



161st Annual Meeting | 169 Years Since Organization
Year 2022-2023 Convention Guidebook

Held in the facilities of the
IDLEWILD BAPTIST CHURCH
18333 Exciting Idlewild Blvd., Lutz, FL 33548

flbaptist.org



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Welcome to the 161st Annual Meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention. This year, we are blessed to gather in the city that I call home, Tampa. We will celebrate the impact Florida Baptists are making for the Kingdom of God across the panhandle and throughout the peninsula.

The theme for this year's gathering is MANIFEST. In the midst of the cultural chaos of our day, we have one mission: manifest the Kingdom of God. Florida Baptists are doing this every day, across our state, in the name of Jesus.

During our time together, we will celebrate how we have manifested the Kingdom by planting churches. We will thank God for the ways we are manifesting the Kingdom through our cooperating ministries. We will hear first-hand stories of individual Florida Baptists manifesting the Kingdom every day.

We will do all of this in the context of powerful worship, Biblical preaching, meaningful times of prayer, and opportunities to commit ourselves to living for the King.

On a personal note, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve Florida Baptists these last two years. We have something special here. God is at work through Florida Baptists as we continue to stay focused on the main thing. I'm so thankful YOU are getting in on what He is doing, and I'm eternally grateful for the opportunity to join you in His work. I pray this time encourages, inspires, and unites us as we continue to reach Floridians with the life changing message of the gospel.

For the glory of the King,

Paul S. Purvis

President, Florida Baptist State Convention

Bienvenidos a la 161ª Reunión Anual de la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida. Este año tenemos la bendición de reunirnos en la ciudad que llamo mi hogar, Tampa. Celebraremos el impacto que los Bautistas de Florida están haciendo para el Reino de Dios en toda la Florida.

El tema de la reunión de este año es MANIFIESTO. En medio del caos cultural de nuestros días, tenemos una misión: manifestar el Reino de Dios. Los Bautistas de Florida están haciendo esto todos los días, en todo nuestro estado, en el nombre de Jesús.

Durante nuestro tiempo juntos celebraremos cómo hemos manifestado el Reino plantando iglesias. Agradeceremos a Dios por las formas en que estamos manifestando el Reino a través de nuestros ministerios cooperativos. Escucharemos historias individuales de primera mano de Bautistas de Florida que manifiestan el Reino todos los días.

Haremos todo esto en el contexto de una adoración poderosa, predicación bíblica, momentos significativos de oración y oportunidades para comprometernos a vivir para el Rey.

Como una nota personal, quiero agradecerles por la oportunidad de servir a los Bautistas de Florida estos últimos dos años. Tenemos algo especial aquí. Dios está obrando a través de los Bautistas de Florida mientras continuamos enfocados en lo principal. Estoy muy agradecido de que TÚ estés entrando en lo que Él está haciendo, y estoy eternamente agradecido por la oportunidad de unirme a ti en Su obra. Ruego que este tiempo nos anime, inspire y nos una en la medida en que continuamos alcanzando a los Floridianos con el mensaje del evangelio que cambia vidas.

Para la gloria del Rey,
Paul S. Purvis

Byenvini nan 161ème Reyinyon Anyèl Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid. Ane sa a se yon benediksyon pou nou ka rasanble nan vil kote mwen rete a. Nou pral selebre enpak moun Batis Florid yo ap fè sou Wayòm Bondye a nan zòn panhandle lan epi toupatou nan penensil la.

Tèm pou rasanbleman ane sa a se MANIFESTE. Nan mitan problèm kiltirèl nou ye jounen jodi a, nou genyen yon sèl misyon: manifeste Wayòm Bondye a. Batis Florid yo ap fè sa chak jou, toupatou nan eta a, nan non Jezi.

Pandan tan nou ansanm lan nou pral selebre kòman nou te manifeste Wayòm lan nan plante plizyè legliz. Nou ap remèsye Bondye pou divès fason nou ap manifeste Wayòm lan atravè ministè kolaborasyon nou yo. Nou va tandè plizyè istwa ki soti dirèkteman nan bouch moun Batis Florid ki ap manifeste Wayòm lan chak jou.

Nou pral fè tout bagay sa yo pandan nou ap ofri bon adorasyon, predikasyon ki chita sou Labib, bon tan nan lapriyè, epi opòtinite pou nou angaje lavi nou avèk Wa a.

Nan yon nivo pèsònèl, mwen vle remèsye nou pou opòtinite mwen genyen pou sèvi Batis Florid yo pandan de dènye ane sa yo. Sa a se yon bagay espesyal ke nou genyen. Bondye ap travay nan mitan Batis Florid yo pandan nou ap kontinye rete fòkis sou bagay prensipal la. Mwen byen kontan OU ap patisipe nan sa Li ap fè, e mwen kontan anpil pou opòtinite pou jwenn ansanm avèk ou nan travay Li. Mwen priye pou ke tan sa a va ankouraje, enspire, epi ini nou pandan nou ap kontinye touche moun Florid avèk mesaj levanjil kap chanje lavi moun.

Pou glwa Wa a,
Paul S. Purvis



Welcome to the 2023 Florida Baptist Family Gathering. The joy and privilege of joining together for worship, fellowship, and business is a blessing. It is exciting to celebrate all that God is doing through our churches in Florida. Florida Baptist churches set the pace in evangelism, church planting, church revitalization, missions, and generosity for the entire Southern Baptist Convention. I rejoice in the Kingdom ministry of Florida Baptists.

I thank you for the tremendous love, support, prayers, and encouragement to my family. The unique and special relationships of our Florida Baptist Family has been experienced first hand in a very deep manner by my family. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve Florida Baptists and I look forward to the moving of the Lord over these days as we meet.

I pray that our unity in Christ will propel us to even greater days as Florida Baptists!

Tommy Green
Executive Director-Treasurer
Florida Baptist Convention

Bienvenidos a la Reunión Familiar de los Bautista de Florida 2023. El gozo y el privilegio de unirnos para la adoración, el compañerismo y los negocios, es una bendición. Es emocionante el celebrar todo lo que Dios está haciendo a través de nuestras iglesias en Florida. Las iglesias Bautista de Florida marcan el paso en evangelismo, plantación de iglesias, revitalización de iglesias, misiones, y generosidad en toda la Convención Bautista del Sur. Me regocijo en el ministerio del Reino de los Bautistas de Florida.

Les agradezco por el tremendo amor, apoyo, oraciones y aliento a mi familia. Las relaciones únicas y especiales de nuestra Familia Bautista de Florida han sido experimentadas de primera mano de una manera muy profunda por mi familia. Me siento humilde por la oportunidad de servir a los Bautistas de Florida y espero con ansias el mover del Señor durante estos días mientras nos reunimos.

¡Oro para que nuestra unidad en Cristo nos impulse a días aún más grandes como Bautistas de Florida!

Tommy Green

Byenvini nan Rasanbleman Fanmi Batis Florid la pou ane 2023 a. Se yon benediksyon ki ban nou lajwa ak privilèj pou jwenn ansanm nan adorasyon, kamaradri, ak travay. Se yon plezi pou selebre tout sa Bondye ap fè nan mitan legliz nou yo nan Florid. Legliz Batis Florid yo trase ekzanp lan nan evanjelizasyon, plante legliz, revitalize legliz, fè misyon, ak jenewozite pou tout Konvansyon Batis Disid la. Mwen rejwi nan ministè Wayòm Batis Florid yo.

Mwen di ou mèsi pou tout lanmou, sipò, priyè, ak ankourajman pou fanmi mwen. Relasyon espesyal e inik Fanmi Batis Florid yo te touche dirèkteman fanmi mwen nan yon fason ki trè pwofon. Mwen bese byen ba pou opòtinite mwen genyen pou sèvi Batis Florid yo epi mwen ap tann pou wè sa Bondye pral fè nan jou kap vini yo lè nou rankontre.

Mwen priye ke linite nou nan Kris ap rive fè nou wè pi bèl jou kòm Batis Florid yo!

Tommy Green

Join us in Orlando:
February 27, 2024



→ flbaptist.org/challenge-2025



Florida Baptist
Convention

Right Beside You.

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Officers of the Convention

President: Paul Purvis, Tampa
First-Vice President: C. Dwight Woods Sr., Panama City
Second Vice-President: John Bozard, Orlando
Recording Secretary: Janey Frost, Pensacola

Committee on Order of Business

David Chauncey, Gainesville, Chair
Jennifer Gaddis, Ocala, Vice-Chair
Janey Frost, Pensacola
Steven Kyle, Panama City
Samuel Thigpen, St. Augustine
Charles Salem, Quincy
Darrell Reneau, Inverness
Ron Smith, Palatka
Eldaa Roman, Plantation

Committee on Credentials

Chris Coram, Jacksonville, Chair
Brad Gwartney, Deland, Vice-Chair
Peter Burmeister, Pensacola
Shaun Pillay, Pensacola
Danny Heath, Ocala
Kevin Mays, Land O Lakes
Eloy Rodriguez, Lutz

Tellers Committee

Gary McNeal, Chairman, Temple Terrace	Joel Vicente, Tampa
Cleveland Lane, Tampa	Susan Venning, Plant City
Jon Matthews, St. Petersburg	Lecio Dornas, Windermere
Roger Bunner, Tampa	

Convention Meeting Coordination

Convention Manager – Micah Ferguson
Registration/Credentials Coordinator – Lonnie Wright
Communications/News Team – Margaret Colson, Keila Diaz, Michael Duncan, and James Powell
Support Team – Jay Ballard, Helen Doimeadios, Phillip Hanes, Tam Johnson, Katrin Lindo, Allison Martin, Jennie Oswald, Flor Ramirez, Loida Reyes, Scott Stanland, and 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 Committee of the State Board of Missions approved the following procedures for handling a motion of resolution.

1. During the first Miscellaneous Business session, a person introduces his/her motion or resolution by stating the subject. The presiding officer will seek to clarify, if necessary, the intent of the motion/resolution.

2. A written copy of the motion will be brought to the Recording Secretary's desk located at the front edge of the platform.

3. The Committee on Order of Business will set the time for discussion of the motion or resolution. If there is no other miscellaneous business scheduled, the committee could recommend consideration at the time the motion is made.

4. The time for discussion of particular motions/resolutions will be announced by the presiding officer.

5. At the appointed time set by the Committee on Order of Business, the maker of the motion will be permitted to speak to his/her motion/resolution. As a motion/resolution it will be considered by the Convention body, which may choose to debate, amend, table, refer, approve or defeat the recommendation.

6. The presiding officer, in consultation with the parliamentarian, will determine if a motion can be acted upon immediately, rule the motion out of order, or refer it to the Committee on Order of Business.

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

Assistance – First Aid

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

Copyright Notice

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Web Broadcast

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

Closed Caption / Translation

Audio translation is provided in Spanish and Haitian Creole. Closed captioning and text translation is provided in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, French, Hmong, Korean, Vietnamese, Burmese, Thai, and Chinese at www.flbaptist.org/cc

A woman with glasses, wearing a dark blue t-shirt with the 'Send Relief' logo, is walking towards the camera. She is carrying two blue backpacks with yellow straps. In the background, there are other people, including a woman and a child, and a green corrugated metal structure. The scene is set in a rural area with trees and a dirt path.

**Make Send Relief your one-stop
shop for compassion ministry:**
Mission Trips, Training, Giving



SendRelief.org

Connecting Military Families With The Family Of Christ

Relocating with the military can be a stressful time for men, women and children as they navigate a new community, find a home and make friends. The military ministry at Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola seeks to connect with members of the military, encouraging them in Christ.

Naval Air Station Pensacola, known as the home of the Blue Angels, typically employs more than 15,000 military personnel each year. Some arrive in Pensacola as newly enlisted members, and others take part in Naval and Marine Aviation or technical training.

Seeing the need for members of the military to have a family-like connection and a home away from home, Olive began the ministry more than 30 years ago. Whether stationed in Pensacola for three months or three years, military members are often far from their own families and need to be heard, understood and encouraged.

Mike Dimick, military minister and United States Air Force retiree, shared, "It's an opportunity to meet the physical and spiritual needs and to be the hands and feet of Christ as our military men and women face deployment and changes of duty stations. We offer support for their spouses and children as well."

The children of military families can be challenged with leaving friends and getting reestablished in states or even countries far away.

Through connections with other chaplains and churches around the globe, Dimick is able to welcome in and send off military members with contacts, helping them connect in a local church wherever they may be heading.

For those at NAS or Corry Station, a shuttle provides transportation to and from Olive Baptist Warrington campus on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

Darlene Vannigan, head chef at the Warrington campus, and her staff, provide lunch every Sunday, free of charge, for active and reserve members of the military.

The lunch is often a continuation of senior pastor, Ted Traylor's sermon, as Dimick asks attendees to share something they heard in the message that touched their hearts.

Dimick noted, "The military lunch environment creates a perfect setting for members to share stories about their lives, spiritual walks and military training and experience. I believe some of our greatest growth in the church stems from these meals, as many decisions of salvation and baptism have occurred over breaking bread together."

The military men and women enjoy helping with various church ministries and are always ready to jump in and serve.

"Our military members know they are loved, respected and feel highly valued for the contributions they make in the community, city, country and world for Christ," said Dimick.

Other events are hosted throughout the year, including date nights, when church volunteers provide childcare, giving military parents a night out. Dimick and his wife and ministry partner of 50 years, Maria, attend

graduations and promotion ceremonies. The church hosts commissioning ceremonies for those leaving the area, with various military members from all generations laying hands on the departing members' shoulder and praying for them.

The Dimicks hold the ministry close in heart and home with a guesthouse on their property that they use to host military members who need relaxation and recovery or parents and family members visiting for graduations and other occasions. The Dimicks also rent out the guesthouse with portions of the fees going back into ministry for young military families and veterans suffering with PTSD.

The Winston Guesthouse is named after a church member who showed up with a truckload of lumber after hearing Dimick's vision for the space and asked, "Are you ready to start building?"

Dimick recently spent a month in Ukraine on the frontlines with The Warrior's Journey and Reboot Recovery, two organizations that support military personnel who have experienced trauma. "I worked with many who were dealing with refugees and combat trauma in many degrees," stated Dimick. "I was privileged to come alongside and learn, and look forward to starting a Reboot program for those experiencing combat trauma and first responders in our church soon."



By Brooke Mannion, Apr 20, 2023

Program Personnel Directory



John Bozard, second vice-president, Florida Baptist State Convention; member, First Baptist Church, Orlando

Alan Brumback, lead pastor, First Baptist Church, Naples

Aaron Burgner, president, State Board of Missions; and senior pastor, Lakes Church, Lakeland

Paul Chitwood, president, International Mission Board

Clayton Cloer, president, The Baptist College of Florida, Graceville

David Chauncey, chair, committee on order of business; and pastor, Westside Baptist Church, Gainesville

Jim Cymbala, senior pastor, The Brooklyn Tabernacle, New York

Craig Culbreth, appointed parliamentarian, Florida Baptist State Convention

Janey Frost, recording secretary, Florida Baptist State Convention; and church staff member, The Point Church – Jackson Campus, Pensacola

Tommy Green, executive director-treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville

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

Daniel Henderson, founder and president of Strategic Renewal

Mike Kahn, chair, committee on nominations; associational mission strategist, Tampa Bay Baptist Association; and member, Idlewild Baptist Church, Tampa

Larry Mouton, pastor, No Greater Love Baptist Church, Tampa

Andrew Perry, director of worship ministries, Mission Hill Church, Tampa

Paul Purvis, president, Florida Baptist State Convention; lead pastor, Mission Hill Church, Temple Terrace

Rick Wheeler, president, Florida Baptist Financial Services, Jacksonville

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

Dwight Woods Sr., first vice-president, Florida Baptist State Convention; and senior pastor, Family of God Baptist Church, Panama City

Jeff Yant, executive director, Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Leesburg

Florida Baptist Convention Staff Directory



OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-TREASURER

J. Thomas Green, III, Executive Director-Treasurer

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Micah Ferguson, Director

Consulting Communications Editor | Margaret Colson

Technology Services | Lonnie D. Wright, Director

SUPPORT SERVICES GROUP

Stephens L. Baumgardner, Director

Accounting | Charles Staton, Director

REGIONAL and MULTICULTURAL GROUP

West Florida | Lewis Miller

East Florida | Patrick Coats

North Florida | Phillip Herrington

Central Florida | Jeffery L. Singletary

Southwest Florida | R. Wayne Briant

Southeast Florida | Al Fernandez

Hispanic Multicultural Catalyst | Emanuel Roque

Haitian Multicultural Catalyst | John Voltaire

Black/Multicultural Catalyst | Erik Cummings

Asian-American Multicultural Consultant | Pablito Lucas

Music/Worship Consultant | Terry Williams

MISSIONS and MINISTRIES GROUP

Myles Dowdy, Lead Catalyst

Community Ministries | Marcus O. Johnston, Catalyst

Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministries | David Coggins, Catalyst

Migrant Ministries | Misael Castillo, Catalyst

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

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES GROUP

Nathan Schneider, Lead Catalyst

Baptist Campus Ministries

Ben Braly, University of North Florida, Jacksonville Area

Brad Crawford, University of Central Florida, Orlando Area

Quinton Englebright, University of West Florida, Pensacola Area

Andrew Fernandez, University of Miami, Miami Area

Eddie L. Gilley, University of Florida, Gainesville Area

Jay Sanders, University of South Florida, Tampa Area

Barry Sproles, Florida State University, Tallahassee Area

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TEAM

Alejandro Barro, Maintenance, Southeast Regional Center

Jessica Beike, Ministry Assistant

Keila Diaz, Digital Communications Assistant

Helen Doimeadios, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Delicia Garland, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Mike Gilley, Bookkeeper

Madison Handley, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Tam Johnson, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Katrin Lindo, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Allison Martin, Executive Ministry Assistant

Donatha Norde, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Jennie Oswald, Administrative Ministry Assistant

James Powell, Communications Specialist

Flor Ramirez, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Rich Rigdon, Associate Director of Disaster Relief

Loida Reyes, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Richard Shaffner, Maintenance Supervisor, Jacksonville



Monday Afternoon - Session 1

11.13.2023

- 3:00 PM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 3:15 PM **Convention Convenes**
Enrollment of Messengers
Adoption of Program
Introduce Officers
President's Theme Interpretation
- 3:30 PM **Opening Prayer**
- 3:35 PM **Right Beside You: Next Generation**
- 3:50 PM **Evangelical Council for Abuse Prevention Emphasis**
- 3:55 PM **Cooperating Ministry Report - Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center** | Video
- 3:58 PM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 4:08 PM **Biblical Message**
Daniel Henderson, Founder and President of Strategic Renewal
and Global Director of The 6:4 Fellowship
- 4:45 PM **Pastors' Memorial, Session Closing and Prayer**
- 4:50 PM **Dismiss**

Monday Evening - Session 2

11.13.2023

- 6:45 PM **Prelude - Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 7:00 PM **Convention Convenes**
Call to Order | Welcome | Prayer
- 7:06 PM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 7:16 PM **Biblical Message**
Paul Purvis, president, Florida Baptist State Convention;
lead pastor, Mission Hill Church, Temple Terrace
- 7:53 PM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 8:03 PM **Biblical Message**
Jim Cymbala, senior pastor, The Brooklyn Tabernacle, New York
- 8:40 PM **Session Closing and Prayer**
- 8:45 PM **Dismiss**

Tuesday Morning - Session 3

11.14.2023

- 8:45 AM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 9:00 AM **Convention Convenes** | Call to Order | Welcome | Prayer | Veteran's Recognition
- 9:10 AM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 9:18 AM **Biblical Message**
Tommy Green, executive director-treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention
- 9:55 AM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 10:00 AM **Cooperating Ministry Report - Florida Baptist Financial Services** | Video
- 10:03 AM **State Board of Missions Report and Recommendations**
Aaron Burgner, president, State Board of Missions; senior pastor, Lakes Church, Lakeland
- 10:28 AM **Miscellaneous Business**
- 10:33 AM **Election of Officer: President**
- 10:40 AM **Right Beside You: Church Planting**
- 10:50 AM **Cooperating Ministry Report - The Baptist College of Florida** | Video
- 10:53 AM **Election of Officer: First Vice-President**
- 10:58 AM **Committee on Nominations Report** | Mike Kahn, chair
- 11:08 AM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 11:18 AM **Convention Sermon** | Alan Brumback, lead pastor, First Baptist Church, Naples
- 11:55 AM **Session Closing and Prayer**
- 12:00 PM **Dismiss**

Tuesday Afternoon - Session 4

11.14.2023

- 2:00 PM **Convention Convenes** | Call to Order | Welcome | Prayer
- 2:08 PM **Elections of Officers: Second Vice-President and Recording Secretary**
- 2:18 PM **Cooperating Ministry Report - Florida Baptist Children's Homes** | Video
- 2:21 PM **Right Beside You: Missions and Ministries**
- 2:41 PM **IMB Sending Celebration Preview**
- 2:46 PM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 2:58 PM **Biblical Message** | Larry Mouton, pastor, No Greater Love Baptist Church, Tampa
- 3:35 PM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 3:47 PM **Church Revitalization Panel Discussion**
- 4:22 PM **Season of Prayer**
- 4:32 PM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 4:42 PM **Recognition of Officers**
- 4:50 PM **Session Closing and Prayer**
- 4:55 PM **Dismiss**

Tuesday Evening - Session 5

11.14.2023

- 6:45 PM **IMB Sending Celebration** with Florida Worship Choir & Orchestra
Biblical Message | Paul Chitwood, president, International Mission Board

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Taj Mahal in Agra, India. In the foreground, several women are walking down the steps of the monument. They are wearing traditional Indian attire, including colorful saris in shades of red, yellow, and orange, and headscarves. The Taj Mahal's white marble structure and central dome are visible in the background under a clear sky.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST PROBLEM IS LOSTNESS

Today, over 3,000 people groups have no missionary presence and likely have no gospel access. Together, Southern Baptists must bring the gospel to every nation and all people.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

IMB.ORG



**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD**

UF Students Spend Spring Break On Mission In South Sudan

South Sudan in East Africa is not your typical spring break destination for today's college students, but when the opportunity arose to go there on a mission trip, Emma Formet was all in.

So were Parker Boss and Kristian Kolehmainen. All three college students are members of the University of Florida's Baptist Collegiate Ministries in Gainesville.

On this trip they would be working with Empower One, an organization that "empowers local leaders in the hard places of Africa to establish churches among the unreached and under-engaged peoples." On this trip the team would accompany Empower One Director Chad Vandiver to accomplish three tasks:

1. Casting a vision for what a future trip would look like for a full BCM student team during the summer.
2. Supporting current long-term missionaries with evangelizing.
3. Helping facilitate a discipleship conference.

It was in January when the three learned of this trip and answered God's call to go during their spring break in March. Without a lot of time for fundraising, they had to get busy.

"In two weeks, I made about 75 calls and sent out 150 letters. I got on this as quickly as I could," Formet said. "We each raised the \$4,000 before we left in March. It was really cool to see how the Lord worked out the timing."

Of course, when you share that you're going to South Sudan – one of the most impoverished nations in the world – on a mission trip for spring break, it can catch some of your fellow college students off guard, like it did for these three. Some people wondered how dangerous it might be.

"I was aware of safety concerns, but I was not letting that keep me in a spirit of fear," Kolehmainen said. "A young couple, both missionaries from Florida, just had their first kid and are living there. If it's safe enough for them, I figured it was safe enough for us. Overall, I felt safe the whole trip, but I was on my toes the whole time, aware that something could happen."

Formet said talking about the trip beforehand with classmates gave her opportunities to share her faith.

"It was an incredible evangelistic tool," she said. "I would tell them about the purpose of our trip in sharing the gospel and making known the name of Jesus. Like in my Organic Chemistry 2 lab, I got to share the gospel with a whole group of students while we were waiting for one of our reactions to finish. It was so cool."

Door-to-door evangelizing

For the first half of the trip, the team worked with missionaries in the capital city of Juba to do door-to-door



evangelizing and invite people to the local church. The students were thankful for the incredible response with 32 people making decisions for Christ during that two-day period.



"It was just amazing," Boss said. "All the people we reached out to on Saturday were in church on Sunday morning, and it was just wonderful to see the Lord was already at work in hearts and lives there, and we just came alongside and got to see that."

Since South Sudan was originally settled by England, many people there speak English, which made it easy for the team to talk with local residents. Others spoke Arabic, and the team had interpreters to help with translations.

Kolehmainen said he loved seeing how the people were so open and receptive to the gospel. "It's a huge contrast to here in America where most people are aware of Christianity but choose to reject it or not seek it. There, people have already accepted that Christianity is true, but they didn't know how to pursue it."



Scan to read complete story

By David Moore, May 11, 2023

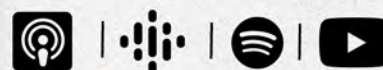
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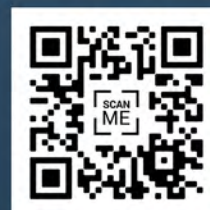
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SENIOR PASTOR,
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH JACKSONVILLE

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STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

J. THOMAS GREEN, III
Executive Director-Treasurer

One Hundred and Forty-Second Annual Report to the Florida Baptist State Convention Lutz, Florida November 13-14, 2023

The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist State Convention respectfully submits this 142nd annual report of the Board to the State Convention. There are 2,757 churches affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention, with a total membership of 774,169.

The State Board of Missions is pleased to present this report to the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in Lutz, Florida, November 13-14, 2023. This report covers the period of October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023.

1. Officers of the State Board of Missions

The 99 members of the State Board of Missions elected the following officers during the meeting of the Board on November 14, 2022, in Pensacola, Florida:

President:	Aaron Burgner, Senior Pastor Lakes Church Lakeland, Florida
Vice-President:	Wadler Jules, Senior Pastor Haitian Emmanuel Baptist Church Miami, Florida
Recording Secretary:	Angel Turbeville, Campus Director Family Church West Palm Beach, Florida

2. Meetings of the State Board of Missions

The State Board of Missions met on the following dates in 2023:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>
January 26, 2023	Videoconference
March 31, 2023	Baptist Building, Jacksonville
August 25, 2023	Baptist Building, Jacksonville

3. Members of the State Board of Missions

State Board of Missions members are assigned to serve on one of four standing committees. The following is a list of board members by committee, noting their current term of service in parenthesis:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Aaron Burgner, Chair (2021-23)
Wadler Jules, Vice-Chair (2021-23)
Eddie Beville (2022-25)
Nathan Brown (2021-24)

Alan Brumback (2022-25)
Erik Cummings (2022-25) (Resigned 3/23)
Steven Davies (2021-23)
Darren Gaddis (2021-24)
*Nicki Glenn (2021-23)
Phillip Hamm (2021-24)
Phillip Herrington (2021-23) (Resigned 3/23)
Jay Huddleston (2021-24)
Thomas Jamieson (2021-24)
Mike Landry (2022-25)
Kevin Lautar (2022-25)
*Lisa Letson (2021-24)
John Marsh (2022-25)
Alberto Ocana (2022-25)
Timothy Pigg (2021-24)
Paul Purvis, President FBSC
Jeff Robinson (2022-25)
Brian Stowe (2021-23)
Adrian Taylor (2022-25)
Zach Terry (2022-25)
David Uth (2021-24)

Ex Officio Non-Voting Member

Angel Turbeville (2022-25), *Recording Secretary,
State Board of Missions*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Darren Gaddis, Chair (2021-24)
Carl Fondren, Vice Chair (2021-23)
*Fabricio Chaves Miranda (2022-23)
Lecio Dornas (2021-23)
Josh Dryer (2022-25)
Terry Elixson (2021-23)
David Flatt (2021-24)
David Gold (2022-25)
Wade Humphries (2022-25)
Charles Jones (2022-25)
Samuel Louis-Jean (2021-24)
Jon Matthews (2022-25)
Brian McDougall (2022-23) (appointed 1/23 to fill vacancy)
*James Parrish (2022-25)
*Cindy Pitts (2022-25)
*Nikisha Roberts (2022-23)
Jonathan Rodriguez (2022-25)
Angel Santiago (2022-25)
David Schorejs (2021-23)
Mike Sellers (2021-23)
John Shultz (2021-24)
Garry Taylor (2021-24)
*Julie Thomas (2022-25)
Angel Turbeville (2022-25)
*Christina Vargas (2021-24)
*Stephanie Williams (2021-24)

DENOMINATIONAL COMMITTEE

Jeff Robinson, Chair (2022-25)
Scott Wilson, Vice Chair (2022-25)
Tadd Anderson (2021-23)
*Susan Bassler (2022-25)
Brian Calhoun (2021-24)
*Carmen Carey (2022-25)
*Crystal Carter (2021-24)
*Carole Eugene (2021-24)
*Timothy Francis (2021-24)
Michael Hornback (2022-25)
Mitchell Landress (2021-23)
*Judson Leverette (2021-24)
Steve Loy (2021-23)
Danny Mann (2021-24)

Scott Markley (2022-25)
 Matt McCraw (2021-24)
 David Rice (2021-24)
 Steven Ruff (2021-23)
 Jonathan Russell (2022-25)
 *Freslaine Saint Louis (2021-23)
 Pierre Gregorie Saint Louis (2022-25)
 Gary Shultz (2022-25)
 Parnell Smith (2022-25)
 Jerome Symonette (2022-25)
 Chet Thomas (2021-23)
 *James Thorpe 2021-23)

LOANS COMMITTEE

John Marsh, Chair (2022-25)
 Doug Watkins, Vice Chair (2022-25)
 Johnny Boatwright (2021-23)
 *Jean Boval (2021-24)
 *Paula Butler (2021-24)
 Myra Campbell (2021-23)
 David Crowe (2021-23)
 Caleb Duncan (2022-25)
 Michael Fox (2021-24)
 *Garfield Francis (2021-23)
 Stephen Gerhart (2021-23)
 *Jessica Klipa 2022-25)
 *Milvian Lema (2022-25)
 Nick Manzie (2021-24)
 *Freddie McIntosh (2021-23)
 *Danyel Moore (2022-25)
 Robert Nieman (Resigned 12/1/2022)
 *Debbie Nelson (2022-25)
 Al Paulson, JR (2021-24)
 *Matthew Piscitelli (2021-24)
 *Tracey Risley (2022-25)
 *Jason Rountree (2022-25)
 *Monica Salem (2022-25)
 *Jeannie Saunders (2022-25)
 *Heather Stevenson (2021-23)
 Bill Tate (2022-25)

*Indicates lay person

**Heather Carlton (11/28/2022) Resigned the board prior to being assigned to a committee

4. Temporary Appointment of State Board of Missions Member

It is the responsibility of the Nomination of Board Committees Committee to name persons to temporarily fill vacancies that occur on the board during the year, provided those vacancies occur prior to May.

Prior to the board meeting in January 2023, the executive director-treasurer was notified of three resignations from the board:

Robbie Neiman, Treasure Coast- Personal Reasons
 Heather Carlton, St. Johns River- Personal Reasons
 Ericka Ludwig, Tampa Bay- Personal Reasons

At the time, and based on the total membership of the board, the Nomination of Board Committees Committee recommended the temporary appointment of one individual.

Brian McDougall, Tampa Bay, 2022-23

The following board members also resigned during the year but were not replaced:

Phillip Herrington, Suwannee- accepted position with FBC
 Erik Cummings, Miami- accepted position with FBC

5. Gifts to World Missions

Gifts to world missions through the Cooperative Program from churches and missions for the period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, totaled \$29,180,689.

Florida Baptists responded well to other mission causes. Designated giving for the period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, totaled \$11,942,782. Designated giving included contributions to the three main mission offerings:

<u>MISSION OFFERING</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, 2022	\$5,685,402
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, 2022	\$2,390,824
Maguire State Mission Offering, 2022	\$939,238

6. 2022 Maguire State Mission Offering Report

The 2022 Maguire State Mission Offering was directed by the State Board of Missions toward the Send Network Florida Initiative. By utilizing the state mission offering to create an additional funding source for church planting, it allows every Florida Baptist church contributing to the Maguire State Mission Offering to be a supporting church of the Send Network Florida church planting partnership between the Florida Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board.

With the close of the Convention's accounting year on December 31, 2022, a total of \$939,238 was received for the year 2022 Maguire State Mission Offering. The 2022 total represented 114 percent of the offering goal of \$820,000. The total number of churches contributing to the offering increased to 504 from the 502 participating the prior year. Additionally, the Challenge 2025 initiative that Dr. Green has outlined for the Florida Baptist Convention sets an annual Maguire State Mission Offering goal of \$1,000,000 by the year 2025. We are encouraged by the continued growth in the annual offering as we reach towards this goal.

7. 2022 Maguire State Mission Offering

On March 31, 2023, the State Board of Missions approved a 2023 Maguire State Mission Offering goal of \$880,000 and again directed 100 percent of the offering be allocated to the Send Network Florida church planting initiative.

8. The Baptist College of Florida

In the year 2022, The Baptist College of Florida received a total of \$1,357,826 from the Florida Baptist Convention:

Cooperative Program	\$1,320,000
Designated Gifts	\$37,826

	\$1,357,826

9. Florida Baptist Children's Homes

During the year 2022, the Florida Baptist Children's Homes received a total of \$1,731,694 from the Florida Baptist Convention:

Cooperative Program	\$912,000
Designated Gifts	\$819,694

	\$1,731,694

10. Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center

During the year 2022, the Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center received a total of \$160,000 from the Florida Baptist Convention:

Cooperative Program	\$160,000
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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 six members, three of which are elected by the State Board of Missions, and three who serve as permanent members: the executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, or his designee; the curator of Florida Baptist History at The Baptist College of Florida; and the secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Historical Society. Other directors serve on a rotating basis.

In the year 2022, the Florida Baptist Historical Society received a budget of \$20,000 from the Florida Baptist Convention.

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

Donald Minshew, Plantation (Resigned December 2022)	Term 2020-2023
Arlene Vause, Sopchoppy	Term 2021-2024
Joel Briedenbaugh, Orlando, <i>Chair</i>	Term 2023-2025
J. Thomas Green, Jacksonville <i>Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention</i>	Permanent Member
Donald S. Hepburn, Jacksonville <i>Secretary-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Historical Society</i>	Permanent Member
Roger Richards, Graceville (Resigned December 2022) <i>Curator of The Baptist Archives, The Baptist College of Florida</i>	Permanent Member

12. 2024 Meetings of the State Board of Missions

On March 31, 2023, the State Board of Missions set the dates and locations for the 2024 board and committee meetings as follows:

February 1, 2024	Videoconference
April 4-5, 2024 (Orientation for new members to be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024)	Baptist Building, Jacksonville
August 29-30, 2024	Baptist Building, Jacksonville
November 11, 2024	Pre-Convention Meeting
November 12, 2024	Organizational Meeting

13. Appointment of Audit Subcommittee

The chairman of the Finance Committee appointed the following persons to serve on the Audit Subcommittee for the year 2023:

Carl Fondren, *Chair*
Wade Humphries
Terry Elixson
Garry Taylor, JR

Ex Officio: Darren Gaddis, Chairman, Finance Committee

14. Report on Florida Baptist Convention Audit

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on August 25, 2023, the board received as information the following report on the Florida Baptist Convention audit for 2022.

The audit of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., for the year ending December 31, 2022, 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 Cooperating Ministry Audits

On August 25, 2023, the State Board of Missions received a report that the Audit Subcommittee of the Finance Committee had examined the audit reports and management letters of the following cooperating ministries of the Florida Baptist Convention:

- (1) The Baptist College of Florida, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
- (2) Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc., January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022
- (3) Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022
- (4) Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc., January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022
- (5) Florida Baptist Foundation, January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

The opinion expressed by the auditors on the financial statements of each of the cooperating ministries 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. Financial Assistance: Loans to Churches

From October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, the State Board of Missions dispersed funds administered by the board for the following church loans:

(1) Cape Canaveral, First	\$24,500
(2) Riverside, Havana	\$35,000
(3) Horizon West Community, Winter Garden	\$40,000
(4) Greater Trinity Baptist Fellowship, Orlando	\$20,000
(5) New Life, Carol City	\$551,033
(6) Eglise Baptiste Bethanie, Fort Lauderdale	\$100,000
(7) Lake Mystic Baptist Church, Bristol	\$150,000
(8) The Point Church, Clearwater	\$100,000
(9) The Journey Church, Boca Raton	\$100,000
(10) Eglise Evangelique Baptiste Philadelphie, Miami	\$100,000
(11) North Hialeah Baptist Church, Hialeah	\$150,000
(12) Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Tallahassee	\$43,650

(13) Bethel Evangelical, Fort Lauderdale	\$100,000
(14) Palm View, First	\$100,000
(15) Sierra Norwood Calvary, Miami Gardens	\$100,000
(16) New Visions Community Church, Lauderhill	\$100,000
(17) Mount Hermon Community, Sunrise	\$100,000
(18) Common Ground, Lake Worth	\$100,000
(19) Harbor, Fleming Island	\$150,000
(20) Betesda, Miami	\$100,000

17. Financial Assistance: Church Planting

Church Planting continues to be a cornerstone focus of the Florida Baptist Convention. The 2023 Cooperative Program budget includes an amount of \$1,000,000.00 designated for church planting. Additionally, during the March 2023 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the board authorized 100 percent of the 2023 Maguire State Mission Offering be allocated to the Send Network Florida Global Fund for ministry to plant churches throughout Florida.

The following list includes the names of the sending churches receiving church planting grants through the Cooperative Program and the Maguire State Mission Offering through the last 12 months:

Sending Church

Arlington Baptist Church - Jacksonville
Avalon Baptist Church - Milton
Bedrock Church Sarasota - Sarasota
Betesda Baptist Church - Miami
Bethany Baptist Church of Miami - Miami
Bethel Evangelical Baptist Church - Fort Lauderdale

Bible Chapel Inc. (AKA) Templo Biblico Bautista - Winter Garden
Calvary Baptist Church - Clearwater

Calvary Haitian Baptist Church - Orange Park
Canaan Hispanic Baptist Church - Fort Lauderdale
Celebration Baptist Church - Tallahassee

Central Baptist Church - Port Saint Lucie
Central Baptist Church - Sanford

Chets Creek Church - Jacksonville
Chinese Baptist Church - Coral Springs
Christ Family Church - Miami
Christ Fellowship Tampa - Tampa

Christ Journey Church - Coral Gables
Church at the Cross - Orlando
Church on Bayshore - Niceville
City Light Church Port Orange - Port Orange
College Road Baptist Church - Ocala

Common Ground Church - Lake Worth
Corinth Baptist Church - Hosford
Cornerstone Baptist Church - Iverness

Cornerstone Miami - Miami
Countryside Baptist Church - Gainesville
Covenant Life Church - Tampa
Cross Creek Country Fellowship - Holt
CrossBridge Baptist Church - Boca Raton
Davis Islands Baptist Church - Tampa
Dayspring Community Church - Apopka
Discovery Church - Fort Pierce
Dover Shores Baptist Church - Orlando
Evangelical Philadelphia Baptist Church - Miami
Faith Community Baptist Church - Miami
Faithbridge Church - Jacksonville

Planted Church

Kush Prayer Ministries
The Point Church, Milton
Con Nosotros
Betesda Church Naples
Eglise Baptiste Canaan
Siloam Evangelical Church of Jesus Christ
Community Garden Church
Iglesia Cristiana Casa de Redención
The Outpost Network
The Church at Channelside
Calvary Clearwater Español
Eglise Baptiste de la Nouvelle Vie
Comunidad Biblica Cristiana
Celebration en Español
Residency in 2023, Planting in 2024 - Planter, Jacobo Reyes
Calvary Baptist Church, Tallahassee
The Bridge Church
Evangelical Church the Witnesses of Jesus-Christ
Restoration Church
Central en Español
Restoration Church
Chets Creek, Burmese Campus
New Hope Brazilian Baptist Church
Christ Family en Español
Christ Fellowship Riverview
Christ Fellowship, Español Campus
Nueva Esperanza
Redemption Orlando
Anchor Church
Shoreline Bible Church
College Road, Dunnellon Campus
College Road in Español, Dunnellon
Common Ground, Boynton Beach, Never Launched
Sumatra Baptist Church
Cross Ridge Church
Cross Ridge Lecanto
Christ in Us
Lakeside Baptist Church, Hawthorne
Covenant Hope Church, St. Petersburg
Covenant Baptist Church
CrossBridge Brazilian Church
Extraordinary Church
GO Church, Kissimmee
Remade Church
Metro Brazilian Baptist
El-Roi Evangelical Baptist Church
Greater Harvest Miami
New Berlin Road Church
Residency in 2023, Planting in 2024 - Planter, Wilmer Zuleta

Family Church Downtown - West Palm Beach

Fellowship Church - Immokalee

Orlando, First

Plant City, First

Apopka, First

Bonifay, First

Kissimmee, First

Pompano Beach, First

Sarasota, First

Winter Haven, First

Callahan, First

Lake Wales, First

Live Oak, First

Melbourne, First

Boulougne, First - Hilliard

Leesburg, First

Orange Park, First

Riverview, First

Tampa, First

Webster, First

Wildwood, First

Daytona Beach, First

Dunnellon, First

Middleburg, First

First Brazilian South Florida - Pompano Beach

First Haitian - Fort Pierce

Fishhawk Fellowship Church - Lithia

Fort Caroline Baptist Church - Jacksonville

Freedom Christian Church - Sarasota

Fruit Cove Baptist Church - St. Johns

Genesis Church - Vero Beach

Good Shepherd Haitian Baptist Church - Lehigh Acres

Grace Alive Church - Orlando

Grace Church - Bonifay

Grace Church - Miami

Grace Community Church - St. Petersburg

Grace Connection Baptist Church - Miami

Grace Fellowship - West Palm Beach

Grace Journey Community Church - Orlando

Grand Island Baptist Church - Grand Island

Haitian Bethesda Baptist Church - Naples

Haitian Fellowship Church - Taramac

Heartland Church - Winter Haven

Hibernia Baptist Church - Fleming Island

Hillside Community Baptist Church - Brooksville

Family Bible Church

Family Church Lake Park

Family Church North Stuart

House to House Community Church

Grace Gathering Church of Boca Raton

Family Church Port St. Lucie

International Bible Church

Iglesia Familiar Sherbrooke (FC)

International Bible Church

Iglesia Familiar PSL

New Beginnings Ministries of Naples

SoChurch

The Branch Community Church

Discovery Life Church

Primera Bautista de Bonifay

Momentum, Lehigh Acres

Cross United Church

Redemption Church Manatee

Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Amanecer

Exchange Church

Conexion Hispana

Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana Live Oak

Mount of Olives Evangelical Baptist Church of Palm Bay

Christ Community Church

5 Eleven, Melbourne

Residency in 2023, Planting in 2024 - Planter, Tristan Shore

LOGO Church

Primera Iglesia Bautista de Leesburg

Lakeside Church

Grace Alive

The Lord is My Shepherd Baptist Church

Connection Baptist Church

New City Church

TruLife Church of Ocala

Family Church Sumter

Iglesia Bautista Dios es Bueno

Faith Fellowship of Ocala

Family Church Green Cove

Brazilian Baptist Church, Delray Beach

IBNU Florida Church

Le Centre d'Adoration de Port St. Lucie

FishHawk Fellowship Church (future campus)

Congregación Cristiana Shalom

One Church at Jax Beach

Freedom in Christ Church

Refuge Church

Abba's House

Christ Center Fellowship of Lehigh Acres

New Visions Community Church

One Family Church

Remnant Church Leesburg

Grace Covenant Church

Faith Church Miami

One Another Ministry

Grace Connection Church, Naranja Campus, French Creole

Grace Connection Church, Naranja Campus, English

Grace Fellowship en Español

Multicultural Outreach

Hometown Baptist Church

Shalom Fraternity Christian Church

Primitive Baptist Church of Broward

New Hope United Christian Ministries

Living Hope Church

Heartland Church, Spanish Campus

Mission City Church

Redeemer Church

Hibernia Hispanic

Mission House Church

Horizon West Community Church - Winter Garden
 House of Mercy Church - North Port
 Idlewild Baptist Church - Lutz
 Iglesia Bautista Agape - Hialeah
 Iglesia Bautista de Kendall - Miami
 Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Westland - Hialeah
 Iglesia Bautista Northside - Hialeah
 Iglesia Bautista Oasis de Amor - Lake Worth
 Iglesia Real - Hollywood

Igreja Batista da Paz aka Peace Baptist Church - Tampa
 Jehovah Shalom Baptist Church - Riviera Beach
 Lake Hill Baptist Church - Orlando
 Lakes Church - Lakeland

Life Springs Baptist Church DBA New Life Baptist Church - Tampa
 Live Oak Baptist Church - Crestview
 Living Truth Church - Pace
 Mandarin Baptist Church - Jacksonville

Metropolitan Baptist Church - Hollywood
 Mi Iglesia - Stuart

Miami Baptist Church At Inc.
 Mission Hill Church - Temple Terrace

New Hope Baptist Church - Zephyrhills
 New Maranatha Evangelical Baptist Church - North Miami
 North Florida Baptist Church - Tallahassee
 North Pointe Church - Lutz
 Norwood Community Church - Jacksonville
 Oak Griner Baptist Church - Ocala
 Olive Baptist Church Inc. - Pensacola
 One Family Church - Apopka
 Orchard Community Church - Lake City
 Palm Springs Baptist Church - Palm Springs

Parkwood Baptist Church - Jacksonville

Point Baptist Church - Pensacola
 Primera Iglesia Bautista De Port St. Lucie
 Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana - Hialeah
 Primera Iglesia Bautista Maranatha - Hialeah
 Providence Church - Ormond Beach
 Providence Road Church - Miami

Redemption Church - Jacksonville
 Remade Church - Port St. Lucie
 Ridge Baptist Association - Winter Haven

River City Baptist Church - Jacksonville

Sarasota Baptist Church - Sarasota
 Sonrise Baptist Church - Englewood
 Southside Baptist Church - Jacksonville

Sweet Home - Miami
 Sweetwater First Baptist Church - Longwood

Horizon West Community Church Portuguese
 Inspiration Church (Slavic)
 Iglesia De Odessa
 Iglesia Jesus Para Todos
 Iglesia Bautista West Doral
 Alive Baptist Church
 Northside Baptist Church
 Iglesia Bautista Oasis De Bendicion
 Iglesia Cristiana Dia De Adoracion
 Igreja Real
 Iglesia Real Ft. Myers
 Igreja Batista De Paz, Palm Springs
 Eglise Baptiste Missionnaire De West Palm Beach
 Lake Hill Baptist Church - Portuguese
 Lakes Church, South Lakeland Campus
 Lakes Church Espanol
 No Greater Love Church
 Connect Church, Crestview
 Living Truth East Milton
 Iglesia Bautista de Mandarin
 Ukrainian Church of Jacksonville
 Living Waters Christian Fellowship
 Iglesia Local
 Mi Iglesia Fort Pierce
 Miami Baptist Church Espanol (West Kendall)
 Mission Hill Church, Lake Carroll Campus, Spanish
 Mission Hill Church, Six Mile Campus
 Congregacion Cristiana Bautista
 Tabernacle Baptiste de Gosen
 Ministerio Hispano en NFL Church
 Favor Church
 Love Gave Church
 Iglesia Bautista Hispana "Ebenezer" de Oak-Griner
 Pensacola Chinese Baptist Church
 Residency in 2023, Planting in 2024 - Planter, Victor Moura
 Orchard Community Church Ocala Campus
 Palm Springs Baptist Church, Spanish Campus
 Palm Springs Baptist Church, Arabic Campus
 Palm Springs, Haitian Campus
 Open Door Biker Church
 Kush Prayer Ministries
 The Point Church, Jackson Street Campus
 La Gran Comision, Medley
 Iglesia Alcance Miami
 Gracia Abundante
 City Light Church, Port Orange
 Grace Church Miami
 Iglesia Comunidad Biblica
 Iglesia Vertical Miami
 Kendall Baptist Church
 Iglesia Bautista De Kendall
 Summit Church of Homestead
 Iglesia Gracia Sobre Gracia
 Camino De Vida
 Residency in 2023, Planting in 2024 - Planter, Jesus Martinez
 Vertical Miami, Hialeah
 Iglesia Rendecion
 Antioch Baptist Church
 Baptist Church of Newborn
 New Jerusalem Haitian Baptist Church
 Hope Church
 Iglesia Bautista River City
 Sarasota Baptist Ministerio Hispano
 Mercy Fellowship of Venice
 Aspire Vietnamese Baptist Church
 AspireUG
 Victory Church
 First Baptist Asian Languages Church

Terrell Baptist Church - Sherrills Ford, NC
The Brook Church - Miami

The Church at Myrtle Lake - Land O' Lakes
The Church at South Lake - Clermont

The City Church - Jacksonville

The District Church - Jacksonville
The Grove Church - Titusville

The Redeemer's Place - Weston
Trinity Baptist Church - Keystone Heights
United Haitian Baptist Church - West Palm Beach
University Baptist Church - Orlando
West Bradenton Baptist Church - Bradenton

Westside Baptist Church - Gainesville

Westside Baptist Church - Jacksonville
Westside Church - Fort Pierce
Westview Baptist Church - Westview
Windermere Ministries (Family Church) - Windermere

Redeemer Church
Reality Church Miami
Radiant City Church
Journey Church
The Grove Church
Village Point Church
TheCity.church, Riverside Campus
TheCity.church At Bartram Park
Dream Church
The Rock Church
Local Church
The Redeemer's Place
Cornerstone Baptist Church
Place of Refuge Church
UBC Bonneville, Spanish Campus
West Bradenton, South Campus
Southside Bautista Iglesia
Hague Baptist Church
Residency in 2023, Planting in 2024 - Planter, Richard Baldwin
Iglesia Bautista Westside
Westside Church, South Beach Campus
Living Waters Christian Fellowship
Family Church, Four Corners Portuguese Campus
Igreja de Familia, Lakeside Brazilian Campus

18. Financial Assistance: Church Revitalization

Church Revitalization grants continue to be a cornerstone focus of the Florida Baptist Convention. The 2023 Cooperative Program budget includes an amount of \$1,100,000.00 designated for church revitalization.

The following list includes churches receiving church revitalization grants through the Cooperative Program during the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023:

Central Region

Celebration, Leesburg
Port Tampa, First
Harvest Baptist Fellowship, Tampa
New Covenant Bible Fellowship, Orlando
Gospel Centered Church, Apopka
Mission Hill Church, Six Mile Campus
Premiere Eglise Baptiste Bethanie D'Orlando, Orlando
New Victory, Tampa
Primera Iglesia Bautista de Mascotte
Union Missionary, Port Richey
Christ Fellowship, Tampa
Favor, Wesley Chapel
North Pointe, Lutz
Four Corners, Davenport
One Way Christian Church, Apopka
Iglesia Bautista La Gracia, Eustis
South Hills, Wimauma
Hernando, First

East Region

Palatka, First
Bunnell, First
Midway Road, Fort Pierce
Debary, First
Terry Parker, Jacksonville
Murray Hill, Jacksonville
Tabernacle Baptist Institutional, Jacksonville
Missionway Community, Jacksonville
Unity Missionary, Jacksonville
Premiere Eglise Baptiste Haitian de Vero Beach, Vero Beach

Discovery, Fort Pierce
South Patrick, Satellite Beach
Calvary Missionary, Palatka
One, Jacksonville Beach
Surfside Community Fellowship, Cocoa
Hastings, First
Chets Creek, North Campus
Jones Road, Jacksonville
Chuluota, First
Clearlake, First
Westside, Bunnell
Mandarin, Jacksonville
Life, Palatka
PIB Hispana de Palm Coast
College Park, Palatka
Blake Memorial, Lake Helen
Atlantic Beach, First
Beautiful Life, Jacksonville
Oceanway, New Smyrna Beach

North Region

Lake Asbury, Green Cove Springs
Calvary, Tallahassee
Victory, Hampton
Anthony, Anthony
Thomas Memorial, Quincy
Pine Grove Baptist Church
Primera Iglesia Bautista de Marion Oaks
Rocky Sink, Live Oak
Countryside, Gainesville
The Cross, Lake City
LOGO, Lawtey

Southeast Region

Restoring Grace Community, Fort Lauderdale
Family, West Palm Beach
Primera Iglesia Bautista Shalom, Miami
Delray Beach, First
Iglesia Bautista Renacer, Key West
Bethel Evangelical, Fort Lauderdale
Trinity, Miami
Immanuel, Fort Lauderdale

Bethel Evangelical, Miami Gardens
 Sheridan Hills, Hollywood
 New Maranatha Evangelical, North Miami
 West Flagler Park, Miami
 Christ Community, Pembroke Pines
 Iglesia Bautista El Faro, Marathon
 Zomi Community, Pompano Beach
 True Vine Missionary, Miami
 Coral Villa, Miami
 Shammah, Port St. Lucie
 Lauderhill, Lauderhill
 Victory Life, Plantation
 McCall Hispanic, Miami
 New Dawn, Hialeah

Southwest Region

Fraternity Baptist, Lehigh Acres
 Emmanuel, Parrish
 New Hope, Wauchula
 Everglades City, First
 Beach, Fort Myers Beach
 Lehigh Acres, First
 Colonial Oaks, Sarasota
 Bowling Green, First
 Oakview, Okeechobee
 Oak Grove, Wauchula
 Florida Avenue, Avon Park
 Clewiston, First

West Region

Point, Pensacola
 Mosaic, Crestview
 Santa Rosa Baptist Association, Milton
 5 Bridges Church, Panama City Beach
 Fellowship, Apalachicola
 Hiland Park, Panama City
 Milligan, First
 Northside, Ponce De Leon
 Bonifay, First
 Greater Little Rock, Pensacola
 First Korean American, Pensacola
 Navarre, First
 Florosa, Mary Esther
 Eastside, Vernon

19. Pastor's Financial Assistance Program

The convention has a history of coming alongside pastors to assist with specific challenges. This pattern recognizes that when the pastor of a church is facing a struggle, many times, the church is too. During regular meetings of the State Board of Missions, the board received as information:

Between the dates of October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, \$112,301.24 was provided to assist 247 pastors.

20. Report on Closed, Disbanded and Disfellowshipped Churches

During regular meetings of the State Board of Missions, the board received as information the following list of churches that have left fellowship with the Florida Baptist State Convention between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Community of Hope, Jacksonville	10/18/2022	Never started
Bethlehem, Lake City	10/24/2022	Unaffiliated
Central, Cross City	10/24/2022	Unaffiliated
Northwest, Bradenton	10/28/2022	Unaffiliated

Faith, Madison	11/03/2022	Disbanded
Paran, Grandin	11/03/2022	Unaffiliated
King Street, Cocoa	12/07/2022	Unaffiliated
Ochwilla, Hawthorne	12/12/2022	Merged
Clay Community, Orange Park	12/14/2022	Disbanded
Oak Harbor, Atlantic Beach	12/15/2022	Merged
Peaceful Assurance, Marianna	01/17/2023	Disbanded
Remnant, Leesburg	01/13/2023	Merged
Kings Cross, Santa Rosa Beach	01/19/2023	Disbanded
New Heights, Bahamas	01/23/2023	Disbanded
Shema Israel Messianic, Miami	01/20/2023	Disbanded
South Point, Tallahassee	01/24/2023	Disbanded
New Beginnings Community, Boynton Beach	01/25/2023	Disbanded
Soldado De Jesus Cristo, Hialeah	01/23/2023	Disbanded
Allapattah, Miami	01/23/2023	Disbanded
Primera Iglesia Bautista de West Pines	01/30/2023	Merged
Iglesia Bautista Grace, Royal Palm Beach	01/30/2023	Disbanded
Bellville Community, Jennings	01/31/2023	Unaffiliated
Forest, Fort McCoy	01/31/2023	Unaffiliated
Good Works, Pensacola	02/01/2023	Disfellowshipped by association
Potential Church, Pensacola	02/01/2023	Disfellowshipped by association
Home Garden, Jacksonville	02/01/2023	Disbanded
Sorrento, First	02/02/2023	Unaffiliated
Oak Grove, Middleburg	02/02/2023	Unaffiliated
Howey, Howey in the Hills	02/02/2023	Disbanded
Iglesia Biblica Bereana, Miami	02/06/2023	Unaffiliated
Christ Risen Community, Palm Bay	02/07/2023	Disbanded
Eben-Ezer Haitian, Pompano	02/09/2023	Disbanded
Restoration Haitian, Pompano Beach	02/09/2023	Disbanded
Trinity, Lauderhill	02/09/2023	Disbanded
Maranatha, Fort Myers	02/09/2023	Disbanded
Avivamiento, Hialeah	02/13/2023	Disbanded
Palm Coast Community, Palm Coast	02/06/2023	Disbanded
Lake Saunders, Mount Dora	02/03/2023	Unaffiliated
Trenton, First	02/15/2023	Unaffiliated
Second Haitian, North Port	02/17/2023	Disbanded
Iglesia Bautista Hispana De Archer Road, Gainesville	02/17/2023	Disbanded
New Faith, Miami	02/21/2023	Disbanded
Ona, Ona	02/14/2023	Disbanded
Alva, First	02/15/2023	Unaffiliated
Braden River, Bradenton	02/14/2023	Disbanded
Vernon, First	02/13/2023	Disbanded
Valley Road, Crestview	02/13/2023	Merged
West Orange, Oakland	02/14/2023	Unaffiliated
Charlie Creek Faith Baptist, Wauchula	02/05/2023	Disbanded
The First Community Haitian, Orlando	02/13/2023	Unaffiliated
Element, Tampa	02/23/2023	Unaffiliated
Hatienne Salem, North Miami	02/23/2023	Unaffiliated
Mt. Hope Fellowship, Opa Locka	02/23/2023	Disbanded
Storehouse Institutional, Miami	02/23/2023	Disbanded
The Well, Miami	02/23/2023	Disbanded
Bethlehem, Bonifay	02/23/2023	Unaffiliated
Pine Forest, Pensacola	02/23/2023	Unaffiliated
Primera Iglesia, Fort Myers	02/16/2023	Disbanded
Shema Israel, Pembroke Pines	02/17/2023	Disbanded
Redeemer Church, Fort Myers	03/02/2023	Disbanded
Faith, Mandarin	03/02/2023	Merged
Riviera Beach, First	03/06/2023	Disbanded
Aviva Iglesia Cristiana, Minneola	03/07/2023	Unaffiliated
Cutler Bay, Hispanic	03/07/2023	Disbanded
Sanibel, Sanibel	03/07/2023	Disbanded
Mt. Calvary, Sarasota	03/07/2023	Unaffiliated
Voz En El Desierto, Cutler Bay	03/08/2023	Disbanded
Bethel Christian, Miami	03/08/2023	Disbanded

Eben-Ezer, North Miami	03/08/2023	Disbanded
Alliance Chretienne en Jesus Christ, North Miami Beach	03/08/2023	Unaffiliated
Lo-Debar, Lehigh Acres	03/09/2023	Unaffiliated
United Family, Carol City	03/13/2023	Unaffiliated
Calvary, Riverview	03/16/2023	Disbanded
Abundant Life Global, Jacksonville	03/21/2023	Disbanded
Korean Hope, Navarre	03/21/2023	Disbanded
Iglesia Bautista Jesucristo	03/23/2023	Disbanded
El Camino Palm Beach Korean, West Palm Beach	03/23/2023	Disbanded
Lighthouse, Orange Springs	04/19/2023	Unaffiliated
West Pensacola, Pensacola	04/26/2023	Merged
Victory Creole, Stuart	04/26/2023	Merged
Lakeside Hawthorne, First	05/23/2023	Disbanded
First Mizo Community, Jacksonville	06/06/2023	Disbanded
North Stuart, Stuart	06/09/2023	Disbanded
Belle Glade, First Hispanic	06/13/2023	Merged
Fresh Start, Jacksonville	06/20/2023	Disbanded
Lake Park, First	06/26/2023	Disbanded
Iglesia Bautista La Cosecha, Okeechobee	07/31/2023	Unaffiliated
First Haitian, Avon Park	08/22/2023	Disfellowshipped by association

21. Appointment of Investment Subcommittee

The Finance 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 Finance Committee appoints an Investment Subcommittee selected from the membership of the Finance Committee. The chairman of the Finance Committee appointed the following persons to serve on the Investment Subcommittee for the year 2023:

James Parrish, *Chair*
David Schorejs
Angel Santiago
Josh Dryer
Mike Sellers

Ex Officio Member: Darren Gaddis, Chair, Finance Committee

The Investment Subcommittee met quarterly during the year and provided reports to the State Board of Missions at their March and August meetings.

22. Setting Spending Rate for Cooperative Program Endowment Fund

On March 31, 2023, the State Board of Missions approved setting a spending rate for 2023 of four percent of the December 31, 2022, balance of the Cooperative Program Endowment Fund. A draw from the endowment fund in the amount of \$168,000 was completed in June 2023 and deposited into the Cooperative Program budget.

23. Allocation of 2022 Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Budget Net Cash Surplus

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on January 26, 2023, the board authorized the transfer of \$640,000 in funds related to 2022 Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Budget Net Cash Surplus Funds from the Operating Reserves designated for the following:

1. Pastor's Financial Assistance Fund	\$150,000
2. Mission: Dignity®	\$40,000

3. The Baptist College of Florida	\$50,000
4. Pastor's Theological Education Scholarship	\$50,000
5. Capital Improvement Fund	\$100,000
6. Challenge 2025 Gathering for 2024	\$100,000
7. Multi-Cultural Events	\$50,000
8. Disaster Relief Church Assistance Fund	\$100,000

24. Florida Baptist Convention Board-Elected Personnel Changes

Effective March 31, 2023, **Craig Culbreth** retired as Regional Catalyst, East Region, a position he held since 2017.

Patrick D. Coats vacated his position as Black Multicultural Catalyst, a position he held since 2017, and was elected by the board on March 31, 2023, to transition to the position Regional Catalyst, East Region effective April 1, 2023.

Effective March 31, 2023, the board approved a change of title for Haitian Church Catalyst to Haitian Multicultural Catalyst.

Effective March 31, 2023, the board approved a change of title for Hispanic Church Catalyst to Hispanic Multicultural Catalyst.

Effective March 31, 2023, the Black Multicultural Church Catalyst position transitioned from a board elected position to a contract position.

Effective June 30, 2023, **Gary Townsend** retired as Regional Catalyst, North Region, a position he held since 2017.

Effective June 1, 2023, and prior to the retirement of Gary Townsend, **J. Phillip Herrington** was elected to the position of Regional Catalyst, North Region. Prior to accepting the position, he served as Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church, Live Oak.

Effective August 25, 2023, the board approved a change of title for Director, Information Support Services to Director of Technology Services. This position also moved under the supervision of the Strategic Initiatives Group.

During the year the following individuals were appointed to consultant/contract ministry positions:

Erik D. Cummings, Black Multicultural Catalyst, March 2023
Pablito Lucas, Asian American Consultant, March 2023

25. Florida Baptist Historical Society: Appointment of Board of Directors

The Governing Document of the Florida Baptist Historical Society provides that a full term shall be three years and that a "board member shall be eligible to serve two full terms of three years each." One former board member – Dr. Don Minshew – would have completed his first three-year term at the end of 2023. However, Dr. Minshew resigned from service in December 2022 when he retired from his employment with the Gulf Stream Baptist Association and moved out of state. During its meeting on August 25, 2023, the State Board of Missions elected Dr. Maxie Miller of Plant City to the Historical Society Board for the term from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026 previously held by Dr. Don Minshew.

Additionally, during its meeting on August 25, 2023, the State Board of Missions approved the appointment of Dr. Mark Rathel to fill one of the "permanent" positions designated for the Curator, the Baptist Archives, on the Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors, effective immediately to serve an open-ended term of service until the administration of The Baptist College of Florida designates an individual as the curator of the Baptist Archives.

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

Arlene Vause, Sopchoppy 2021-24
Joel Breidenbaugh, Orlando 2022-25
J. Thomas Green, Jacksonville Permanent Member
Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention
Donald S. Hepburn, Jacksonville Permanent Member
Secretary-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Historical Society

26. Recommendation to Adjust Florida Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting Location Schedule

During the August 2023 meeting, the board evaluated opportunities for moving the host location of the annual meeting of the State Convention to Central Florida on an ongoing basis. The board is recommending to messengers during the November 13-14, 2023, meeting in Lutz to approve a change in the meeting location for the years 2024, 2025 and 2026. First Baptist Church of Orlando has graciously agreed to host the 2024, 2025, and 2026 annual meetings of the Florida Baptist State Convention for this pilot project. If successful, messengers will be asked in future years to permanently modify the state convention's bylaws related to this change.

27. Establishment of an Affiliate Relationship with the Evangelical Council for Abuse Prevention

During the March 2023 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the board approved an affiliate relationship between the Florida Baptist Convention and the Evangelical Council for Abuse Prevention for the primary purpose of training/resourcing Florida Baptist churches in the areas of child protection, and response.

28. Financial Fraud Incident

On May 8, 2023, the Administrative Committee of the State Board of Missions was notified about a financial fraud incident that occurred through cybertargeting. A subcommittee was formed and was tasked with providing oversight and recommending the next steps regarding the investigation. Members of the subcommittee were Aaron Burgner, Darren Gaddis, Paul Purvis, Brian Stowe and Angel Turbeville. The full board was notified of the situation via email on May 9, 2023 and an update was provided to the entire board via videoconference on May 17, 2023. At the August 2023 meeting of the board, the subcommittee shared a final report. This report outlined the timeline of events and actions taken by the subcommittee to fully investigate the incident. The subcommittee worked with federal and state investigators, internal and external auditors and cyber forensics experts in their investigation into the more than \$700,000 in funds stolen from the convention through cybertargeting.

The investigation revealed no criminal activity on the part of any Florida Baptist Convention staff person but instead concluded that the crime was the result of sophisticated cybertargeting by, at this point, unknown perpetrators. The subcommittee's work culminated in the recommendation for strengthened financial protocols and ongoing training for convention staff. The convention is additionally exercising heightened awareness when carrying out financial duties and implemented additional data security controls.

29. Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability Accreditation

In response to the financial fraud incident and in an effort to increase financial accountability, during the August 2023 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the board learned the Florida Baptist Convention was pursuing accreditation through the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. The convention is currently

completing the process and is expected to achieve accreditation status by the end of Q4 2023.

30. Regional Pastors' Wives Support Networks

During the August 2023 meeting, the board received a recommendation from convention staff regarding establishing a Regional Pastors' Wives Support Network in an effort to continue being 'right beside' local churches and pastors' families. The Southwest Region will be the first region to launch this fall, and it is expected that other regions will launch after the first of the year. The board authorized the executive-director treasurer to utilize available budget and non-budget funds to support this new initiative, with the expectation that in future years, budget allocations specific to this ministry will likely be necessary.

31. Action Regarding Florida Legislature Senate Bill 1718 and House Bill 1617

During the March 2023 meeting, the board reviewed information regarding Florida Legislature Senate Bill 1718 and House Bill 1617 which sought to reform the state's immigration laws. Additionally, the board learned that convention staff had engaged in the legislative process, along with evangelical partners, to highlight the concerning limitations the proposed bills would place on churches seeking to carryout compassion ministries in their communities. Thankfully, these concerns were noted by government officials and final legislative action did not impact the historic work of the church.

32. Sanctity of Life

The board has continued to take action on behalf of Florida Baptists to protect the sanctity of all human life. In March, the board approved joining an Amicus Brief with the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops. This brief was filed with the Florida Supreme Court in response to a pending case in which proponents of abortion were seeking to overturn the 15-week heartbeat bill that was passed by the Florida Legislature and signed into law by the Florida Governor. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in early September and, as of the printing of this report, had not returned a decision.

33. Resolution Concerning the Decisions by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee and the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force to Retain Guidepost Solutions

In response to growing concerns of Florida Baptist pastors and churches regarding the decisions of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee (SBC EC) and Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force (ARITF) to engage Guidepost Solutions, the board adopted a resolution on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention that spoke strongly to this concern, up to and including potentially escrowing the portion of Cooperative Program funds allocated for the SBC Executive Committee. This resolution would further empower the messengers to make decisions at the November 2023 annual meeting if necessary. Thankfully, decisions at the national level by both the SBC EC and ARITF have been to move away from Guidepost Solutions.

34. Commence Legal Action to Protect Church Property

During a special-called meeting of the Administrative Committee on September 26, 2022, committee members were briefed on an ongoing issue regarding the church property of the former First Baptist Church of Lake Rousseau. The church membership had voted to disband the church, and the property's future was at stake. The Florida Baptist Convention was named in the property deed with a reversionary interest. Throughout the past year, the convention's

outside legal counsel, on behalf of the board, has proceeded with various actions attempting to protect the property for continued Baptist work. We pray that the convention will be successful in the coming months and that the property will be repurposed for a new church plant.

35. Revise State Board of Missions Bylaws 2, 3 and 4

The long-standing pattern for many of the governing documents for the Florida Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions has been to repeat information in multiple places – often duplicating verbatim the same instructions.

One such instance occurs regarding the membership of the State Board of Missions. At the 2018 annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention, messengers adopted revisions to the Florida Baptist State Convention Bylaws that govern the work of the Committee on Nominations and that specifically outlined the membership process and makeup of the State Board of Missions (Bylaw 12 Florida Baptist State Convention).

The membership and organization of the board is also delineated in State Board of Missions Bylaws 2, 3 and 4. The plan in 2018 was to amend the state convention's bylaws and, if the new methodology proved successful, then update the State Board of Missions Bylaws at a subsequent annual meeting. The board believes more than enough time has passed, the new process is functioning well, and it is appropriate to revise the board's bylaws now. The board will recommend revisions to these bylaws during the 2023 annual meeting in Lutz, Florida.

36. Letter to the SBC Credentials Committee regarding Freedom Church

During its March 2023 meeting, the board authorized the release of a letter to the SBC Credentials Committee regarding the convention's actions to disfellowship Freedom Church of Vero Beach in 2022. This action was taken in response to the Credentials Committee request for information about the state convention's decision.

37. Authorization of the Retention of Batts, Morrison, Wales and Lee, P. A. as the Auditor-of-Record for the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

During the August 2023 meeting, the board approved the retention of the auditing services of Batts, Morrison, Wales and Lee, P.A. of Orlando, Florida for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025.

38. Florida Baptist Day of Emphasis and Special Offering for the Baptist University of Florida

During the August 2023 meeting, the board approved the following:

1. That the last Sunday of each January be established in Florida Baptist life as a day of special emphasis and prayer for the Baptist University of Florida- with the first day of recognition being Sunday, January 28, 2024; and
2. That the Baptist University of Florida be authorized to promote a special offering in the month of January that culminates with the special emphasis day.

39. Update to Employment Handbook of the Florida Baptist Convention

During the March 2023 meeting, the Administrative Committee reviewed and approved an updated employee handbook for the Florida Baptist Convention.

40. Board Policy Updates

As a part of the regular update of policies of the State Board of Missions, during the March 31, 2023 and August 25, 2023 meetings, the board approved policy additions, revisions and/or replacements for the following policies:

- Policy Elimination: Minister's Emergency Assistance Program- Senior Pastor Death Financial Assistance
- Policy Revision: Investment Policy: Investment Guidelines
- Policy Elimination: Assistance Program: Church Planting/ Revitalization Grant Policies
- Policy Revision: Employee Relations: Merit Salary Plan, section IV. Performance Evaluation
- Policy Addition: Employee Relations: Merit Salary Plan: IX. Performance Bonus Policy
- Policy Revision: Assistance Programs: Church Planting Grants
- Policy Revision/Addition: Assistance Programs: Church Revitalization Grant and Micro-Loan Policy
- Policy Addition: Florida Baptist Convention Staff: Housing Allowance Approval Policy

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Immigration Surge Inspires Ministry Surge

The waves are surging. As wave upon wave of immigrants enter America, Florida Baptists are catching the wave and sharing God's love with those from international lands who seek to begin new lives in the Sunshine State.

Immigrants from Cuba, Haiti, Central America, Mexico and other places throughout the world are descending upon Florida in what some leaders describe as "the largest surge in migration" ever, and the surge is far from over.

Many individuals arriving in Florida from other countries are asylum-seekers or refugees, who are "fleeing difficult circumstances. They are going through dangerous journeys to get to America," said Emanuel Roque, Florida Baptists' Hispanic church catalyst.

"Once they are here, we love them."

"We are privileged to be in this place that God has called us to as part of His plan. He has been developing and preparing generations of Florida Baptists to reach the Florida mission field."

He described Florida Baptists' role with immigrants as "rescue 911." When the Surfside condominium collapsed in 2021 in a Miami suburb, first responders had no time to rest, he said, as they desperately sought to rescue victims. Likewise, Roque said, Florida Baptists are "first responders" to many of today's immigrants who need immediate ministry. First responders have no time to waste talking, debating or dealing with political ideologies or strategies.

Myles Dowdy, missions and ministry lead catalyst for the Florida Baptist Convention, agreed, "We're not going to get political about immigration. We're going to get spiritual about it. We are going to minister and witness to those coming into our state. We're going to love on them."

Roque has a personal passion for ministry to immigrants. Decades ago, his parents immigrated from Cuba to New York City, where Roque was born. When the young Roque was only a year old, his parents moved the family to Miami, where they helped plant Iglesia Bautista Resurrección in Miami. There, Roque made his profession of faith in Jesus as his Savior and was baptized and discipled.

Through the years, "Florida Baptists have had a heart and clear understanding that we are in a state that is a mission field. Florida Baptist have been there when opportunities arise to help churches share the gospel," Roque said.



Ministry hubs

As a part of catching the wave of immigrants, Florida Baptists, in partnership with Send Relief, have designated several churches as immigration ministry hubs with specific focus on reaching immigrants with Hispanic or Haitian heritage. These churches have long ministered to immigrants, and their designation as ministry hubs provides additional funding and resources for their outreach efforts. These ministry hub churches also provide resources and training for other Florida Baptist churches wanting to launch or strengthen ministry to immigrants and offer opportunities for more Southern Baptists to become involved in hands-on mission service.

'God's expression of love'

Bethesda Baptist Church in Miami, pastored by Frank Rodriguez, is intentionally ministering to immigrants coming their way. For Rodriguez, ministering to refugees and immigrants is personal. In 2012, he immigrated to Florida from Cuba, where he had served as a pastor for more than two decades. Once settled, Rodriguez immediately began planting Bethesda in Miami, purchasing property in 2021.

For the past four to five months, the church has housed 17 immigrants in its church building. Otherwise, these individuals would be sleeping on the street, Rodriguez said. "These people have nothing ... nothing," he emphasized.



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complete story



By Margaret Colson, Feb 6, 2023



Florida Baptist Convention

STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS Recommendations to the Florida Baptist State Convention

Recommendation 1: 2024 Florida Baptist Convention Budget

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the year 2024 Cooperative Program Basic Budget of \$29,500,000 based on the following distribution and the general detail as noted in the attached budget document:

- (a) That all Cooperative Program income receipts be distributed on the following percentage allocation:

Southern Baptist Convention causes	51.00%
Florida Baptist Convention causes	49.00%

- (b) And that the Cooperative Program Basic Budget designated for Florida Baptist Convention causes (or 49% of total Cooperative Program income) be distributed on the following basis:

Total Florida Baptist Convention \$14,455,000

**Convention Programs of Mission, Ministry,
and Support \$12,063,000**

Cooperating Ministries \$2,392,000
The Baptist College of Florida \$1,320,000
Florida Baptist Children's Homes \$912,000
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center \$160,000

- (c) That all Cooperative Program receipts received by December 31, 2024, and which are in excess of the budgetary requirements specified within the 2024 Cooperative Program budget shall be designated as Cooperative Program Excess Budget funds.

Additionally, we direct 51% 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 49% 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].

- (d) Furthermore, the convention recognizes the autonomy of each local church and the decisions that each may make regarding cooperative giving to Southern Baptist Convention causes. As such, the convention will appropriate gifts to cooperative causes as directed in writing by a local church.

	Total
Southern Baptist Convention	
Executive Committee - Southern Baptist Convention	15,045,000
Cooperating Ministries	
Florida Baptist Children's Homes	912,000
The Baptist College of Florida	1,320,000
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center	160,000
Florida Baptist Convention Programs	
Personnel (*a)	5,428,740
Executive Director-Treasurer Ministries	195,500
-- Pastor Protection Insurance (*b)	75,000
Strategic Initiatives (*c)	306,500
-- Communications	253,080
-- Technology Services	210,000
Support Services	1,245,100
Next Generation Ministries	30,500
-- Baptist Campus Ministries	315,200
-- Student Ministries	165,700
-- Children's Ministries	94,000
Regional/Multicultural Catalysts	2,894,000
Missions and Ministries	311,900
-- Community Ministries	210,225
-- Migrant Ministries	55,655
-- WMM/Missions Education	98,150
-- Disaster Relief	108,250
Southeast Regional Center	65,500
Total	29,500,000
Percentage of Total	100.00%
Percentage of Florida (\$14,283,500)	

2024 Cooperative Program Budget

Southern Baptist Convention	Cooperating Ministries	Personnel	Operations (*d)	Ministry Investment	Church Planting	Revitalization	Regional Ministries	Next Gen Ministries	Missions	SBM/Annual Meeting	Promotion/Communication
15,045,000											
	912,000										
	1,320,000										
	160,000										
		5,428,740									
			83,000	96,500			16,000				
				75,000							
			44,000	32,500			10,000			220,000	
			76,120								176,960
			210,000								
			1,245,100								
			30,500								
			130,200					185,000			
								165,700			
								94,000			
			219,000		1,000,000	1,000,000	675,000				
			25,000						286,900		
			20,500						189,725		
			16,500						39,155		
			20,500						77,650		
			22,000						86,250		
			65,500								
15,045,000	2,392,000	5,428,740	2,207,920	204,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	701,000	444,700	679,680	220,000	176,960
51.00%	8.11%	18.40%	7.48%	0.69%	3.39%	3.39%	2.38%	1.51%	2.30%	0.75%	0.60%
	16.55%	37.55%	15.27%	1.41%	6.92%	6.92%	4.85%	3.08%	4.70%	1.52%	1.22%

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) Personnel includes salaries and benefits for 26 Board Elected Staff, 17 Administrative Approved Staff.

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

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

(*d) Budgets designated as Operations include the respective travel budget for each Board Elected Staff.

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

Recomendación 1: Presupuesto Programa Cooperativo 2024

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida adopte para el año 2024 el Presupuesto Básico del Programa Cooperativo de \$29,500,000 basado en la siguiente distribución y el detalle general como anotado en el documentado de presupuesto adjunto:

- (a) 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%

- (b) Y que el Presupuesto Básico del Programa Cooperativo designado para las causas de la Convención Bautista de Florida (o el 49% de los ingresos totales del Programa Cooperativo) se distribuya sobre las siguientes bases:

Total Convención Bautista de Florida \$14,455,000

Programas de Misión, Ministerio y Apoyo \$12,063,000

Ministerios en Cooperación	\$2,392,000
Colegio Bautista	\$1,320,000
Hogares de Niños	\$912,000
Centro de Conferencias Bautista del Lake Yale	\$160,000

- (c) Que todos los ingresos del Programa Cooperativo recibidos antes del 31 de diciembre de 2024, y que excedan los requisitos presupuestarios especificados en el presupuesto del Programa Cooperativo 2024 sean designados como fondos Excedentes del Presupuesto del Programa Cooperativo. Además, instruimos que 51% de dichos fondos excedentes se distribuyan inmediatamente al Programa Cooperativo de la Convención Bautista del Sur. Las recomendaciones adicionales y la acción posterior de la Junta sobre la distribución del 49% restante de los fondos del Presupuesto Excedente deberán estar de acuerdo con el Plan Comercial y Financiero de la Convención Estatal [Estatuto 16, B (3) (a) (b), Estatutos de la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida].
- d) Además, la convención reconoce la autonomía de cada iglesia local y las decisiones que cada una puede tomar con respecto a las ofrendas cooperativas a los fondos de la Convención Bautista del Sur. Como tal, la Convención asignará las aportaciones a los fondos cooperativos según lo indique por escrito la iglesia local.

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

Rekomandasyon 1: Bidjè Pwogram Koperativ 2024

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride adopte le Budget de Base du Programme Coopératif 2024 d'un montant de \$29,500,000 basé sur la distribution et les détails généraux comme indiqués dans le document du budget ci-joint:

- (a) 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%

- (b) 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:

Total Konvansyon Batis Florid \$14,455,000

Programmes de Mission, Ministère et Support \$12,063,000

Ministères de Coopération	\$2,392,000
Le Collège Baptiste de la Floride	\$1,320,000
La Maison des Enfants Baptistes de la Floride	\$912,000
Le Centre Baptiste de Conférence à Lake Yale	\$160,000

- (c) Que tous les acquis du Programme Coopératif reçus jusqu'au 31 Décembre 2024, et qui dépassent les exigences budgétaires précisées dans le budget du Programme Coopératif de 2024 seront désignés comme fonds du Budget Excédentaire du Programme Coopératif. De plus, nous demandons que 51 % de ces fonds excédentaires soient immédiatement distribués au Programme Coopératif de la Convention Baptiste du Sud. D'autres recommandations et les mesures ultérieures du Conseil sur la répartition des 49 % restants des fonds du Budget Excédentaire seront conformes au Plan d'Affaires et Financier de la Convention d'État [Règlement 16, B (3) (a) (b), Règlements de la Convention d'État Baptiste de la Floride].
- (d) Anplis de sa, konvansyon an rekonèt otonomi chak legliz lokal ak dezizyon yo chak ka pran konsènan kòz koperativ bay Konvansyon Batis Sid la. Konsa, konvansyon an pral mete kado nan kòz koperativ jan legliz lokal la voye l.

Recommendation 2: Report on New Churches and Affiliations

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention receive as information the following congregations, joined between October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023, 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 2: 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 Octubre 1, 2022 y Septiembre 30, 2023, 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**

Rekomandasyon 2: 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 Octobre 2022 et le 30 Septembre 2023, 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 September 30, 2023, 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.

2022-2023 Report on New Church Starts (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)

First Coast Baptist Association

Aspire Mizo, Jacksonville
Aspire Vietnamese, Jacksonville
New Berlin Road, Jacksonville

Lake County Baptist Association

MP3, Ferndale

Miami Baptist Association

Eglise Baptiste Canaan, Tamarac
Miami City, Coral Gables

North Central Baptist Association

Hague, Gainesville

Pensacola Bay Baptist Association

Pensacola Chinese, Pensacola

Point of Information:

Additionally, we would like to recognize the following congregations that have been added to our Florida Baptist family and are a satellite campus of an existing Florida Baptist church:

NEW CHURCH CAMPUS	ASSOCIATION
Family, Green Cove Campus	Black Creek
5 Eleven, Melbourne	Brevard
Con Nosotros, Sarasota	Church-At-Large
Freedom in Christ, Sarasota	Church-At-Large
Hope, Jacksonville	First Coast
Open Door Biker, Jacksonville	First Coast
Iglesia Bautista River City, Jacksonville	First Coast Churches
Ministerio Hispano en NFL Church, Tallahassee	Florida
Family Church, Four Corners Portuguese Campus	GOBA
Primera Bautista de Bonifay	Holmes
Iglesia Bautista Hispana Ebenezer de Oak Griner	Marion
Pilgrim Rest, Crestview Campus	Okaloosa
Iglesia Familiar, Port St. Lucie	Palm Beach
Lee Boulevard Hispanic, Lehigh Acres	Peace River
The Point Church, Jackson St., Pensacola	Pensacola Bay
Lakes Church Espanol, Lakeland	South Florida

Calvary Espanol, Clearwater	Suncoast
Calvary, Crystal Beach Campus	Suncoast
Christ Fellowship, Riverview	Tampa Bay

2022-2023 Report on New Affiliations (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)

CHURCH NAME	ASSOCIATION
Trinity Haitian, Palm Bay	Brevard
Covenant Church, Miami	Broward
Zomi Community, Pompano Beach	Broward
Premiere Eglise Baptiste, Key West	Florida Keys
Ranch Road, North Fort Myers	Royal Palm
The Chapel at Mango, Seffner	Tampa Bay

Additional Churches and Church Campuses **In-Process with Associational Affiliation** (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)

The following churches are in the process of associational affiliation and will be voted on at a future annual meeting.

CHURCH NAME	ASSOCIATION
Local Church, Titusville	Brevard
Community Garden, Coral Springs	Broward
Shoreline Bible, Ormond Beach	East Central
Central en Espanol, Sanford	East Central
Pillar, Crestview	Emerald Coast
Blessed Hope Community, Jacksonville	First Coast
Kush Prayer Ministries, Jacksonville	First Coast
Ukrainian, Jacksonville	First Coast
Oak Cliff Bible, Jacksonville	First Coast
Iglesia Local, Jacksonville	First Coast
Redeemer, Fleming Island	First Coast
Crown, Orlando	GOBA
Iglesia Cristiana Casa de Redencion	GOBA
Village Point, Winter Garden	GOBA
Iglesia Bautista Genesis, Casselberry	GOBA
Grace and Mercy Haitian, Orlando	GOBA
Grace Christian Church	Lafayette
Manatee Community, Chiefland	Marion
Faith Church, Miami	Miami
The Bridge, Madison	Middle Florida
Lakeside, Hawthorne	North Central
Fernandina Beach First, Central Nassau	Northeast
Way, Panama City Beach	Northwest Coast
Inspiration Church, Palm Beach Gardens	Palm Beach
Igreja Da Paz, Palm Beach	Palm Beach
Iglesia Bautista Luz Para Las Naciones, West Palm Beach	Palm Beach
Multiply, Pensacola	Pensacola Bay
Awakening Church, Cape Coral	Royal Palm
Calvary Missionary, Palatka	St Johns River
PIB Hispana, Live Oak	Suwannee
Connection, Riverview	Tampa Bay
Iglesia Aposento Alto Brandon	Tampa Bay
Le Centre d’Adoration de Port St. Lucie	Treasure Coast

Recommendation 3: Recommendation to Amend Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution Removing References to the Florida Baptist Retirement Center, Inc.

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the following:

Revise Article 10, Constitution, Florida Baptist State Convention removing the name of Florida Baptist Retirement Center Inc.

(This will be the second of two required votes in subsequent years to approve the amendment to the Constitution and the sole vote for amending the bylaws.)

Recomendación 3: Recomendación para Enmendar la Constitución y los Estatutos de la Convención Bautista de Florida Eliminando las Referencias al Florida Baptist Retirement Center, Inc.

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida adopte lo siguiente:

Revisar el Artículo 10, Constitución, Convención Bautista de Florida eliminando el nombre de Florida Baptist Retirement Center Inc.; y

(Este será el segundo de dos votos requeridos en los años siguientes para aprobar la enmienda a la Constitución y el único voto para enmendar los estatutos.)

Rekòmandasyon 3: Rekòmandasyon pou amande Konstitisyon Baptis Eta Florid ak Règleman Entèn yo pou retire non Florida Baptist Retirement Center, Inc.

Konsèy Eta Pou Misyon a rekòmande pou Konvansyon Batis Eta Florid la adopte bagay sa yo:

Revize Atik 10, Konstitisyon, Konvansyon Batis Eta Florid pou retire non Florida Baptist Retirement Center Inc.; epi

(Sa a se dezyèm nan 2 seyans vòt ki ap fèt pandan plizyè ane pou aprouve amandman sa a nan konstitisyon an epi se sèl vòt pou amande règleman yo.)

Recommendation 4: Recommendation to Amend Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution and Bylaws Revising the Name of The Baptist College of Florida to Baptist University of Florida

The State Board of Missions recommends the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the following:

Revise Article 10, Constitution, Florida Baptist State Convention changing the name of The Baptist College of Florida to Baptist University of Florida; and

Revise Bylaws 7 and 16, Florida Baptist State Convention changing the name of The Baptist College of Florida to Baptist University of Florida.

(This would be the second of two required votes in subsequent years to approve this amendment to the Constitution.)

Recomendación 4: Recomendación para Enmendar la Constitución de la Convención Bautista de Florida Revisando el Nombre de The Baptist College of Florida a Baptist University of Florida

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida adopte lo siguiente:

Revisar el Artículo 10, Constitución, Convención Bautista de Florida cambiando el nombre de The Baptist College of Florida a Baptist University of Florida; y

Revisar los Estatutos 7 y 16, Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida cambiando el nombre de "The Baptist College of Florida" a "Baptist University of Florida".

(Este será el segundo de dos votos requeridos en los años siguientes para aprobar la enmienda a la Constitución.)

Rekòmandasyon 4: Rekòmandasyon pou Amande Konstitisyon Batis Eta Florid la ki revize non Kolèj Batis Florid la ki pral vinn rele Inivèsite Baptis Florid la

Konsèy Misyon Eta a rekòmande Konvansyon Batis Eta Florid la adopte bagay sa yo:

Revize Atik 10, Konstitisyon, Konvansyon Batis Eta Florid la pou chanje non "The Baptist College of Florida" an "Inivèsite Batis Florid la"; epi

Revize Règleman 7 ak 16, Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid ap chanje non The Baptist College of Florida pou vini Baptist University of Florida.

(Sa a se dezyèm nan 2 seyans vòt ki ap fèt pandan plizyè ane pou aprouve amandman sa a nan konstitisyon.)

Recommendation 5: Constitution Revisions – Codify the Annual Meeting Emergency Cancellation Process Used in 2020 within FBSC Constitution

The State Board of Missions recommends the Florida Baptist Convention adopt the following governing document amendments and additions:

Amend **Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution Articles 11, 13 and 14** as listed below.

(This will be the second of two required votes in subsequent years to approve the amendments to the Constitution and the sole vote for amending the bylaws.)

Highlighted sections represent edits and additions.

Recomendación 5: Revisiones a la Constitución y los Estatutos: Codificar el Proceso de Cancelación de Emergencia de la Reunión Anual utilizado en 2020 dentro de los Estatutos y la Constitución de FBSC

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida adopte las siguientes enmiendas y adiciones a los documentos rectores:

Enmendar **los Artículos 11, 13 y 14 de la Constitución de la Convención Bautista de Florida** como se indica a continuación; y

(Este será el segundo de los dos votos requeridos en los años siguientes para aprobar las enmiendas a la Constitución y el único voto para enmendar los estatutos.)

Las secciones resaltadas representan ediciones y adiciones, incluyendo la adición del nuevo estatuto.

Rekòmandasyon 5: Revizyon Konstitisyon ak Règleman Entèn yo – Kodifye Pwosesis Anilasyon Ijans Reyinyon Anyèl yo itilize nan Règleman Entèn ak Konstitisyon FBSC 2020 an

Konsèy Misyon Eta a rekòmande Konvansyon Batis Florid la pou adopte amannman ak adisyon dokiman sa yo:

Amende Atik 11, 13 ak 14 Konstitisyon Baptis Eta Florid la, jan yo endike anba la a; epi

(Sa se dezyèm nan de vòt obligatwa nan de ane kap vini yo, ki dwe apwouve amandman nan Konstitisyon an, epi sèl vòt pou amandman règleman entèn yo.)

Seksyon ki make yo reprezante modifikasyon ak adisyon, ki tou gen ladan yo adisyon nouvo règleman entèn yo.

Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution Articles 11, 13 and 14

Article 11. The annual meeting of this State Convention shall typically be held during the month of November at such time and place as the State Convention may elect. As set forth in more detail in Bylaws 11 & 12 of the State Convention's Bylaws, the State Board of Missions may change the meeting place and/or time, including the month, of the annual meeting of the State Convention in any given year as necessary and/or desired.

Article 13. The Annual Meeting of this State Convention—barring a catastrophic event or other wide-spread emergency—shall be held each year. Its primary purposes, with time allocated in a priority sequence to ensure the general and specific objectives of the State Convention (as defined in Article 3 of this Constitution), are as follows:

- A. To conduct the business and consider the needs, problems and opportunities of the State Convention and its cooperating ministries;
- B. To permit the State Convention's *cooperating ministries* to report on their prior year's activities and to make appropriate recommendations for consideration by the messengers comprising the annual meeting;
- C. To ensure time is allocated on the annual program for the several requirements *specified* by the State Convention's Bylaws;
- D. To elect State Convention officers and to elect persons to fill vacancies on the State Convention's committees and boards as defined in Article 9 of this Constitution;
- E. To hear messages from the State Convention president and the person designated to bring the Convention Sermon; and
- F. When practicable and within the available remaining time, provide appropriate inspirational emphases and/or special emphases to be determined by the program committee (also known as the Committee on Order of Business) as defined in the State Convention's Bylaws.

Article 14. This Constitution or any article thereof may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the messengers

present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present, at two (2) successive annual sessions of the State Convention. Notice of any change proposed must be published online by the Florida Baptist Witness and shared on one or more of the Convention's social media platforms at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting of the State Convention.

Recommendation 6: Constitution Revision- Revise Article 10, Constitution, Florida Baptist Convention changing the name of Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. to One More Child

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention, adopt the following:

(This would be the first of two required votes in subsequent years to approve this amendment to the Constitution.)

Revise Article 10, Constitution, Florida Baptist State Convention changing the name of Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. to One More Child, Inc.; and

The messengers endorse the Board of Directors of FBCH and its administration to begin immediately addressing the necessary corporate changes related to this name change, including the supporting organizations and with the various governing agencies that provide accreditation and licensing. It is the expectation of this convention that FBCH be fully prepared to function as One More Child, Inc. subsequent to the messengers' second vote and ratification of the Article 10 amendment at the November 2024 annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

Recomendación 6: Revisión de la Constitución - Revisar el Artículo 10, Constitución, Convención Bautista de Florida cambiando el nombre de "Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc." a "One More Child"

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida, adopten lo siguiente:

(Este sería el primero de dos votos requeridos en los años siguientes para aprobar esta enmienda a la Constitución).

Revisar el Artículo 10, Constitución, Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida cambiando el nombre de "Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc." a "One More Child, Inc."; y

Los mensajeros respaldan a la Junta Directiva de FBCH y su administración para comenzar de inmediato a atender los cambios corporativos necesarios relacionados con este cambio de nombre, incluidas las organizaciones de apoyo y con las diversas agencias gubernamentales que brindan acreditación y licencias. Esta convención espera que FBCH esté completamente preparado para funcionar como "One More Child, Inc." después de la segunda votación de los mensajeros y la ratificación de la enmienda del Artículo 10 en la reunión anual de noviembre de 2024 de la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida.

Rekòmandasyon 6: Revizyon nan Konstitisyon – Revize Atik 10, Konstitisyon, Konvansyon Batis Florid ap chanje non Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc pou vini One More Child

Komite Deta pou Misyon an rekòmande pou tout mesaje yo ki ap patisipe nan Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la, adopte desizyon sa yo:

(Sa a se premye nan 2 seyans vòt ki ap fèt nan ane ki ap vini yo pou aprouve amandman sa a nan konstitisyon an.)

Revize Atik 10, Konstitisyon, Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid pou chanje non Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. pou vini One More Child, Inc.; epi

Mesaje yo ap sipòte Komite Direktè yo nan FBCH epi administrasyon li pou kòmanse fè imedyatman tout chanjman nesè ki gen pou wè ak chanjman non an, enkli lòt òganizasyon sipò epi ak tout lòt ajans gouvènans ki bay akreditasyon ak lisans. Nou espere nan konvansyon sa a ke FBCH ap prepare pou fonksyone konplètman kòm One More Child, Inc., tou swit aprè dezyèm vòt mesaje yo epi ratifikasyon Atik 10 amandman nan reyinyon anyèl Novanm 2024 la pou Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid.

Recommendation 7: Revise State Board of Missions Bylaws 2, 3 and 4

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention, adopt the following revised Bylaws 2, 3 and 4 of the State Board of Missions which shall supersede all previous versions; and

That the Florida Baptist State Convention authorize and direct the executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention to make any necessary editorial and/or grammatical corrections to any Bylaws of the State Board of Missions that may be affected by the proposed revisions to both the proposed and existing Bylaws of the State Board of Missions to ensure clarity, continuity and parity of these Bylaws.

Recomendación 7: Revisar los Estatutos 2, 3 y 4 de la Junta Estatal de Misiones

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida, adopten los siguientes Estatutos revisados 2, 3 y 4 de la Junta Estatal de Misiones que reemplazarán todas las versiones anteriores; y

Que la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida autorice y ordene al Director Ejecutivo-Tesorero de la Convención Bautista de Florida que haga cualquier corrección editorial y / o gramatical necesaria a cualquier Estatuto de la Junta Estatal de Misiones que pueda verse afectado por las revisiones propuestas a los Estatutos propuestos y existentes de la Junta Estatal de Misiones para garantizar la claridad, continuidad y paridad de estos Estatutos.

Rekòmandasyon 7: Revize Règleman 2, 3, epi 4 pou Komite Deta Misyon yo

Komite Deta pou Misyon an rekòmande pou tout mesaje yo ki ap patisipe nan Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la, adopte revizyon sa yo pou règleman 2, 3 epi 4 nan Komite Deta pou Misyon ki ap ranplase tout anyen vèsyon yo; epi

Se pou Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid otorize e dirije direktè-trezorye ekzekitif Konvansyon Batis Florid la pou pran tout desizyon nesè pou edite/pote koreksyon nan nenpòt Règleman pou Komite Deta pou Misyon ki ta ka afekte revizyon ki pwopoze yo oubyen Règleman ki ekziste deja pou Komite Deta pou Misyon an garanti bon konprann, kontinite epi parite pou Règleman yo.

State Board of Missions Bylaws

Bylaw 2: Board of Directors

A. Definition

The State Board of Missions functions as the board of directors of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., a Not-for-Profit Corporation. The affairs of the Corporation are managed and directed under the authority of this board. Persons who serve on the State Board of Missions are elected and governed by the provisions set forth in the State Convention's Constitution and Bylaws, amended and approved by the duly elected messengers attending the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention, an unincorporated association of cooperating Baptist churches in the State of Florida.

B. Members, Term of Office & Manner of Election

The members of the State Board of Missions will be made up of those individuals selected in accordance with the process set forth in Bylaw 13 of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Such individuals shall be elected in the manner (and serve the duration of office) set forth in Sections B & C of Bylaw 13.

Bylaw 3: Other Provisions Established by the State Convention

A. Organization, Committee Structure and Special Works

The State Board of Missions will be organized in the manner set forth in Bylaw 13 of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Such organization shall include the committee structure delineated in Section F therein. As authorized in Bylaw 13, the State Board of Missions shall be empowered to carry out its right and necessary duties as the Board of Directors. Such duties include the "special works" set forth in section G of Bylaw 13.

B. 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."

C. Quorum

Fifty-one percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

Bylaw 4: Officers

As set forth in Bylaw 13 of the State Convention, the officers of this Corporation shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a General Secretary, to be known as Executive Director-Treasurer, and an Assistant General Secretary, to be known as Assistant Executive Director.

A. President — The President of the State Board of Missions shall be the President of the Corporation. He shall perform the following duties:

1. Preside over all meetings of the Administrative/Personnel Committee and the State Board of Missions.
2. Exercise all powers, duties, and functions incident to the presidency of similar corporations. With the Executive Director-Treasurer or the Assistant Executive Director, execute deeds, mortgages, and contracts relating to the purchase, sale, and encumbrancing of real property.
3. Appoint the Nomination of Board Committees Committee, using the other board-elected officers to assist him if he so desires.
4. Appoint all special committees deemed necessary and appropriate by the board.
5. Serve as an ex officio voting member of all standing and special committees of the board.
6. In compliance with requirements by the Convention Corporation's auditor-of-record, the board President shall on a periodic basis receive, review and sign off on the monthly travel expense reports of the executive director-treasurer.

B. Vice-President — The Vice-President of the State Board of Missions shall be the Vice-President of the Corporation. He shall perform the following duties:

1. Assist the President in the performance of his duties.
2. In the absence or disability of the President, perform the duties of the President, including the execution of deeds, mortgages, and contracts relating to the purchase, sale and encumbrancing of real property.
3. Perform any other duties as requested by the board.

C. Recording Secretary — The Recording Secretary of the State Board of Missions shall perform the following duties:

1. Record the minutes of all meetings of the board.
2. Perform any other duties as requested by the board.

D. Executive Director-Treasurer — The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall perform the following duties:

1. Supervise and direct the entire mission program of the Convention, being subject at all times, to the direction and control of the State Board of Missions.
2. Perform those duties designated by the Corporation as described in Bylaw 3,B(7) of these Bylaws.
3. He shall execute with the President or Vice-President of the Corporation, all deeds, mortgages, and contracts relating to the purchase, sale, and encumbrancing of real property. He shall execute, in the name of the Corporation, partial releases and satisfactions of mortgages, subordination and subrogation agreements, conditional release agreements or reverter and reversion clauses contained in deeds or other documents for the life of any mortgage, trust indenture or bond, and shall affix or place the corporate seal upon all legal papers which require same.
4. Maintain complete and permanent records and accounts, and shall be the custodian of all property, books, papers, records, insurance policies, bonds,

and other effects belonging to the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., or pertaining to the work and affairs of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., the board and the corporate body.

5. Upon leaving the office, deliver to his successor or such person as the board shall designate all property, books, papers, records, insurance policies, bonds, and effects of the Florida Baptist Convention, the board and the Corporation.
6. Issue all notices for meetings of the board or State Convention.
7. Perform all such other duties as may be requested by the State Convention or the board.

E. Assistant Executive Director — The Assistant Executive Director of the Florida Baptist Convention shall perform the following duties:

1. Assist the Executive Director-Treasurer in the performance of his duties.
2. Perform the duties of the Executive Director-Treasurer in the absence or disability of the Executive Director-Treasurer. This task shall include the execution, along with the President or Vice-President, of deeds, mortgages, and contracts relating to the purchase, sale and encumbrancing of real property. He shall execute, in the name of the Corporation, partial releases and satisfactions of mortgages, subordination and subrogation agreements, conditional release agreements or reverter and reversion clauses contained in deeds or other documents for the life of any mortgage, trust indenture or bond, and shall affix or place the corporate seal upon all legal papers which require same.
3. Perform all other such duties as shall be assigned to him by the Executive Director-Treasurer and as may be requested by the State Convention or the board.

Recommendation 8: Florida Baptist State Convention Change in Meeting Location for the years 2024, 2025 and 2026:

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention approve a revised annual meeting schedule for the Florida Baptist State Convention as follows:

2024 November 11-12 First Baptist Church, Orlando
2025 November 10-11 First Baptist Church, Orlando
2026 November 9-10 First Baptist Church, Orlando

Recomendación 8: Cambio de lugar de reunión de la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida para los años 2024, 2025 y 2026:

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida, aprueben un calendario revisado de reuniones anuales para la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida de la siguiente manera:

2024 Noviembre 11-12 Primera Iglesia Bautista, Orlando
2025 Noviembre 10-11 Primera Iglesia Bautista, Orlando
2026 Noviembre 9-10 Primera Iglesia Bautista, Orlando

Rekòmandasyon 8: Konvansyon Batis Florid ap chanje Lokasyon Reyinyon pou ane 2024, 2025 epi 2026

Komite Deta pou Misyon an rekòmande pou tout mesaj yo ki ap patisipe nan Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la, aprouve yon kalandriye revize pou reyinyon anyèl Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la konsa:

11-12 Novanm 2024 First Baptist Church, Orlando
10-11 Novanm 2025 First Baptist Church, Orlando
9-10 Novanm 2026 First Baptist Church, Orlando

Recommendation 9: Resolution of Appreciation for Craig Culbreth

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention approve the attached Resolution of Appreciation for Craig Culbreth.

Recomendación 9: Resolución de agradecimiento a Craig Culbreth

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida aprueben la Resolución de Agradecimiento adjunta para Craig Culbreth.

Rekòmandasyon 9: Rezolisyon Apresyasyon pou Craig Culbreth la

Komite Deta pou Misyon an rekòmande pou tout mesaj yo ki ap patisipe nan Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la aprouve atachman Rezolisyon Apresyasyon pou Craig Culbreth la.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR CRAIG CULBRETH

WHEREAS, Craig Culbreth has served the Florida Baptist Convention in multiple roles since 1998, including Church Planting Associate/Field Missionary (1998-1999), Director of Partnership Missions Department (1999-2011), Director of Missions Division (2011-2015), Lead Catalyst for the Missions and Ministries Group (2015-2017) and East Region Catalyst to the State Board of Missions since 2017, and completed this service on March 31, 2023, when he retired; and

WHEREAS, Craig Culbreth accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior in April of 1975 at age 19 and was baptized in Clemson, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, he began serving as a volunteer in a local church after a move to Pompano Beach, took his first pastorate in Minnesota in 1980, and was later ordained to the Gospel Ministry in 1987 by Calvary Baptist Church in Wintergarden, FL; and

WHEREAS, Craig served as a pastor in churches in Minnesota, Georgia and Florida before taking his first position with the Florida Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, he completed his Bachelor of Science Degree from Clemson University in 1979, received his Master of Divinity Degree from Central Baptist Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1983 and received his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Luther Rice Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia in 1993; and

WHEREAS, he has provided invaluable counsel and encouragement to pastors across the state as he has come alongside churches and pastors, never far from his bag of visual illustrations – offering practical and real-life encouragement from his experience both as a pastor and his time working with the Convention; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, not only has Craig Culbreth provided expertise to the Southern Baptist Convention during annual meetings but he has provided countless Florida Baptist churches with advice on parliamentary procedure. Always striving to keep the best interest of the church in mind, his advice was accurate and most often mixed with a dash of good humor; and

WHEREAS, Craig Culbreth has been motivated in his love and service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the words of Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not of your own doing; it is a gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast;” now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 13-14, 2023, in Lutz, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Craig Culbreth, given to our Lord and Florida Baptists, and that we assure Craig and his wife, Patty, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this convention; and

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

Recommendation 10: Resolution of Appreciation for Gary Townsend

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention approve the attached Resolution of Appreciation for Gary Townsend.

Recomendación 10: Resolución de agradecimiento a Gary Townsend

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida aprueben la Resolución de Agradecimiento adjunta para Gary Townsend.

Rekòmandasyon 10: Rezolisyon Apresyasyon pou Gary Townsend la

Komite Deta pou Misyon an rekòmande pou tout mesaj yo ki ap patisipe nan Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la aprouve atachman Rezolisyon Apresyasyon pou Gary Townsend la.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR GARY TOWNSEND

WHEREAS, Gary Townsend has served the Florida Baptist Convention in multiple roles since 2004, including Associate Director Stewardship/Cooperative Program Development (2004-2006), Director- Church Annuity Program Department (2006-2015), Director-Church Staff Benefits/Stewardship (2015-2017) and North Region Catalyst to the State Board of Missions since 2017, and completed this service on June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Gary Townsend accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior in 1968 and was baptized at the Eminence Baptist Church in Eminence, Kentucky.

WHEREAS, He began serving as a youth minister at Bethany Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky and was a supply preacher for various churches from 1981-1982. He was later ordained to the Gospel Ministry on July 11, 1982 by the First Baptist Church of Jensen Beach, FL where he served as pastor from 1982-1996. He also served as the Director of Missions for the Marion Baptist Association from 1996-2004 before taking his first position with the Florida Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, born in Plant City, Florida in 1957, he completed his Associate of Arts degree from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida 1977, received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Florida in 1979, and received his Master of Divinity Degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky in 1982; and

WHEREAS, he has provided invaluable counsel and encouragement to pastors across the state as he has come alongside associations, churches, and pastors, Townsend has always been a faithful servant of Christ. He offered practical and real-life encouragement from his experience both as a pastor and his time working with the Convention; and

WHEREAS, Gary Townsend has been motivated in his love and service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the words of Philippians 1:6 – “And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to a completion at the day of Jesus Christ;” now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 13-14, 2023, in Lutz, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Gary Townsend, given to our Lord and Florida Baptists, and that we assure Gary and his wife, Susan, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this convention; and

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

Recommendation 11: Adoption of 142nd 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 forty-second annual report of the State Board of Missions to the Florida Baptist State Convention, covering the period of October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

Recomendación 11: Aceptar el 142 Informe Anual de la Junta Estatal de Misiones

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida acepten el informe anual ciento cuarenta y dos de la Junta Estatal de Misiones a la Convención Bautista Estatal de Florida, que cubre el período del 1 de octubre de 2022 al 30 de septiembre 2023.

Rekòmandasyon 11: Adopsyon 142èm Rapò Anyèl Komite Deta pou Misyon

Komite Deta pou Misyon an rekòmande pou tout mesaje yo ki ap patisipe nan Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la adopte san karann-de rapò anyèl Komite Deta pou Misyon nan Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid, ki kouvri peryod soti 1 Oktòb 2022 rive 30 Septanm 2023.

Florida Baptist Hispanics Share Gospel In New Orleans

Thirty-four Florida Baptist Hispanic pastors and volunteers joined with Hispanic Baptists from throughout the nation to share the gospel in New Orleans June 9-11.

Their efforts were a part of Crossover, an evangelistic outreach initiative designed to saturate the host city of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting with the gospel in the days leading up to the SBC gathering.

Pastor Eloy Rodriguez of Idlewild en Español in Tampa took a group of 34 pastors and volunteers from Florida for the event. The group went door

to door evangelizing, feeding and praying with families in communities throughout New Orleans in partnership with local Hispanic churches. The group was divided into several teams that worked a total of six projects in partnership with 13 local churches: La Viña Kenner, La Viña Westwego, Emanuel, Jesucristo para las Naciones, Maranatha, El Buen Pastor, Horeb, Horeb Chalmette, Lugar Seguro, Getsemani, Cristo Redentor, Buenas Nueva and El Camino.

During this year's event, the group served 2,500 meals, shared the gospel with more than 1,000 people and prayed with 100 people who made professions of faith.



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By Keila Diaz, Jun 15, 2023

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Calvary Church Reaches Deaf Community For Christ

For Ron Cooney, a specific church ministry originally brought his family through the doors of Calvary Church when he was 14 years old. As a child of a deaf adult (CODA), Cooney and his family were able to find a home at the Central Florida church. Now, years later, Cooney still calls Calvary Church home—as its executive pastor.

“God used Calvary’s Deaf Ministry to bring my entire family to faith in Christ,” said Cooney. “We are forever grateful for the kingdom work that has been done in the Deaf Ministry at Calvary through the years. They are an extension of my family.”

Most of the approximately 70 million Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people around the world have never seen Jesus’s name signed in their language. With a desire to reach this mostly unreached and unengaged mission field, Calvary Church has sought to serve some of the least evangelized people on earth—the Deaf community.

“Our vision for the Deaf Ministry at Calvary is to build relationships to bring the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to dynamic life in Christ locally in order to develop and deploy them to do the same in their communities and around the world.”

“With an understanding that globally, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are mostly unreached and unengaged, our vision for the Deaf Ministry at Calvary is to build relationships to bring the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to dynamic life in Christ locally in order to develop and deploy them to do the same in their communities and around the world,” he said.

Calvary’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry has existed for almost 50 years and continues to serve the Deaf in its community. “The ministry is a huge part of our DNA as a church,” Cooney said. “I certainly don’t know our church without a Deaf Ministry, and I am certain that if it wasn’t for the Deaf Ministry, I would not be at Calvary and may not have even been exposed to the saving power of the gospel.”

Through intentional effort, countless interpreters and Christlike volunteers—the church’s Deaf Ministry has thrived, giving “Deaf individuals every opportunity a hearing person has in the life of the church,” said Cooney.

“From responding to the gospel in an interpreted service on a Sunday morning, membership classes, and Bible studies, to serving on one of our serve teams or as a deacon ... this is only possible because of the dedicated and unselfish care of our interpreters,” he shared. “These interpreters embody the call of Romans 12:1-2 and have my deepest respect.”

Cooney added, “While Calvary has had an ongoing ministry to families with special needs, we decided to prioritize this further by hiring a staff member to focus on this particular area. This is a new position and a ministry that we hope grows into a vibrant one for families in our community who have various special needs.”



Not only are the weekly worship services interpreted for the Deaf, but the church also offers Deaf Bible studies, a “Hands of Praise” choir, camps and many social activities throughout the year.

From Christmas musicals and Vacation Bible School for the Deaf to mission trips—Calvary’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry continues to look for “creative outlets in order to build relationships with the Deaf community in the Tampa Bay area,” said Cooney. The church has broadened its reach to the Deaf community by hosting the Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf, where more than 200 people gathered on the church campus for the recent annual meeting. The church also will be hosting the Florida Baptist Conference for the Deaf in 2024, with hopes of encouraging other churches and ministries to the Deaf to keep pursuing Jesus and the call of discipleship.

The call to pursue Jesus and actively disciple a generation is exactly what Calvary Church desires to do for years to come. “God has used the Deaf Ministry at Calvary to reach families and change lives,” he said. “We know that there are many ways to minister to the Deaf, and we constantly seek new ways of engaging the lost community around us, including those who are Deaf.”

Cooney described how the church’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry serves the entire body of Christ. “When the church’s differences are on display, I believe with all of my heart that the whole is better served,” Cooney said. “This comes with its own unique challenges. But if you have godly people who believe the best about each other and who trust one another, you can accomplish the unimaginable. I like to think that we have those people in place at Calvary. As we embrace some of the differences between us—specifically, how we communicate—it has allowed us to see the kingdom difference we are making.”

The executive pastor who became a Christian through Calvary Church’s Deaf Ministry so many years ago looks forward to the day when all believers together will praise God’s name. “One day, when we are all gathered around the throne of grace, one of the ‘tongues’ that will be used to worship our great God and King will be those doing it in American Sign Language,” he said. “As for me, I guess I will use my native language as well as my hands to proclaim, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.’”

By Jessica Pigg | Jul 19, 2023



REPORT 2023

The Committee on Nominations of the Florida Baptist State Convention presents the following report for consideration and action by the Florida Baptist State Convention, November 13-14, 2023.

Persons listed in the sections "Nominees for Election" are **being recommended by the Committee on Nominations for election by the state convention.**

Names listed in the shaded yellow areas are for **information only.** These members are currently serving and are not subject to action by the convention in the year 2023.

STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS

The State Board of Missions is composed of members elected by the Florida Baptist State Convention from within the bounds of each of the six ministry regions. The regional distribution of board members is to be made on the following basis of church membership as recorded in the annual statistical report for the prior year: (1) One board member for 1-7,500 church members which shall increase by one for each additional 7,500 church members or portion thereof; (2) Total membership on the board shall be no more than 99 members and no less than 90; (3) No ministry region may be permitted more than 22 elected board members; (4) Each cooperating association shall be represented by a minimum of one member from one of its cooperating churches; (5) No association may be permitted more than five Board members; (6) At least one elected board member shall come from a church affiliated with the FBSC as a Church-at-Large; (7) In no instance will more than six elected board members come from churches affiliated with the FBSC as a Church-at-Large, with no more than two Church-at-Large representatives coming from any one of the six ministry regions.

CENTRAL REGION (22 members)

Central Nominees for Election (11)	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
David Sullivan, Plant City (lay)	Shiloh	2023-26	NONE
Cliff Lea, Leesburg (ord)	Lake County	2023-26	NONE
Nancy Wilder, Kissimmee (lay)	Greater Orlando	2023-26	NONE
Alvin White, Orlando (ord)	Greater Orlando	2023-25	NONE
Myra McNary, Springhill (lay)	Nature Coast	2023-26	NONE
Reynier Coro, Kissimmee (ord)	Greater Orlando	2023-26	NONE
Michael Sellers, Floral City (ord)	Nature Coast	2023-26	2021-23
Stephen Gerhart, Hudson (ord)	Pasco	2023-26	2021-23
Nikisha Roberts, Tampa (lay)	Tampa Bay	2023-26	2022-23
Fabricio Chaves Miranda, Lakeland (lay)	South Florida	2023-26	2022-23
Brian McDougall, Tampa (ord)	Tampa Bay	2023-24	2022-23

Central Board Members Continuing Service (11)

Thomas Jamieson (ord) 21-24 Lake County	Stephanie Williams (lay) 21-24 Suncoast
David Uth (ord) 21-24 Greater Orlando	Doug Watkins (ord) 22-25 Sumter
Aaron Burgner (ord) 21-24 South Florida	Jon Matthews (ord) 22-25 Suncoast
Matthew McCraw (ord) 21-24 South Florida	Scott Markley (ord) 22-25 Ridge
Jay Huddleston (ord) 21-24 Suncoast	Charles Jones (ord) 22-25 Greater Orlando
David Rice (ord) 21-24 Suncoast	

EAST REGION (22 members)

East Nominees for Election (7)	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Stephen Loy, Daytona (ord)	East Central	2023-26	2021-23
Chet Thomas, Flagler Beach (ord)	St. Johns River	2023-26	2021-23
Myra Campbell, Jacksonville (chst)	First Coast Churches	2023-26	2021-23
Nicki Glenn, Deland (lay)	East Central	2023-26	2021-23
Michael Edwards, Jacksonville (ord)	First Coast Churches	2023-26	NONE
Ben Bates, Palatka (lay)	St. Johns River	2023-24	NONE
Ethan Crowder, Sanford (ord)	East Central	2023-26	NONE

East Board Members Continuing Service (15)

John Shultz (ord) 21-24 First Coast Churches	Jim Parrish (lay) 22-25 First Coast Churches
Garry Taylor (ord) 21-24 St. Johns River	John Marsh (ord) 22-25 East Central
Nicholas Manzie (ord) 21-24 Treasure Coast	Debbie Nelson (lay) 22-25 Northeast Florida
Matthew Piscitelli (lay) 21-24 Treasure Coast	Cindy Pitts (lay) 22-25 St. Johns River
Scott Wilson (ord) 22-25 Brevard	Jeannie Saunders (lay) 22-25 Treasure Coast
Bill Tate 22-25 (ord) East Central	Zach Terry (ord) 22-25 Northeast Florida
Angel Santiago (ord) 22-25 First Coast Churches	Tracey Risley (lay) 22-25 Brevard
Kevin Lautar (ord) 22-25 St. Johns River	

NORTH REGION (14 members)

North Nominees for Election (3)	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Billy Young, Lake City (ord)	North Florida	2023-26	NONE
Justin Avery, Middleburg (lay)	Black Creek	2023-26	NONE
David McMullen, Perry (ord)	Taylor	2023-26	NONE

North Board Members Continuing Service (11)

Al Paulson, Jr. (ord) 21-24 Lafayette	Gary Shultz (ord) 22-25 Florida
Samuel Louis-Jean (ord) 21-24 Black Creek	Jonathan Rodriguez (ord) 22-25 New River
Crystal Carter (lay) 21-24 Florida	Monica Salem (lay) 22-25 Gadsden
Michael Fox (ord) 21-24 Harmony	Jason Rountree (lay) 22-25 Suwannee
Darren Gaddis (ord) 21-24 Marion	Adrian Taylor (ord) 22-25
Michael Hornback (ord) 22-25 Middle Florida	

SOUTHEAST REGION (16 members)

Southeast Nominees for Election (2)	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Etni Prieto, Big Pine Key (ord)	Florida Keys	2023-25	NONE
Arthur Conner, Hollywood (ord)	Broward	2023-26	NONE

Southeast Board Members Continuing Service (14)

Carole Eugene (lay) 21-24 Miami	Milvian Lema (lay) 22-25 Broward
Jean Boval (lay) 21-24 Broward	Danyel Moore (lay) 22-25 Miami
Judson Leverette (lay) 21-24 Palm Beach	Pierre Gregorie Saint-Louis (ord) 22-25 Palm Beach
Josh Dryer (ord) 22-25 Florida Keys	Julie Thomas (lay) 22-25 Palm Beach
Jeff Robinson (ord) 22-25 Palm Beach	Angel Turbeville (chst) 22-25 Palm Beach
Jerome Symonette (ord) 22-25 Broward	Carmen Carey (lay) 22-25 Miami
Alberto Ocana (ord) 22-25 Miami	Eddie Bevill (ord) 22-25 Broward

SOUTHWEST REGION (8 members*)

Southwest Nominees for Election (2)	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Scott Tharp, Bowling Green (ord)	Orange Blossom	2023-26	NONE
Robby Lewis, Okeechobee (ord)	Big Lake	2023-26	NONE

Southwest Board Members Continuing Service (8)

Phillip Hamm (ord) 21-24 Manatee Southern	Timothy Pigg (ord) 21-24 Royal Palm
Paula Butler (lay) 21-24 Royal Palm	Lisa Letson (lay) 21-24 Peace River
Susan Bassler (lay) 22-25 Manatee Southern	David Gold (ord) 22-25 Royal Palm
Mike Landry (ord) 22-25 Church-at-large	Alan Brumback (ord) 22-25 Royal Palm

**Bylaw requirements state that at least one board member must come from each association, additionally, past precedent has allowed for all members to continue service through all eligible terms. Because of this, the Southwest region is over by 2 members.*

WEST REGION (15 members)

West Nominees for Election (5)	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
James Ross, Niceville (ord)	Emerald Coast	2023-26	NONE
Jim Locke, Pensacola (ord)	Pensacola Bay	2023-26	NONE
Beverly Helms, Bonifay (lay)	Holmes	2023-26	NONE
Cody Watson, Bristol (ord)	Apalachee	2023-26	NONE
Jason Allen, Crestview (ord)	Okaloosa	2023-26	NONE

West Board Members Continuing Service (10)

Danny Mann (ord) 21-24 Chipola	David Flatt (ord) 21-24 Northwest Coast
Nathan Brown (ord) 21-24 Santa Rosa	Brian Calhoun (ord) 21-24 Pensacola Bay
Christina Vargas (lay) 21-24 Pensacola Bay	Timothy Francis (lay) 21-24 Walton County
Caleb Duncan (ord) 22-25 West Florida	Jonathan Russell (ord) 22-25 Santa Rosa
Parnell Smith (ord) 22-25 Northwest Coast	Wade Humphries (ord) 22-25 Emerald Coast

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS (9 members)

Nominees for Election (4)	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
David Tarkington, Orange Park (ord)	2023-24	NONE
Darrell Reneau, Inverness (ord)	2023-26	2022-23
Ron Smith, Palatka (ord)	2023-26	2022-23
Sanjeanetta Walker, Fort Walton Beach (lay)	2023-26	NONE

Chairman: David Chauncey, Gainesville (ord)

Vice-Chairman: David Tarkington, Orange Park (ord)

Committee Members Continuing Service (5)

David Chauncey (ord) Gainesville 22-25	Eldaa Roman (lay) Plantation 22-25
Charles Salem (ord) Quincy 22-25	Steven Kyle (ord) Panama City 21-24
Samuel Thigpen (ord) St. Augustine 21-24	

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES (24 members)

Nominees for Election (11)	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Lourdes Fernandez, Miami (lay)	2023-24	NONE
Stephen "Spike" Hogan, Jacksonville (ord)	2023-26	2017-20, 2021-23
Darryl Williamson, Tampa (ord)	2023-26	NONE
Brian West, Plant City (lay)	2023-26	NONE
Jennifer Gaddis, Ocala (lay)	2023-26	NONE
Melody Scott, Live Oak (lay)	2023-26	NONE
Lucrecia Lozano, Miami (lay)	2023-26	2021-23
Britton Williams, Bradenton (lay)	2023-26	2021-23
Justin Wyatt, Niceville (ord)	2023-26	2021-23
Lennox Zamore, Tampa (ord)	2023-26	2021-23
Sandra Buchanan, Sarasota (lay)	2023-26	2021-23

Trustees Continuing Service (13)

Robert McNorton (lay) Pensacola 21-24	Ken Whitten (ord) Lutz 21-24
Sherri Martin (lay) Niceville 21-24	Sam Rainer (ord) Bradenton 21-24
Anna Shanks (lay) Largo 22-25	Monique Cummings (lay) Carol City 22-25
Scott Cadwell (lay) Windermere 22-25	Ricky Wallace (lay) Jacksonville 22-25
Jose Abella (ord) Miami 22-25	Wayne Shimko (lay) Lakeland 22-24
Dave Snyder (ord) Pensacola 22-25	Ron Locke (lay) Gainesville 22-25
Larry Mouton (ord) Riverview 22-25	

FLORIDA BAPTIST FINANCIAL SERVICES (15 members)

Nominees for Election (6)

Nominees for Election (6)	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
John Bozard, Orlando (lay)	2023-26	NONE
Albert Byrd, Jacksonville (ord)	2023-26	NONE
Tim Stephenson, Bradenton (chst)	2023-26	NONE
Tammy Benedict, Jacksonville (chst)	2023-26	NONE
Dustin Sams, Titusville (chst)	2023-26	NONE
Dan Rodriguez, Miami (chst)	2023-26	NONE

Directors Continuing Service (9)

Richard Young, Jasper (lay) 21-24	Steve Sweitzer, Live Oak (ord) 21-24
James Davis, Deland (lay) 21-24	Charles Jones, Miami (lay) 21-24
Pearl Winslow, Jacksonville (lay) 21-24	Nita Waugh, Jacksonville (lay) 21-24
Charles Harper, Palm Coast (lay) 22-25	Retha Threatt, Panama City, (lay) 22-25
Jon Kendrick, Middleburg (ord) 22-25	

BAPTIST UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (25 members)

Nominees for Election (8)

Nominees for Election (8)	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Danny Heath, Ocala (ord)	2023-26	NONE
Tyler Pearce, Crawfordville (ord)	2023-26	NONE
Dwayne McDow, Lakeland (ord)	2023-24	NONE
Ryan Dupee, Naples (lay)	2023-26	NONE
Andrew Stuckner, Orlando (ord)	2023-26	NONE
Miream Sierra, Ft. Lauderdale (lay)	2023-26	NONE
Brant Adams, Tampa (ord)	2023-26	NONE
Patrick Inglett, Gainesville (lay)	2023-26	NONE

Trustees Continuing Service (17)

Chris Coram, Jacksonville (ord) 22-25	Dianne Lovett, Tangerine (lay) 22-25
Richard Williamson, Lakeland (ord) 22-25	Ted Traylor, Pensacola (ord) 22-24
David Kilgore, Clearwater (lay) 22-25	Eloy Rodriguez, Lutz (ord) 22-25
Eric Stitts, Daytona Beach (ord) 22-25	Dwight Woods, Panama City (ord) 22-25
Celeste Guthrie, Tallahassee (chst) 22-25	Joe Butler, Wauchula (ord) 21-24
Shelly Chandler, Bonifay (ord) 21-24	Otto Fernandez, Miami (ord) 21-24
Ronald Gainey, Baldwin (lay) 21-24	Daniel Hewett, Marianna (lay) 21-24
Michael Kennedy, Parrish (ord) 21-24	Don McLaughlin, Tallahassee (ord) 21-24
Jacob Chilton, Tallahassee (ord) 22-25	

LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER (9 members)

Nominees for Election (3)

Lydia Greear, St. Augustine (lay)
Miranda Sharp, Palatka (lay)
David Steele, St. Cloud (ord)

Term

2023-26
2023-26
2023-26

Consecutive Term(s)

NONE
NONE
NONE

Trustees Continuing Service (6)

Marlene Dordoye, Homestead (lay) 22-25
Bobby Miles, Orlando (ord) 22-25
Theodore Lightbourne, Gainesville (ord) 21-24

John Herrell, Grand Island (lay) 22-25
Jose Cardona, Windermere (ord) 21-24
Donald Miller, Tavares (ord) 21-24

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

2023 COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS MEMBERS

TERM	CENTRAL	EAST	NORTH	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WEST
**2022 2023	Craig Attaway Wildwood	*Cindy Fisher FBC Daytona	*Steve Truluck Hopeful Baptist	*Martha Feron Grace Connection	Kevin Taylor FBC Naples	Parnell Smith Vice Chair New Bethel Missionary
2022 2023 2024	*Mike Kahn Chair Idlewild	Brian Winburn Springhill Baptist	Brandon Denmark Trinity Baptist	Jonathan Palaci Christ Family	*Emely Pagan East Naples	*Roger Barrett Church on Bayshore
2023 2024 2025	Carl Ellison Wiregrass Church	*Jen Evans Discovery Church	*Patrick Inglett North Central	David Lema First, Pompano Beach	Ron Tipton Murdock	*Misty Coleman <i>Resigned 8/29/2023</i> Point Church
Ex Officio Members of Committee on Nominations Florida Baptist State Convention Officers				Paul Purvis President Temple Terrace	Dwight Woods 1st VP Panama City	*John Bozard 2nd VP Orlando
Florida Baptist Convention Staff Resource to Committee on Nominations				Tommy Green Executive Director- Treasurer	Micah Ferguson Director of Strategic Initiatives	Allison Martin Executive Ministry Assistant
*Indicates layperson						

Note: **2022-2023 These individuals have been appointed to a 2-year term as a result of the continuation of service from individuals serving during the 2020/2021 term that was impacted by COVID-19. This 2-year term fulfills the bylaw requirements ensuring that an equal number of committee members will rotate off each year.

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Brazilian Church Plant In Delray Beach Reaches Haitians With Gospel

One-year-old church plant Brazilian Baptist Church is reaching not only Brazilians in the Delray Beach community, but also Portuguese-speaking Haitian families.

Pastor Marcos Andrade says he did not set out intentionally to reach Haitian families; it all happened by God's guidance.

Andrade is bi-vocational, and when he is not pastoring Brazilian Baptist, he is driving for Uber. During one of his trips, he met a Haitian family that needed to go to the hospital with a sick family member and they asked if he would drive them.

Andrade not only drove them to the hospital but also stayed with the family at the hospital while they waited. As they sat around waiting and talking, Andrade told them he was a pastor and invited them to visit the church. Happy to hear that he was a pastor, they told him that they "loved to go to church."

It wasn't long before the family visited the church, and they stayed. Soon, the family told other Haitian friends about the church, and those friends started attending also. Members of Brazilian Baptist joke that most people attending today were also "just visiting" once but ended up staying permanently.

Haitian Marie Lucie is a mother of three who lived in Brazil for ten years. During that time the family attended church, and her children—the youngest being born in Brazil—practiced their faith in Portuguese. They knew worship songs and read the Bible in Portuguese. Their heart language was Portuguese even if their culture remained Haitian. Lucie says that her children prefer to go to a Portuguese-speaking church even though they speak Creole, English and Spanish.

"When we came here, we missed the warmth and community we experienced while we went to church in Brazil, and we were able to find it here at Brazilian Baptist," she said.

"In South Florida the time has come that churches can no longer afford to focus exclusively on reaching people with the gospel that only look like them or speak their language. People from all ethnic and racial backgrounds live together," said Al Fernandez, southeast regional catalyst for the Florida Baptist Convention.

"The Brazilian Baptist Church of Delray is an example of a new church that is focused on reaching the diaspora and impacting its entire community. I am grateful to God for church planters like Marcos Andrade who are expanding the kingdom of God to all people."



Lucie, like many other Haitians following the 2010 earthquake that rocked Haiti, immigrated to Brazil in search of better opportunities for her and her family. In 2012, as a response to the increase in the number of Haitians claiming asylum in Brazil, the government opened an opportunity for Haitians to regularize their status through humanitarian visas. As of 2020, the Haitian population living in Brazil was estimated to be around 143,000.

In 2021 when unemployment rates and the cost of living in Brazil climbed, Haitians were on the move again, making the perilous trip through the South American forests to the U.S. border.

On a Sunday evening this May, the church met for its Sunday worship service at First Baptist Church of Delray, sending church for the young congregation. Pastor Andrade played an acoustic guitar; a young man played percussion on a box drum, and another one played the piano while the multicultural, multigenerational church sang hymns in Portuguese. The group of about 30 spent time after the service fellowshiping over coffee and cake. There was no separation of groups; no one was left out of the conversation.

"We really are all a family, and God is the One bringing us all together as one," said Andrade. "God is showing me and guiding me to be everyone's pastor, to love them each and minister to each person where they are and as they are."

By Keila Diaz | May 28, 2023



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Handmade Dresses Share God's Love With Little Girls Throughout World

Little girls around the world are smiling and experiencing God's love through handmade dresses sewn by the volunteer women of Sew Culture ministry.



Emely Pagan started Sew Culture in 2014 after participating in a sewing workshop in her hometown of Naples.

"I thought I was doing really well because I kept getting switched from stations at the workshop until I ended up in the ironing station. Turns out they put me there because I couldn't sew," she recalled with a laugh. "I don't know how to sew, and yet God has called me to a sewing ministry."

When Pagan learned the women in the workshop were sewing dresses and sending them to little girls in Africa, she felt called to do the same thing for little girls in need in Latin America. There was just the issue of not being able to sew.

Pagan enlisted her sister, the only person she knew who could sew, and together they launched Sew Culture in 2014. Their mission is to bless little girls with something new made just for them. The ministry has grown to 26 volunteers who have sent dresses to many countries in Latin America and to Ukraine, Estonia, Russia and India.

Eight of the volunteers sew, and others decorate, cut fabric, and clean up the workspace. Each dress has the Sew Culture tag and a short message of God's love.

Until September 2022, Sew Culture operated out of a warehouse near the Naples coast. When Hurricane Ian hit the Florida Gulf Coast, the warehouse flooded, and Sew Culture lost almost all of its inventory.

East Naples Baptist Church then graciously offered Sew Culture one of its mission houses to continue its ministry.



Pagan's husband, JR Pagan, is the associate pastor at East Naples. Royal Palm Network/Association of Churches partnered with the ministry to help build back the lost inventory.

Just this March the ministry started a partnership with One More Child. Through the partnership, Sew Culture has committed to sewing 100 dresses every month that One More Child will then send abroad to little girls in need.

"God is opening doors, and I am walking right through them," Pagan said.

Recently, the sewers have started to make shorts for boys. "We want the boys to get something new too. We learned that when the girls were receiving their dresses, the boys would be waiting eagerly for something for them too. We don't want them to be left empty-handed," she said.

Sew Culture is selective about the fabric used because volunteers want the girls and boys to get the best. The ministry uses 100% cotton fabrics for the dresses and true denim for the boys' shorts. Nothing goes to waste, with the smaller pieces of fabric used for bows, pockets and headbands.

"We pray over everything that is being made. We want to make a difference in the lives of these children; their smiles are our prize," Pagan said.



Scan to read complete story

By Keila Diaz, May 15, 2023



**COOPERATING
MINISTRIES**
**The Baptist
College
of Florida**

CLAYTON P. CLOER
President

The Baptist College of Florida becomes the Baptist University of Florida (BUF) pending the Florida Baptist Convention approval on November 14, 2023. BUF exists to be the Christian higher education partner of Florida Baptists. The main campus sits on more than 200 acres in Graceville, Florida. BUF offers sites in Miami, Broward, West Palm Beach, and Clearwater in 2024. As a cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist Convention, BUF partners with our churches, entities, and agencies to equip and deploy servants of Christ. More than 4,500 graduates have scattered throughout Florida and the world making an impact for Christ. The Baptist University of Florida offers full degree programs, dual enrollment, and distance learning opportunities online and on various sites across the state. With 19 degree programs in undergraduate and graduate programs, BUF makes exceptional Christian higher education available and accessible.

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 overwhelming 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, Psychology and Counseling, and Teacher Education. Academic offerings include sixteen undergraduate and four 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 2022-2023:

- Celebrated the inauguration of Dr. Clayton Cloer, 7th President of The Baptist College of Florida
- Trustees approved a new marketing plan for the College in order to rebrand to the new name: Baptist University of Florida
- Opened new off-campus sites in Hialeah and Broward, FL
- Trustees approved lease agreement with Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater for the BCF peninsula campus
- Moved McMillan Library back to a renovated Carlton Hall
- Began construction of the new President's Home, completely renovated the Wellness Center, launched a new food service program for the campus

RECOGNITIONS:

- 2023 Top 10 Best Colleges in the USA BCF Cover Story (CIO Views Magazine <https://cioviews.com/digital/2023/april/the-top-10-best-colleges-in-usa-2023-april-28/>)
- 2023-2024 Military Friendly School® School Designation (Military Friendly)
- 2023 Best Faith-Based Institution in Florida (Intelligent.com)
- 2023 Ranked #3 Best Value Bachelor's Degrees in Theology (College Factual)
- 2022 Top 10 for Online Bachelor's of Music (Academic Influence)
- 2022 Top 10 Online Colleges in Florida (BestColleges.com)
- 2022 Ranked one of the "Best Christian Colleges in Florida" (BestValueSchools.org)

For further information concerning the programs of study offered at The Baptist College of Florida, contact Savannah McVay; Director of Admissions; 5400 College Drive; Graceville, FL 32440; 1-800-328-2660 ext. 460.



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

RICK WHEELER
President/CEO

We are grateful for another season of growth & impact among our family of churches. This year, we have presented estate planning workshops to over 750 individuals resulting in 45 new estate plans. We celebrate the generosity of God's people through Florida Baptist churches who want to "outlive their life" through an estate plan that expresses stewardship and generosity. **In addition, we have seen over \$4M in total distributions YTD.**

During our Convention video report, we will feature a Kingdom impact story about the **R. Niel Hampton Jr. Memorial Scholarship**. You will be encouraged as we are all reminded how our gracious God can bring hope and healing from deep pain and loss. See how this "normative" sized church is making a huge difference in the lives of many!

Speaking of Kingdom Impact – did you know that our Foundation's **Kingdom Fund** provides a long-term return for investors while directly investing in ethical bio-medical research which seeks to cure orphan diseases, US farmland, providing banking services for under-resourced people around the world, and other ways that promote human flourishing? This fund has over \$57M in assets with an average annual return of 7.2% since inception.



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A few additional ministry highlights and celebrations:

- Total assets under management (Foundation and Church Growth Investment Fund combined) continue to grow to over \$337,000,000.
- Earlier this year we celebrated the annual distribution from the Florida One Fund, providing a total of over \$400,000 in resources to Send Network Florida, Disaster Relief, One More Child, The Baptist College of Florida, and in partnership with the Florida Baptist Convention, awarding 53 pastor/family theological education scholarships.
- So far this year, we provided 16 new loans to Florida Baptist churches totaling \$21.7M and have funded over \$263M to churches through the Church Growth Investment Fund since inception.
- Lastly, CGIF is currently offering a new 6-month time certificate for 5.0%

Please visit our booth to say hello - thank you for partnering with us - to God be the Glory!

Rick Wheeler
President & CEO



**COOPERATING
MINISTRIES
Lake Yale Baptist
Conference Center**

JEFF A. YANT
Executive Director



WHAT'S YOUR LAKE YALE STORY?

Since the very beginning of the church, in Acts 2, there has been an overarching theme of connectedness, unity, and togetherness among believers. There was value in gathering, outside of their normal social structure, to be with other believers for encouragement, teaching, and training. That tradition and theme of connectedness continues today in the ministry of Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center. Here, believers grow together, gain perspective, and gather support in the ministry that God has given them. For 56 years, Florida Baptists of all ages have been gathering in unity at Lake Yale for workshops, revivals, trainings, teaching, fellowship, and evangelism. We are very proud of our rich Southern Baptist tradition and history and our ongoing relationship with your churches and the Florida Baptist Convention. All you need to do is simply ask someone around you, "What is your Lake Yale story?" and you will hear how God has used something that has happened in this place to impact people's life, to bring people together, and set a course for their ministry.

That is why, as a ministry team, we are striving to provide the best possible location and value for Florida Baptist ministries to host their events, trainings, and workshops. We are working diligently to update and upgrade our offerings, increase the level of comfort and security, and provide opportunities for deeper connection through interaction and play. We're continuing to add amenities and update rooms, upgrade audio visual components, and work with groups to provide meals that are of a superior value. Overall, our ministry exists to ensure that you have everything you or your groups could want or need as you meet and connect, while we take care of the logistics.

This year, we are working on a new outdoor covered pavilion that can host pickleball, basketball, meetings, and large outdoor events in our Raintree field area. Additionally, we are adding to our pool deck and including a large, dual flume slide, covered porch, and expanded pool deck. In the camps, we are looking at a new approach to the bunkhouse interior to make them more appealing, welcoming, and comfortable for a variety of groups. All these things are made possible through your continued support and prayers. YOU have made this possible! Thank you!

Do you have a Lake Yale Story? If you do, or even if you don't, you and your church can be an integral part in shaping the future of your Florida Baptist Camp and Conference Center, Lake Yale. We provide the materials and the direction, but we need hands to help make some of our updates a reality. Use the QR Code provided here to connect with us and find out what opportunities are available for your church to volunteer and create your own Lake Yale story.



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COOPERATING
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**Florida Baptist
Children's Homes &
One More Child**

JERRY T. HAAG, Ph.D., CFP
President/CEO



ENGAGE FOR CHILDREN

One More Child is steadfast in its mission to share the love of Christ with children who are abused, neglected, or disadvantaged. In 2022, we cared for **236,492 children and individuals** and provided **more than 14 million meals**. All of this was possible because of people like you who said “yes.”

When you say “yes” to engaging for one more child, you help children like Tonya*, a teen girl in foster care. Tonya recently visited Loft 181, a ministry of One More Child that offers girls in foster care and survivors of sex-trafficking, a boutique-style shopping experience in a safe, nurturing environment.

Tonya came to Loft 181 with a group of foster children, laughing and joking as they selected from an assortment of items donated by generous supporters. At the end of the appointment, the Loft 181 team shared the Gospel with the girls, specifically about the nearness of God (Proverbs 18:24). Each girl shared their prayer requests; Tonya disclosed she was terrified by the uncertainty she faced as she aged out of foster care.

After the prayer, Tonya stayed behind as the girls departed, hoping to learn what it would look like for God to be near to her personally. That day, she prayed to invite Jesus to be “the friend that sticks close to her always.”

The support from our churches has enabled us to serve more people in more places than ever before. By partnering with One More Child, you helped provide loving homes for foster children, warm meals for hungry children, hope and resources for single moms, and healing for survivors of child sex trafficking.

**Name has been changed for reasons of confidentiality.*

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- **FOSTER CARE** 1,329 foster children served and 137 children placed with an adoptive family.
- **SINGLE MOMS** 203 moms and children served through the Single Moms program with an 88% completion rate.
- **FAMILY SUPPORT** 2,409 clients served / 209 life skills classes offered to develop self-sufficiency.
- **ANTI-TRAFFICKING** 3,756 impacted through education, advocacy, and 265 served by our mobile teams.
- **SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE** 3,272 clients presented with adoption and 998 babies saved from abortion.
- **SPONSOR A CHILD** 20,757 global child sponsorships.



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WHY NOBTS?
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Remembering Faithful Servants



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.'

Victor Bettenhausen, Retired Pastor, Central, Crestview
Rick Blackwood, Former Pastor, Christ Fellowship, Palmetto Bay
Walter Bowman, Pastor, Athens, Lake City
James Burnham, Former Pastor, Argyle Baptist Church, Argyle
Chaz Burton, Associate Pastor, C3, Orlando
Edecio Chacin, Associate Pastor, Iglesia Bautista Lake Saunders, Mount Dora
Tim Darden, Pastor, Gillette Baptist, Palmetto
Jack Deeds, Former Pastor, The Rock Church, Scottsmeer
Jean Dorlus, Associate Pastor, Communauté Evangélique Baptiste de la la Grâce, West Palm Beach
John Dorman, Former Pastor, Lamont Baptist Church, Lamont
Vaughn Farnell, Former Pastor, Jena First, Steinhatchee
Antoine Vilar Fils-Aimé, Founding Pastor, First Haitian, Orlando
Rafael Fussalva, Pastor, Iglesia Bautista De Jerusalem Paz, Miami
John Gabarena, Pastor, Manhattan, Tampa
Robert Hare, Minister of Education, North Park, Orlando
Richard Hosea, Associate Pastor, Simmons Loop, Riverview
Craig Jacobs, Retired Pastor, Citra, First
David Johns, Pastor, First, Fellsmere
Perry (Ray) Johnson, Former Pastor, Titusville, First
Eduardo Jordan, Pastor, La Hermosa, Leisure City
Tom Kennedy, Former AMS, Gadsden County Association
James Knight, Former Pastor, Tampa, First
Jimmy McNeal, Former Pastor, Lee, First
Jeff Mitchell, Pastor, Harbor City, Melbourne
David Montalbano, Former AMS, Southwest Florida Association
Jonathan Rager, Associate Pastor, Palm Coast, First
Felix Ramirez, Pastor, La Primera Iglesia, Mascotte
Carlos Romero, Former Pastor, Hialeah, First
Kenneth Simpson, Former Pastor, Bloomingdale First, Valrico
James Steele, Pastor, Huntsville, Lake City
Robert Stuckey, Pastor, First, Fort Myers Beach
Luis Vega, Pastor, Church of the Way, Tampa
Dan Wade, Retired Pastor, First, Zephyrhills
Bobby Waynick, Former Pastor, Santa Clara, Quincy
Kenneth White, Pastor, Donald Ross Road, Palm Beach Gardens
Greg Wrigley, Former Pastor and Former AMS Springs, Green Cove Springs and Black Creek Association

...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

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

Because proclaiming the word of God is central to the mission of the Church, we seek to train students to faithfully interpret and preach the word as they shepherd churches to obey all that Jesus has commanded.

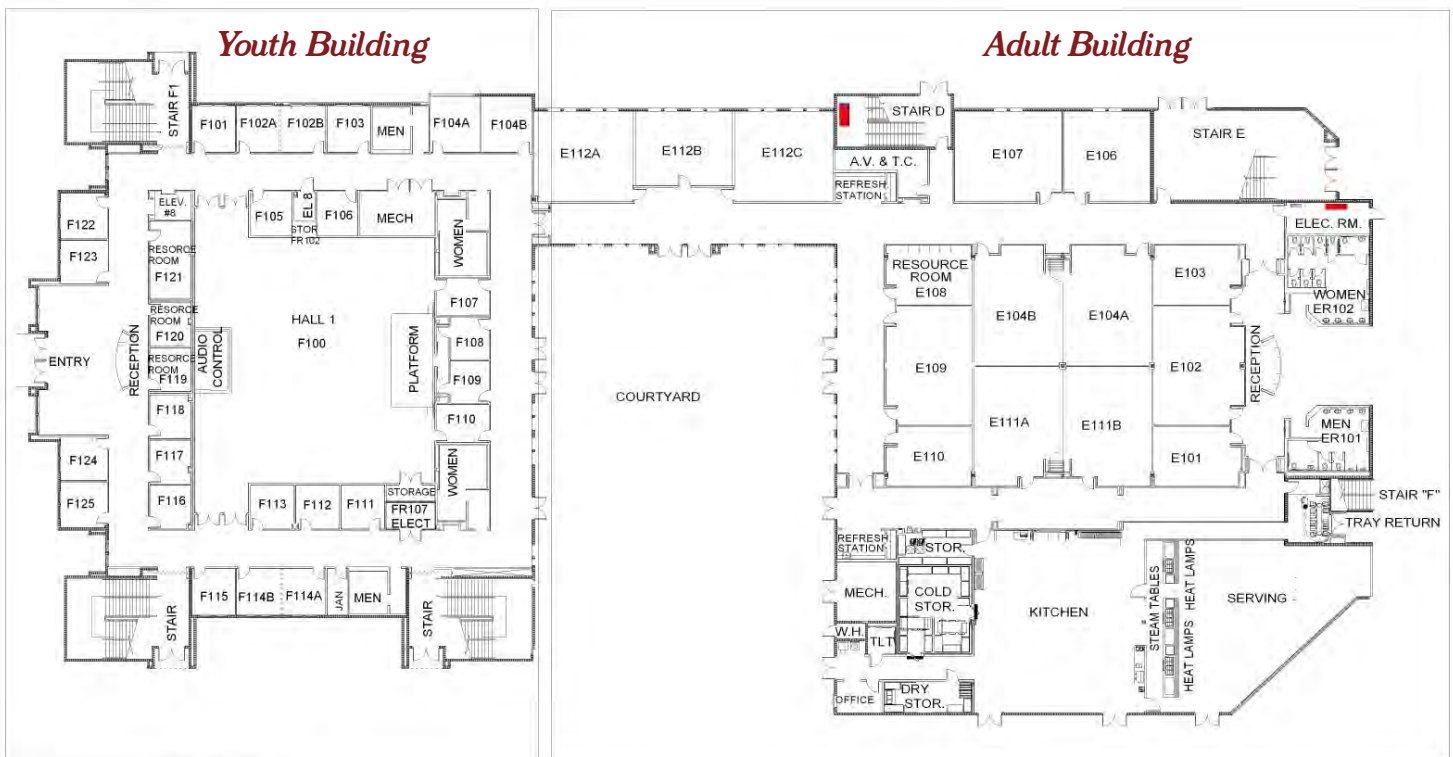
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Facility Guide Map



1st Floor





Florida Baptist
Convention

Right Beside You.

flbaptist.org

