensacola Bay
- Jerome Symonette, Gulf Stream

The following Board members also resigned during the year but were not replaced since their resignations occurred later than May:

- Eddie Eaton, Holmes – moved out of state
- Jeremy Gates, Emerald Coast – schedule conflicts
- Carlos Lugo, Gulf Stream – personal reasons
- Thomas Nork, Gulf Stream – moved out of state
- Terry Ryan, Miami – moved out of state
- Kaleb Schmidt, Gulf Stream – schedule conflicts
- Bill Sears, Northwest Coast – personal reasons
- Carol Spivey, Middle Florida – moved out of state
- Jeff Stockdale, Jacksonville – personal reasons

5. Gifts to World Missions

Gifts to world missions through the Cooperative Program from churches and missions for the period of January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017, totaled \$29,060,567.

Florida Baptists responded well to other mission causes. Designated giving for the period of January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017, totaled \$9,363,861. Designated giving included contributions to the three main mission offerings:

<u>MISSION OFFERING</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, 2017	\$5,403,644
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, 2017	\$2,421,650
Maguire State Mission Offering, 2017	\$ 694,700

6. 2017 Maguire State Mission Offering Report

During the March 2017 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the executive director-treasurer shared a new vision for the Maguire State Mission Offering that began a focus toward the singular goal of impacting the strategic mission region of South Florida. In August 2017, the Board officially endorsed the 2017 goal of \$830,000 and the proceeds to be used solely for the Send South Florida ministry initiative.

On April 6, 2018, staff reported at the close of the Convention’s accounting year on December 31, 2017, a total of \$694,700 had been received for the year 2017 Maguire State Mission Offering. The 2017 gifts represented 83.70 percent of the offering goal of \$830,000. The total number of churches contributing to the offering continued to decline to 578 from the 675 participating the prior year.

It is important to note that the promotion and offering schedule of the 2017 Maguire State Mission Offering was impacted drastically by Hurricane Irma as it affected our state during the first two weeks of September. While there was a decrease in the State Mission Offering, during the weeks following Hurricane Irma Florida Baptists gave over \$600,000 to disaster relief.

7. 2018 Maguire State Mission Offering

During the State Board of Missions meeting on April 6, 2018, the Board approved a goal of \$830,000 for the 2018 Maguire State Mission Offering and authorized 100 percent of the offering proceeds to be allocated to the Send South Florida Global Fund for Ministry. The Board further authorized any overage 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 2017, The Baptist College of Florida received a total of \$1,666,824 from the Florida Baptist Convention:

Cooperative Program	\$ 1,650,000
Designated Gifts	\$ 16,824
	\$ 1,666,824

9. Florida Baptist Children's Homes

During the year 2017, the Florida Baptist Children's Homes received a total of \$2,048,249 from the Florida Baptist Convention:

Cooperative Program	\$ 1,140,000
Designated Gifts	\$ 908,249
	\$ 2,048,249

10. Florida Baptist Financial Services

During the year 2017, 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:

Barbara Carroll, Jacksonville (2018-2020)
Jerry Chumley, Bristol (2017-2019)
David Elder, St. Augustine (2015-2018)
Dana Greatrex, Oak Hill (2016-2018)
Donald S. Hepburn, Jacksonville (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)
Roger Richards, Graceville (2018-2020)

In the year 2017, 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 April 6, 2018, the State Board of Missions set the dates and locations for the 2019 board and committee meetings as follows, with the understanding the location for the March meeting will be named later:

March 27-29, 2019	TBD (Orientation for new members to be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2019)
August 29-30, 2019	Jacksonville
November 11, 2019	Orlando (Pre-Convention Meeting)
November 12, 2019	Orlando (Organizational Meeting)

13. Appointment of Audit Subcommittee

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on April 6, 2018, the chairman of the Budget-Allocations Committee appointed the following persons to serve on the Audit Subcommittee for the year 2018:

David Tarkington, <i>Chair</i>	Neil Helton
Ralph Alderman	Ron Tipton
James Davis	

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 24, 2018, the Board received as information the following report on the Florida Baptist Convention audit for 2017.

The audit of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., for the year ending December 31, 2017, 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 24, 2018, 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 Report, January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017
- (2) Florida Baptist Financial Services Audit Report, January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017
- (3) The Baptist College of Florida Audit Report, July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017
- (4) The Florida Baptist Witness, for the liquidation period of August 1, 2017, through November 1, 2017

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 April 6, 2018, the State Board of Missions approved the appointment of the following persons to serve on the Loans Subcommittee for the year 2018:

Alan Cotney, <i>Chair</i>	Kaleb Schmidt
Mike Kahn	Mike Wetzel
Timothy Martin	

Ex Officio Voting Members

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

17. Financial Assistance: Loans to Churches and Missions

From October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018, the State Board of Missions approved financial assistance from funds administered by the Board to the following churches and missions:

Aeon Baptist Church, Florida	\$20,000
Bethel Evangelical Baptist Church, Palm Beach	\$100,000
Calvary Haitian Baptist Church, Black Creek	\$100,000
Common Ground Church, Palm Beach	\$100,000
Discovery Church of Port St. Lucie, Treasure Coast	\$100,000

Ebenezer Haitian Baptist Church, Miami	\$65,000
Eglise Baptiste Par La Foi, Palm Beach	\$150,000
Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship, Ridge	\$100,000
Emmanuel Haitian of Palm Springs, Palm Beach	\$100,000
Fifth Street Baptist Church, Florida Keys	\$100,000
First Baptist Church of Baldwin, Jacksonville	\$150,000
First Baptist Church of Cape Coral, Royal Palm	\$35,000
First Baptist Church of Port St. John, Brevard	\$90,000
First Haitian Baptist Church of Fort Myers, Royal Palm	\$100,000
Genesis Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville	\$100,000
Iglesia Bautista Internacional en Deltona, Halifax	\$75,000
Jehovah Shalom Baptist Church, Palm Beach	\$100,000
Layton Community Baptist Church, Florida Keys	\$100,000
New Jerusalem Haitian, Tampa Bay	\$150,000
North Fort Myers Baptist Church, Royal Palm	\$50,000
Parkwood Baptist Church, Jacksonville	\$150,000
Penuel Baptist Church, Palm Beach	\$100,000
Petra Baptist Church, St. Johns River	\$150,000
Providence at West Jacksonville, Northeast Florida	\$100,000
Redemption Church, South Florida	\$130,000
Tabernacle Baptist Church, St. Johns River	\$100,000
Turning Point Baptist Church, Miami	\$100,000

18. Financial Assistance: Church Planting and Revitalization and Maguire State Mission Offering

Church Planting and Revitalization grants continue to be a cornerstone focus of the Florida Baptist Convention. The 2018 Cooperative Program budget includes an amount of \$1,850,000 designated for church planting and revitalization. Additionally, during the August 2017 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the Board authorized the 2017 Maguire State Mission Offering to be used solely for the Send South Florida ministry initiative which specifically includes church planting and revitalization grants in Southeast Florida.

The following list includes churches receiving church planting and revitalization funds through both the Cooperative Program as well as the Maguire State Mission Offering during the period of November 1, 2017, through July 30, 2018:

Central Region

- Church at the Cross, Orlando
- Covenant Life Church, Tampa
- Dover Shores Baptist Church, Orlando
- Eben-ezer Haitian Baptist Church, Tampa
- Family of God Baptist Church, Zephyrhills
- First Baptist Church Dade City
- First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, Largo
- First Baptist Church, Plant City
- Free Rider Fellowship, Plant City
- Island Chapel, Tierra Verde
- New Covenant Family Center, Brandon
- New Life Church, Webster
- South Tampa Fellowship, Tampa

East Region

- Ancient City Baptist Church, St. Augustine
- Central Baptist Church, Sanford
- College Park Baptist Church, Palatka
- Discovery Church, Port St. Lucie
- District Church, Jacksonville
- First Baptist Church, Callahan
- First Baptist Church, Jacksonville Beach
- First Baptist Church, Stuart
- Fruit Cove Baptist Church, Jacksonville
- Genesis Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
- Good News Baptist Church, Jacksonville
- Gracelife Seaside, Ormond by the Sea
- Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jacksonville

- Lakeside Fellowship Church, Vero Beach
- Murray Hill Baptist Church, Jacksonville
- Northeast Florida Baptist Association, Yulee
- Parkview Baptist Church, Ft. Pierce
- Parkview Baptist Church, Palm Coast
- Premiere Eglise Baptiste Haitienne, Jacksonville
- Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Palm Bay
- San Jose Baptist Church, Jacksonville
- Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, Jacksonville
- Spruce Creek Baptist Church, Port Orange
- St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville
- Tabernacle Baptist Church, Palatka
- Tabernaculo Biblico Bautista Monte Sion, Vero Beach
- The Point Church, Jacksonville
- True Life Church, Melbourne
- Watermark Church, Middleburg

North Region

- Antioch Baptist Church, Quincy
- Church on the Way, Lake City
- City Church, Tallahassee
- First Baptist Church, Weirsdale
- Greater Faith Baptist Fellowship, Gainesville
- Lake Asbury Baptist Church, Green Cove Springs
- Madison Street Baptist Church, Starke
- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Bell
- Riverside Baptist Church, Branford

Southeast Region

- Bethel Evangelical Baptist Church, Delray Beach
- Boca Glades Baptist Church, Boca Raton
- Brook Church, Miami Gardens
- Calvary Fellowship, Miramar
- Calvary Lighthouse United Church, Davie
- Christ Family Church, Miami
- Common Ground Church, Lake Worth
- Core Community Church, Homestead
- Elevate Church, Miami Lakes
- Faith Community Church, Miami
- Family Church, West Palm Beach
- First Baptist Church, Greenacres
- First Baptist Church, Pompano Beach
- Glendale Missionary Baptist Church, Miami
- Haitian Fellowship Church, Oakland Park
- Iglesia Bautista Poder De Dios, Miami Beach
- Iglesia Cristiana Un Nuevo Corazon, Ft. Lauderdale
- Iglesia Real, Pembroke Pines
- Jehovah Shalom Baptist Church, Riviera Beach
- Miami Shores Baptist Church, Miami Shores
- New Life Baptist Church, Carol City
- Potential Church, Ft. Lauderdale
- Providence Road Baptist Church, Miami
- Renewing Life Church, Miami
- Restoring Grace Community Church, Fort Lauderdale
- Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Lake Worth
- The Journey Church, Boca Raton
- Turning Point Baptist Church, Miami
- Westside Baptist Church, Boynton Beach

Southwest Region

- First Baptist Church, Palmetto
- First Baptist Church, Sarasota
- First Haitian Baptist Mission, Naples
- Galilee Baptist Church, Ft. Myers
- Sarasota Baptist Church, Sarasota

West Region

- City Church Northside, Panama City
- First Baptist Church, Bagdad
- First Baptist Church Deerpoint Lake, Panama City

First Baptist Church, Mexico Beach
 First Baptist Church of Sylvania Heights, Fort Walton Beach
 Florosa Baptist Church, Mary Esther
 Frink Baptist Church, Blountstown
 Gateway Baptist Church, Blountstown
 Lakeview Baptist Church, Pensacola
 Live Oak Baptist Church, Crestview
 Pine Terrace Baptist Church, Milton
 Poplar Dell Baptist Church, Century
 Stump Springs Baptist Church, Milton
 West Pittman Baptist Church, Westville

19. Ministers Emergency Assistance Program

On November 13, 2017, the State Board of Missions appointed Trent Gann, Woodville; and Shawn Johnson, Live Oak; to serve on the Ministers Emergency Assistance Committee for the term 2017-2020. David Chauncey, Gainesville, was appointed to serve as chairman of the three-member committee for the year 2017-2018.

During the period of January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017, two individuals received \$3,435.02 in assistance through the Ministers Emergency Assistance Program. In addition, from January 1, 2018, through March 15, 2018, one person received \$1,500 in assistance.

From April 1, 2018, through July 31, 2018, two individuals received \$3,000 in assistance through the Ministers Emergency Assistance Program.

On August 24, 2018, the State Board of Missions approved revisions to the Ministers Emergency Assistance Program guidelines. These revisions include deleting outdated policy language and eliminating restrictions which will allow applicants to apply the requested assistance where it is most needed.

20. 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 2018:

Ned Hastings, <i>Chair</i>	Ken Parker
Karl Fennimore	Bill Sears

21. Authorization to Combine Investment Funds

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on April 6, 2018, the Board authorized the Church Site Fund and New Work Fund held at the Florida Baptist Foundation be dissolved. The Board further directed the executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention to enter into a new trust agreement with the Florida Baptist Foundation to establish a Church Loan Fund with the proceeds from the two dissolved funds, with the understanding that any funds withdrawn from the Church Loan Fund be limited to funding church loans.

22. Setting 2018 Spending Rate for Cooperative Program Endowment Fund

On April 6, 2018, the State Board of Missions approved setting

a spending rate for 2018 of four percent of the December 31, 2017, balance of the Cooperative Program Endowment Fund.

23. Transfer Funds from Operating Reserves to Capital Improvement Fund

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on August 24, 2018, the Board authorized the transfer of \$350,000 from the Operating Reserve Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund, with the understanding that Capital Improvement Funds are to be used only for large expenditures that cannot be funded by budgetary maintenance funds.

24. Discontinuance of Line of Credit

On August 24, 2018, the State Board of Missions authorized the discontinuance of the line of credit established with Sun Trust Bank, with the understanding that Convention staff will continue to monitor cash flow needs and recommend a reestablishment of a line of credit should the need arise.

25. Prison Ministry Grant

The State Board of Missions on August 24, 2018, authorized \$40,000 from the Operating Reserve Fund to assist with funding the expansion of prison ministries in the state of Florida.

26. Funding Baptist Campus Ministries, Jacksonville Area

In 1997, the State Board of Missions voted to sell property located on the campus of Jacksonville University (JU) that was being used to minister to college students to seek property closer to UNF where the college population was rapidly moving. The proceeds from the sale were placed in an investment account for use when new property was found. While researching possible sites, it was discovered that in order to provide adequate space for collegiate ministries, substantially more funds would be needed than the amount obtained through the sale of the property located at JU.

Throughout the ensuing years several different approaches to collegiate ministries in Jacksonville were utilized, including partnering with churches in the Jacksonville area. Meanwhile, the JU property investment continued to grow. Its value at June 30, 2018, was more than \$680,000.

For the past several years, the Florida Baptist Convention has been in partnership with First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, to provide collegiate ministry in Jacksonville. With the recent internal transfers of campus ministry staff within the Convention, the Jacksonville position became vacant. As Convention staff discussed the vacancy and the future of the Jacksonville BCM with First Baptist leadership, the Church indicated their desire to continue the collegiate ministry partnership. The Convention has agreed to contribute \$120,000 to help fund the ministry over the next three years.

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on August 24, 2018, the Board approved the \$120,000 expenditure for the Jacksonville collegiate ministries from the JU property investment fund.

27. Florida Baptist Convention New Board-Elected Positions

The State Board of Missions approved on April 6, 2018, a new Board-elected position of **Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry, The Baptist College of Florida, Next Generation Ministry Team**. The Board authorized up to \$35,000 interest income from investments in 2018 for the purpose of funding the position.

28. Florida Baptist Convention New Board-Elected Personnel

The State Board of Missions elected **Barry Sproles** on August 24, 2018, to serve as the Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry—Tallahassee Area, Next Generation Ministry Team. While Barry was new to the Board-elected team, he was already serving on the Convention staff in an administrative-approved role, leading campus ministries in the Jacksonville area.

29. Florida Baptist Convention Board-Elected Personnel Changes

In May 2018, **Lance Beauchamp** accepted the newly-created position of Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry, Baptist College of Florida, Next Generation Ministry Team. Lance previously served as the Baptist Collegiate Minister in Tallahassee and transitioned to the new position during the month of July.

30. Renewal of Partnership Agreement Between Confraternité Missionnaire Baptiste d'Haiti and the Florida Baptist Convention

The partnership between the Florida Baptist Convention and the Baptist churches in Haiti started in April, 1995. God has blessed this partnership with tremendous numerical and spiritual results. In May, 1995 Albert Wardin, renowned Baptist history professor, made a presentation to the Annual Directors Meeting of the Florida Baptist Historical Society entitled, "Baptist Around The World." In his presentation, he stated the current number of Baptist in Haiti was approximately 200,000 individuals. Currently, in 2018 according to U.S. Department of State, it is estimated that 15.4% of population of Haiti is Baptist which would be approximately 1,700,000 individuals. In 2017, CMBH churches reported 63,790 professions of faith and 173 new church starts.

The partnership has been renewed a number of times since its inception. Each time the documents have been modified to cover existing issues and circumstances. The partnership has grown in the areas of Church Planting, Evangelism and Leadership Development through theological education (partnering with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary). Since 2003, FBC staff and pastors have engaged in an aggressive effort to train pastors; intensifying the efforts of evangelism and church planting. In September 2018, the 575th pastor graduated through the NOBTS program.

In 2017, the State Board of Missions established a commission of Florida Baptist Haitian pastors to evaluate and make recommendations to the State Board of Missions for future partnership agreements. These recommendations consist of the following tasks: (1) Education and Leadership Development; (2) Develop a Cooperative Program in Haiti; (3) Encourage and Teach Haitian Pastors to be Local Missionaries; and (4) Unify the Leadership of CMBH.

On August 24, 2018, the State Board of Missions approved a revised agreement of partnership between the between the Confraternite Missionnaire Baptiste d'Haiti and the Florida Baptist Convention that will guide the partnership for the period January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021.

31. Affirmation of Association Leaders and Renaming of Director of Missions Title to Associational Mission Strategist

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on August 24, 2018, the Board approved the following:

- The affirmation and appreciation of the work of associational leaders in our state;

- Revise all State Board of Missions policies and references -- both internal and external -- to the position title of "Director of Missions" with the new position title of "Associational Mission Strategist" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders; and
- Recommend to the Messengers gathered at the Florida Baptist State Convention on November 12-13 in Miami, Florida, that the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention be amended to replace all references to "Director of Missions" with the new title "Associational Mission Strategist".

32. State Board of Missions Policies: Elimination of Camps and Conference Centers Policies

On April 6, 2018, the State Board of Missions eliminated the following policies from the State Board of Missions Book of Policies, effective immediately:

- Camps and Conference Centers: Guiding Principles for Use of Facilities
- Camps and Conference Centers: Guidelines for Groups Not Related To The Florida Baptist Convention
- Camps and Conference Centers: Future Additional Facilities Criteria

33. State Board of Missions Policies: Revision of Travel Reimbursement Policy

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on April 6, 2018, the Board revised its Travel Reimbursement Policy to provide clarification of travel expenses paid to individuals who travel on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention, Florida Baptist Convention, and/or the State Board of Missions.

STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS
Recommendations to the
Florida Baptist State Convention

Recommendation 1:
2019 Florida Baptist Convention Budget

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the year 2019 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, 2019, and which are in excess of the budgetary requirements specified within the 2019 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 B	
	<i>Total</i>
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	130,900
Communications	293,000
Community Ministries	214,225
Disaster Relief	112,750
Executive Director-Treasurer Ministries	269,000
Florida Theological Education Support (*a)	50,000
Migrant Ministries	54,355
Missions and Ministries	336,400
Next Generation Ministries (*b)	593,500
Pastor Protection Insurance (*c)	100,000
Personnel (*d)	5,295,120
Regional/Multicultural Catalysts	2,735,000
Southeast Regional Center	65,500
Strategic Initiatives (*e)	329,000
Support Services	718,600
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)	

Baptist Convention 2019 Cooperative Program Budget

Southern Baptist Convention	Cooperating Ministries	Personnel	Operations (*f)	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								
			130,900								
			23,000								270,000
			20,500						193,725		
			22,000						90,750		
			120,000	128,000			21,000				
				50,000							
			16,500						37,855		
			25,000						311,400		
			30,500					563,000			
				100,000							
		5,295,120									
			195,000		1,100,000	750,000	690,000				
			65,500								
			44,000	50,000			15,000			220,000	
			718,600								
			213,000								
			20,500						79,150		
15,300,000	2,990,000	5,295,120	1,745,000	328,000	1,100,000	750,000	726,000	563,000	712,880	220,000	270,000
51.00%	9.97%	17.65%	5.82%	1.09%	3.67%	2.50%	2.42%	1.88%	2.38%	0.73%	0.90%
	20.34%	36.02%	11.87%	2.23%	7.48%	5.10%	4.94%	3.83%	4.85%	1.50%	1.84%

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.
- (*c) Pastor Protection Insurance allocates funds to participate in a Guidestone ministry that provides limited life and disability insurance to eligible lead/senior pastors.
- (*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.
- (*d) Personnel includes salaries and benefits for 28 Board Elected Staff, 19 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: 2019 - Presupuesto de la Convención Bautista de Florida

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida adopte para el año 2019 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 (Colegio Bautista)	\$1,650,000
Florida Baptist Children's Homes (Hogares de Niños)	\$1,140,000
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center	\$200,000

- Que todo lo recibido para el Programa Cooperativo hasta el 31 de diciembre del 2019, y lo que haya en exceso de los requerimientos presupuestarios en el Presupuesto del Programa Cooperativo del 2019, 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 2019 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 2019 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 2019 et qui sont en excès aux exigences budgétaires spécifiés dans le budget 2019 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].

Recommendation 2: New Bylaws 2, 7 and 12 Florida Baptist State Convention

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention approve the following revised Bylaws 2, 7 and 12 of the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention which shall supersede all previous versions:

Recomendación 2: Nuevos Estatutos 2, 7 and 12 Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida

La Junta de Misiones del Estado recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida aprueben las Estatutos 2, 7 & 12 revisados.

Recommandation 2: Nouveaux des règlements 2, 7 and 12 Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride

Le Bureau des Missions d'Etat recommande que les messagers de la Convention Baptiste d'Etat de la Floride approuvent les révisions suivantes des règlements 2, 7 & 12.

To aid clarity and understanding, comments have been included to highlight various sections that have been addressed. Comments will not be included in adopted bylaws.

Bylaw 2: Baptist Unity through Cooperation

This State Convention exists to support local Southern Baptist churches in sharing the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is accomplished by facilitating a spirit of cooperation and unity amongst the culturally diverse local churches in the state of Florida.*

**Comments: New Opening Title and Statement - emphasizing not just cooperation but the unity required to accomplish the primary mission of the convention. Also, highlights cultural diversity of our state.*

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

what constitutes cooperation.

**Comments: Highlighting the key distinctive in Baptist life of and each church's independence.*

***Comments: Acknowledgment of the key thread that binds the many unique works together in Southern Baptist life.*

It is the desire of the State Convention that each Southern Baptist church be affiliated with a local cooperating Baptist association (hereinafter described), the Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. The State Convention recognizes the local associations' historic role as the theological guardian of Baptist faith and practice. As a result, any local church that is approved by a local Baptist association will be accepted for affiliation with this State Convention.*

**Comments: Emphasis on cooperation through the local association and then through state and national. Reaffirms the association as the theological guardian of churches.*

A local Southern Baptist church may choose not to be affiliated with a cooperating Baptist association or the Southern Baptist Convention yet still may choose to cooperate and affiliate with this State Convention. A church, which chooses not to affiliate with a cooperating Baptist association (as herein defined), may seek to affiliate directly with the State Convention by securing Church-at-Large status as defined within these Bylaws. The cooperating ministry of this State Convention, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. through its State Board of Missions will provide for the theological guardianship of all churches affiliating through Church-at-Large status.*

**Comments: Clearly identifies that the State Board of Missions will be the theological guardian for churches that affiliate as church-at-large and not under an association.*

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

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

**Comments: Denotes that any other faith declaration may not deviate from the tenets of the Baptist faith vs. previous word "parallels". Parallels allows for an argument that a church could be close on some things but not everything. "Consistent" alleviates ambiguity. "Consistent" has been substituted for instances of "parallels" throughout document.*

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

3. **Financial**: The church shall consistently make a meaningful financial contribution through the Cooperative Program. For the purposes of this bylaw, a meaningful contribution recognizes the principle of equal sacrifice and commitment by all local churches.*

**Comments: Removes the \$250 requirement which no longer exists at the SBC level either. Uses language congruent with SBC bylaws but adds emphasis with the word consistently. Furthermore, "meaningful" is further elaborated on to recognize equal sacrifice.*

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

C. Recognition of New Congregations: Congregations desiring to join in cooperation with this State Convention have two pathways.

1. **Affiliation through Association***: Each year, during the annual meeting of the State Convention, a report shall be made by the State Board of Missions identifying the Southern Baptist churches known to have organized within the past year in Florida and which have made commitments through a respective Baptist association's credentialing process to cooperate and to affiliate. The State Convention shall vote to receive the report on new churches. The State Board of Missions shall send a written notification to the pastor of each church noted in such report summarizing the Bylaw 2 criteria and benefits of cooperation.

**Comments: New Header to Highlight first pathway*

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

**Comments: New Header to Highlight pathway*

D. Cooperating Baptist Association: The State Convention recognizes that a cooperating Baptist association shall be that duly constituted and autonomous organization of local cooperating Southern Baptist churches, which by their collective free will as an association demonstrate cooperation according to State Convention criteria.

In recognition of the various organizational models of associational ministry present in Florida, for the purposes of defining an association, the convention will recognize names other than "Baptist association", such as "Baptist network", so long as the underlying organizational governance and ministry is consistent with the historic model of associational ministry and the requirements defined below. The associations which meet the criteria set forth below shall be considered in cooperation with this State Convention, its purposes and work*:

**Comments: New language to clarify that functioning like a Baptist association regardless of name is required.*

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

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

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

4. **Cooperation:** Any Baptist association which seeks to be considered cooperating with the Florida Baptist State Convention and its cooperating ministry, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall have specified within its adopted governing documents a declaration that the basis for the theology, faith, practice and polity of its cooperating churches is the Bible with The Baptist Faith and Message, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which is consistent with the tenets of our historic Baptist faith, as the theological framework. The governing document shall provide for a process by which the association shall determine if each Baptist church seeking affiliation with the association, does affirm commitment to the theology, faith, practice and polity outlined in the Bible, with The Baptist Faith and Message, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which is consistent with the tenets of our historic Baptist faith, as the theological framework.
- E. **New Associations:** Any Baptist association which seeks to organize or re-organize after the date of this Bylaw, in addition to fulfilling the State Convention criteria set forth within Bylaw 2, also must satisfy the following criteria before it shall be recognized as a “cooperating” association with the Florida Baptist State Convention and its cooperating ministry, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.:
1. **Membership:** The association shall be comprised of at least 15 constituted Southern Baptist churches and whose combined total church membership shall be at least 7,000 persons.
 2. **Application:** The association’s executive committee shall prepare and submit an “Application for Cooperation” to be received, reviewed and approved by the State Board of Missions and its appropriate committee.
 3. The State Convention directs and empowers the State Board of Missions, through its appropriate committees to establish guidelines and procedures, by which to receive, review and grant “provisional cooperating acceptance” status to any newly organized association which seeks to be considered for “unconditional cooperating” status.
 4. When the parameters of cooperation have been met, an association shall be considered ready for presentation to the State Convention. The State Board of Missions may recommend that the Florida Baptist State Convention, during its next annual meeting, confer unconditional cooperating status upon the requesting association.
 5. The year, following approval by the State Convention, and in subsequent years, the newly-organized or re-organized association shall then be eligible for a member on the State Convention’s Committee on Nominations and shall qualify for at least one member from its cooperating churches being nominated to serve on the State Board of Missions, as provided for in these bylaws.
- F. **Southern Baptist Convention:** The Florida Baptist State Convention declares that it fraternally cooperates with and supports the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies of work. As a demonstration of this cooperation, the State Convention promotes giving through the Cooperative Program and serves as the conduit for the distribution of Cooperative Program funds given by cooperating churches. To facilitate Baptist cooperation, this State Convention has empowered its State Board of Missions to enter into Cooperative Agreements with selected agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention which relate to mission, ministries, and support services provided by the State Convention cooperating ministry, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.
- G. **Compliance Remedies — Cooperation:** As set forth previously in this bylaw, every cooperating church is expected to demonstrate its commitment to cooperation with the State Convention on an annual basis by doing two things: (1) consistently making a meaningful financial contribution through the Cooperative Program; and (2) providing an annual church statistical profile on the health and vitality of the church. A church which fails to fulfill its commitment to the Cooperative Program for three consecutive years shall be counseled regarding such failure. Such failure shall limit the church’s ability to participate in the convention’s financial related ministry programs, administered through the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., including but not limited to the church loan fund and church planting/revitalization grants.* The Florida Baptist State Convention assigns to the State Board of Missions the authority to: (1) investigate the basis for any such failure; and (2) recommend the appropriate corrective action with such church. The procedure for determining the appropriate corrective action shall be developed and implemented by the State Board of Missions. Such procedure shall be set forth in the State Board of Missions’ policy on “Baptist Polity and Cooperation.”
- *Comments: New language to address churches no longer in full cooperation through financial giving. Allows for the restriction of funds being available back to the church.*
- H. **Compliance Remedies—Theological Integrity:** Every cooperating church and cooperating association is expected to maintain their commitment to the doctrines set forth in The Baptist Faith and Message, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which is consistent with the tenets of our historic Baptist faith. Any church or association which undertakes questionable theology, faith, practice or polity, shall be subject to having fellowship withdrawn by the Florida Baptist State Convention. The Florida Baptist State Convention assigns to the State Board of Missions the authority to investigate allegations of such deviation from biblical theology and practice as defined by Southern Baptists and make a final recommendation regarding a church’s or association’s continued affiliation. The procedure for conducting such investigation and making any recommendation shall be developed by the State Board of Missions, and set forth in its policy on “Baptist Polity and Cooperation.”

Bylaw 7: Committee on Nominations

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

- A. The committee shall consist of three (3) members from each of the six (6) ministry regions as defined by the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. within the state of Florida, for a total of eighteen (18) committee members plus the ex-officio members.* Vacancies to positions on the committee shall be appointed as a result of a joint consultation by the State Convention president, first vice president and second vice president. Service on the committee shall be a three (3) year appointment.** In addition the State Convention’s president, the first vice-president and second vice-president shall serve on the Committee as ex-officio members with voting privilege.
- *Comments: Shift from association representation to regional model of representation and change to the number of total committee members.*
- **Comments: Establishes 3 year terms of service.*
1. A person who has been appointed for a three year term shall not be eligible for reappointment until at least three years have elapsed.

2. The officers will ensure that there is an adequate representation of laity and ordained persons on the committee.
 - a. Ordained persons and members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association shall constitute the ordained group. Within this group are included directors of associational missions, whose representation on the Committee shall be limited to **one (1)*** member at a time.

**Comments: Reduction by 1 to account for overall change in size of the committee.*
 - b. No more than three-fifths of the members of the Committee shall be drawn from either the laity or ordained groups.
 - c. The officers shall give due consideration to appointing persons who reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity within Florida Baptist churches.
 - d. Persons appointed to serve on the Committee shall meet the requirements as defined in Bylaw 4 (6)(a)(b) and (c).
 - e. **The three (3) members representing a region will be appointed in a way to ensure a staggered rotation in which one member from each region is rotating off each year.***

**Comments: Added to establish rotational pattern of committee members.*
 3. The officers shall make every reasonable effort to identify and select persons from cooperating churches in each region who have demonstrated involvement in the life and work of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Such individuals shall have been a member of a cooperating church in their respective region for at least two years. Each committee member shall be a member of a cooperating church within the geographic boundaries of the state of Florida.
 4. The officers of the convention will name a chairperson and vice-chairperson to lead the committee on an annual basis.
- B. On or before the first day of October of each year, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, the Committee on Nominations, after giving due regard to the desire of this State Convention for responsible lay participation in its activities and governance, shall appoint the Credentials Committee (whose tasks are described in these bylaws) and its chair and vice-chair. If practicable, the names of these appointees shall be published via fbaptist.org and Florida Baptist Convention social media channels.:
- 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 via fbaptist.org and Florida Baptist Convention social media channels:
1. State Board of Missions (hereinafter described);
 2. Board of Trustees of Florida Baptist Children's Homes;
 3. F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees of potential directors of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes' Supporting Organizations (herein described);
 4. Board of Trustees of The Baptist College of Florida;
 5. Board of Directors of Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., who also shall serve as the board of
 - i. trustees for the Florida Baptist Foundation; Florida Baptist Retirement Center, Inc., and the Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc.;
 6. Board of Directors of Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc.; and
 7. Committee on Order of Business.
- D. The Committee shall nominate persons to serve on all other boards, corporations and cooperating ministries which now are or may hereafter be created by, or which now are or may hereafter be otherwise related to, this State Convention.
- E. The Committee shall annually select up to twenty (20) persons to be assigned to what shall be designated as the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees. These persons shall be for the exclusive use by the Board of Trustees of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes (FBCH), who is legally obligated to appoint persons to serve as directors of the Homes' separate Supporting Organizations. These organizations include: FBCH Land Holdings, Inc.; FBCH Landing Holdings II, Inc.; and the Orphan's Heart Foundation, Inc.
1. The persons nominated to the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees shall meet all criteria as defined in Bylaw 4(6)(a) of the Bylaws, Florida Baptist State Convention and their selection and service shall be governed by applicable provisions defined in Bylaw 4 and Bylaw 5, Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 2. The persons designated for appointment to the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees shall meet all criteria as defined herein this Bylaw 7 of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 3. Appointment to the Pool of Nominees shall only be good of one year. At the end of one year, the Committee on Nominations may determine to re-appoint persons or select new persons to be added to the Pool.
 4. The Board of Trustees of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes shall select persons from the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees, who are annually approved by the Florida Baptist State Convention, to fill vacancies that occur on the several boards of its Supporting Organizations. Those appointed directors shall serve terms of service as provided in the respective governing documents of the Supporting Organizations.
- F. In the discharge of its duties, the Committee on Nominations is requested to follow this procedure:
1. In May of each year the Executive Director-Treasurer will publish via fbaptist.org and Florida Baptist Convention social media channels a list of those persons who have been named to serve on the Committee on Nominations. Individual Baptists will be invited to propose the names of worthy individuals, lay and ordained, to be considered for membership on the various committees, boards, corporations and cooperating ministries of this State Convention. Employees of the State Board of Missions, corporations and cooperating ministries of this State Convention are hereby discouraged, but are not altogether prohibited, from making unsolicited submissions of proposed nominees to these State Convention entities.
 2. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall serve as staff resource for the Committee. He is responsible for furnishing to each member of the Committee of Nominations, as soon after May 1 of each year as possible, complete information relating to the appointments and nominations to be made by the Committee and written suggestions regarding the proper discharge of the duties of the Committee members.
 3. Each member of the Committee on Nominations is

encouraged, upon being appointed, to search out and identify competent persons within their region, both lay and ordained, from cooperating churches of the Florida Baptist State Convention, to be considered by the Committee on Nominations in the discharge of its duties. In April of each year, the chair of the Committee on Nominations will notify in writing, both the moderator and the director of missions in each association of vacancies on this Convention's committees, boards, commissions, corporations and cooperating ministries. At which time, each association is encouraged to recommend nominees for consideration by the Committee on Nominations to said vacancies.*

**Comments: Maintains input channel for associations to make nominations.*

4. The State Convention officers and the chairman of the Committee on Nominations, in consultation with the Executive Director-Treasurer, will select a time and place for the Committee on Nominations to meet during the month of September. The Executive Director-Treasurer will assist in the meeting arrangements and send the meeting notices to Committee members. The chairman of the Committee shall schedule a time period during the Committee on Nominations meeting for the executive officer of each cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention, to discuss with the committee the qualifications required of persons to be nominated to serve on their respective board. For expediency and efficiency, meetings of the committees may be held and/or attended by telephone and videoconference.*

**Comments: Added to officially allow for telephone and video conference use in meetings.*

5. Each Committee member and any interested Florida Baptist should submit nominations to the Executive Director-Treasurer's Office on or before July 1.
 - a. All nominees shall be sent a "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaire" for completion and return to the chairman of the Committee on Nominations. This questionnaire shall contain the following information categories:
 - i. Personal (name, address, telephone number, occupation, place of employment, length of Florida residency, and classification as either laity or ordained);
 - ii. Church Statistics for the prior church year as reported on the Annual Church Profile (ACP) [specifically the name of the church of which the nominee is a member, amount the church contributed to the Cooperative Program; percentage of church budget sent through the Cooperative Program; number of resident members; number of baptisms and ratio of baptisms to resident members]; and
 - iii. Bylaw Qualifying Requirements [as specified in Bylaw 4(6)(a)] written in question format with provision for a yes/no response or an open-ended response.
 - iv. The nominee must sign and return the questionnaire to the chairman of the Committee on Nominations in a timely manner.
 - b. The chairman will provide the collective nominations, and completed "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaires" received from individual Baptists, associations, and Committee on Nomination members to the Executive Director-Treasurer by August 1.
 - c. The Executive Director-Treasurer's Office will duplicate all of the submitted "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaires" and send copies to each member of the Committee on Nominations two weeks prior to their scheduled committee meeting.

6. Following the Committee on Nominations meeting, the chairman of the Committee will notify in writing and request a response from those persons nominated to serve on the committees, boards, corporations and cooperating ministries of the State Convention. The chairman shall submit, on a timely basis, the complete list of nominees, for publication on or before October 15 via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist Convention social media channels.
7. In carrying out its assigned task, the Committee shall give due consideration to each potential nominee and the church to which the nominee is a member in good standing.
 - a. The committee shall review the "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaire" submitted by each nominee. The committee may not recommend to the State Convention a nominee who has not submitted a completed and signed questionnaire.
 - b. The Committee, in considering a nominee, may give consideration to the nominee's church's baptism record and giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program.
 - c. The Committee shall give due consideration to nominating persons who reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of Florida Baptist churches.
8. The Committee on Nominations may, for just cause, replace any person currently serving on a standing State Convention committee or who is serving as a director, trustee or board member of a State Convention cooperating ministry. Additionally, the Committee on Nominations may, for just cause, replace any person who is eligible for re-election to a standing State Convention committee or who is eligible for re-election as a director, trustee or board member of a State Convention cooperating ministry. Just cause would specifically include: failure to attend regularly scheduled State Convention committee or cooperating ministry board meetings (defined as being absent from at least two or more meetings without good and sufficient reason); resignation from a State Convention committee or cooperating ministry board service; or a person removed from a State Convention committee or cooperating ministry board service as provided for in Bylaw 12,G(10). The Executive Director-Treasurer will be responsible each year to provide to the Committee on Nominations information on any individual who would be subject to replacement for just cause.
9. The Committee on Nominations shall nominate persons to fill vacancies which may exist on any board of a cooperating ministry or State Convention committee.
 - a. The Committee shall understand that the number of persons required for the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees may fluctuate from year to year. The number of nominees required will be determined by the Executive Director- Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, in consultation with the President, Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. The nominee count shall be based upon a formula consisting of the anticipated total director vacancies to be filled on the FBCH's Supporting Organizations during the following year, plus three additional persons.
 - b. Persons who have been named to fill a temporary vacancy by the respective board of a cooperating ministry or State Convention committee bylaw's procedure shall be eligible for nomination and election to complete a partial term and/or a new full term. A person's service to fill a temporary vacancy will be considered as a full term only if the individual has served more than one-half of the time specified for the term (i.e. six months of a one-year term, 12 months of a two-year term; or 18 months of a three-year term.)

Bylaw 12: State Board of Missions

The State Convention shall elect a governing board to be known as "The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist State Convention," which body is incorporated by the State of Florida under the name of "Florida Baptist Convention, Inc."

A. Membership:

1. The State Board of Missions shall be composed of members elected from within the bounds of each of the six ministry regions as defined by the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. The regional distribution of Board members is to be made on the following basis of church membership as recorded in the annual statistical reports which appear on flbaptist.org for the prior year.*

**Comments: Shift to representation based on regional model of ministry.*

- a. One Board member for 1-9,000 church members which shall increase by one Board member for each additional 9,000 church members or portion thereof;
 - b. Total elected membership of the Board shall be no more than 99 members.*
- *Comments: Adjusted to current realities of membership to maintain current board members numbers.*
- c. If the total membership is projected to fall below 90 the basis of church membership shall be adjusted accordingly by decreasing by 1,000 church members as needed.
 - d. In no instance shall a single ministry region have more than twenty-two (22) elected Board member representatives.
 - e. Each cooperating association shall be represented on the Board by a minimum of one (1) Board representative from one of its cooperating churches.*

**Comments: Guaranteed representation for each active cooperating association.*

- f. In no instance shall more than five (5) elected Board member representatives come from the same association.*
- *Comments: Caps representation of any one association.*
- g. At least one (1) elected Board member shall come from a church affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention as a Church-at-Large.*

**Comments: Guarantees minimum representation of churches-at-large,*

- h. In no instance shall more than six (6) elected Board members come from churches affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention as a Church-at-Large, with no more than two (2) Church-at-Large representatives coming from any one of the six (6) ministry regions.*

**Comments: Caps representation from church-at-large and guarantees geographic disbursement.*

- i. Each board member shall be a member of a cooperating church within the geographic boundaries of the state of Florida.*

**Comments: Required geographic presence within the state of Florida.*

2. Persons eligible for membership on the State Board of Missions are hereby divided into two groups – ordained to the gospel ministry and lay person:
 - a. One group shall be comprised of ordained persons whether they serve on the staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association. For the purposes of this bylaw, a person who has been ordained to the gospel ministry shall be classified as ordained, whether or not they are serving in a ministry capacity.

- b. The second group shall be comprised of lay persons who are not ordained to the gospel ministry and who are members in good standing with a cooperating local church. No more than three-fifths of the members of said Board shall be drawn from either grouping.
3. Not more than one person from any given cooperating local church shall serve on the State Board of Missions. An exception would permit an ex officio Board member and a regular Board member to hold membership in the same church and serve on the State Board of Missions concurrently.
 4. No person shall be nominated to serve on the State Board of Missions until after the person has been a member for at least one year of their present church. The Board member's church must be in friendly cooperation with the Florida Baptist State Convention and make a consistent, meaningful financial contribution to missions through the Cooperative Program.*

**Comments: Consistent with Bylaw 2.*

5. There will be three (3) ex officio members assigned to the Board. These shall include:
 - a. The President of the Florida Baptist State Convention who also will be a voting member of the Administrative/Personnel Committee.
 - b. The Recording Secretary of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 - c. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.
 - d. The Recording Secretary and the Executive Director-Treasurer shall be without vote.
6. The Board shall elect its own president and other officers.
 - a. The President and Vice-President of the Board shall be the President and the Vice-President, respectively, of the Corporation.
 - b. The Executive-Director Treasurer shall be the General Secretary of the Corporation.
 - c. The Assistant Executive Director shall be the Assistant General Secretary of the Corporation.

B. Term of Office:

1. Each member, with the exception of the ex officio members, shall be elected for a three-year term, except when elected to fill an unexpired term and except as hereinafter provided.
2. The terms of the President of the State Convention, the Recording Secretary of the State Convention, the Executive Director-Treasurer and the Assistant Executive Director shall be for such periods as they hold their respective offices or positions.
3. Terms will be for three years, with a Board member being eligible for a second term.
4. An unexpired term will be considered as a full term if the individual serves more than one-half of the time specified for the term.
5. Following service on the Board, a person will not be eligible for nomination until a period of three years has elapsed.
6. A variety of restrictions shall govern continued membership on the Board including the following exceptions:
 - a. Membership on the Board shall cease when the Board member either: [1] moves from the state; or [2] moves their church membership to a congregation which cooperates outside their currently represented ministry region; or [3] ceases to be a member in good standing with a church that is in cooperating fellowship with the State Convention; or [4] becomes deceased. See item (7) that follows for clarification on residency.

- b. Additionally, a person's membership on the Board shall cease if the church of which they are a member either: [1] no longer cooperates with the local Baptist association; or [2] no longer cooperates with the State Convention, as defined by Bylaw 2 of these Bylaws.
7. A Board member shall retain membership on the Board should they change church membership to another cooperating Florida Baptist congregation cooperating within the ministry region from which the Board member was elected to represent, unless said change ceases to provide an association any representation on the Board. Additionally, a Board member may continue their Board service, although their residence may change, as long as they either continue being a member in good standing or serving on the paid staff of the church cooperating within the same ministry region from which the Board member was elected to represent.
8. Membership on the Board will automatically be terminated when a member is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board, unless the Board votes to excuse the absence for good and sufficient reasons.
9. Vacancies will be filled according to provisions outlined in the State Board of Missions Bylaws.
- C. Method of Election:
1. Members of the Board, other than ex officio members, shall be elected by the State Convention in annual session.
 2. The Committee on Nominations of the State Convention shall bring nominations for all vacancies.
 3. Due to the recognized Baptist principle of the autonomy of various Baptist bodies, and while recognizing the value of an association's experience and advice, the Committee on Nominations shall not be bound to accept the suggested nominees.
 - a. If an association chooses to suggest nominees to the Committee on Nominations, the association should submit at least two (2) persons for consideration.
 - b. Nominees should be grouped as specified in Bylaw 12,A(2). Specifically, one group shall be comprised of ordained persons and members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association; the second group shall be comprised of lay persons other than members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association.*

**Comments: Maintains input channel for associations to make nominations.*
 4. Notification of the final date for suggestions will be made by the Committee on Nominations via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist Convention social media channels.
 5. The Committee on Nominations shall indicate in its report to the State Convention, the total number of years each nominee has previously served on the Board.
- D. Meetings:
1. The State Board of Missions shall meet a minimum of three (3) times annually*, one of which meetings shall be held immediately preceding the annual meeting of the State Convention. For expediency and efficiency, meetings of the Board and/or its committees may be held and/or attended by telephone and videoconference.**

**Comments: Reduction to account for any necessary changes due to unforeseen scheduling issue such as a hurricane.*

***Comments: Added to officially allow for telephone and video conference use in meetings.*
 2. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President of the Board or by the Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, as necessary.
3. The Florida Baptist Convention will pay expenses for all meetings of the Board, except the pre-convention meeting, unless the Board member's church does not normally provide his expenses to the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
- E. Organization:
The State Board of Missions shall organize itself to carry out the work of the State Convention as committed to it.
- F. Committees:
1. The State Board of Missions shall elect annually an Administrative/Personnel Committee, which also shall act as an executive committee of the Board having full authority to act on behalf of the Board between scheduled Board meetings. The committee shall be composed of the President and Vice-President of the Board, the President of the Florida Baptist State Convention to be a voting member, the Recording Secretary of the Board to be an ex officio non-voting member, the chairmen of the standing committees, and eleven (11) other persons on the Board, to be elected by the Board.
 2. The Board shall have such standing committees as it deems necessary and beneficial to its mission. Currently, the standing committees are: Budget-Allocations, Convention Properties, Program, Loans, Denominational Polity and Practice, and Nomination of Board Committees.*

**Comments: Adjusted to allow changes as the board deems necessary.*
 3. The president of the Board shall serve as chairman of the Administrative/Personnel Committee.
- G. Special Works:
The State Board of Missions shall have the following special works:
1. Act for the State Convention in the interim between annual meetings. The State Board of Missions acts for the Florida Baptist State Convention between its annual meetings; thus, the State Board of Missions should counsel the cooperating ministries and instrumentalities of the Florida Baptist State Convention between said annual meetings, and there should be a free exchange between all of the cooperating ministries and instrumentalities of the Florida Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions.
 2. Have full charge of state mission work, including church building funds and all other loan funds.
 3. Make an annual estimate of the needs of the work supported by this State Convention and fix state objectives for all causes.
 4. Provide for the current financial support in the operation and maintenance of its work.
 - a. In carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, the Board shall ensure, by whatever policy and/or procedures are practicable, that the provisions of the State Convention's Business and Financial Plan (as defined in Bylaw 16 of the Bylaws, Florida Baptist State Convention) are followed.
 - b. The Board, acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention, shall have the authority to approve financial loans, as defined by these Bylaws, and which are required by a cooperating ministry, institution or the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.
 5. Employ an Executive Director-Treasurer. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall have the following primary responsibilities:
 - a. Provide general supervision of all programs/ministries of work.
 - b. Take charge of the funds of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and hold same, subject to the order of the State Convention or the State Board of

Missions, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., the incorporated body, during the recess of the State Convention.

- c. Make an annual report of all receipts and expenditures, which shall be audited and published in the Florida Baptist Annual.
 - d. Ensure the publication of a Florida Baptist Annual each year.
 - e. Serve as a non-voting member of all State Convention appointed and elected committees and State Board of Missions committees, or, he shall appoint persons to serve with him or in his behalf, when needful or when it seems wise to him to do so.
 - f. Serve as an ex officio, voting member of any newly-created committee or study group authorized by the State Convention.
 - g. Serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of all boards of trustees or directors of the State Convention's cooperating ministries. The Executive Director-Treasurer or his designee shall be permitted to attend all regular and special meetings, including executive sessions, of the respective boards and their committees.
 - h. Provide reasonable secretarial and staff assistance to the State Convention and its committees as specified in the State Convention's Bylaws.
 - i. In compliance with requirements by the Convention Corporation's auditor-of-record, the executive director-treasurer shall on a periodic basis submit his monthly travel expense reports to the State Board of Missions' President for review and signoff.
6. Develop, review, revise and approve appropriate policies to regulate assistance programs, ministries, services and procedures authorized by either the Florida Baptist State Convention or the Board.
 7. The State Board of Missions may call special meetings of the State Convention as provided for in Article 11 of the Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution, and procedures defined in the Board's Bylaws.
 8. Employ, upon recommendation of the Executive Director-Treasurer, all professional staff members and such agents and employees as are found necessary to carry out its work.
 9. The Administrative/Personnel Committee of the State Board of Missions is empowered to fully investigate any charges of misconduct which are brought against any elected or appointed official or committee member of the Florida Baptist State Convention or any person serving as a trustee or director of any cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 - a. The basis for an investigation shall be any misconduct, unscriptural practices or behavior which may bring dishonor to the cause of Christ and to the position in which he or she serves.
 - b. There may be any one of several actions which could cause the Administrative/Personnel Committee to undertake an investigation of removal. These would include, but not be limited to:
 - i. The individual's resignation or removal from a leadership position in his or her local church or association which was the result of the individual's misconduct, unscriptural practices or behavior which may bring dishonor to the cause of Christ.
 - ii. Requests by a local church or association that the Administrative/Personnel Committee remove an individual from a statewide elected or appointed leadership position. Such requests, which must be in writing and signed, shall

be sent to the President of the State Board of Missions and the Executive Director-Treasurer.

- c. The Administrative/Personnel Committee shall establish its own procedure for investigating the charges. However, the Committee shall make every reasonable attempt to hear from both the party requesting the removal of an individual, as well as the individual being challenged. Once the Committee has made its determination, the Committee shall report its decision, on a timely basis, to the parties involved.
 - d. If the charges are substantiated and the elected or appointed official chooses not to resign his or her elected or appointed position, the Administrative/Personnel Committee shall then recommend to the State Board of Missions the removal of that elected official, committee member, trustee, or director of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 - e. A vote of removal requires a two-thirds vote of the members of the State Board of Missions present at the meeting during which the matter is presented. Should the action for removal be affirmed, the Board shall report its action and the existence of a position vacancy to the Committee on Nominations, if appropriate, and to the next annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
10. To provide oversight and financial resources for the Florida Baptist Historical Society, a noncorporate fraternal organization of the Florida Baptist State Convention. The Society, through its board of directors, shall promote and encourage the collection and preservation of materials and information related to the history of Southern Baptists in Florida.
 - a. The State Board of Missions shall: approve proposed policy and procedures developed by the Society's board of directors; appoint its board of directors; receive annual reports from its board of directors; and provide for an annual operating budget.
 - b. As a result of authorization by the State Convention, the Florida Baptist Historical Society is expected to utilize a reasonable portion of the Society's annual operating budget for assisting the Florida Baptist Historical Collection in the acquisition of historical resources.
 11. Shall establish guidelines and procedures by which to review and recommend actions on all pertinent matters pertaining to the theology, faith, practice and polity of Florida Southern Baptists, including the Florida Baptist State Convention, the State Board of Missions, cooperating Florida Baptist churches and cooperating Florida Baptist associations.
 12. The Board shall assign to the appropriate committee the task of receiving, evaluating and recommending to the Board all requests to mortgage, sell or any transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by Florida Baptist State Convention related cooperating ministries and corporate and non-corporate entities. The assigned committee shall recommend to the Board whether or not to approve such request. Those requests approved by the Board shall then be recommended to the Florida Baptist State Convention for approval of the mortgage, sale or any transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by a State Convention related entity. This requirement shall not apply to land that was received as a gift or by other means and does not constitute an integral part of the entity's operations.
- H. Conflicts of Interest:
The State Board of Missions shall adopt and adhere to a "Conflicts of Interest" policy statement and procedures that

shall govern the conduct of Board members and employees of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. This policy shall emphasize the fiduciary duty and responsibilities these persons have to exercise their best care, skill and judgment for the sole benefit of the Convention. Each Board member shall be required to annually complete, sign and submit a Board-approved questionnaire on “Conflicts of Interest.”

- I. Quorum:
Fifty-one percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the State Board of Missions.

Recommendation 3: 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~~):

Recomendación 3: 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 3: 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 4: 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, 2017, and October 15, 2018, 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 4: 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, 2017 y Octubre 15, 2018, 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 4: 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 2017 et le 15 Octobre 2018, 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, 2018, 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.

2017-18 Report on New Church Starts (September 1, 2017 – October 15, 2018)

Brevard Baptist Association

Bethanie, Palm Bay
Nuevas Hispanic, Rockledge
Veteran's, Melbourne

Emerald Coast Church Network, The Kings Cross, Santa Rosa Beach

Greater Orlando Baptist Association

Brazilian of Central Florida, Orlando
Discovery Life, Apopka
Gospel Centered, Apopka
Grace Alive, Orlando
Harmony Community, St Cloud

Multi Cultural Outreach, Orlando
Orlando Primitive

Holmes Baptist Association
Grace, Bonifay

Jacksonville Baptist Association
Beree Evangelical, Jacksonville
FIL-AM Ministry, Jacksonville
Grace International, Jacksonville
The City, Jacksonville

Lake County Baptist Association
Celebration, Leesburg
Siloe Haitian, Clermont
The Grove, Minneola

Manatee Southern Baptist Association
Redemption, Bradenton

Miami Baptist Association
Candlestick, Pembroke Pines
Evangelica Rey de reyes, Miami
Grace Upon Grace, Weston
Grace, Miami Shores
IC Hispanic Miami
Kendall, Miami
New Dawn, Hialeah
New Hope Esperanza, Miami
NTBC, Miami-Dade
Real Ft Lauderdale, Oakland Park
Señor Jesus Hispanic, Hialeah
Southwest Community, Miami
Vertical Miami, Hialeah
Vida Real, Pembroke Pines

North Central Florida Baptist Association
St John Missionary, Hawthorne
Walk By Faith, Gainesville

Pasco Baptist Association
Family of God, Zephyrhills

Royal Palm Baptist Association
Fellowship, Ave Maria
Philadelphia, Naples
San Carlos Haitian, Fort Myers

Seminole Baptist Association
Mount Olive, DeLand

South Florida Baptist Association
King's, Lakeland

St. Johns River Baptist Association
Refuge Fellowship, Bunnell

Tampa Bay Baptist Association
Parole Vivante Haitian, Lehigh Acres
Word of Life Spanish, Tampa

Treasure Coast Baptist Association
Chapel in the Woods, Vero Beach
Family of God, Fort Pierce
Grace, Fort Pierce
Jesus Center, Fort Pierce
Pierre Angulaire, Port St Lucie

Recommendation 5: 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 5: 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 5: 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:

Bible Baptist Church, St. Croix, US Virgin Islands
Community Baptist Church, St. Croix, US Virgin Islands
Forest Heights Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach
Trinity Baptist Church, St. Thomas, US 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 6: Florida Baptist State Convention: Date and Location of 2025 Annual Meeting

The State Board of Missions recommends that messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention during approve that the year 2025 annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention be held **November 10-11, 2025** in **Orlando, Florida**.

Recomendación 6: Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida: Fecha y Lugar de la Reunión Anual del 2025

La Junta de Misiones del Estado recomienda a los mensajeros de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida, que aprueben el año 2025 para la reunión anual de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida, que se lleve a cabo el **10-11 de Noviembre del 2025** en **Orlando, Florida**.

Recommandation 6: Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride: Localisation et Date: Rencontre Annuelle 2025

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que les messagers de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride approuvent que la Conférence Annuelle 2025 soit tenue les **10 et 11 Novembre 2025** à **Orlando, Floride**.

Recommendation 7: Associational Mission Strategist

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention be amended to replace all references to the title "Director of Missions" with the new title "Associational Mission Strategist".

Recomendación 7: Estratega de Misión Asociacional

La junta de misiones estatal recomienda que los Bylaws de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida sean enmendados para reemplazar toda referencia al título "Director de Misiones" con el nuevo título "Estratega de Misión Asociacional".

Recommandation 7:

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.

Recommendation 8: Resolution of Appreciation for R. Luther Beauchamp

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the following resolution of appreciation for R. Luther Beauchamp:

Recomendación 8: Resolución de aprecio por R. Luther Beauchamp

Recommandation 8: Résolution d'Appréciation pour R. Luther Beauchamp

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR R. Luther Beauchamp

WHEREAS, R. Luther Beauchamp has served the Florida Baptist Convention in multiple roles since 1989, including General Counsel to the State Board of Missions since 1996, and has announced that he will complete this service at the end of 2018; and

WHEREAS, Luther Beauchamp accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior in April of 1953 and was baptized at the First Baptist Church in Chiefland, Florida, and has served as a faithful layman to his church and denomination. He has served as a Sunday School teacher, deacon, Florida Baptist Convention State Board of Missions member (1989-1995), 2nd vice-president of the Florida Baptist State Convention (1995-1996); and

WHEREAS, a native Floridian, he completed his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Florida State University in 1964 and received the Juris Doctorate degree from Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1968; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of law school, Luther returned to the Sunshine State and his hometown of Chiefland, Florida, to begin his law career; and

WHEREAS, he has provided invaluable counsel to Convention staff in the administration of the church loan ministry. From mortgages, to deeds, to quick claim deeds, to reverter clauses and more, Luther has always been available to provide accurate and timely answers to questions related to real estate law; and

WHEREAS, not only has Luther Beauchamp provided legal expertise to the Convention, he has provided countless Florida Baptist churches with legal advice. Always keeping the best interest of the churches in mind, his advice was accurate and most often mixed with a dash of good humor; and

WHEREAS, Luther Beauchamp has been motivated in his love and service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the words of Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer;" now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 12-13, 2018, in Miami, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of R. Luther Beauchamp, given to our Lord and Florida Baptists, and that we assure Luther and his wife, Vera, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this convention; and

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

Recommendation 9: Adoption of One Hundred and Thirty-Eighth Annual Report of the State Board of Missions

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the one hundred and thirty-eighth annual report of the State Board of Missions to the Florida Baptist State Convention, covering the period of October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

Recomendación 9: Adopción del Informe Anual número ciento treinta y ocho de la Junta de Misiones del Estado

La Junta de Misiones del Estado recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida adopte el informe anual número ciento treinta y ocho de la Junta de Misiones del Estado de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida, cubriendo el periodo del 1ro de octubre del año 2017 hasta el 30 de septiembre del año 2018.

Recommandation 9: Adoption du 138ème Rapport Annuel du Bureau d'Etat des Missions

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que les messagers de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride adoptent le 138ème Rapport Annuel du Bureau d'Etat des Missions de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride couvrant la période du 1er octobre 2017 au 30 septembre 2018.

HAITIAN SEMINARY GRADUATION 2018

While attending seminary can be a struggle for many, the men who graduated from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Haiti this month had to make sacrifices few American students will ever experience.

Many embark on a one or two day journey to attend classes, often leaving behind a family and a job, to work toward their dream of a theological education.

"They come for one week at a time and they sacrifice a lot to make it happen," said John Voltaire, Haitian Church Catalyst for the Florida Baptist Convention. "Books are expensive and often they are their family's sole provider. They have to find ways to subsidize that."

The program, in its fifth promotion since it started back in 2004, is a wonderful picture of cooperation and unity as the Florida Baptist Convention, the Florida Baptist Haitian Fellowship and the Confraternite Missionnaire Baptiste d'Haiti partner together with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to bring theological education to the pastors of Haiti. At its recent meeting, the State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist Convention voted to renew the Convention's partnership with the Confraternite Missionnaire Baptiste d'Haiti as a result of the many lives that have been positively affected through the relationship.

Myles Dowdy, lead Catalyst for Missions and Ministry at the Convention, said the goal is to raise up Haitian church leaders who have a solid theological education, eventually empowering them to educate other Haitian Baptist leaders.

"We are honored to work alongside our Haitian brothers as they carry out the work that God has for them to do," Dowdy said.

The graduation was attended by students and their families and delegates from around the country, about 1,000 people in all.



Voltaire said the theological education these Haitian Baptist church leaders receive makes a huge difference in their ability to do ministry.

"For them to go and get a degree from a renowned theological school like New Orleans gives them respect and credibility and more theological tools to do ministry in their churches," Voltaire said.

This year the Convention was pleased to be able to give each graduate a study bible.

"Of all the things we could have given them, that will be with them for the rest of their ministry," Dowdy said. "They will use it to teach and preach from and grow in their personal lives."

Voltaire is deeply appreciative of the support of Tommy Green, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, as well as the support and leadership from Dowdy. Together with their Haitian ministry partners, Florida Baptists are making eternal differences in the lives of the people of Haiti.

By Nicole Kalil, Florida Baptist Convention, September 11, 2018

SUMMIT CHURCH SERVES THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On July 14th 11 men and women from Summit Church in Fort Myers traveled to the Dominican Republic to serve alongside our partner LoveServes and El Refugio church in Haina.

In the week leading up to the trip we planned to do basketball and volleyball camps, VBS for children, construction, and men's and women's outreach events. However, just days before we arrived, Hurricane Beryl sent heavy rains into the community causing flash flooding and destruction throughout the city.

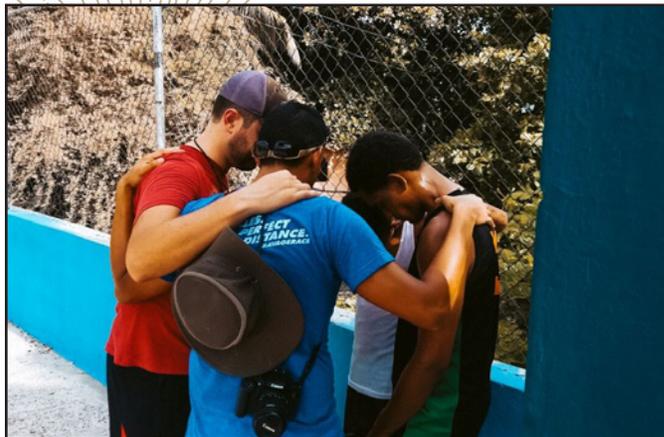
Once in the Dominican Republic, the pastor of the El Refugio's fifth campus (there are 6 total campuses in Haina) greeted us and walked us through the streets so that we could assess the damage. Walking the streets we saw debris-covered cars that had been completely submerged, ruined furniture and household items brought to the street side to be thrown away. At the church building the pastor described how equipment was stacked on top of itself to salvage what they could.

These people who already live in extreme poverty lost everything. Our job for the next several days would be clean-up and salvage work alongside the church's men and women. We shoveled leftover mud, debris, garbage, and discarded items into a dump truck that rumbled down the main stretch of Quinto Sueno where the church is located. While we worked, we met men and women who were picking up the pieces and didn't have access to relief. There were real moments of pain and sorrow as we prayed with them.

We were thankful to see the church step into the gap and, with a smile and a helping hand, support their community in the name of Jesus.



A missions team from Summit Church partnered with a church in the Dominican Republic to serve in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.



One particular day, a group of us took to the streets to pray with the families of the community and met a man named Jose, his wife and three children as well as his sister and mother. They were all living in one home, sharing beds, each suffering from some form of ailment or injury. We shared the hope of Christ, prayed for the family and invited him to a men's gathering at the church.

Despite the devastation there was a large turnout to the men's and women's ministry events. Jose showed up looking weary and burdened. It was that night that one of the pastors on the team shared the heart of God for men:

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
Galatians 2:20

After hearing this, Jose gave his life to the Lord, declared that Jesus is Lord and confessed his sins to Him. The pastor connected with Jose and shared his heart for the community and his desire for Jose to join the church family.

Jose showed up to the meeting in desperation but he was the perfect picture of who Jesus wants us to be. In a moment, everything we hold dear can be taken away, and we will be faced with the reality that all we truly have in this life is Christ.

It was sobering for all of us on the trip to realize the blessing that it is to know Christ. Our lives have been crucified with Christ, and its no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us! We are so grateful for those of you who prayed for our trip! The love of Christ was tangibly demonstrated, the gospel was proclaimed and God was glorified!

By Evan Lemkuil, Summit Church, August 15, 2018



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

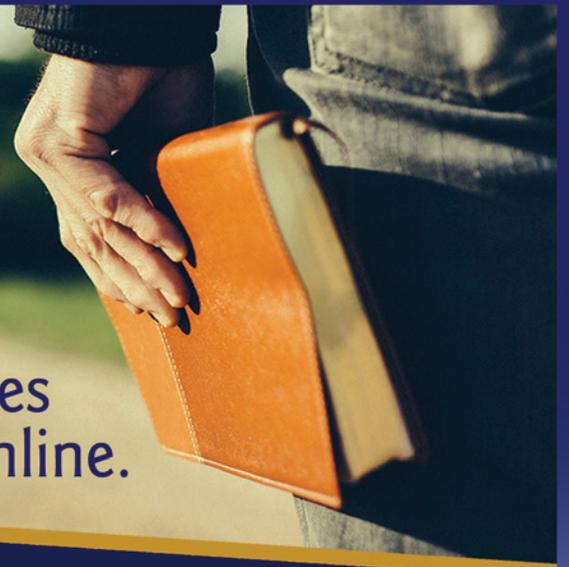
P.O. Box 95, Graceville, FL 32440 | Phone: 1-850-360-4179

Email Don Hepburn: Society1@FloridaBaptistHistory.org | Email Penny Baumgardner: Society2@FloridaBaptistHistory.org

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COOPERATING MINISTRIES The Baptist College of Florida

THOMAS A. KINCHEN, Ph.D.
President

The Baptist College of Florida is an institution of Christian higher education 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, full degree programs, and dual enrollment 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 accredited academic credentials, impeccable character, church leadership experience and significant field experience. The 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-one 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 designated to lead to direct ministerial service or graduate study. A high percentage of our graduates go into graduate school programs or into their chosen field of service.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017-2018:

- Conducted fourth Elevate music and worship arts camp.
- College continued renovation and expansion of the ninety acre Blue Springs Baptist Conference Center property as an addition to the campus.
- College completed 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 completed construction of a Teacher Education Center on the Graceville campus.

Recognitions Received by the College

- Recognized in seven categories for offering outstanding online learning options - Affordable Colleges Online (2018-2019)
- 2018 Top Online Christian Colleges (13th) and 2018 Most Affordable Online Christian Colleges (23rd) – SR Ed Group
- National Rankings, BA in Psychology (3rd), BA English (3rd), BA History (5th) for the Most Affordable Online Choice – SR Ed Group
- Ranked 14th as one of the College Atlas 2018 Best Christian Colleges
- Recognized as one of the most accessible online bachelor's programs by Best Counseling Degree
- Sixth year making the Best Value College Rankings
- Ranked one of the best online Associate Degree programs by TheBestSchools.org
- Featured as one of the best BA in Elementary Ed degree programs on TheBestSchools.org choice for 2018
- One of the lowest average student debt figures in the entire country, in addition to one of the lowest private school averages
- One of the Top Private Colleges & Universities in Florida Trend – June 2018
- 2018 Top Online College Rankings (3rd)

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 71st 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, 2018 Florida Baptist Financial Services companies totaled over \$202.1 million dollars entrusted under management. The Florida Baptist Foundation managed investments totaling \$78.1 million and the Church Growth Investment Fund managed deposits/loans totaling \$124.0 million.
- Over the past 15 years; Florida Baptist Foundation has distributed over \$24.9 million in distributions of earnings from charitable trust funds to Florida Baptist and Southern Baptist causes during the years 2003-2017. This is another reason that sets us apart.
- As of August 31, 2018, Church Growth Investment Fund had net assets in the fund totaling approximately \$124.0 million dollars.
- Church Growth Investment Fund and Florida Baptist Foundation have advanced approximately \$195 million in loans to our Florida Baptist Churches.
- Each year we undergo extensive outside audits from Independent Accounting firms. For 2017, 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 Children's Homes

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

Earlier this year, a news outlet published a story about one of our foster parents, Shannon Colavecchio, who wrote an article about the first 97 days of the first child in her care.

This amazing new foster mom lovingly called the little girl in her care Princess Pigtales who "was 3 ½ and wandering the streets of her small town alone, half a mile from her home while no one back home even noticed she was gone." When the girl arrived at Shannon's home, the girl had an infestation of lice and needed the love and attention of a parent.

Shannon's 97-day journey with Princess Pigtales was woven with challenges and joys. It was filled with grace, and it involved Shannon sharing Christ's love every day.

Shannon said, "My biggest prayer is that the seeds of what [Princess Pigtales] has been given by our church family these past three months will remain with her no matter what."

Shannon's journey with this little girl ended when Princess Pigtales was reunited with her biological family, living with her grandmother and sister. In the end, 97 days was long enough for Shannon's life to change for the better because of foster care through Florida Baptist Children's Homes, while "Princess Pigtales" was introduced to the unfailing, perfect love of God.

Every day, churches, foster parents and volunteers are making it possible for children just like Princess Pigtales to know stability and safety, as well as the unconditional love of Christ! Thank you, churches, for taking care of Florida's most vulnerable children.

In these pages, you will read how, through God's grace, Florida Baptist Children's Homes and One More Child impacted more than 218,000 children and individuals over the course of one year. However, we would do it all again for one more child like Princess Pigtales to hear the Good News and live with Him for all eternity!

Thank you for your partnership for children. **"I thank my god every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3**

OUR MINISTRIES:

Florida Baptist Children's Homes and One More Child 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, 2017 TO AUGUST 31, 2018:

- During this reporting period, **Florida Baptist Children's Homes and One More Child** had the privilege of impacting a total of **218,752 children and individuals** in the loving and life-changing name of Christ!
- We are welcoming hope into the lives of children and individuals at **55 ministry sites locally and globally in 13 countries.**

- We provided **more than 7 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 heard about Jesus.
- Our volunteers gave a total of **87,568 hours** of their time - the equivalent of **3,648 days** of providing hope for one more child!
- Domestically, a total of **223,772 days of childcare** were provided. God's people also generously gave more than just their time as we received **324,000 donations** of household items.
- Last fall, we conducted our sixth annual diaper drive and were able to collect **more than 667,000 diapers** to help defray childcare costs for our foster parents in Florida as well as the Malnutrition Center in Guatemala.
- We served **1,323 children** in foster care through our licensed homes. Also, **179 children** were served in residential care along with **90 children** in our emergency shelters.
- We impacted **80,803 individuals** through advocacy, training and awareness. **More than 3,600 of those individuals** were impacted through our **Sanctity of Human Life** program.
- **Our Anti-Trafficking program** continues to provide outstanding services as **more than 10,000 individuals** were impacted through advocacy, training and awareness. Through this program we provided **1,253 days** of care to victims of child sex trafficking in our safe home. In April, we hosted "Traffick Stop 2018" which included a legislative prayer breakfast, trainings, survivor educational panel and press conference on the steps of the Historic Capitol.
- We continue to meet the needs of single mothers and their children through our **Single Moms** program. We provided **105 single mothers and their children** places to live, spiritual nourishment, mentors and resources to get on paths to self-sufficiency.
- Internationally, we served **123,069 children and individuals** through our global ministries. With the help of **812 participants** through **71 mission trips**, we served more than **1.7 million meals** and provided medical care for **1,729 patients**. Also, thanks to individual and group sponsorships, a total of **252 new children** were sponsored, where this past August we celebrated **8,336 child sponsorships**.

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 2019. Every church that participates will be equipped with tools needed to help make it a success, including: videos, 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, VP of Church Engagement and Strategic Operations, 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
- Onemorechild.org



COOPERATING MINISTRIES
Lake Yale Baptist
Conference Center

Don Sawyer
Executive Director

Greetings from Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center! 2018 has been an historic year. We have experienced a record number of guests with over 19,000 in attendance representing over 200 various groups. This summer Lake Yale hosted over 20 youth and children's camps with over 4,000 in attendance. During the camps a record number of decisions were reported:

- 434 First time decisions
- 290 Rededications
- 267 Surrendered to full time Christian ministry
-
- 991 Total number of decisions

Lake Yale continues to have a very strong volunteer ministry as well. In 2018 over 60 volunteers provided over 11,000 hours of work. The volunteers worked on many projects including repairs and renovations to the facilities, beautification of the grounds, sewing projects as well as assisting us with our Senior Fest and Women's Conference events throughout the year.

For the first time in Lake Yale's 50-year history, on January 1st we began as a Cooperating Ministry of the Florida Baptist Convention. The newly established Lake Yale board has been hard at work throughout the year and has recently approved a new master plan. Many exciting items are included in the plan for future development of the property including additional lodging, a recreation center, additional recreation fields, walking and exercise trails, a new entry road, welcome center, dining room expansion, and a new children's playground area. Also included in the master plan is a Creation Center and trails which will provide Lake Yale with educational opportunities to school and other groups who want to learn about God's creation on our 300 acres and the lake. Additional information about the future plans can be found at our booth during the convention as well as on our website at www.lybcc.com.

Lake Yale is so grateful for your continued prayer and financial support. As you can see it has really made a difference not only in more groups coming to Lake Yale but most importantly to the many lives that have been impacted for Christ. We hope that as you plan your calendar for 2019 you will consider using our center for your church group meetings. Please contact us at 352.483.9800 or e-mail us at lakeyale@lybcc.com if we can assist you and your church in any way.



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.”

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Charitable Gift Annuities
Revocable Living Trusts

Investments

Church Investments
Certificates of Participation
Endowment Accounts

Ministry Financing

Construction Financing
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Church Loans



Florida Baptist
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Endowment Accounts
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GOD MOVES MIGHTILY AT WEST PENSACOLA BAPTIST

These days when Janey Frost considers the concept of revitalization, the journey her church has taken over the last several months is the lens through which she filters the idea.

And what Janey has come to realize is that revitalization involves much more than meets the eye.

West Pensacola Baptist Church, where Janey serves as worship and women's ministry leader, is a small church in a lower socio-economic area. Over the past few years, the church has been in decline and struggled to keep its doors open. As membership and tithes continued to decrease, church leadership knew it was time to embrace revitalization in a very real way. And the Lord provided the church the perfect opportunity to do it – and for His glory to be revealed – through an old run-down metal building.

Janey described the 8,000 sq. ft., metal building as the hub of the church, housing the church office, fellowship hall and kitchen. Over the years, Janey said the building began to sag, shift and sink until one day, they decided to find out just how much it would be to build the structure back up and keep it habitable.



West Pensacola Baptist Church streamlined to have more money for ministry.

"Our insurance wasn't willing to take care of it," she said. "It would take almost \$100,000 to have concrete pumped up under it and that still wouldn't fix everything."

There was no extra money for such a repair and the church decided revitalization would start with making this change. In order to streamline ministry and expenses, they decided to move the office, fellowship hall and kitchen into another smaller building on the property that was used for Sunday school. By getting rid of things they no longer needed, they would have room to fit cozily inside the smaller building and let go of the metal one.

"We've been trying to hang on to the old," she said. "God showed us we needed to make changes for the Kingdom."

Janey said that almost as a joke, they began to ask God to take the building down for free after receiving demolition estimates between \$30,000 – \$50,000.

"It was the perfect storm of horribleness," she said.

Until one day help arrived in the form of a past member who knew of their dilemma and offered a solution. He said he had some



friends who volunteered with Florida Baptist Disaster Relief who might be willing to help disassemble the building. When those volunteers came and sat with church leaders, they immediately jumped on board and demolition began within a week.

That was only the beginning of how God answered their prayer.

A Christian businessman in town saw what was happening at the church and offered to loan them the equipment they needed for free, even coming out to do a little work himself. In exchange, the church allowed him to keep some of the scrap metal and in turn, he gave a donation to the church. That scrap metal went even further because each week as workers turned it in, they would come back with checks for \$100 each time.

"It's been amazing," Janey said. "We know revitalization isn't about construction but God started changing our hearts as we looked at our property as our hearts."

Janey said God has used this long and difficult process to change not only the outward appearance of the church but the inward motivations and desires of its members. She said when they truly got to the place where it was all or nothing, they asked themselves an important question: "Why are we here in this community if it's not to reach these lost people?"

Janey knows there are other small churches around our state faced with similar circumstances and afraid of what may happen next. West Pensacola Baptist has learned that with enough faith, the amount of the resources you have doesn't matter.

"We asked God for the impossible and He's doing it and we know God has us here because He keeps showing up," she said. "God still does impossible things but you have to give him what you have."

"It doesn't have to be enough – He says, 'Give me what you do have and I'll be enough.'"

By Nicole Kalil, Florida Baptist Convention, May 1, 2018



Many volunteers, including Florida Baptist Disaster Relief, pitched in to help West Pensacola Baptist Church.

GOD'S INTERVENTION IN OCALA SCHOOL SHOOTING

First Baptist Church in Ocala was on the frontline, ministering to students, faculty and staff after a gunman opened fire at nearby Forest High School.



One student was injured in the incident, which lasted only minutes.

But the church's connection to the shooting goes beyond being able to provide crisis ministry to students and their families – their pastor's eldest daughter came face to face with the gunman, Sky Bouche.

It was the look of fear in that young woman's eyes that made the shooter put his weapon down, Bouche shared with a local reporter just hours after his arrest.

Darren Gaddis, senior pastor of First Ocala, was on a mission trip in central Asia when he heard about his daughter's experience

and immediately began making arrangements to get back home. He shared with his church Sunday morning that both of his Forest High students were close to disaster as his son was just one hallway away when the single gunshot rang out.

"This would be a very different day if my God had not intervened on behalf of my children," an emotional Gaddis told his church.

Monty Grant, pastor for business administration at the church, helped coordinate the efforts to provide comfort and care in the hours it took for students to be bussed over from the school and reunited with their families. As one of the largest venues in the area, Grant said the church is often used to coordinate a disaster response or emergency. Because many First Ocala students attend Forest and considering the connection with the pastor's family, Grant said everyone, whether they had students at the school or not, was "drawn in." Grant was impressed with the willingness of church members to drop everything and start serving others, especially the students.

"When our students got off the bus, they immediately jumped into action, doing the same things the adults in the room were doing," Grant said.

Gary Townsend, Florida Baptist Convention catalyst for the north region of the state, expressed his gratitude for the hard work and caring support the members of the church showed the faculty, staff and families of Forest High, noting that God's hand of protection was apparent at the school and the church.

The willingness to serve was pervasive throughout the entire community as businesses began calling to see how they could help. Grant noted that several area businesses sent food and water to the church to help keep people comfortable.

Grant said that while everyone is understandably a bit on edge, there was a sense of normalcy among the Forest students he interacted with on Sunday.

"We prayed specifically that there wouldn't be a spirit of fear and that they would be strong for their peers today," he said. "It was happening as early as yesterday."

Grant said while he hopes the church doesn't get a lot of opportunities for the kind of ministry his church participated in on Friday, "it was good to be in a place where we could be used by God that day."

By Nicole Kalil, Florida Baptist Convention, April 23, 2018

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.'

NATHAN BOLES	AUGUST 20, 2018
HOWARD HARPER BUMPERS	NOVEMBER 4, 2017
MANITE CHARLES	APRIL 6, 2018
VICTOR COOPER	AUGUST 27, 2018
THOMAS DAVIS	AUGUST 4, 2018
JAMES LARRY DEMAKOWSKI	JULY 4, 2018
HOWARD BRYANT DICKEY	MARCH 3, 2018
EARL FOSTER	FEBRUARY 10, 2018
EDDIE HUMES	MARCH 22, 2018
LAWSON JOLLY	FEBRUARY 18, 2018
DAVID S MOORE, JR	AUGUST 11, 2018
GREG PENNA	SEPTEMBER 1, 2018
CHARLES PETERSON	MARCH 27, 2018
EZECHIEL PIERRE	FEBRUARY 11, 2018
RONALD POPE	JANUARY 25, 2018
DAVID RODDY	OCTOBER 10, 2018
OWEN SMITH	DECEMBER 22, 2017
ROGER SMYTHERS	JANUARY 27, 2018
HARRY WATKINS	NOVEMBER 28, 2017
JERRY WEAVER	SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

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

FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
 REPORT 2018

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 12-13, 2018. **Additional nominee to fill the vacancy (noted with underline in the column “Nominees for Election”) will be presented during the convention.**

Persons listed in the column “Nominees for Election” are **being recommended by the Committee on Nominations for election by the state convention.** Names listed in the shaded areas are for information only. These members are currently serving and are not subject to action by the convention in the year 2018.

STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS (99 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 12,000 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) (17-20)			
Big Lake (1)	Rick Giles (ord) (17-20)			
Black Creek (2)	Timothy Martin (ord) (16-19)	Matthew Swain (ord)	2018-2021	16-18
Brevard (2)	Lynne Phillips (lay) (17-20) Bob Wilson (ord) (17-19)			
Chipola (1)	Grady Gambill (lay) (16-19)			
Emerald Coast (2)		Rod Martin (lay) Steven Davies (ord)	2018-2021 2018-2020	15-18 09-12; 12-15
Florida (3)	Stella Cottrell (lay) (16-19)	Trent Gann (ord) Funmi Ojetayo (lay)	2018-2021 2018-2020	15-18 None
Florida Keys (1)	Charles Rosenbalm (ord) (17-19)			
Gadsden County (1)	David Warr (ord) (17-19)			
Greater Orlando (6)	Maria Monroe (lay) (16-19) Ron Pierson (lay) (16-19) Karl Fennimore (lay) (17-20) David Schorejs (ord) (17-20)	David Crowe (ord) Lecio Dornas (ord)	2018-2021 2018-2021	None None
Gulf Stream (6)	Guy Ernst Phillipi (lay) (17-20)	Danny Slavich (ord) Garfield Francis (lay) Eddie Bevill (ord) Joel Lamour (ord) Jerome Symonette (ord)	2018-2021 2018-2021 2018-19 2018-19 2018-19	16-18 None None None None
Halifax (1)	Kenneth Parker (lay) (16-19)			
Harmony (1)		Tom Keisler (ord)	2018-2021	15-18
Holmes (1)		Freddie McIntosh (lay)	2018-2020	None

Association	Board Members Continuing Service (Term)	Nominees for Election	Term	Previous Term(s)
Jacksonville (7)	Anna Guy (lay) (16-19) Elijah Simmons (ord) (17-20) David Tarkington (ord) (17-20)	Jim Davis (lay) Orvin Feliciano (ord) John Shultz (ord) Jim Parrish (lay)	2018-2021 2018-2021 2018-2021 2018-2019	16-18 None None None
Lafayette (1)		Al Paulson, Jr. (ord)	2018-2021	None
Lake County (2)	Josh Gussler (lay) (17-20)	Tommy Leathers (lay)	2018-2021	17-18
Manatee Southern (2)		Phillip Hamm (ord) Susan Bassler (lay)	2018-2021 2018-2019	None None
Marion (2)	Chris Spears (lay) (17-20)	Alan Cotney (ord)	2018-2021	15-18
Miami (5)	Noel Lozano (ord) (16-19) Lourdes Fernandez (lay) (17-20)	Wadler Jules (ord) James Melton, Jr. (lay) Alberto Ocana (ord)	2018-2021 2018-2021 2018-2019	17-18 None None
Middle Florida (1)		Brooke Barrs (lay)	2018-2019	None
Nature Coast (1)		Garry McCray (lay)	2018-2021	16-18
New River (1)	Scott Stanland (ord) (17-19)			
North Central FL (2)	Patrick Inglett (lay) (16-19) David Chauncey (ord) (17-20)			
North Florida (1)	Terry Elixson (ord) (17-20)			
Northeast Florida (2)	Steve Simmons (lay) (16-19)	Adam Page (ord)	2018-2021	None
Northwest Coast (2)	Carl Fondren (ord) (17-20)	David Flatt (ord)	2018-2021	None
Okaloosa (1)	Tadd Anderson (ord) (17-20)			
Orange Blossom (1)	Mitchell Landress (ord) (17-20)			
Palm Beach (3)	Beverly Bonner (ch staff) (16-19)	Travis Laney (ord) Freslaine St. Louis (lay)	2018-2021 2018-2020	16-18 None
Pasco (1)		Teresa Juarbe (lay)	2017-2018	None
Peace River (1)		Ron Tipton (ord)	2018-2021	15-18
Pensacola Bay (4)	Christina Vargas (lay) (17-20)	Nathan Brown (ord) Brian Calhoun (ord) Ted Traylor (ord)	2018-2021 2018-2021 2018-2019	None None 08-11; 11-14
Ridge (1)	Linda Maiden (lay) (17-20)			
Royal Palm (3)	Todd Stearns (ord) (16-19) Timothy Pigg (ord) (17-20)	Paula Butler (lay)	2018-2021	None
St. Johns River (2)	Asa Greear (ord) (16-19)	Benjamin Rodda (lay)	2018-2021	15-18

Association	Board Members Continuing Service (Term)	Nominees for Election	Term	Previous Term(s)
Santa Rosa (2)	Michael Wiggins (ord) (16-19) James Welch (lay) (17-20)			
Seminole (2)	Glenn Rogers (ord) (17-20) Charlie Higgins (ord) (17-19)			
Shiloh (2)	Joe Carter (lay) (16-19) Brian Stowe (ord) (17-20)			
South Florida (2)	Matt Gilmore (ord) (16-19) Wayne Roberts (ord) (17-20)			
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) (17-20)			
Suwannee (1)	Shawn Johnson (ord) (16-19)			
Tampa Bay (7)	Ralph Alderman (lay) (16-19) Paul Purvis (ord) (16-19) Chester Gunn (lay) (17-20)	Mike Kahn (ord) Elbert Nasworthy (ord) Bobby Patton (ord) Johnny Boatwright (lay)	2018-2021 2018-2021 2018-2021 2018-2020	15-18 15-18 16-18 None
Taylor (1)		Steven Ruff (ord)	2018-2021	None
Treasure Coast (1)	Robert Neiman (ord) (17-20)			
Walton County (1)		Timothy Francis (lay)	2018-2021	17-18
West Florida (1)	Michael Orr (ord) (16-19)			

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS (9 members)

Nominees for Election (3)	Term	Previous Term(s)
Daniel Deig, New Smyrna Beach (ord)	2018-2021	None
Kevin Mays, Land O'Lakes (ord)	2018-2021	None
James Ross, Niceville (ord)	2018-2021	None

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

Committee Members Continuing Service (6)

Hal Kitchings, St. Petersburg (ord) (16-19)	Dan Glenn, DeLand (ord) (17-20)
Jeff Lehman, Kissimmee (ord) (16-19)	Stan Lewis, Pensacola (ord) (17-20)
Boyd Bunting, Panama City (lay) (17-19)	Richard Stewart, Tallahassee (ord) (17-20)

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES (24 members)

Nominees for Election (9)	Term	Previous Term(s)
Susan Krause, Wauchula (lay)	2018-2021	17-18
Robert McNorton, Pensacola (lay)	2018-2021	17-18
Cliff Lea, Leesburg (ord)	2018-2021	15-18
Diane Strack, Orlando (lay)	2018-2021	16-18
Kim Wilbanks, Lakeland (lay)	2018-2021	16-18
Sherri Martin, Destin (lay)	2018-2021	None
Ken Whitten, Lutz (ord)	2018-2021	None
Sam Rainer, Bradenton (ord)	2018-2021	None
	2018-2020	

Trustees Continuing Service (15)

Bobby Musselwhite, Milton (ord) (16-19)	Patricia Davis, Lake City (lay) (17-20)
Stephanie Orr, Chipley (lay) (16-19)	William Hild, Sarasota (ord) (17-20)
Melody Scott, Live Oak (lay) (16-19)	Spike Hogan, Jacksonville (ord) (17-20)
Lanelle Pickett, Lakeland (ord) (17-19)	Sheri Jamieson, Mt. Dora (lay) (17-20)
Dale Terjung, Brandon (lay) (16-19)	Ron Locke, Gainesville (lay) (17-20)
Daniel Walker, Plant City (lay) (16-19)	Phillip Nation, Palmetto (ord) (17-20)
Janet Wicker, Naples (lay) (16-19)	David Wilkins, Tallahassee (lay) (17-20)
Justin Wyatt, Crestview (ord) (16-19)	

FLORIDA BAPTIST FINANCIAL SERVICES (21 members)

Nominees for Election (7)	Term	Previous Term(s)
Niel Hampton, Callahan (lay)	2018-2021	10-13; 17-18
John Bozard, Orlando (lay)	2018-2021	15-18
Perry Hodges, Fort Lauderdale (lay)	2018-2021	15-18
Harvey Webb, Vero Beach (ord)	2018-2021	15-18
Linda Anderson, Jacksonville (lay)	2018-2021	11-14; 14-17
Nayra Montanez, Oviedo (lay)	2018-2021	11-14; 14-17
Richard Young, Jasper (lay)	2018-2021	11-14; 14-17

Directors Continuing Service (14)

Rudie Guda, Panama City Beach (ord) (17-20)	Robert Bray, Port Charlotte (lay) (16-19)
John Clifford Huxton, Miami (lay) (17-20)	Albert Byrd, Jacksonville (ord) (16-19)
Gary Linton, Tallahassee (ord) (17-20)	Clell Coleman, Davie (ord) (16-19)
Harold McNeil, Jacksonville (lay) (17-20)	Donald Cooley, Jacksonville (ord) (16-19)
Timothy Russell, Lake City (lay) (17-20)	Robert Gramley, DeFuniak Springs (lay) (16-19)
Allison Scott, Live Oak (lay) (17-20)	Pam Hitt, Live Oak (lay) (16-19)
Lester Wilkinson, Port Orange (ord) (17-20)	Archie Jackson, Green Cove Springs (ord) (16-19)

THE BAPTIST COLLEGE OF FLORIDA (25 members)

Nominees for Election (8)	Term	Previous Term(s)
Otto Fernandez, Miami (ord)	2018-2021	17-18
Joe Butler, Wauchula (ord)	2018-2021	None
Shelley Chandler, Bonifay (ord)	2018-2021	None
Ronald Gainey, Bryceville (lay)	2018-2021	None
Daniel Hewett, Marianna (lay)	2018-2021	None
Michael Kennedy, Parrish (ord)	2018-2021	None
Jeffery Stading, Perry (ord)	2018-2021	None
Heath Woolman, Kissimmee (ord)	2018-2021	None

Trustees Continuing Service (17)

Fran Carlton, Apopka (lay) (16-19)	R. C. Mills, Jacksonville (lay) (17-20)
Sarah Clemmons, Marianna (lay) (16-19)	Ron Burks, Bartow (ord) (17-20)
Alfred Guettler, Chipley (lay) (ord) (16-19)	Calvin Carr, Gainesville (ord) (17-20)
Rich Kincl, Tallahassee (ord) (16-19)	Mark Johnson, Panama City (lay) (17-20)
Timothy Maynard, Jacksonville (ord) (16-19)	Dan Mauldin, Gainesville (lay) (17-20)
Douglas Nellums, Pensacola (lay) (16-19)	Mark Mercer, Panama City (lay) (17-20)
Marvin Pittman, Bartow (lay) (16-19)	Michael Tatem, Lake City (ord) (17-20)
Ronny Raines, Bradfordville (ord) (16-19)	Gary Yeldell, Keystone Heights (lay) (17-20)
Lawrence Taylor, Leesburg (lay) (16-19)	

LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER (9 members)

Nominees for Election (4)	Term	Previous Term(s)
Eric Blamick, Eustis (lay)	2018-2021	17-18
Kent Merrill, Umatilla (lay)	2018-2021	None
Donald Miller, Leesburg (ord)	2018-2021	None
Alberto Ocana, Miami Lakes (lay)	2018-2020	None

Trustees Continuing Service (5)

Charles Roesel, Leesburg (ord) (17-19)	David Burton, Middleburg (ord) (17-20)
Mike Ballard, Apopka (ord) (17-19)	Joel Griffing, Howey-in-the-Hills (lay) (17-20)
Donna Perman, Eustis (ch staff) (17-19)	

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, Lake Port	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	*Latonya Libert, Marianna	Palm Beach	*Julie Thomas, Delray Beach
Emerald Coast	*Frank Moore, Destin	Pasco	Russell Guynn, Zephyrhills
Florida	Ronny Raines, Bradfordville, <i>Chair</i>	Peace River	*Deborah Spurgeon, Arcadia
Florida Keys	Charles Rosenbalm, Key Largo	Pensacola Bay	Doug Kimsal, Pensacola
Gadsden County	Douglas Harris, Quincy	Ridge	Dennis Kirkland, Lake Alfred
Greater Orlando	*Alan Hair, Orlando	Royal Palm	Chris Butler, Naples
Gulf Stream	*Adrian Roman, Plantation	St. Johns River	*Hannahlee Goedelman, St. Augustine
Halifax	*Ken Parker, Port Orange	Santa Rosa	Justin Gambrell, Milton
Harmony	Stephen Ahrens, Trenton	Seminole	*Nicki Glenn, DeLand
Holmes	Mike Browning, Bonifay	Shiloh	Maxie Miller, Plant City
Jacksonville	<i>Member resigned</i>	South Florida	*Mary Wood, Lakeland
Lafayette	<i>Member resigned</i>	Southwest Florida	<i>Member resigned</i>
Lake County	Cliff Lea, Leesburg	Sumter	<i>Member resigned</i>
Manatee Southern	Michael Kennedy, Parrish	Suncoast	*Kellie Kitchings, St. Petersburg
Marion	*Matthew Files, Ocala	Suwannee	Phillip Herrington, Live Oak
Miami	Ivan Figueroa, Miami	Tampa Bay	Ed Hancock, Brandon
Middle Florida	Christopher Roth, Madison	Taylor	Jeff Stading, Perry
Nature Coast	LaVaughn McNary, Tarpon Springs	Treasure Coast	Tim O'Carroll, Ft. Pierce
New River	*Lucinda Stern, Starke	Walton County	*Gloria Dillard, Panama City Beach
North Central Florida	*Donna Jordan, Waldo	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

*Ralph Alderman, Tampa, 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

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS THE MISSION FIELD

As the Florida Baptist Convention begins the Write Beside You initiative to help churches partner with local schools, one Florida Baptist church has already been making inroads with the schools in its community.



First Baptist Church in Kissimmee has been serving the schools within walking distance of them for the last six years. This year they launched 'Serve the City: School Edition' to take their service to the next level.

Tim Wilder, senior pastor of FBC Kissimmee, said it all started when an area school called them asking for help. The school said they needed mentors so the church started sending people to speak into the lives of students. Wilder said once other schools found out, they started asking for help as well. Today they partner with six schools within walking distance of the church.

Wilder said it's not about going into the schools to preach Christ but about going in to be Christ.

"We go in there to love and serve, not preach and judge," he said. "We let our light shine before men as Scripture says and then we wait for God to open the door."

This week FBC Kissimmee has focused on one school each day, with the goal of impacting 700 teachers and 7,000 students by the end of the week. They have been providing lunches for teachers, washing their cars, cleaning classrooms, laying down much and pressure washing as the staff gets ready to greet kids for the first day of school next week.

Wilder said the situation in Osceola county is desperate, estimating that between 4,000 – 5,000 school children are homeless. In the wake of last year's hurricane season, there are hundreds of new children in the school district in need of help. By being known for stability and consistency in the community, FBC Kissimmee has positioned itself to be a resource for children and families.



FBC Kissimmee has been serving area schools this week as part of their Serve the City: School Edition.

"It's great to have a mission field right here where the need is so great," he said. "We go in and do what we say we're going to do – serve people. When you serve and show love you always get the opportunity to share."

This year FBC Kissimmee will start a bible club on the campus of one of the elementary schools it serves. Wilder hopes they will impact between 90-100 elementary students each week. He said while they don't always get to experience the results of the seeds they plant in the lives of students, faculty and staff, their consistency through the years has been the key to their influence.

Are you interested in finding out more about how to impact the schools in your community or about the Florida Baptist Convention's Write Beside You initiative? [Click here](#) for more information or email Billy Young, FBC's Next Gen catalyst for more information.

By Nicole Kalil, Florida Baptist Convention, August 10, 2018

HURRICANE MICHAEL RECOVERY

Less than a day after Hurricane Michael made landfall in the Florida panhandle as a category 4 hurricane Florida Baptist Disaster Relief (FBDR) was on the move and on the ground bringing hope and relief to those affected.

“We continue to pray for those impacted by Hurricane Michael,” said Tommy Green, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Mark Moore, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Chattahoochee, lost power at home and at his church, which suffered roof damage. Though not catastrophic, repairs are still a financial hardship. The church has been unable to meet for worship since the storm blew through in order to allow displaced families a safe place to stay. Yet the spirit of cooperation that is central to our identity as Southern Baptists is strong in his church as they look after one another, sharing meals, generators and other resources, picking up the pieces and finding a new way forward. “My wife was keeping everyone’s clothes clean, washing them every morning and then hanging them up to dry,” Moore said. “Ladies came and fixed meals on gas grills. Generators at church and my home were able to provide hot showers for the people. We ate meals together every evening when folks came back from their places of work.”

Florida Baptist Disaster Relief’s communication systems have been receiving a constant influx of calls requesting help with downed trees, debris removal, blue tarp set up and directions to feeding centers. Mobile kitchens are up and running across the panhandle serving meals to Hurricane Michael survivors and FBDR volunteers and clean-up crews are working in multiple communities in the area.

“You can support these efforts through giving at flbaptist.org/give. Pray for the hurting and those serving in this critical time of need,” said Green.

We have created an easy way for you to see the churches that have been impacted. At www.flbaptist.org/churcheshelpingchurches you can see the devastation to many of our Florida Baptist churches, some with great needs and some with smaller needs. These churches need help, for the short and long-term.

“I would ask that you pray for all of the churches and communities that have been impacted by the storm,” said Green. “Additionally, it is our desire to see long-term partnerships established with churches in need.”



“Our church-to-church effort is designed to identify a non-storm affected church that is willing to partner with a storm-impacted church to serve as the point of contact for coordinating recovery responses and efforts for that specific church,” said Lewis Miller, West Florida Regional Catalyst.

Churches interested in partnering with a church in need should contact Miller by email at lmiller@flbaptist.org or by phone 352-603-2570.

Florida Baptists will continue to stand by one another and offer hope and healing to devastated families and communities. Through our day volunteer program, many Florida Baptists have come from other parts of the state to work alongside DR teams. More than 500,000 meals have been served and more than \$1.4 million dollars has been given for relief efforts.

“The outpouring of generous compassion from churches all across Florida, and the Southeastern United States has been amazing,” Miller said. “This is how God’s kingdom advances best and impacts the communities where our congregations are located. We are so thankful for the outpouring of DR teams, individuals, and groups of concerned Christians partnering to respond to the mammoth needs of our storm-stricken panhandle.”

Though the financial aspects of the repairs are daunting, Moore said, “the Florida Baptist Convention has come alongside and helped us.”

“I am very grateful for the help that the Florida Baptist Convention has given our church.”

Join the conversation - use hashtag: **#FBSC18**

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