

A HOLY PEOPLE

SHINING HIS LIGHT IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS

*162nd Annual Meeting | 170 Years Since Organization
Year 2023-2024 Convention Guidebook*

Held in the facilities of the
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
3000 S John Young Pkwy
Orlando, FL 32805

flbaptist.org | [@floridabaptists](https://www.instagram.com/floridabaptists)    

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Welcome to our 162nd annual gathering. Every year I look forward to this family meeting with each of you from across our state. This is a special time to celebrate what God is doing through our churches and to encourage one another to stay faithful to Him.

I stand amazed at what God is doing in and through Florida Baptists. For this reason, I give all honor and glory to Him. May He continue to work in us to reach Florida with the gospel.

Through much prayer, God gave me a deep desire to encourage our churches to be “A Holy People.” I believe God desires to use this theme to remind us of who we are called to be. In 1 Peter 1:15 we are commanded to, “...be holy in all our conduct.” If we are to reach Florida with the gospel then we need to be a holy people, a light shining in the darkness around us.

As we gather, we will do some family business. However, we primarily gather in unity to experience God move through powerful worship and inspiring biblical preaching that will equip us to be a holy people.

I pray as we conclude our meeting this year we are revived and motivated to return to our faith families to encourage our people to pursue holiness. The world around us needs to see a holy people. We will reach Florida if we are living holy in all of our conduct and live shining the light of the gospel as we go.

I am honored to serve in the greatest work with you!

I love you!

Mike Orr

Bienvenidos a nuestra 162ª reunión anual. Cada año anhelo esta reunión familiar con cada uno de ustedes de todo nuestro estado. Este es un momento especial para celebrar lo que Dios está haciendo a través de nuestras iglesias y para animarnos unos a otros a permanecer fieles a Él.

Estoy asombrado de lo que Dios está haciendo en y a través de los Bautistas de Florida. Por esta razón, le doy todo el honor y la gloria a Él. Que Él continúe obrando en nosotros para alcanzar a Florida con el evangelio.

A través de mucha oración, Dios me dio un profundo deseo de animar a nuestras iglesias a ser “Un Pueblo Santo”. Creo que Dios desea usar este tema para recordarnos quiénes estamos llamados a ser. En 1 Pedro 1:15 se nos ordena: “... sed santos en toda nuestra conducta”. Si vamos a llegar a Florida con el evangelio, entonces necesitamos ser un pueblo santo, una luz que brille en la oscuridad que nos rodea.

A medida que nos vayamos reuniendo, haremos algunos negocios familiares. Sin embargo, principalmente nos reunimos en unidad para experimentar el movimiento de Dios a través de una adoración poderosa y una predicación Bíblica inspiradora que nos equipará para ser un pueblo santo.

Ruego que, al concluir nuestra reunión de este año, seamos revividos y motivados a regresar a nuestras familias de fe para animar a nuestra gente a buscar la santidad. El mundo que nos rodea necesita ver un pueblo santo. Alcanzaremos a Florida si vivimos santos en toda nuestra conducta y vivimos brillando la luz del Evangelio a medida que avanzamos.

¡Me siento honrado de servir en la obra más grande con ustedes!

¡Los amo!

Mike Orr

Byenvini nan 162èm rasanbleman anyèl nou. Chak ane mwen pa ka tann pou reyinyon fanmi sa a avèk nou chak ki soti toupatou nan eta a. Sa a se yon tan espesyal pou selebre sa Bondye ap fè atravè legliz nou yo epi pou ankouraje youn ak lòt pou rete fidèl avè L.

Mwen etone pou wè jan Bondye ap travay nan mitan Batis Florid yo. Se poutèt sa, mwen bay tout onè ak glwa pou li. Se pou li kontinye travay nan nou pou rive touche tout Florid avèk levanjil la.

Atravè anpil lapriyè, Bondye te ban m yon gwo dezi pou ankouraje legliz nou yo pou yo se “Yon Pèp Sen.” Mwen kwè ke Bondye vle itilize tèm sa a pou fè nou sonje kiyès nou aple pou nou ye. Nan 1 Pyè 1: 15 nou resevwa kòmandman pou, “... sen nan tout kondwit nou.” Si nou dwe rive touche Florid avèk levanjil la, ebyen nou bezwen pou nou se yon pèp ki sen, yon limyè kap klere nan fènwa toupatou bò kote nou.

Pandan nou rasanble, n ap pwofite regle biznis fanmi an. Sepandan, nou sitou rasanble nan linite pou n fè eksperyans ak jan Bondye ap ajì atravè bèl adorasyon ansanm ak bon prèch bibliik byen enspire ki pral ekipe nou pou nou ka yon pèp sen.

Mwen priye pandan n ap fini reyinyon nou ane sa a, nou santi nou reviv epi motive pou retounen al jwenn fanmi nou yo nan lafwa pou ankouraje pèp nou an pou pouswiv sentete. Lemond ki antoure nou bezwen wè yon pèp sen. N ap rive touche Florid si n ap viv yon vi ki sen nan tout kondwit nou epi klere limyè levanjil la pandan nou ap avanse.

Mwen onore pou sèvi avèk ou nan pi gwo travay ki genyen!

Mwen renmen w!

Mike Orr



Welcome to the 2024 Florida Baptist Family Gathering!

As we come together from across our state to worship, connect with each other, rejoice in what God is doing through Florida Baptist churches, and conduct our convention business, I believe God desires to meet with us, speak to us, and work in our lives.

I know you share my excitement as we celebrate all God is doing through our churches in Florida. Florida Baptist congregations continue to set the pace for the whole nation in sharing the gospel, planting and revitalizing churches, doing hands-on missions, and giving generously. I praise Lord for how He is using us together.

Michele and I are so thankful to God for the privilege of being back in this wonderful state and serving you. Florida Baptists are some of the most warm and loving people on the planet, and we are thrilled at the opportunity to make a difference for God's kingdom together with you. We look forward to getting to know you better during our annual meeting this week and in the days to come.

As Florida Baptists stay on mission with the saving message of Jesus, I am confident God will do great and mighty things through our family of churches!

With joy,

Stephen Rummage

¡Bienvenidos a la Reunión de la Familia Bautista de Florida 2024!

A medida que nos reunimos desde todo nuestro estado para adorar, conectarnos unos con otros, regocijarnos en lo que Dios está haciendo a través de las iglesias Bautistas de Florida y llevar a cabo nuestros asuntos de la Convención, creo que Dios desea reunirse con nosotros, hablarnos y obrar en nuestras vidas.

Sé que comparten mi emoción mientras celebramos todo lo que Dios está haciendo a través de nuestras iglesias en Florida. Las congregaciones Bautistas de la Florida continúan marcando el ritmo para toda la nación al compartir el evangelio, plantar y revitalizar iglesias, hacer misiones prácticas y dar generosamente. Alabo al Señor por la forma en que nos está usando juntos.

Michele y yo estamos muy agradecidos con Dios por el privilegio de estar de vuelta en este maravilloso estado y servirles. Los Bautistas de Florida son algunas de las personas más cálidas y amorosas del planeta, y estamos emocionados por la oportunidad de hacer una diferencia para el reino de Dios junto con usted. Esperamos conocerle mejor durante nuestra reunión anual de esta semana y en los próximos días.

A medida que los Bautistas de la Florida permanecen en misión con el mensaje salvador de Jesús, ¡estoy seguro de que Dios hará cosas grandes y poderosas a través de nuestra familia de iglesias!

Con gozo,

Stephen Rummage

Byenvini nan Rasanbleman Fanmi Batis Florid 2024 la!

Pandan nou rasanble ansanm soti toupatou atravè eta a pou adore, konekte youn ak lòt, rejwi pou sa Bondye ap fè atravè legliz Batis Florid yo, epi diskite zafè biznis konvansyon an, mwen kwè ke Bondye vle rankontre avèk nou, pale avèk nou, epi travay nan lavi nou.

Mwen konnen ou pataje kontantman mwen pandan n ap selebre tout sa Bondye ap fè atravè legliz nou yo nan Florid. Kongregasyon Batis Florid yo kontinye sèvi kòm modèl pou tout nasyon an nan pataje levanjil, plante ak revitalize legliz, fè misyon, epi bay avèk jenewozite. Mwen fè lwanj Seyè a pou fason li ap itilize nou ansanm.

Michele ansanm avè m rekonesan anvè Bondye anpil pou privilèj nou genyen pou retounen nan bèl eta sa a epi pou sèvi nou. Moun Batis Florid yo se kèk nan moun ki pi chalere epi renmen moun ki genyen sou planèt la, e nou vrèman kontan nou gen opòtinite pou fè yon diferans pou wayòm Bondye a ansanm avèk ou. Nou ap tann pou konnen ou pi byen pandan reyinyon anyèl nou semèn sa a epi nan lòt jou kap vini yo.

Pandan moun Batis Florid yo rete sou misyon mesaj Jezi ki sove a, mwen gen konfyans ke Bondye ap fè gran e gwo travay atravè fanmi legliz nou yo!

Avèk lajwa,

Stephen Rummage

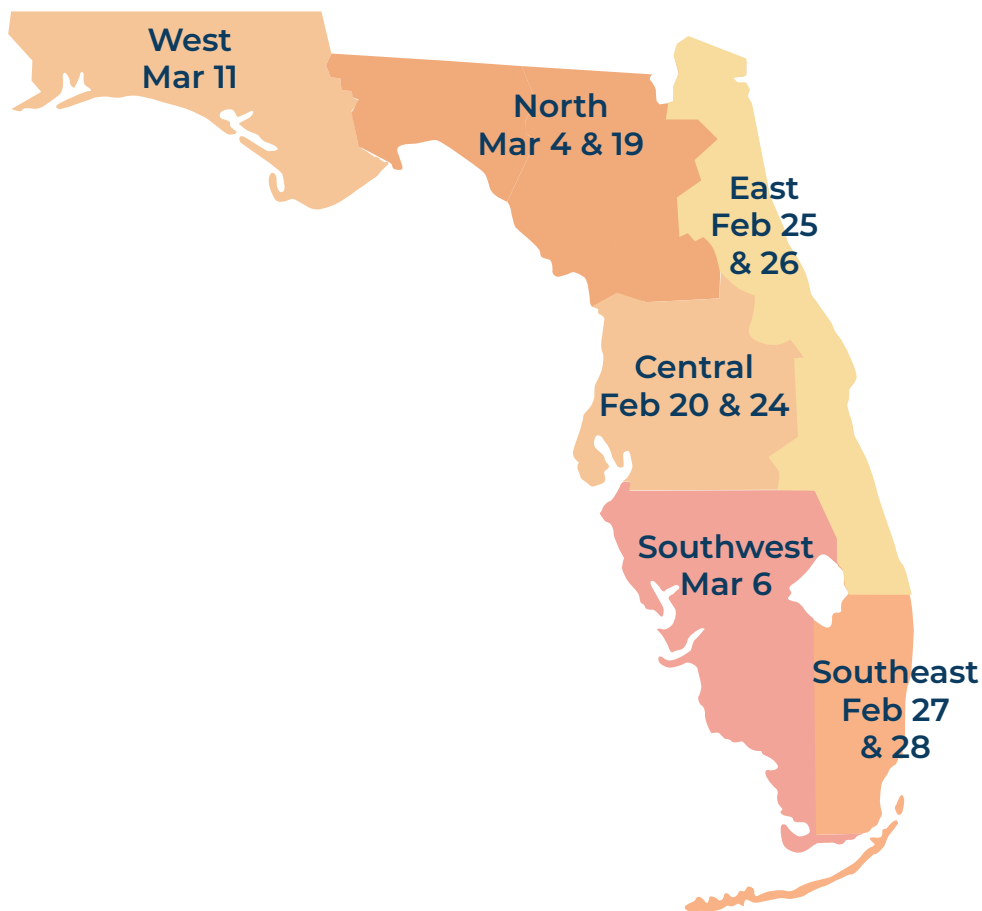


Continuing *Together* Tour

“Continuing Together Tour with Dr. Stephen Rummage”

Day and evening opportunities are available.

Visit flbaptist.org/continuing to choose when you will attend.



Florida Baptist
Convention

Right Beside You.

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Officers of the Convention

President: Mike Orr, Chipley
First-Vice President: David Perez, Saint Cloud
Second Vice-President: Jeff Crick, Saint Johns
Recording Secretary: Janey Frost, Pensacola

Committee on Order of Business

David Chauncey, Gainesville, Chair
David Tarkington, Orange Park, Vice-Chair
Steven Kyle, Panama City
Darrell Reneau, Inverness
Eldaa Roman, Plantation
Charles Salem, Quincy
Ron Smith, Palatka
Samuel Thigpen, St. Augustine
Sanjeanetta Walker, Fort Walton Beach

Committee on Credentials

Brad Gwartney, Deland, Chair
Danny Heath, Ocala, Vice-Chair
Peter Burmeister, Pensacola
Kevin Mays, Land O Lakes
Tim Flowers, West Palm Beach
Dan Rodriguez, Miami
Zac Drummond, Inverness

Tellers Committee

Vince Smith, Marianna, Chair	Steve Loy, Port Orange
Mary Helen Smith, Marianna	Martin Beall, Miami
Nicki Glenn, Deland	Yasmin Perez, Saint Cloud
Daryl Jones, Miami	

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, Jessica Beike, Phillip Hanes, Tam Johnson, Katrin Lindo, Allison Martin, Jennie Oswald, Darlene Pruitt, 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.

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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 available in: Spanish, Haitian, Portuguese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese at www.flbaptist.org/cc

*Between the Great Commission
and the Great Multitude,
God invites us to join Him in*

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Gospel Partnership Enhanced With New Initiative Between The Salvation Army And Southern Baptist Disaster Relief

When crises wreak heartbreak and havoc in communities, The Salvation Army and Florida Baptist Disaster Relief step out in gospel partnership to offer nourishment not only for the body but also for the soul.

The two faith-based organizations recently launched a joint service initiative to ensure that every Salvation Army mobile feeding unit would be accompanied by trained chaplains to offer the hope of the gospel to those impacted by disaster.

“Chaplains are really the heartbeat of what we do. Even though people see the feeding and cleanup, we have a real emphasis on the spiritual component of what we do for survivors and for our own volunteers. Jesus gave us a mandate to meet the physical needs of people, but more so He gave us a mandate to meet the spiritual needs,” said David Coggins, director of Florida Baptist Disaster Relief.

The new initiative was put into practice for the first time after Hurricane Debby made landfall in the Big Bend of Florida on Aug. 5 and the two crisis response organizations partnered in relief efforts.

“We are excited about all that has come together over the past year to strengthen our partnership with The Salvation Army and believe this will greatly expand opportunities to bring compassionate help to those impacted by disasters not only in feeding but also in providing emotional and spiritual care to survivors. This demonstrates the love of Christ to hurting people and has potential to expand both organizations’ kingdom impact,” said Coy Webb, crisis response director for Southern Baptists’ Send Relief.

Dale Simmons, state chaplaincy coordinator for Florida Baptist Disaster Relief, agrees. “This partnership is significant as it leverages the strengths of both organizations to provide a more robust and effective disaster relief effort in Florida and potentially beyond,” he said. Simmons noted that the partnership is significant in five ways: resource sharing, broader reach, efficient coordination, increased support and funding, and enhanced training and preparedness.

Providing chaplain support to The Salvation Army, Webb pointed out, “is one of our greatest opportunities to solidify our relationship and to provide greater ministry to the broken and suffering. The recent work between Florida Baptist Disaster Relief and The Salvation Army is a shining example of this great opportunity to increase the work of Christ through partnership,” he said.

‘Want to feel heard and seen’

In a disaster’s aftermath, community residents, who are “often desperate and at the end of their resources,” gather in long lines with their neighbors to receive much-

needed food and water. “Many are in tears because they can’t see past their seemingly hopeless situation,” said Major Leisa Hall, area commander in the Florida Division of The Salvation Army.

Grateful for the food and water, she said, many of these disaster survivors want more. They “want to feel heard and seen.”

Emotional and spiritual care offered by volunteers from The Salvation Army and Florida Baptist Disaster Relief “can provide a listening ear, Scripture verses, prayer and other benefits beyond food and water,” she said. The “ultimate victory,” she added, of these “meaningful conversations” is “when the disaster survivor comes to faith in Jesus.”



In a rural Florida community during the recent Hurricane Debby response, Monique, a Salvation Army volunteer who is trained in emotional and spiritual care, accepted the outstretched hand of a young man who requested prayer for himself and his girlfriend. After Monique prayed over the couple, the man, with tears in his eyes, thanked her for not only being there to meet their physical needs but also for demonstrating that someone cares for them and what they have been through.

Also during the Hurricane Debby response, Cindy Weldon, a Florida Baptist Disaster Relief chaplain, connected with a homeless man who shared a “compelling story” he had never shared before. “Throughout our time together, we experienced moments of both laughter and tears. According to him, throughout his life, he had never experienced someone treating him with respect or showing genuine care for him as an individual,” she said.

Such stories are shared often as Florida Baptist Disaster Relief and The Salvation Army join together to “share a gospel witness or minister in other ways to people” who are distraught in a disaster’s aftermath, Coggins said.

The new partnership initiative, he said, “is a great opportunity to expand our ministry reach.”

By Margaret Colson | Aug 21, 2024

2024 Program Personnel Directory

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

Clayton Cloer, president, Baptist University of Florida, Graceville

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

Jeffery Crick, second vice-president, Florida Baptist State Convention; member Fruit Cove Baptist Church, Saint Johns

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

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

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

Joe Lindamood, worship pastor, First Baptist Church, Chipley and campus pastor/staff, Baptist University of Florida, Graceville

Carlos Lollett, lead pastor, Reality Church, Miami

Mike Orr, president, Florida Baptist State Convention; senior pastor; First Baptist Church, Chipley

David Perez, first vice-president, Florida Baptist State Convention and lead pastor, Iglesia Bautista Casa de Bendicion, St. Cloud

Willy Rice, senior pastor, Calvary Church, Clearwater

Stephen Rummage, executive director-treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville

Adrian Taylor, senior pastor, Springhill Church, Gainesville

Ted Traylor, senior pastor, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola

Rick Wheeler, president, Florida Baptist Financial Services, Jacksonville

Jeff Yant, executive director, Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center

Florida Baptist Convention Staff Directory

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-TREASURER

Stephen N. Rummage, 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

Mike Gilley, Bookkeeper

Madison Handley, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Tam Johnson, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Katrin Lindo, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Allison Martin, Executive Ministry Assistant

Donatha Menard, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Jennie Oswald, Administrative Ministry Assistant

James Powell, Communications Specialist

Darlene Pruitt, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Flor Ramirez, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Rich Rigdon, Associate Director of Disaster Relief

Loida Reyes, Administrative Ministry Assistant

Richard Shaffner, Maintenance Supervisor, Jacksonville

Emma Wright, Administrative Ministry Assistant

A HOLY PEOPLE

SHINING HIS LIGHT IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS



Monday Afternoon - Session 1

11.11.2024

- 3:00 PM **Worship** | Worship Team
- 3:15 PM **Convention Convenes** | Enrollment of Messengers | Adoption of Program
Introduction of Officers | Opening Prayer
- 3:25 PM **President's Theme Interpretation and
Recognition of New Executive Director-Treasurer**
- 3:35 PM **Right Beside You: Next Generation**
- 3:45 PM **Cooperating Ministry Report: Lake Yale**
- 3:48 PM **Right Beside You: 3:16 on 3/16**
- 3:58 PM **Worship** | Worship Team
- 4:08 PM **Biblical Message** | Adrian Taylor, lead pastor, Springhill Church, Gainesville
- 4:45 PM **Veteran Recognition, Pastor's Memorial Recognition, Session Closing, and Prayer**
- 4:50 PM **Dismiss**

Monday Evening - Session 2

11.11.2024

- 6:45 PM **Prelude - Worship** | Convention Worship Team and Baptist University of Florida Singers
- 7:00 PM **Convention Convenes** | Prayer
- 7:06 PM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team and Baptist University of Florida Singers
- 7:16 PM **President's Message** | Mike Orr, president, Florida Baptist State Convention;
senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Chipley
- 7:53 PM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team and Baptist University of Florida Singers
- 8:03 PM **Biblical Message** | Clayton Cloer, president, Baptist University of Florida
- 8:40 PM **Season of Prayer and Worship** | led by Mike Orr
- 8:50 PM **Session Closing**
- 8:55 PM **Dismiss**

Tuesday Morning - Session 3

11.12.2024

- 8:45 AM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 9:00 AM **Convention Convenes** | Welcome and Prayer
- 9:10 AM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 9:18 AM **Biblical Message** | Stephen Rummage, executive director-treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention
- 9:55 AM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 10:00 AM **Cooperating Ministry Report: One More Child**
- 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 **Cooperating Ministry Report: Florida Baptist Financial Services**
- 10:43 AM **Election of Officer: Vice-President**
- 10:48 AM **Committee on Nominations Report** | Mike Kahn, chair, Committee on Nominations
- 10:58 AM **Retirement Recognition for Dr. and Mrs. Tommy Green**
- 11:08 AM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 11:18 AM **Convention Sermon** | Ted Traylor, senior pastor, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola
- 11:55 AM **Session Closing and Prayer**
- 12:00 PM **Dismiss**

Tuesday Afternoon - Session 4

11.12.2024

- 2:00 PM **Convention Convenes** | Call to Order | Welcome | Prayer
- 2:05 PM **Elections of Officers: 2nd Vice-President and Recording Secretary**
- 2:15 PM **Cooperating Ministry Report: Baptist University of Florida**
- 2:18 PM **Right Beside You: Celebrating Challenge 2025**
- 2:28 AM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 2:40 PM **Biblical Message** | Carlos Lollett, lead pastor, Reality Church, Miami
- 3:20 PM **Focused and Guided Prayer** | A Call to Holiness
- 3:40 PM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 3:50 PM **Biblical Message** | Willy Rice, senior pastor, Calvary Church, Clearwater
- 4:30 PM **Worship** | Convention Worship Team
- 4:40 PM **Recognition of Officers**
- 4:45 PM **Convention Closing and Prayer**
- 4:55 PM **Dismiss**



1943

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Fellowship Of Hispanic Baptist Churches Of Florida Celebrate And Recommit To Missions At Home And Abroad

HIALEAH— Florida Hispanic Baptists traveled from all over the Sunshine State and met at Iglesia Bautista Northside in Hialeah to celebrate and motivate one another to remain united in missions.

The gathering drew approximately 450 individuals representing 55 Hispanic Baptist churches from the Southeast, Southwest, Central and East regions. Because the North and West regions were under tropical storm watch, individuals from those regions were unable to make the trip.

During his biblical message, Northside pastor Alberto Ocaña extended an invitation to all who desired to respond to a calling to missions ministry.

“It’s not enough to go to church on Sunday; we have to take the gospel message to the lost world,” he said. “If we are not proactive in sharing the gospel, many will be lost, and the church will not grow.”

Many answered the call for the first time, while others renewed their commitment to live their lives on mission.

Present at the event was Moises Bermudez, a young member of Iglesia Bautista Dios es Bueno in Daytona Beach, who spent three months as a missionary in Puerto Rico through a partnership with the North American Mission Board’s Send Relief. A dozen Hispanic church planters representing all regions of Florida were also in attendance, showcasing the sending culture among Hispanic churches that is growing.

Manny Barahona, president of the Fellowship, encouraged those gathered to be on mission “because God is with us.” He also shared his dream for Hispanic churches in Florida.

“My dream is that our Baptist churches in Florida will continue to grow in the name of Jesus, that they may continue to raise up men and women who will preach the gospel, that every year more people will be baptized, that every year more churches will work together. And, when we gather like we are doing today, we can talk about the great things God is doing among us.”



In addition to hearing from Send Network’s Español new vice president Jose Abella, the group also watched a video from the International Mission Board celebrating how Hispanics are on mission across the globe. Featured in the video were three Florida Baptist pastors and three Florida Baptist women who traveled to Spain to work alongside Hispanic missionaries reaching Muslim immigrants. Those pastors continue to travel to the region as part of their partnership with the International Mission Board.

Tommy Green, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, although unable to attend the gathering, sent a video message. “My heart is full of joy and gratitude for how we have been together on mission. There are many things that could separate us, but we have chosen to be united for the gospel of Christ.”

By Keila Diaz | Aug 8, 2024

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

Stephen N. Rummage
Executive Director-Treasurer

**One Hundred and Forty-Third Annual Report to the Florida Baptist State Convention
Orlando, Florida
November 11-12, 2024**

The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist State Convention respectfully submits this 143rd annual report of the Board to the State Convention. There are 2,621 churches affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention, with a total membership of 769,300.

The State Board of Missions is pleased to present this report to the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, November 11-12, 2024. This report covers the period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

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 13, 2023, in Lutz, Florida:

- President: Aaron Burgner, Pastor
Lakes Church
Lakeland, Florida
- Vice-President: Jeff Robinson, Pastor
Grace Fellowship
West Palm Beach, 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 2024:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>
February 1, 2024	Videoconference
April 5, 2024	Baptist Building, Jacksonville
July 18, 2024	Baptist Building, Jacksonville, Special Called
August 30, 2024	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* (2021-24)
- Jeff Robinson, *Vice-Chair* (2022-25)
- Eddie Beville (2022-25)
- Alan Brumback (2022-25)

- Darren Gaddis (2021-24)
- *Nicki Glenn (2023-26)
- Phillip Hamm (2021-24)
- Jay Huddleston (2021-24)
- Thomas Jamieson (2021-24)
- Mike Landry (2022-25)
- Kevin Lautar (2022-25)
- Cliff Lea (2023-26)
- *Lisa Letson (2021-24)
- *Judson Leverette (2021-24)
- Jim Locke (2023-26)
- John Marsh (2022-25)
- Alberto Ocaña (2022-25)
- Mike Orr, President, FBSC
- Timothy Pigg (2021-24)
- Jonathan Russell (2022-25)
- Adrian Taylor (2022-25)
- Zach Terry (2022-25)
- David Uth (2021-24)
- Scott Wilson (2022-25)

Ex Officio Non-Voting Member
Angel Turbeville, *Recording Secretary,
State Board of Missions*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Darren Gaddis, *Chair* (2021-24)
- Brian McDougall, *Vice Chair* (2022-24)
- Jason Allen (2023-26)
- *Justin Avery (2023-26)
- *Ben Bates (2023-24)
- Nathan Brown (2021-24)
- *Fabricio Chaves Miranda (2023-26)
- Josh Dryer (2022-25)
- David Flatt (2021-24)
- David Gold (2022-25)
- Wade Humphries (2022-25)
- Charles Jones (2022-25)
- Scott Markley (2022-25)
- *James Parrish (2022-25)
- *Cindy Pitts (2022-25)
- *Nikisha Roberts (2023-26)
- Angel Santiago (2022-25)
- John Shultz (2021-24)
- *David Sullivan (2023-26)
- Garry Taylor (2021-24)
- Scott Tharp (2023-26)
- *Julie Thomas (2022-25)
- Angel Turbeville (2022-25)
- *Christina Vargas (2021-24)
- *Stephanie Williams (2021-24)
- Billy Young (2023-26)

DENOMINATIONAL COMMITTEE

- Scott Wilson, *Chair* (2022-25)
- Parnell Smith, *Vice Chair* (2022-25)
- Brian Calhoun (2021-24)
- *Crystal Carter (2021-24)
- Reynier Coro (2023-26)
- Ethan Crowder (2023-26)
- *Carole Eugene (2021-24)
- *Timothy Francis (2021-24)
- Michael Hornback (2022-25)
- *Carmen Jones-Carey (2022-25)
- Robby Lewis (2023-26)
- Samuel Louis-Jean (2021-24)
- Steve Loy (2023-26)
- Danny Mann (2021-24)
- Matt McCraw (2021-24)
- Etni Prieto (2023-26)
- David Rice (2021-24)

Jonathan Rodriguez (2022-25)
 James Ross (2023-26)
 Pierre Gregorie Saint-Louis (2022-25)
 Mike Sellers (2023-26)
 Gary Shultz (2022-25) Resigned 7/1/24
 Jerome Symonette (2022-25)
 Chet Thomas (2023-26)
 Cody Watson (2023-26)
 *Nancy Wilder (2023-26)

<u>MISSION OFFERING</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, 2023	\$5,382,606
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, 2023	\$2,434,951
Maguire State Mission Offering, 2023	\$707,019

LOANS COMMITTEE

John Marsh, *Chair* (2022-25)
 Jon Matthews, *Vice Chair* (2022-25)
 Randy Alonso (2024)
 *Susan Bassler (2022-25)
 *Jean Boval (2021-24)
 *Paula Butler (2021-24)
 Myra Campbell (2023-26)
 Arthur Conner (2023-26)
 Caleb Duncan (2022-25)
 Michael Edwards (2023-26)
 Michael Fox (2021-24)
 Stephen Gerhart (2023-26)
 *Beverly Helms (2023-26)
 *Milvian Lema (2022-25)
 *David McMullen (2023-26)
 *Myra McNary (2023-26)
 *Danyl Moore (2022-25) Resigned 9/14/24
 *Debbie Nelson (2022-25)
 Al Paulson (2021-24)
 *Matthew Piscitelli (2021-24)
 *Tracey Risley (2022-25)
 *Jason Rountree (2022-25)
 *Monica Salem (2022-25)
 *Jeannie Saunders (2022-25)
 Bill Tate (2022-25)
 Doug Watkins (2022-25) Resigned 2/21/24
 Alvin White (2023-25)

*Indicates lay person

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 April 2024, the executive director-treasurer was notified of one resignation from the Board:

Doug Watkins, pending retirement

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.

Randy Alonso, Sumter, 2023-24

5. Gifts to World Missions

Gifts to world missions through the Cooperative Program from churches and missions for the period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, totaled \$28,629,944.

Florida Baptists responded well to other mission causes. Designated giving for the period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, totaled \$8,524,576. Designated giving included contributions to the three main mission offerings:

6. 2023 Maguire State Mission Offering Report

The 2023 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, 2023, a total \$707,019 was received for the year 2023 Maguire State Mission Offering. The 2023 total represented 80% of the offering goal of \$880,000. The total number of entities contributing to the offering decreased to 491 from the 504 participating the prior year. We are encouraged by the continued partnership in the annual offering as we reach towards this goal.

7. 2024 Maguire State Mission Offering

On April 5, 2024, the State Board of Missions approved a 2024 Maguire State Mission Offering goal of \$940,000 and again directed 100 percent of the offering be allocated to the Send Network Florida church planting initiative.

8. Baptist University of Florida

In the year 2023, the Baptist University of Florida received a total of \$1,352,003 from the Florida Baptist Convention:

Cooperative Program	\$1,320,000
Special Gift	\$50,000
Designated Gifts	\$32,003

	\$1,402,003

9. Florida Baptist Children's Homes

During the year 2023, the Florida Baptist Children's Homes received a total of \$1,628,646 from the Florida Baptist Convention:

Cooperative Program	\$912,000
Designated Gifts	\$716,646

	\$1,628,646

10. Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center

During the year 2023, 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 Baptist University of Florida; and the secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Historical Society. Other directors serve on a rotating basis.

In the year 2023, 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:

Arlene Vause, Sopchoppy	Term 2022-2024
Joel Briedenbaugh, Orlando, <i>Chair</i>	Term 2023-2025
Maxie Miller, Plant City	Term 2024-2026
J. Thomas Green, Jacksonville (<i>Ended August 16, 2024</i>)	Permanent Member
<i>Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention</i>	
Donald S. Hepburn, Jacksonville	Permanent Member
<i>Secretary-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Historical Society</i>	
Mark Rathel, Graceville	Permanent Member
<i>University Designated Acting Representative, The Florida Baptist Archives, Baptist University of Florida</i>	

12. 2025 Meetings of the State Board of Missions

On April 5, 2024, the State Board of Missions set the dates and locations for the 2025 board and committee meetings as follows:

February 6, 2025	Videoconference
April 24-25, 2025	Baptist Building, Jacksonville (Orientation for new members to be held on Thursday, April 24, 2025)
August 21-22, 2025	Baptist Building, Jacksonville
November 10, 2025	Pre-Convention Meeting
November 11, 2025	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 2024:

Brian McDougall, <i>Chair</i>
Wade Humphries
Ben Bates
Justin Avery
<i>Ex Officio: Darren Gaddis, Chair, Finance Committee</i>

14. Report on Florida Baptist Convention Audit

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on August 29, 2024, the board received as information the following report on the Florida Baptist Convention audit for 2023.

The audit of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., for the year ending December 31, 2023, 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 29, 2024, 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) Baptist University of Florida, July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
- (2) Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc., January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023
- (3) Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023
- (4) Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc., January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023
- (5) Florida Baptist Foundation, January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

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, 2023, through September 30, 2024, the State Board of Missions dispersed funds administered by the board for the following church loans:

(1) Clearlake, First	\$40,000
(2) Bedrock Church, Sarasota	\$140,000
(3) River City, Jacksonville	\$100,000
(4) Bread of Life Haitian Bible Fellowship, Port Charlotte	\$100,000
(5) Victory Life Church, Plantation	\$100,000
(6) Orlando Chinese, Orlando	\$100,000
(7) Iglesia Bautista Bethel, Tampa	\$100,000
(8) Ellenton, First, Palmetto	\$100,000
(9) Hicks Road, Hudson	\$100,000
(10) Fort Myers Community, Fort Myers	\$100,000
(11) Heritage, Cantonment	\$100,000
(12) Beach, Fort Myers Beach	\$50,000
(13) SF Haitian Evangelical, Dania Beach	\$100,000
(14) Eglise Baptiste Missionnaire Parole Vivante, Clewiston (HOLD)	\$100,000
(15) The Church at 434, Winter Springs	\$100,000
(16) PIB Casa de Bendicion, St. Cloud	\$100,000
(17) Lee Boulevard, Lehigh Acres	\$60,000
(18) Priemiere Eglise Baptiste Bethanie, Orlando (PENDING)	\$100,000
(19) Flagler West Community, Bunnell	\$100,000
(20) Aspire, Jacksonville	\$100,000
(21) Crossroads Community, Lady Lake	\$100,000
(22) Faith Fellowship, Citrus Springs (HOLD)	\$150,000
(23) PIB de Coral Park, Miami	\$100,000
(24) Iglesia Bautista de Jescristo, Immokalee	\$30,000
(25) West Pines Community, dba City Rev, Pembroke Pines	\$150,000
(26) Lee Boulevard, Lehigh Acres	\$40,000
(27) River City, Jacksonville	\$100,000

Additionally, 39 churches have been assisted through the new microloan process, and a total of \$561,500.00 was provided to these churches since August 2023.

17. Financial Assistance: Church Planting

Church Planting continues to be a cornerstone focus of the Florida Baptist Convention. The 2024 Cooperative Program budget includes an amount of \$1,000,000.00 designated for church planting. Additionally, during the March 2024 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the Board authorized 100 percent of the 2024 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:

Church Plant

5 Eleven, Melbourne
Abba's House, Port St. Lucie
Alcance Hispanic, Miami
Alive, Miami
Alpha & Omega, Lake Wales
Anchor, Freeport
Antioch, Port St. Lucie
Aposento Alto, Brandon
Asian Languages, Longwood
Aspire Mizo, Jacksonville
Aspire Vietnamese, Jacksonville
Aspire, Jacksonville
Atlantic Portugues, Margate
Bautista De Kendall, Miami
Bautista de Mandarin, Jacksonville
Bell Shoals Espanol Apollo, Apollo Beach
Betesda, Naples
Biblica Cristiana, Tallahassee
Bonifay Primera, Bonifay
Branch Community, Palatka
Brazilian, Delray Beach
Brazilian of Central Florida, Orlando
Bridge, Madison
Calvary Español, Clearwater
Calvary Español, Winter Haven
Calvary, Tallahassee
Camino de Restauración, Tampa
Camino, Miami
Cassia (Replant), Eustis
Celebration en Español, Tallahassee
Central Hispanic, Sanford
Centre d'Adoration, Port St. Lucie
Chets Creek Burmese, Jacksonville
Christ Center Fellowship, Lehigh Acres
Christ Community, Melbourne
Christ Family Español, Miami
Christ Fellowship Español, Tampa
Christ Fellowship, Riverview
Christ in Us, Miami
Church at Channelside, Tampa
Church on the Hill Español, Dundee
City Light, Port Orange
College Road Haitian, Ocala
College Road in Español, Dunnellon
College Road, Dunnellon
Community Garden, Oakland Park
Comunidad Biblica, Sunrise
Comunidad Biblica, Sunrise
Con Nosotros, Sarasota
Conexion Hispania, Lake Wales
Congregación Cristiana Shalom, Jacksonville
Congregación Cristiana, Zephyrhills
Connect, Crestview
Connection, Ocala
Connection, Riverview
Covenant Hope, St. Petersburg
Covenant, Baker
Cristiana Casa de Redencion, Kissimmee
Cross Community, Green Cove Springs
Cross Ridge, Lecanto

Sending Church

Melbourne, First
Genesis, Vero Beach
Hialeah Primera, Hialeah
Westland, Hialeah
Winter Haven, First
Bayshore, First, Niceville
Remade, Port St. Lucie
Providence Road, Miami
Sweetwater, First, Longwood
Southside, Jacksonville
Southside, Jacksonville
Southside, Jacksonville
Church on Atlantic, Margate
Providence Road, Miami
Mandarin, Jacksonville
Bell Shoals, Brandon
Betesda, Miami
North Florida, Tallahassee
Bonifay, First
Plant City, First
Brazilian First, Pompano Beach
Dover Shores, Orlando
Celebration, Tallahassee
Calvary, Clearwater
Calvary, Winter Haven
Celebration, Tallahassee
Bethel Hispanic, Tampa
Providence Road, Miami
LifePointe, Eustis
Celebration, Tallahassee
Central, Sanford
Fort Pierce Haitian, First
Chets Creek, Jacksonville
Good Shepherd, Lehigh Acres
Melbourne, First
Christ Family, Miami
Christ Fellowship, Tampa
Christ Fellowship, Tampa
Cornerstone, Miami
Calvary, Clearwater
Church on the Hill, Dundee
Providence, Ormond Beach
College Road, Ocala
College Road, Ocala
College Road, Ocala
Bethel Evangelical, Fort Lauderdale
Canaan Hispanic, Fort Lauderdale
Providence Road, Miami
Bedrock, Sarasota
Lake Wales, First, Lake Wales
Fort Caroline, Jacksonville
New Hope, Zephyrhills
Live Oak, Crestview
Orchard Community, Lake City
Riverview, First
Covenant Life, Tampa
Cross Creek Country Fellowship, Holt
Casa de Oracion, Winter Garden
Hibernia, Fleming Island
Cornerstone, Inverness

Cross United, Lighthouse Point
 Crossbridge Brazilian, Boca Raton
 Dia De Adoracion, Davie
 Dios es Bueno, Daytona Beach
 Discipleship, St. Petersburg
 Discovery Life, Apopka
 Dream, Jacksonville
 Eglise Baptiste Canaan, Tamarac
 El-Roi, Miami
 Exchange, Yulee
 Extraordinary, Brandon
 Faith Fellowship, Citrus Springs
 Faith, Miami
 Familiar, Port St. Lucie
 Familiar Sherbrooke, Lake Worth
 Family Bible, Lake Worth
 Family Portuguese, Palm Beach Garden
 Family, Green Cove
 Family, Lake Park
 Family, North Stuart
 Family, Port St. Lucie
 Favor, Wesley Chapel
 Fernandina Beach, First, Central Nassau
 FishHawk Fellowship (future campus), Lithia
 Genesis Hispanic, Boca Raton
 GO Church, Kissimmee
 Grace Christian, Steinhatchee
 Grace Church, Miami
 Grace Connection, Haitian, Naranja
 Grace Connection, Naranja
 Grace Covenant, Panama City
 Grace Fellowship en Español, West Palm Beach
 Grace Gathering, Boca Raton
 Gracia Abundante, Miami
 Gracia Sobre Gracia, Sunrise
 Greater Harvest, Miami
 Hague, Gainesville
 Heartland Spanish, Winter Haven
 Hibernia Esencial Spanish, St. Augustine
 Hibernia Hispanic, Fleming Island
 Hillside, Babson Park
 Hispana Ebenezer, Oak Griner
 Hometown, Leesburg
 Hope, Jacksonville
 Horizon West Community Portuguese, Winter Garden
 House to House, Port St. Lucie
 IBNU, Orlando
 Iglesia Local, Jacksonville
 Iglesia Odessa, Odessa
 Iglesia Real, Ft. Myers
 Iglesia Rendencion, Jacksonville
 Iglesia, West Doral
 Igreja da Paz, Palm Beach Campus
 Igreja Familia Lakeside Brazilian, Orlando
 Igreja Real, Hollywood
 Inspiration, Palm Beach Gardens
 International, Boca Raton
 Japanese Christian, Miami
 Journey, Wesley Chapel
 Kendall, Miami
 Kush, Jacksonville
 La Gran, Medley
 Lake Hill Portuguese, Orlando
 Lakes Español, Lakeland
 Lakes South, Lakeland
 Lakeside, Eagle Lake
 Lakeside, Hawthorne
 Lee Boulevard Hispanic, Lehigh Acres
 Leesburg Primera, Leesburg
 Libertad, Sarasota
 Living Hope, Winter Haven

Pompano Beach, First
 CrossBridge, Boca Raton
 Real Hispanic, Hollywood
 Daytona Beach, First
 New Philadelphia Worship Center, St. Petersburg
 Apopka, First
 District, Jacksonville
 Bethany, Miami
 Evangelical Philadelphia, Miami
 Callahan, First
 South Tampa Fellowship, Tampa
 Dunnellon, First
 Grace, Miami
 Family Downtown, West Palm Beach
 Family Downtown, West Palm Beach
 Family Downtown, West Palm Beach
 Family, Windermere
 Middleburg, First
 Family Downtown, West Palm Beach
 Family Downtown, West Palm Beach
 Family Downtown, West Palm Beach
 North Pointe, Lutz
 Fernandina Beach, First
 Fishhawk Fellowship, Lithia
 Primera West Palm Beach
 Dayspring Community, Apopka
 Cedar Key, First
 Providence Road, Miami
 Grace Connection, Miami
 Grace Connection, Miami
 Grace, Bonifay
 Grace Fellowship, West Palm Beach
 Family Downtown, West Palm Beach
 Maranatha, Hialeah
 Providence Road, Miami
 Faith Community, Miami
 Westside, Gainesville
 Heartland, Winter Haven
 Hibernia, Fleming Island
 Hibernia, Fleming Island
 Church on the Hill, Dundee
 Oak Griner, Ocala
 Grand Island, Grand Island
 River City, Jacksonville
 Horizon West Community, Winter Garden
 Family Downtown, West Palm Beach
 First Brazilian of South Florida, Pompano Beach
 Mi Iglesia, Stuart
 Idlewild, Lutz
 Real Hispanic, Hollywood
 Redemption, Jacksonville
 Kendall Hispanic, Miami
 Igreja Batista da Paz, Tampa
 Family, Windermere
 Iglesia Real, Hollywood
 House of Mercy Church, North Port
 Family Downtown, West Palm Beach
 Betesda, Miami
 Myrtle Lake, Land O Lakes
 Providence Road, Miami
 Parkwood, Jacksonville
 Port St. Lucie Hispanic, Port St. Lucie
 Lake Hill, Orlando
 Lakes, Lakeland
 Lakes, Lakeland
 Leesburg, First
 Countryside, Gainesville
 Lee Boulevard, Lehigh Acres
 Leesburg, First
 Freedom Christian, Sarasota
 Heartland, Winter Haven

Living Truth, Cantonment
 Living Waters, Fort Lauderdale
 Living Waters, Fort Lauderdale
 Local, Titusville
 LOGO, Lawtey
 Love Gave, Jacksonville
 Mercy, Venice
 Mi Iglesia, Fort Pierce
 Miami City, Coral Gables
 Miami Español, Miami
 Mission City, Fleming Island
 Mission Hill Lake Carroll Spanish, Tampa
 Mission Hill Six Mile Campus, Tampa
 Mission House, Land O Lakes
 Missionnaire, West Palm Beach
 Momentum, Lehigh Acres
 Mount of Olives, Palm Bay
 Multicultural Outreach, Orlando
 Multiply, Pensacola
 Navarre, First (Replant)
 New Beginnings, Naples
 New Berlin, Jacksonville
 New City, Wesley Chapel
 New Hope Brazilian, Pompano Beach
 New Hope Esperanza, Miami
 New Hope United, Pompano Beach
 New Jerusalem Haitian, Winter Haven
 New Life Journey, Tallahassee
 New Visions, Sunrise
 Newborn, Sebring
 No Greater Love, Tampa
 Northside, Hialeah
 Nouvelle Vie, Margate
 Oasis De Bendicion, Lake Worth
 One Another, Gibsonton
 One Family, Apopka
 One, Jacksonville Beach
 Open Door Biker, Jacksonville
 Outpost, Odessa
 Palm Springs Haitian, Palm Springs
 Palm Springs Spanish, Palm Springs
 Pensacola Chinese, Pensacola
 Place of Refuge, West Palm Beach
 Primera, Live Oak
 Primitive Broward, Oakland Park
 Radiant, Boca Raton
 Reality, Miami
 Redeemer, St. Johns
 Redeemer, St. Johns
 Redemption, Orlando
 Redemption, Bradenton
 Redemption, Orlando
 Refuge, Jacksonville
 Remade, Port St. Lucie
 Replicate, Milton
 Restoration, Sanford
 Resurrection Arabic, Palm Springs
 River City Hispanic, Jacksonville
 Sarasota Baptist Ministerio Hispano, Sarasota
 Shalom Fraternity Christian, Naples
 Shoreline Bible, Ormond Beach
 Siloam, Sunrise
 SoChurch, Orlando
 Southside Hispanic, Bradenton
 Sumatra, Bristol
 Summit, Homestead
 Tabernacle Baptiste Gosen, North Lauderdale
 Tarpon Springs, First (Replant)
 TBD
 TBD
 TBD

Living Truth, Pace
 Westview, Westview
 Metropolitan, Hollywood
 The Grove, Titusville
 Boulougne, First, Hilliard
 Norwood Community, Jacksonville
 Sonrise, Englewood
 Mi Iglesia, Stuart
 Getsemani, Miami
 Miami, Miami
 Hibernia, Fleming Island
 Mission Hill, Temple Terrace
 Mission Hill, Temple Terrace
 Hillside Community, Brooksville
 Jehovah Shalom, Riviera Beach
 Kissimmee, First
 Melbourne, First
 Grace Journey, Orlando
 Pinelake, Brandon, MS
 Wallace Avenue, Pace
 Fellowship, Immokalee
 Faithbridge, Jacksonville
 Tampa, First
 Coral Chinese, Coral Springs
 Christ Journey, Coral Gables
 Haitian Fellowship, Oakland Park
 Ridge Association, Winter Haven
 Calvary, Tallahassee
 Good Shepherd Haitian, Lehigh Acres
 Ridge Association, Winter Haven
 Life Springs, Tampa
 Northside Spanish, Hialeah
 Calvary Haitian, Orange Park
 Oasis de Amor, Lake Worth
 Grace Community, St. Petersburg
 Grace Alive, Orlando
 Fort Caroline, Jacksonville
 Parkwood, Jacksonville
 Calvary, Clearwater
 Palm Springs, Palm Springs
 Palm Springs, Palm Springs
 Olive, Pensacola
 United Haitian, West Palm Beach
 Live Oak, First
 Haitian Fellowship, Taramac
 The Brook, Miami
 The Brook, Miami
 Terrell, Sherrills Ford, NC
 Hibernia, Fleming Island
 Church at the Cross, Orlando
 Sarasota, First
 Church at the Cross, Orlando
 Fruit Cove, St. Johns
 Discovery, Fort Pierce
 Living Truth, Pace
 Central, Sanford
 Palm Springs, Palm Springs
 River City, Jacksonville
 Sarasota, Sarasota
 Bethesda Haitian, Naples
 City Light, Port Orange
 Bethel Evangelical, Fort Lauderdale
 Orlando, First
 West Bradenton, Bradenton
 Corinth, Hosford
 Providence Road, Miami
 New Maranatha Evangelical, North Miami
 North Pointe, Lutz
 Providence Road, Miami
 Celebration, Tallahassee
 Idlewild, Lutz

TBD
 TBD
 TBD
 TBD
 TBD
 The Grove, Minneola
 The Lord is My Shepherd, Jacksonville
 The Point Church, Jackson Street Campus
 The Point, Milton
 The Rock, Mims
 TheCity.church At Bartram Park, Jacksonville
 TheCity.church Riverside, Jacksonville
 Todos Hispanic, Homestead
 TruLife, Ocala
 Ukrainian, Jacksonville
 University Bonnevill Spanish, Orlando
 Vertical Miami, Hialeah
 Victory, Merritt Island
 Vida en Cristo, Miami
 Village Point, Winter Garden
 Vino Nuevo, Naples
 Way, Panama City Beach
 Wesley Chapel, Spanish Campus
 West Bradenton Southside, Bradenton
 Westside Hispanic, Jacksonville
 Westside South Beach, Fort Pierce
 Witnesses of Jesus-Christ, Fort Pierce

One Family, Apopka
 Vida Real, Pembroke Pines
 Iglesia Real, Hollywood
 River City, Jacksonville
 Kingdom Covenant, Miami
 South Lake, Clermont
 Orange Park, First
 Point, Pensacola
 Avalon, Milton
 The Grove, Titusville
 The City Church, Jacksonville
 The City Church, Jacksonville
 Agape, Hialeah
 Webster, First
 Mandarin, Jacksonville
 University, Orlando
 Providence Road, Miami
 Sweet Home, Miami
 Real Hispanic, Hollywood
 South Lake, Clermont
 North Naples, Naples
 Hiland Park, Panama City
 Wesley Chapel, First
 West Bradenton, Bradenton
 Westside, Jacksonville
 Westside, Fort Pierce
 Central, Port Saint Lucie

18. Financial Assistance: Church Revitalization

Church Revitalization grants continue to be a cornerstone focus of the Florida Baptist Convention. The 2024 Cooperative Program budget includes an amount of \$1,000,000.00 designated for church revitalization.

The following list includes churches receiving church revitalization grants through the Cooperative Program during the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024:

Central Region

Embrace Church, Montverde
 Faith, Lakeland
 Hills, Beverly Hills
 Iglesia Bautista Bethel, Tampa
 Maranatha Haitian, Orlando
 New Philadelphia Worship Center, St. Petersburg
 Newborn, Sebring
 Reynolds Road, Lakeland
 Saving Faith, Mount Dora
 Celebration, Leesburg
 Knights, Plant City
 Imperial Lakes, First
 Floral City, First
 Iglesia Bautista Resurreccion, Kissimmee
 Oxford, First
 Alpha & Omega, Lake Wales
 New Greater Friendship Missionary, Tampa
 Casa de Oracion, Winter Garden
 Iglesia Bautista Hay Vida de Jesus, Orlando
 Sandy Acres, Umatilla
 West Shore, Tampa
 Horizon West Community, Winter Garden
 Casa Portadores de Gloria, Orlando
 Conway, First
 Indian Rocks, Largo
 Lighthouse at Friendship, St Petersburg
 Greater Trinity Baptist Fellowship, Orlando

East Region

Beach House, Daytona Beach
 Beach House, Daytona Beach
 Beulah, Crescent City
 Daytona Beach Korean, Daytona Beach
 Deland Missionary, Jacksonville
 East Central Baptist Network, Deland
 Grace Community, St. Augustine
 Great Harvest Missionary, Jacksonville
 Love Gave, Jacksonville
 Rivertown, Jacksonville
 Victory, Merritt Island
 Vision, Jacksonville
 Walton Road, Port St. Lucie
 Beach House, Daytona Beach
 Beulah, Crescent City
 Daytona Beach Korean, Daytona Beach
 Deland Missionary, Jacksonville
 East Central Baptist Network, Deland
 Grace Community, St. Augustine
 Great Harvest Missionary, Jacksonville
 Love Gave, Jacksonville
 Rivertown, Jacksonville
 Victory, Merritt Island
 Vision, Jacksonville
 Walton Road, Port St. Lucie
 City at Riverside, Jacksonville
 Hollyford, Jacksonville
 Trinity, Palatka
 Pierson, First
 Central, Port St. Lucie
 Refuge, Jacksonville
 Lakeside Fellowship, Vero Beach

North Region

Lake Hill, Keystone Heights
 Luraville, Live Oak
 New Destiny Christian, Quincy
 Pine Level, Live Oak
 Wooderun, Tallahassee
 Antioch, Live Oak

Carrabelle, First
 Hague, Gainesville
 New Macedonia, Greenville
 Archer, First
 Korean, Gainesville
 Oak Park, Gainesville
 Evergreen, Lake City
 Pine Grove, Gainesville
 Greater Faith Baptist Fellowship, Gainesville
 Horseshoe Beach, Horseshoe Beach
 College Road, Ocala
 Pleasant Hill, Gainesville
 Calvary Missionary, Tallahassee
 Eglise Baptiste Philadelphie, Ocala

Southeast Region

Betesda, Miami
 Bethlehem, Ft. Lauderdale
 Communauté Evangélique Baptiste, West Palm Beach
 El Shaddai Missionary, Deerfield Beach
 Emmanuel Haitian, West Palm Beach
 Estrella de Belen, Broward
 Galilee Community, Hollywood
 Grace Connection, Miami
 Greenacres, First
 Hollywood, First
 Iglesia Bautista Northside, Hialeah
 Iglesia Vertical, Miami
 New Visions Community, Sunrise
 Nouvelle Eglise Baptiste Bethlehem, Sunrise
 Palm Vista Community, Miami
 Parkridge, Coral Springs
 Parkway, Miami
 Pierre Angulaire, Margate
 Radiant City, Boca Raton
 Salem, Ft. Myers
 Sichem Calvary, Ft. Lauderdale
 Sinai Missionary, Lake Worth
 South Florida Haitian Evangelical, Dania
 St Andrew Missionary, Opa-locka
 Sugarloaf, Summerland Key
 Iglesia Gracia Sobre Gracia, Sunrise
 Primitive Church of Smyrna, Miami
 Movement, Homestead
 Real Life, Plantation
 Grace of God, Miami
 Celebration International, Margate
 Iglesia Bautista de Jesucristo, Immokalee
 Stanton Memorial, Miami
 One God In Three Persons, Miami
 Bethel Evangelical, Delray Beach
 Philadelphia Haitian, Lauderhill
 Immanuel, Fort Lauderdale
 La Nueva Jerusalem, Miami
 City Rev, Pembroke Pines
 Conservatrice, Fort Lauderdale

Southwest Region

Bedrock, Sarasota
 Oakview, Okeechobee
 Palm View, First
 Fort Green, Bowling Green
 New Hope, Englewood
 First Haitian Evangelical, Arcadia
 Immanuel, Bowling Green
 Trinity, Punta Gorda
 Liberty Community, North Port
 Colonial Oaks, Sarasota
 Sunridge, Sebring

West Region

5 Bridges, Panama City Bch
 Fellowship, Apalachicola
 Jay, First
 New Life, Milton
 Pathway, Walton
 Point, Jackson St. Campus, Pensacola
 Wallace, Pace
 Wright, Ft. Walton Beach
 Fellowship, Apalachicola
 Pine Level, Jay
 Laurel View, Pensacola
 Immanuel, Pace
 Mision Casa, Gulf Breeze
 Cora, Jay
 Oakland, Fort Walton Beach
 Northside, Greenwood
 New Life, Milton
 Pleasant Ridge, DeFuniak Springs
 Belleview, First
 Olivet, Milton
 Replicate, Milton
 Beach Haven, Pensacola
 Frink, Clarksville
 Mexico Beach, First
 Greater Little Rock Missionary, Pensacola

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, 2023 through September 30, 2024, \$146,805.18 was provided to assist 177 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, 2023, and September 30, 2024:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
East Eleventh Street, Jacksonville	10/01/2023	Disbanded
Christian Fellowship, Jacksonville	10/06/2023	Unaffiliated
City on a Hill, Hialeah	10/10/2023	Disbanded
Premiere Hatienne, Homestead	10/10/2023	Disbanded
Antioch, Tallahassee	10/11/2023	Disbanded
Rosemary, Live Oak	10/11/2023	Unaffiliated
Grace and Peace Haitian, Orlando	10/13/2023	Disbanded
New Life by Faith, Jacksonville	10/18/2023	Disbanded
Berachah Haitian, Palm Bay	10/18/2023	Disbanded
Salvation Church, St. Johns	10/18/2023	Disbanded
Eben-Ezer Baptist, Haverhill	10/23/2023	Unaffiliated
Living Hope, Middleburg	10/24/2023	Disbanded
Crosswalk Community, Titusville	10/30/2023	Unaffiliated
El Shaddai Haitian, Naples	11/03/2023	Disbanded
Gardens, West Park	11/08/2023	Disbanded
Miami Springs, Miami	11/09/2023	Disbanded
Missionary for Jesus, Orange Park	11/20/2023	Disbanded
Faith Memorial, Jacksonville	11/29/2023	Merged
Crossroads, Cottondale	12/19/2023	Disbanded
Maple Grove, Moore Haven	12/31/2023	Unaffiliated
Resurreccion, Cutler Bay	1/04/2024	Disbanded
Generation Church, Largo	1/04/2024	Unaffiliated
Comunidad Bautista la Cosecha, North Port	1/11/2024	Disbanded
Solid Rock, Hollywood	1/16/2024	Disbanded

Christian Fellowship, Hollywood	1/16/2024	Disbanded
Point of Grace, Pembroke Park	1/17/2024	Disbanded
Jerusalem Paz, Miami	1/17/2024	Disbanded
Bayshore, Bradenton	1/18/2024	Unaffiliated
Han Mi Korean, Weston	01/23/2024	Disbanded
Metro Brazilian, Orlando	1/26/2024	Disbanded
WestGate, Jacksonville	1/29/2024	Disbanded
High Calling, Jacksonville	1/29/2024	Disbanded
Fox Meadow, Middleburg	1/31/2024	Disbanded
Ride for Jesus, Ocklawaha	1/31/2024	Disbanded
Wings of Eagles, Gainesville	1/31/2024	Disbanded
First Brazilian, Kissimmee	2/07/2024	Disbanded
Forest Boulevard, Jacksonville	2/07/2024	Disbanded
Evangelique de Lumiere, Miami	2/09/2024	Disbanded
St. Petersburg, First	2/14/2024	Unaffiliated
Hungarian Int'l Tabernacle, Pembroke Pines	2/16/2024	Disbanded
Fundamento de Dios, Miami	2/16/2024	Disbanded
Miami Bible Fellowship, Miami	2/20/2024	Disbanded
The Palm Church, Cutler Bay	2/20/2024	Disbanded
International, Pinellas Park	2/20/2024	Unaffiliated
Beacon, Hudson	2/22/2024	Disbanded
Christian Faith Fellowship, Fort Myers	2/22/2024	Disbanded
Citadelle, Cape Coral	2/26/2024	Disbanded
Cape Coral, First	2/26/2024	Disbanded
Tabernacle of Salvation, Miami	2/27/2024	Disbanded
New Bethel, Miami	2/27/2024	Disbanded
Port San Lucie Hispanic, Stuart	3/04/2024	Disbanded
Senior Jesus Hispanic, Hialeah	3/05/2024	Disbanded
The Journey of La Esperanza, Lake City	3/06/2024	Disbanded
Donald Ross, Palm Beach Gardens	3/13/2023	Disbanded
Sovereign Grace, Jacksonville	3/13/2024	Unaffiliated
Jensen Beach, First	3/14/2024	Disbanded
Antioquia, Fort Myers	10/01/2009	Disbanded
Reach, Fort Pierce	3/18/2024	Unaffiliated
Palms Community, Brandon	3/18/2024	Disbanded
Ahava, Plant City	3/18/2024	Unaffiliated
Hedges, Yulee	3/19/2024	Merged
Leon De Juda Hispanic, Miami	3/19/2024	Disbanded
New Mercy, Opa-locka	3/19/2024	Disbanded
Emmanuel Community, Orlando	3/18/2024	Disbanded
Eastport, Jacksonville	3/20/2024	Unaffiliated
Grace Journey, Orlando	3/20/2024	Merged
First Haitian, Rivera Beach	3/26/2024	Disbanded
Providence, Deltona	3/26/2024	Disbanded
Boynton Beach Espanol, First	3/28/2024	Disbanded
River City, Hispanic	3/28/2024	Disbanded
Wyomina Park, Ocala	3/26/2024	Unaffiliated
Deliverance Fellowship, Ocala	3/26/2024	Unaffiliated
College Road, Dunnellon	3/28/2024	Disbanded
Grace Alive, Orlando	3/28/2024	Disbanded
Bon Berger Haitian, Ocala	4/01/2024	Unaffiliated
Great Commission, Tampa	4/01/2024	Disbanded
Terry Parker Hispanic, Jacksonville	4/01/2024	Disbanded
Church at the Springs, Ocala	4/12/2024	Unaffiliated
Eglise Baptiste Peniel, Orlando	4/12/2024	Disbanded
Grace and Peace Community, Davenport	4/12/2024	Disbanded
Great Commission Outreach, Orlando	4/12/2024	Unaffiliated
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Boca Raton	6/05/2024	Merged
CrossPointe East, Parrish	7/17/2024	Disbanded
Crossbridge Church/Boca Glades Brazilian, Boca Raton	7/18/2024	Merged
Igreja da Paz, Palm Beach	8/08/2024	Disbanded
MP3 Church, Ferndale	8/20/2024	Unaffiliated

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 chair of the Finance Committee appoints an Investment Subcommittee selected from the membership of the Finance Committee. The chair of the Finance Committee appointed the following persons to serve on the Investment Subcommittee for the year 2024:

Jim Parrish, *Chair*
 Josh Dryer
 David Sullivan
 Scott Markley
 Nathan Brown

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 April and August meetings.

22. Setting Spending Rate for Cooperative Program Endowment Fund

On April 5, 2024, the State Board of Missions approved setting a spending rate of four percent of the December 31, 2023, balance of the Cooperative Program Endowment Fund. A draw from the endowment fund in the amount of \$177,000 was completed on June 30, 2024, and deposited into the Cooperative Program budget.

23. Allocation of 2023 Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Budget Net Cash Surplus

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on April 5, 2024, the board authorized the transfer of \$785,000 in funds related to 2023 Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Budget Net Cash Surplus Funds from the Operating Reserves designated for the following:

1. Florida/Ohio Ministry Partnership	\$50,000
2. Pastors Wives Initiative	\$50,000
3. Florida Ministry Scholarship Fund	\$35,000
4. Mission Dignity	\$50,000
5. Pastors Financial Assistance	\$50,000
6. Technology System Enhancement	\$50,000
7. Pastors/Wives Retreats	\$50,000
8. Challenge 2025 Gatherings	\$50,000
9. Multicultural Fellowship Gatherings	\$50,000
10. Immigration Ministry Hubs	\$50,000
11. Baptist University of Florida	\$250,000
12. Mission Trip Scholarships	\$50,000

24. Florida Baptist Convention Board-Elected Personnel Changes

Effective August 16, 2024, **J. Thomas Green III** retired as Executive Director-Treasurer, a position he held since 2015. He will serve as a special advisor to the new Executive Director-Treasurer through December 31, 2024.

Effective August 17, 2024, **Stephen N. Rummage** was elected to the position of Executive Director-Treasurer. Prior to accepting the position, he served as lead pastor at Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

Effective Nov. 30, 2024, **Lewis Miller** will retire as West Region Catalyst, a position he held since 2015.

25. Temporary Release of Endowment Restrictions

During the November 2023 meeting, the board approved and recommended the temporary release of restrictions related to the endowment it established at the Baptist University of Florida in the amount of \$750,000 for the John Sullivan Chair of Baptist History,

with the expectation that immediately upon receiving any level of financial settlement relating to its insurance claim arising from the property damage caused by Hurricane Michael in 2018 that the endowment corpus will be restored to the original amount of \$750,000 and the original restrictions, as defined in the original endowment agreement, will be reinstated. Additionally, the university provides regular updates to the State Board of Missions related to their progress with the insurance settlement.

26. 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 current board member – Mrs. Arlene Vause – was appointed in 2019 to fill an unexpired term which was to conclude December 31, 2021, of a deceased Board member. The Society’s Governing Document, Section IV, sub (2), further provides that, “When a member is elected to serve an unexpired term, the member then shall be eligible to serve two full terms.” In 2021, Mrs. Vause was appointed to her first full term from 2022 to 2024. During its meeting on August 30, 2024, the State Board of Missions elected Mrs. Arlene Vause to the Historical Society Board for the term from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2027.

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

Joel Breidenbaugh, Orlando	2022-25
Maxie Miller, Plant City	2024-26

Stephen N. Rummage, Jacksonville Permanent Member
Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention

Donald S. Hepburn, Jacksonville Permanent Member
Secretary-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Historical Society

Mark Rathel, Graceville Permanent Member
*University Designated Acting Representative,
The Florida Baptist Archives, Baptist University of Florida*

27. Recommendation to Transfer Property Located at 7854 W Dunnellon Rd, Dunnellon, FL

During the February 2024 meeting, the board authorized the Executive Director-Treasurer to execute all legal documents necessary to transfer ownership of this property to the First Baptist Church of Dunnellon, for the purpose of establishing a church plant in that location.

During the April 2024 meeting, the board learned that the court granted the convention’s motion for summary judgement on February 13, 2024, officially and legally transferring the title and ownership of the property to the convention. On March 11, 2024, the deed, which included a restrictive covenant that would continue to protect the property into the future, was executed by the convention and delivered to First Baptist Dunnellon, completing the property transfer. In July 2024, First Baptist Dunnellon successfully launched Lake Rousseau Baptist Church at the site.

28. Accreditation with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

During the April 2024 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the board was notified that in February 2024, the convention received the milestone achievement of accreditation with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. This will be an annual reaccreditation process going forward in an effort to remain committed to the highest levels of financial accountability.

29. Information Technology System Enhancements

During the April 2024 meeting, the board received a report on the detailed status and improvements within the convention’s information technology system. This will continue to be provided annually to raise general awareness of IT systems, their status and planned/ongoing improvements as we seek to carry out fiduciary responsibilities.

30. Retirement of Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention

During the April 2024 meeting, the board received the announcement that Dr. Tommy Green intended to retire by December 31, 2024. He had served as Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention since 2015.

31. Election of New Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention

During a special-called meeting of the State Board of Missions on July 18, 2024, the board unanimously elected Dr. Stephen N. Rummage as Executive Director-Treasurer to begin service effective August 17, 2024.

32. Recommendation to Establish Position of Special Advisor to the Executive Director-Treasurer

During the special-called meeting of the board on July 18, 2024, the board recommended the adoption of the position of Special Advisor to the Executive Director-Treasurer and named Dr. Tommy Green to this position. He will serve in this position until December 31, 2024.

33. Distribution of Proceeds from Sale of Convention Property Located at Southwest 104th Street, Miami Dade County

During the November 2023 meeting, the board was notified of the opportunity to sell the property located at Southwest 104th Street, Miami Dade County, and authorized the executive director-treasurer to sign a listing agreement with a real estate brokerage firm; and authorized the corporate officers of the State Board of Missions, as the Board of Directors of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., in consultation with the Convention’s legal counsel, to sign the appropriate legal agreements and/or quitclaim deeds to execute the sale and legal transfer of the property located at Southwest 104th Street, Miami-Dade County, Florida, from the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., to the successful buyer; and the proceeds of the sale be held until the board can authorize the distribution of proceeds from the sale.

In the August 2024 meeting, the board was notified that the sale had been completed on June 28, 2024, for \$2,180,000. The board authorized the distribution of proceeds from that sale during this meeting.

34. Resolution Against the Proposed State of Florida Constitutional Amendment 3 (Adult Personal Use of Marijuana)

The board continued to take action on behalf of Florida Baptists to protect against the legalization of marijuana. During the August 2024 meeting, the board, acting in its capacity to serve ad-interim on behalf of messengers of the Florida Baptist State Convention, adopted the following resolution on behalf of Florida Baptists.

A Resolution of the Florida Baptist State Convention Against Legalizing Adult Recreational Marijuana

WHEREAS, in the upcoming state election, Floridians are being presented with a proposed amendment to the Florida State Constitution (Amendment 3) that would legalize the adult use of recreational marijuana; and

WHEREAS, throughout Holy Scripture, we are directed in how we should live out our lives in honor of our Lord and Savior (I Corinthians 10:31 and 9:27, Colossians 3:2); and

WHEREAS, the Bible provides clear warnings as to what will happen if we subject our bodies to the vices of this world (Galatians 5:19-21); and

WHEREAS, providing legal access to marijuana for recreational use will only lead to the further decay of our society and would be a detriment to the citizens of our state; be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Missions, acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention, calls upon all disciples of Jesus Christ, who recognize the human body as a temple of our Lord and Savior, to unite together in renouncing the proposed Amendment 3 - Adult Personal Use of Marijuana; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call on all Florida Baptist pastors to implore their congregations to mobilize and make their voices heard by voting against Amendment 3 on or before the November 5, 2024, election.

35. Sanctity of Life

The board has continued to take action on behalf of Florida Baptists to protect the sanctity of all human life. During the April 2024 meeting, the board was notified of the proposed State of Florida Amendment 4 "Amendment to Limit Governmental Interference with Abortion" and approved the release of the following statement denouncing the proposed amendment.

"Florida Baptists are aggrieved at the heart-wrenching loss of human life that occurs through abortion. We are further distraught at the drastic death toll that will be incurred if Floridians pass the proposed constitutional amendment titled "Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion." Florida Baptists implore our fellow citizens to stand against this ballot initiative and to protect the pre-born children who would face needless death if the proposed amendment passes."

In this same meeting, the board authorized the Executive Director Treasurer or his designee to engage with all like-minded organizations in the state of Florida that share the same concern of protecting the pre-born, and requested cooperating ministry, Florida Baptist Children's Homes d/b/a One More Child, extend any and all effort, including use of prolific contacts to educate Floridians of the detrimental impact on human life this amendment would have, including reallocation of \$100,000 of Cooperative Program financial resources to fulfill this educational campaign.

In the August 2024 meeting, the board, received an update regarding actions taken up to this point. Additionally, the board, acting in its capacity to serve ad-interim on behalf of messengers of the Florida Baptist State Convention, adopted the following resolution relating to the proposed State of Florida Amendment 4 (Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion).

A Resolution of the Florida Baptist State Convention to Protect Human Life in the State of Florida

WHEREAS, Florida Baptists have remained steadfast in the inerrancy of God's Word found in the Holy Bible (Genesis 1:27), which declares that God is the creator and giver of life and forms every human in his image; and

WHEREAS, in the upcoming state election, Floridians are being presented with a proposed amendment to the Florida State Constitution (Amendment 4) that would seismically impact pre-born lives by allowing the abortion of children up to the point of viability; and

WHEREAS, Florida Baptists continue to champion God's design for life from the moment of fertilization (Psalm 139:13-14), and that God declares, through Holy Scripture, that the taking of an innocent life is a moral evil (Exodus 20:13); and

WHEREAS, the Florida Baptist State Convention has authorized the State Board of Missions to act on its behalf ad interim in moments where timeliness is of the essence; and

WHEREAS, the upcoming statewide election will occur before the Florida Baptist State Convention convenes the next time in annual session, and the convention must be on record speaking against the proposed amendment; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Missions, acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention, calls upon all disciples of Jesus Christ, who desire to obey God by protecting human life and loving our neighbors (Mark 12:31), to unite together in renouncing the proposed Amendment 4; and be it

RESOLVED, that we call on all Florida Baptist pastors to implore their congregations to mobilize and make their voices heard by voting against Amendment 4 on or before the November 5, 2024, election; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Florida Baptists ask all civil servants at every level of government in our state to join with us for the sanctity of human life and renounce the proposed amendment.

36. Policy Updates

As a part of the regular update of policies of the State Board of Missions, during the April 2024 meeting, the board approved policy revisions and/or replacements for the following policies:

- Policy Replacement: Mailing List Policy replaced with
- Church Data Access and Sharing Policy

EC13014087 - Ocala, FL



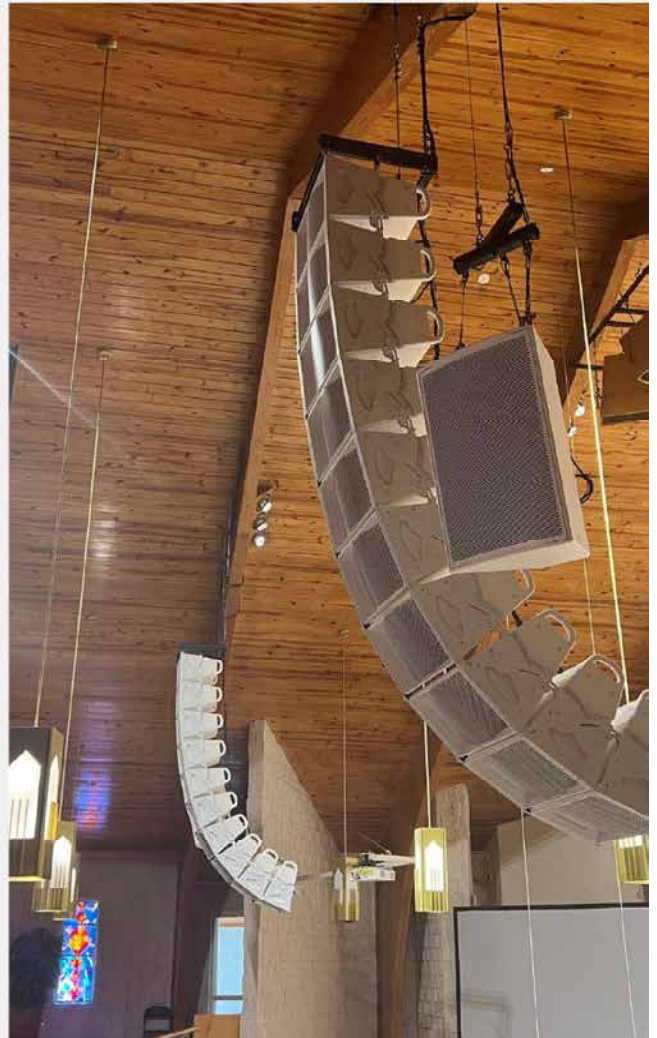
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Fruit Cove Baptist Expands Missions Outreach To All Seven Continents

ST. JOHNS—With its recent mission trip to Australia, Fruit Cove Baptist Church in North Florida has reached its goal of extending its missions footprint to all seven continents.

While it's something the church has celebrated, Jonathan Wilson, the church's families and missions pastor, will tell you the church still has more to do.

"That's the one thing about ministry – you never get to the point where you are done," he said. "You have wins. You have some things to celebrate. But it's about helping people get disciplined and get mobilized so they can see how God can use them now to make a difference."

Through a combination of short-term mission trips and partnerships over the past seven and a half years that Wilson has been on staff, the church was able to reach this goal, including the mobilization of 160 people to six continents on 17 trips in 2023 alone. Wilson said he was initially inspired by Tim Maynard, now pastor emeritus at the church, who shared his desire for reaching all the continents.

"It's all about relationships," Wilson said in describing how he got started on this initiative after coming on church staff. He began with some existing partnerships the church had in Central and South America, and then expanded on that. He also looked to the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board to establish connections with missionaries and ministries already in place.



"NAMB and IMB are both very supportive and great resources for us to find people on the ground who are getting it done, people we can trust and come alongside with prayer, support and resources," he said.

Fruit Cove Baptist currently partners with about 32 church plants throughout North America. Here is a look at the church's missions work on the other six continents.

EUROPE: In London the church partners with an IMB church planter who has started the first evangelical church in his hometown of Wroughton, just outside of



London. "We partner with the work there and will be sending a team to the UK over spring break," Wilson said. "We also have several families who've adopted specific Wroughton streets to pray for on a regular basis."

ASIA: Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia, has been designated as a key global city by the IMB, and Fruit Cove wanted to be part of that emphasis. Fruit Cove partners with a church plant there. A family from Fruit Cove helps lead the church plant. The church is planning to send a team next fall.

AFRICA: To adopt an unreached people group, the church has partnered with an IMB unit that is working hard to reach a nomadic group located in the Horn of Africa. Two church members traveled to the Horn to establish connections and were introduced to Christ followers among the people group, including one young man who uses a radio program to broadcast the gospel in the area. The church helped fund that ministry and is now sending four people there in February.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA: Guatemala was one of the first mission trips for the church in 2015. It's a compassion-type ministry where teams build one or two houses and do food distribution and children's ministries. The church now sends three teams annually to Guatemala and have expanded to include components of medical and dental ministries. Now the church has expanded into South America with church planting and children's Bible clubs in Ecuador.



Scan to read complete story and the Missions Outreach in Antarctica and Australia

By David Moore | Feb 14, 2024

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

**Recommendation 1:
2025 Florida Baptist Convention Budget**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the year 2025 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
 Baptist University of Florida \$1,320,000
 Florida Baptist Children’s Homes \$912,000
 Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center \$160,000

- (c) (c) That all Cooperative Program receipts received by December 31, 2025, and which are in excess of the budgetary requirements specified within the 2025 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.

	<i>Total</i>
Southern Baptist Convention	
Executive Committee - Southern Baptist Convention	15,045,000
Cooperating Ministries	
Florida Baptist Children's Homes	912,000
Baptist University of Florida	1,320,000
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center	160,000
Florida Baptist Convention Programs	
Personnel (*a)	5,623,740
Executive Director-Treasurer Ministries	195,500
-- Pastor Protection Insurance (*b)	75,000
Strategic Initiatives (*c)	322,500
-- Communications	230,080
-- Technology Services	215,000
Support Services	1,212,600
Next Generation Ministries	30,500
-- Baptist Campus Ministries	315,200
-- Student Ministries	165,700
-- Children's Ministries	94,000
Regional/Multicultural Catalysts	2,769,000
Missions and Ministries	268,900
-- Community Ministries	206,225
-- Migrant Ministries	55,655
-- WMM/Missions Education	94,150
-- Disaster Relief	104,250
Southeast Regional Center	85,000
Total	29,500,000
Percentage of Total	100.00%
Percentage of Florida (\$14,455,000)	

2025 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										
		5,623,740									
			83,000	96,500			16,000				
				75,000							
			60,000	32,500			10,000			220,000	
			73,120								156,960
			215,000								
			1,212,600								
			30,500								
			130,200					185,000			
								165,700			
								94,000			
			219,000		1,100,000	775,000	675,000				
			25,000						243,900		
			20,500						185,725		
			16,500						39,155		
			20,500						73,650		
			22,000						82,250		
			85,000								
15,045,000	2,392,000	5,623,740	2,212,920	204,000	1,100,000	775,000	701,000	444,700	624,680	220,000	156,960
51.00%	8.11%	19.06%	7.50%	0.69%	3.73%	2.63%	2.38%	1.51%	2.12%	0.75%	0.53%
	16.55%	38.90%	15.31%	1.41%	7.61%	5.36%	4.85%	3.08%	4.32%	1.52%	1.09%

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 2025

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida adopte para el año 2025 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 2025, y que excedan los requisitos presupuestarios especificados en el presupuesto del Programa Cooperativo 2025 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

Rekòmandasyon 1: Bidjè Pwogram Koperativ 2025

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride adopte le Budget de Base du Programme Coopératif 2025 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 2025, et qui dépassent les exigences budgétaires précisées dans le budget du Programme Coopératif de 2025 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 desizyon yo chak ka pran konsènan kòz koperativ bay Konvansyon Batis Sid la. Konsa, konvansyon an pral mete kado nan koz koperativ jan legliz lokal la voye l.

Recommendation 2: Report on New Church Starts

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention receive as information the following congregations, joined between October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024, 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, 2023 y Septiembre 30, 2024, 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**

Rekòmandasyon 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 2023 et le 30 Septembre 2024, 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, 2024, 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.

2023-2024 Report on New Church Starts (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

Local Church, Titusville	ASSOCIATION Brevard
Community Garden, Coral Springs	Broward
Pillar, Crestview	Emerald Coast
Redeemer, Saint Johns	First Coast Churches
Village Point, Winter Garden	First Coast Churches
Iglesia Local, Jacksonville	First Coast Churches
Kush Prayer Ministries, Jacksonville	First Coast Churches
Ukranian, Jacksonville	First Coast Churches
Crown, Orlando	GOBA
Iglesia Bautista Genesis, Casselberry	GOBA
New Life Journey, Tallahassee	Florida
Misionera, Orlando	GOBA
La Redemption, Orlando	GOBA
Manatee Community, Chiefland	Marion
Faith Church, Miami	Miami
Japanese Christian, Miami	Miami
Restauracion, Hialeah	Miami
The Bridge, Madison	Middle Florida
Lakeside, Hawthorne	North Central
Way, Panama City Beach	Northwest Coast
Southport Fellowship, Panama City	Northwest Coast
Paradise, Wesley Chapel	Pasco
Family, Port Charlotte Espanol	Peace River
Multiply, Pensacola	Pensacola Bay
Vida Encristo, Cape Coral	Royal Palm
Vietnamese, Bonita Springs	Royal Palm
Vino Nuevo, Naples	Royal Palm
New Philadelphia Fellowship, St. Petersburg	Suncoast
Le Centre d’Adoration, Port St. Lucie	Treasure Coast

2023-2024 Report on New Affiliations (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

Oak Cliff Bible, Jacksonville	ASSOCIATION First Coast Churches
Orlando Bible, Orlando	GOBA
Mt. Sinai, Leesburg	Lake County
Mount Calvary, Leesburg	Lake County
Reconciliation, Miami	Miami
New Generation Evangelical, Boynton Bch	Palm Beach
Calvary Missionary, Palatka	St. Johns River
South Tampa Fellowship, Channel District	Tampa Bay

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
Atlantic Portugues, Margate	Broward
Real Life, Pembroke Pines	Broward
Central en Espanol, Sanford	East Central
Cross Community, Green Cove Springs	First Coast Churches
Hibernia Esencial Hispanic, St. Augustine	First Coast Churches
Horizon West Hispanic, Davenport	GOBA
Igreja Batista, Clermont	Lake County
College Road Haitian, Ocala	Marion
Heaven’s Gate English, Miami	Miami
Riverside Brazilian, Miami	Miami
Fernandina Beach First, Central Nassau	Northeast Florida
Living Truth, Cantonment	Pensacola Bay
Calvary Hispanic, Winter Haven	Ridge
Church on the Hill Hispanic, Dundee	Ridge
First Cape, Cape Coral	Royal Palm
PIB Hispana, Live Oak	Suwannee
Bell Shoals Hispanic, Apollo	Tampa Bay
South Tampa, Davis Island	Tampa Bay
Family, Jensen Beach	Treasure Coast

Additional Churches and Church Campuses In-Process with Associational Affiliation

(October 1, 2022-September 30, 2024)

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

CHURCH NAME	ASSOCIATION
Cornerstone, Marianna	Chipola
Shoreline Bible, Ormond Beach	East Central
Covenant Arabic, Port Orange	East Central
Daytona Hanmam, Daytona Beach	East Central
Gulf City, Destin	Emerald Coast
Blessed Hope Community, Jacksonville	First Coast Churches
Gather, St. Augustine	First Coast Churches
Immersion, Jacksonville	First Coast Churches
Grace and Mercy Haitian, Orlando	GOBA
10:02 Church, Orlando	GOBA
Cristiana Casa de Redencion, Kissimmee	GOBA
Horizon City, Minneola	GOBA
New City, Orlando	GOBA
Pleasant View, Apopka	GOBA
Pueblo de Dios, Oviedo	GOBA
Vertical, Gotha	GOBA
Village Point Brazil, Winter Garden	GOBA
Wonder, Sanford	GOBA
Lake Rousseau, Dunnellon	Marion
Discipleship, St. Petersburg	Nature Coast
United Christian Center, New Port Richie	Nature Coast
Eben-Ezer Haitian, Gainesville	North Central
Inspiration Church, Palm Beach Gardens	Palm Beach
Genesis Hispanic, Boca Raton	Palm Beach
Check-In, Palm Springs	Palm Beach
Eglise Baptiste Missionnaire, West Palm Beach	Palm Beach
Palm Springs, Haitian Campus	Palm Beach
First Haitian Evangelical, Arcadia	Peace River
Hillside, Babson Park	Ridge
Lakeside, Eagle Lake	Ridge
Awakening Church, Cape Coral	Royal Palm
New Life, Immokalee	Royal Palm

Vietnamese Christian, Gulf Breeze	Santa Rosa
United Christian Center, New Port Richie	Suncoast
Outpost Network, Odessa	Suncoast
Iglesia Aposento Alto, Brandon	Tampa Bay
Connection, Riverview	Tampa Bay
Chretienne Nouvelle Naissance, Tampa	Tampa Bay
Elus Haitian, Sarasota	Tampa Bay
Fellowship, Thonotosassa	Tampa Bay
Redemption, Wesley Chapel	Tampa Bay
Restoration, Wesley Chapel	Tampa Bay
Grace Christian Church, Steinhatchee	Taylor

Recommendation 3: Church-at Large, Florida Baptist State Convention, Endorsement of Cooperation

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

Recomendación 3: Iglesia en general, Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida, respaldo a la cooperación

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida respalde a la siguiente congregación como una “iglesia sin asociación local” cooperante, reconociendo que la iglesia ha presentado un documento de “Compromiso de Cooperación” y por lo tanto se compromete a afiliarse y cooperar con esta Convención Estatal proporcionando contribuciones financieras anuales e información estadística a la Convención Estatal:

Rekòmandasyon 3: Legliz San Asosyasyon, Konvansyon Eta Batis Florid, Andòsman pou Koperasyon

Konsèy Deta Misyònè a rekòmande ke Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la andose kongregasyon sa a kòm yon legliz “church-at-large,” nou rekonèt legliz la te soumèt yon dokiman “Angajman pou Koperasyon” ak pwomès pou afilye epi kolabore ak Konvansyon Deta a lè li bay kontribisyon finansye anyèl li ansanm ak enfòmasyon rapò li nan Konvansyon Deta a:

Inman Park Baptist Church

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

That the Florida Baptist State Convention hereby reaffirm the scripturally-based and historic Baptist principle of autonomy of each local Baptist church, whose affiliation with this State Convention’s action affirming an endorsement of cooperation, neither creates nor assumes a hierarchical fiduciary, partnership or agency relationship between the Florida Baptist State Convention and its corporate entity, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

Recommendation 4: 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 second 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

Recomendación 4: 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:

(Esta sería la segunda de las dos votaciones necesarias en años posteriores 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

Rekòmandasyon 4: 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 mesaj yo ki ap patisipe nan Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la, adopte desizyon sa yo:

(Sa se dezyèm 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

Recommendation 5: Resolution of the Florida Baptist State Convention on the Centennial Anniversary of the SBC Cooperative Program

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session November 11-12, 2024, in Orlando, Florida, approve the attached Resolution for the Centennial Anniversary of the SBC Cooperative Program.

Recomendación 5: Resolución de la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida en el Centenario del Programa Cooperativo de la SBC

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que los mensajeros a la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida reunida en su sesión anual del 11 al 12 de noviembre de 2024, en Orlando, Florida, aprueben la Resolución adjunta para el Centenario del Programa Cooperativo de la SBC.

Rekòmandasyon 5: Rezolisyon pou Konvansyon Batis Eta Florid sou Anivèsè Santan Pwogram Koperatif SBC a

Konsèy Deta Misyone a rekòmande ke mesaje yo nan reyinyon Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la nan sesyon anyèl 11-12 novanm 2024 la, nan Orlando, Florid, apwouve Rezolisyon sa a pou Santan Anivèsè Pwogram Koperativ SBC a.

A Resolution of the Florida Baptist State Convention on the Centennial Anniversary of the SBC Cooperative Program

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Cooperative Program in the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, Florida Baptists remain firmly committed to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our neighbors and the nations, based on the commands found in Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:10; and

WHEREAS, The biblical doctrine and Baptist distinctive of cooperation compels us to work together for the cause of Christ Jesus (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12); and

WHEREAS, Florida Baptists have been steadfast in their commitment to the Cooperative Program from its inception, actively participating in this strategic, cooperative funding mechanism for Kingdom causes such as funding missionaries, disaster relief efforts, church planting, church revitalization, chaplaincies, evangelistic initiatives, discipleship strategies, pastor care, Christian education, Baptist communications, human needs ministries, and more; and

WHEREAS, Florida Baptist churches have demonstrated their selflessness and generosity over the last 100 years, sacrificially contributing over \$1.3 billion to the Cooperative Program; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Florida Baptist State Convention gathered at its 162nd Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, give our praise and thanksgiving to God for His blessing over the past 100 years of partnership through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program; and be it

RESOLVED, that for the sake of the Gospel, Florida Baptists remain steadfast in spirit, recognizing that through cooperation, each church can do more than it could do alone; and be it further

RESOLVED that Florida Baptists are committed to staying on mission, remaining sacrificially generous, and continuing to seek ways to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our state and nation, and to the ends of the earth.

Recommendation 6: Resolution of Appreciation for Lewis Miller

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session November 11-12, 2024, in Orlando, Florida, approve the attached Resolution for Lewis Miller.

Recomendación 6: Resolución de agradecimiento a Lewis Miller

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida reunida en su sesión anual del 11 al 12 de noviembre de 2024 en Orlando, Florida, aprueben la Resolución adjunta para Lewis Miller.

Rekòmandasyon 6: Rezolisyon Apresyasyon pou Lewis Miller la

Konsèy Deta Misyone a rekòmande ke mesaje yo nan reyinyon Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la nan sesyon anyèl 11-12 novanm 2024 la, nan Orlando, Florid, apwouve rezolisyon sa a pou Lewis Miller.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR LEWIS MILLER

WHEREAS, Lewis Miller has served the Florida Baptist Convention in multiple roles since 2003, including team strategist, congregational support ministries (2011-2015) and ultimately West region catalyst since 2015, and completes this service as he retires on November 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Lewis Miller was born in Magee, Mississippi, in 1958, accepted Christ in 1971 as his personal Lord and Savior and was baptized at Bethel Baptist Church, Dothan, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, he earned his bachelor's degree from the Baptist University of Florida in Graceville, Florida, in 1986 and earned his Master of Divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1994; and

WHEREAS, he began serving as a music and youth Minister at Shiloh Baptist Church in Chipley, Florida. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry on August 13, 1989, by Northside Baptist Church of Panama City, Florida, where he served as minister to students and minister of education from 1989 to 2001. Additionally, he served as the director of member assimilation and outreach at First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Georgia, from 2001 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, Lewis Miller joined the Florida Baptist Convention in 2003, serving in multiple roles and returned "home" to the West region of Florida when he transitioned to the role of regional catalyst in 2015 and where he has cherished the opportunity to invest in the lives of pastors and churches that were so near and dear to his formative years; and

WHEREAS, Lewis Miller has provided invaluable guidance and encouragement across the state as he has come alongside associations, churches and pastors and has always been a faithful servant of Christ, offering practical and real-life encouragement from his walk with the Lord and vast ministry experience; and

WHEREAS, Lewis Miller has been motivated in his love and service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the words of Philippians 1:6, which states, "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 11-12, 2024, in Orlando, Florida, expresses gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Lewis Miller, given to our Lord and Florida Baptists, and that we assure Lewis and his wife, Rebecca, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this convention; and

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

Recommendation 7: Resolution of Appreciation for Tommy Green

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session November 11-12, 2024, in Orlando, Florida, approve the attached Resolution for Tommy Green.

Recomendación 7: Resolución de agradecimiento a Tommy Green

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida reunida en su sesión anual del 11 al 12 de noviembre de 2024 en Orlando, Florida, aprueben la Resolución adjunta para Tommy Green.

Rekòmandasyon 7: Rezolisyon Apresyasyon pou Tommy Green la

Konsèy Deta Misyonè a rekòmande ke mesajè yo nan reyinyon Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la nan sesyon anyèl 11-12 novanm 2024, nan Orlando, Florid, apwouve rezolisyon sa a pou Tommy Green.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR J. THOMAS GREEN III, Th.D.

WHEREAS, Dr. J. Thomas “Tommy” Green, III served the Florida Baptist Convention as the executive director-treasurer since June 8, 2015, and retired from service on August 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Green accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior at age ten; was baptized in First Baptist Church, Greenhill, Alabama; and after accepting the call of God to the Christian ministry, was ordained on April 27, 1980, by First Baptist Church, Attalla, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Green attended Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, where he earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980; and attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he earned the Master of Divinity degree in 1983 and the Doctor of Theology degree in 1989; and

WHEREAS, during his combined 44-year ministry as a pastor, Tommy Green served churches in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia and Brandon, Florida, where he led First Baptist Church of Brandon from 1996 – 2015; and

WHEREAS, upon his election as the tenth executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Tommy Green set forth three priorities for ministry that became the focus of his leadership during the ensuing almost ten years: Decentralization, Regionalization and Personalization; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the vast diversity in the state of Florida, he led the state convention to be ‘right beside’ Florida Baptist churches and to partner with pastors and churches in obedience to the Great Commission; and

WHEREAS, through Tommy Green’s prayerful and faithful following of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and by his diligent leadership, the convention achieved these priorities; and

WHEREAS, during Tommy Green’s tenure, these priority emphases have resulted in seeing Florida Baptists plant more than 500 churches, baptize more than 210,000 persons to faith in

Jesus Christ, and contribute nearly \$259,000,000 through the Cooperative Program; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Green, from day one, spearheaded the decision for Florida Baptists to increase generosity, whereby the convention sends away more financial resources than it keeps in the state, adopting the 51/49 ministry model, which became the consistent driving missions mandate for Florida Baptists to send 51% of all undesignated Cooperative Program gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention and to keep 49% within the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his faithful service, the State Board of Missions has conferred upon Tommy Green the title and designation of executive director-treasurer emeritus for life; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Green’s commitment to the Christian ministry has been embodied by Psalm 78:72, which declares, “So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.,” now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 11-12, 2024, in Orlando, Florida, expresses gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Dr. J. Thomas “Tommy” Green III, given to our Lord and to Florida Baptists, and that we assure him and his spouse, Karen, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this state convention; and

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

Recommendation 8: Adoption of 143rd 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-third annual report of the State Board of Missions to the Florida Baptist State Convention, covering the period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.

Recomendación 8: Adopción del 143° Informe Anual de la Junta Estatal de Misiones

La Junta Estatal de Misiones recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida adopten el informe anual ciento cuarenta y tres de la Junta Estatal de Misiones a la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida, que cubre el período del 1 de octubre de 2023 al 30 de septiembre de 2024.

Rekòmandasyon 8: Adopsyon 143èm Rapò Anyèl Komite Eta Misyon yo

Konsèy Deta Misyonè a rekòmande pou mesajè yo nan Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la adopte San Karant Twazyèm rapò anyèl Konsèy Deta Misyonè a bay Konvansyon Deta Batis Florid la, ki kouvri peryòd 1e Oktòb 2023 pou rive 30 Septanm 2024.



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Cantonment Church Plant Celebrates 11 Baptisms

CANTONMENT—It's not just a place to become physically strengthened, it's a place to become spiritually strengthened.



At just a few months old, Living Truth Church in Cantonment needed a place to meet. Pastor Jeff Cranford kept searching for just the right home for his church plant, but he kept seeing door after door closed. Just when a church home seemed out of reach, Cranford reached out to the owner of a local gym and discovered that the owner loved the Lord and had been praying about church planting for some time. It was a perfect partnership with the gym already having office space and a children's area that could serve the needs of families on Sunday mornings during church services.



The church plant barely had time to settle into its new home before the celebrations began.

As the church plant celebrated 11 baptisms in its first four months, Pastor Cranford commends church members who are actively sharing their Christian faith.

"We have seen our people go out and share the gospel and lead people to Christ,

resulting in baptisms. It's amazing to see the body of Christ do what it was commissioned to do outside of the four walls of the church," he said.

Cranford began his ministry career as worship leader at Living Truth Church in Pace, which planted the church campus in Cantonment. Cranford then led student ministry and, next, he said, that God "stretched me and guided me" to pastor the church plant.

"It's my desire to see people reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ and disciplined to live in obedience to Him and make disciples that make disciples," Cranford said.

Micah Pocopanni serves as part-time worship leader. The church provides nursery classes and children's ministry, and it plans to launch a student ministry in the fall. A women's ministry is led by the pastor's wife.

Church planting is multifaceted, requiring a lot of faith, work and perseverance. Cranford is grateful he's not alone in the church planting venture. Several Living Truth Church families in Pace sensed God's call to be a part of the work in Cantonment and have helped with various aspects of ministry.



"Being the pastor of a church plant can cause you to have your hands in various tasks, but our team is great at sharing the load. I try to focus on teaching, praying, meeting with people and shepherding and steering the general direction of the church," said Cranford.

In less than half a year, the new church has grown from an average of 60 to 80 in weekly attendance.

To strengthen its ties to the community, Living Truth Church in Cantonment plans to mobilize small groups for monthly service projects, including ministry to local schools and to families at ballparks.

By Brooke Mannion | Jun 18, 2024

Committee on Nominations

REPORT 2024

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 11-12, 2024.

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 areas are for **information only**. These members are currently serving and are not subject to action by the convention in the year 2024.

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 (9)	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Brian McDougall (ord)	Tampa Bay	2024-27	2022-24
Randy Alonso (ord)	Sumter	2024-25	
David Uth (ord)	Greater Orlando	2024-27	2021-24
Aaron Burgner (ord)	Central Florida	2024-27	2021-24
Matthew McCraw (ord)	Central Florida	2024-27	2021-24
Jay Huddleston (ord)	Suncoast	2024-27	2021-24
David Rice (ord)	Suncoast	2024-27	2021-24
Stephanie Williams (lay)	Suncoast	2024-27	2021-24
Zachary Drummond (chst)	Nature Coast	2024-27	

Central Board Members Continuing Service (13)

David Sullivan (lay) 23-26 Shiloh	Michael Sellers (ord) 23-26 Nature Coast
Cliff Lea (ord) 23-26 Lake County	Stephen Gerhart (ord) 23-26 Pasco
Nancy Wilder (lay) 23-26 Greater Orlando	Nikisha Roberts (lay) 23-26 Tampa Bay
Alvin White (ord) 23-25 Greater Orlando	Fabricio Chaves Miranda (lay) 2023-26 Central Florida
Myra McNary (lay) 23-26 Nature Coast	Jon Matthews (ord) 22-25 Suncoast
Reynier Coro (ord) 23-26 Greater Orlando	Scott Markley (ord) 22-25 Ridge
Charles Jones (ord) 22-25 Greater Orlando	

EAST REGION (21 members)

East Nominees for Election (4)

	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Ben Bates, Palatka (lay)	St. Johns River	2024-27	2023-24
Garry Taylor (ord)	St. Johns River	2024-27	2021-24
Nicholas Manzie (ord)	Treasure Coast	2024-27	2021-24
Matthew Piscitelli (lay)	Treasure Coast	2024-27	2021-24

East Board Members Continuing Service (17)

Stephen Loy (ord) 23-26 East Central Baptist Network	Kevin Lautar (ord) 22-25 St. Johns River
Chet Thomas (ord) 23-26 St. Johns River	Jim Parrish (lay) 22-25 First Coast Churches
Myra Campbell (chst) 23-26 First Coast Churches	John Marsh (ord) 22-25 East Central Baptist Network
Nicki Glenn (lay) 23-26 East Central Baptist Network	Debbie Nelson (lay) 22-25 Northeast Florida
Ethan Crowder (ord) 23-26 East Central Baptist Network	Cindy Pitts (lay) 22-25 Treasure Coast
Michael Edwards (ord) 23-26 First Coast Churches	Jeannie Saunders (lay) 22-25 Treasure Coast
Scott Wilson (ord) 22-25 Brevard	Zach Terry (ord) 22-25 Northeast Florida
Bill Tate 22-25 (ord) East Central Baptist Network	Tracey Risley (lay) 22-25 Brevard
Angel Santiago (ord) 22-25 First Coast Churches	

NORTH REGION (14 members)

North Nominees for Election (6)

	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Samuel Louis-Jean (ord)	Black Creek	2024-27	2021-24
Crystal Carter (lay)	Florida	2024-27	2021-24
Michael Fox (ord)	Harmony	2024-27	2021-24
Darren Gaddis (ord)	Marion	2024-27	2021-24
Kimberly Patterson (lay)	Lafayette	2024-27	
Angela Land (lay)	North Florida	2024-25	

North Board Members Continuing Service (8)

Michael Hornback (ord) 22-25 Middle Florida	Jonathan Rodriguez (ord) 22-25 New River
Billy Young (ord) 23-26 North Florida	Monica Salem (lay) 22-25 Gadsden
Justin Avery (lay) 23-26 Black Creek	Jason Rountree (lay) 22-25 Suwannee
David McMullen (ord) 23-26 Taylor	Adrian Taylor (ord) 22-25 North Central

SOUTHEAST REGION (18 members)

Southeast Nominees for Election (7)	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Carole Eugene (lay)	Miami	2024-27	2021-24
Jean Boval (lay)	Broward	2024-27	2021-24
Judson Leverette (lay)	Palm Beach	2024-27	2021-24
Louis Egipciano (ord)	Miami	2024-27	
Manny Barahona (ord)	Palm Beach	2024-27	
Jon Andrickson (ord)	Miami	2024-25	
Patrick Jules (ord)	Broward	2024-25	

Southeast Board Members Continuing Service (11)

Etni Prieto (ord) 23-25 Florida Keys	Alberto Ocana (ord) 22-25 Miami
Arthur Conner (ord) 23-26 Broward	Milvian Lema (lay) 22-25 Broward
Jerome Symonette (ord) 22-25 Broward	Pierre Gregorie Saint-Louis (ord) 22-25 Palm Beach
Jeff Robinson (ord) 22-25 Palm Beach	Carmen Carey (lay) 22-25 Miami
Julie Thomas (lay) 22-25 Palm Beach	Eddie Bevill (ord) 22-25 Broward
Angel Turbeville (chst) 22-25 Palm Beach	

SOUTHWEST REGION (8 members)

Southwest Nominees for Election (2)	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Lisa Letson (lay)	Peace River	2024-27	2021-24
Chuck Poe (ord)	Peace River	2024-27	

Southwest Board Members Continuing Service (6)

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
Scott Tharp (ord) 23-26 Orange Blossom	Robby Lewis (ord) 23-26 Big Lake

WEST REGION (16 members)

West Nominees for Election (7)	Association	Term	Consecutive Term(s)
Danny Mann (ord)	Chipola	2024-27	2021-24
Tim Burnham (ord)	Walton County	2024-27	
Mary Helen Smith (lay)	Chipola	2024-27	
Latresha Woods (lay)	Northwest Coast	2024-27	
Lauren Holley (lay)	Santa Rosa	2024-27	
Sean Walker (ord)	Emerald Coast	2024-27	

West Board Members Continuing Service (9)

James Ross (ord) 23-26 Emerald Coast	Jonathan Russell (ord) 22-25 Santa Rosa
Jim Locke (ord) 23-26 Pensacola Bay	Wade Humphries (ord) 22-25 Emerald Coast
Beverly Helms (lay) 23-26 Holmes	Caleb Duncan (ord) 22-25 West Florida
Cody Watson (ord) 23-26 Apalachee	Parnell Smith (ord) 22-25 Northwest Coast
Jason Allen (ord) 23-26 Okaloosa	

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS (9 members)

Nominees for Election (3)

David Tarkington (ord) Orange Park
Jonathan Morrell (ord) Middleburg
Mark Penick (ord) Brandon

Term

2024-27
2024-27
2024-27

Consecutive Term(s)

2023-24

Chairman: David Chauncey (ord) Gainesville

Vice-Chairman: David Tarkington (ord) Orange Park

Committee Members Continuing Service (6)

David Chauncey (ord) 22-25 Gainesville
Charles Salem (ord) 22-25 Quincy
Ron Smith (ord) 23-26 Palatka

Eldaa Roman (lay) 22-25 Plantation
Darrell Reneau (ord) 23-26 Inverness
Sanjeanetta Walker (lay) 23-26 Fort Walton Beach

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES (24 members)

Nominees for Election (6)

Emely Pagan (lay) Naples
Wayne Shimko (lay) Lakeland
Alan Hair (lay) Orlando
Sheri Jamieson (lay) Mount Dora
Susan Krause (lay) Wauchula
Kenneth Stephens (chst) Bartow

Term

2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27

Consecutive Term(s)

2022-24

Trustees Continuing Service (18)

Stephen "Spike" Hogan (ord) 23-26 Jacksonville
Darryl Williamson (ord) 23-26 Tampa
Anna Shanks (lay) 22-25 Largo
Scott Cadwell (lay) 22-25 Windermere
Jose Abella (ord) 22-25 Miami
Dave Snyder (ord) 22-25 Pensacola
Larry Mouton (ord) 22-25 Riverview
Brian West (ord) 23-26 Plant City
Jennifer Gaddis (lay) 23-26 Ocala

Melody Scott (lay) 23-26 Live Oak
Lucrecia Lozano (lay) 23-26 Miami
Monique Cummings (lay) 22-25 Carol City
Ricky Wallace (lay) 22-25 Jacksonville
Sandra Buchanan (lay) 23-26 Sarasota
Ron Locke (lay) 22-25 Gainesville
Britton Williams (lay) 23-26 Bradenton
Justin Wyatt (ord) 23-26 Niceville
Lennox Zamore (ord) 23-26 Tampa

FLORIDA BAPTIST FINANCIAL SERVICES (15 members)

Nominees for Election (6)

James Davis (lay) Deland
Pearl Winslow (lay) Jacksonville
Steve Sweitzer (ord) Live Oak
Charles Jones (lay) Miami
John Huxford (ord) Miami
John Roberts (lay) Gainesville

Term

2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27

Consecutive Term(s)

2021-24
2021-24
2021-24, 2019-20
2021-24

Directors Continuing Service (9)

Charles Harper (lay) 22-25 Palm Coast
Jon Kendrick (ord) 22-25 Middleburg
John Bozard (lay) 23-26 Orlando
Albert Byrd (ord) 23-26 Jacksonville
Tim Stephenson (chst) 23-26 Bradenton

Retha Threatt (lay) 22-25 Panama City
Tammy Benedict (chst) 23-26 Jacksonville
Dustin Sams (chst) 23-26 Titusville
Dan Rodriguez (chst) 23-26 Miami

BAPTIST UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (25 members)

Nominees for Election (9)

Ted Traylor (ord) Pensacola
Don McLaughlin (ord) Tallahassee
Dwayne McDow (ord) Lakeland
Peter Burmeister (ord) Pensacola
Timothy Flowers (ord) West Palm Beach
Kelley Hill (lay) Hollywood
RC Mills (lay) Jacksonville
David Shenning (ord) Palmetto
George Hall (ord) Avon Park

Term

2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27
2024-27

Consecutive Term(s)

2022-24
2021-24
2023-24

Trustees Continuing Service (16)

Chris Coram (ord) 22-25 Jacksonville
Richard Williamson (ord) 22-25 Lakeland
David Kilgore (lay) 22-25 Clearwater
Eric Stitts (ord) 22-25 Daytona Beach
Celeste Guthrie (lay) 22-25 Tallahassee
Danny Heath (ord) 23-26 Ocala
Tyler Pearce (ord) 23-26 Crawfordville
Ryan Dupee (lay) 23-26 Naples

Dianne Lovett (lay) 22-25 Tangerine
Eloy Rodriguez (ord) 22-25 Lutz
Dwight Woods (ord) 22-25 Panama City
Miream Sierra (lay) 23-26 Ft. Lauderdale
Brant Adams (ord) 23-26 Jacksonville
Patrick Inglett (lay) 23-26 Gainesville
Jacob Chilton (ord) 22-25 Tallahassee
Andrew Stucker (ord) 23-26 Orlando

LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER (9 members)

Nominees for Election (3)

Jose Cardona (ord) Windermere
 Theodore Lightbourne (ord) Gainesville
 Luke Racykowski (ord) Umatilla

Term

2024-27
 2024-27
 2024-27

Consecutive Term(s)

2021-24
 2021-24

Trustees Continuing Service (6)

Marlene Dordoye (lay) 22-25 Homestead
 Bobby Miles (ord) 22-25 Orlando
 David Steele (ord) 23-26 St. Cloud

John Herrell (lay) 22-25 Grand Island
 Lydia Greear (lay) 23-26 St. Augustine
 Miranda Sharp (lay) 23-26 Palatka

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

2024 COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS MEMBERS

TERM	CENTRAL	EAST	NORTH	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WEST
2022 2023 2024	*Mike Kahn, Chair (Idlewild)	Brian Winburn (Springhill)	Brandon Denmark (Trinity)	Jonathan Palaci (Christ Family)	*Emely Pagan (Iglesia Bautista Vino Nuevo Naples)	*Roger Barrett (Church on Bayshore)
2023 2024 2025	Carl Ellison (Wiregrass Church)	*Lauren Lambert (Jacksonville, First)	*April Janson (Park View Baptist)	David Lema (Pompano Beach, First)	Ron Tipton (Murdock)	*Amy Anderson (Hub City Church)
2024 2025 2026	Zelvis Applin (South Hills)	Donald Lewis (Love Gave Church)	Calvin Carr (North Central)	*Cristina Andrickson (Turning Point)	Kevin Roberts (New Hope)	Jennifer Duncan (Chipley, First)
Ex Officio Members of Committee on Nominations Florida Baptist State Convention Officers				Mike Orr, President (Chipley, First)	David Perez, 1 st VP (Iglesia Bautista Casa de Bendicion)	*Jeff Crick, 2 nd VP (Fruit Cove, Jacksonville)
Florida Baptist Convention Staff Resource to Committee on Nominations				Stephen Rummage Executive Director- Treasurer	Micah Ferguson Director of Strategic Initiatives	Allison Martin Executive Ministry Assistant
*Indicates layperson						

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Lake Rousseau Baptist Church: 'Out of the ashes' ... to 'bring about great things for His kingdom'

DUNNELLON—Pastor Jim Kinnebrew sometimes feels like God parachuted him right down in the middle of a new church plant.

He and his wife Sandy just launched Lake Rousseau Baptist Church in Dunnellon in July, and they feel blessed that they already have a beautiful church building on a 10-acre site, and that they've been welcomed by people in the area who say they have been hoping and praying for a church to come to that site.

Many church plants are not as fortunate, often meeting in homes or temporary locations for a period until they find a more suitable building. And they're not always met with prospective members praying for their arrival.



"It's hard to think that this was not all planned by God," Kinnebrew said.

The new church launched on July 14 with a little more than 100 people in attendance. A photo posted to the church's Facebook page that day shows a big crowd practically spilling out of the pews. With many of those being well-wishers there to support the opening, attendance has since settled down to about 50 each week, the pastor said. But their numbers continue to grow, attracting new visitors each week.

The church has attracted many senior citizens, which reflects not only the surrounding area but also the pastor, who is 71, and his wife. Young families with children also have been coming to check the church out.

In addition to Sunday morning services and Sunday School, the church is continuing with its Wednesday night dinner and Bible study, which it started doing back in May with its core group. Each week, one person makes the main dish, and everyone else brings a side dish or dessert. All are welcome.

"Folks are loving the community dinners on Wednesdays," he said. "They love getting out and getting to know their neighbors, and they like the solid Bible studies."



Kinnebrew has a doctorate degree in theology, and he taught for 33 years at Luther Rice Seminary in Atlanta. When he and his wife retired three years ago back to the area where they both grew up, he did not expect that he would be pastoring a church as he is today. Teaching a Bible study and doing some supply preaching, sure, but not leading a church, he said. The couple had dreamed of doing some traveling in their RV.

'Beautiful thing' to 'work together'

They began attending First Baptist Church of Dunnellon, and one day late last year Pastor Russ Randall invited him to lunch and asked him to consider being the pastor of this new church plant. The previous church membership had disbanded, and the church building sat empty for almost three years due to some legal issues.

Kinnebrew eventually said yes, and he and his wife traveled to Atlanta in February for church planter training and screening with the North American Mission Board.

As the sponsoring church, First Baptist Church of Dunnellon challenged its membership to take part in this church plant in three ways:

1. Commit to pray for this new church plant.
2. Pray about being a financial supporter and giving a monthly donation.
3. Pray about moving to this church for one year.



Scan to read complete story

By David Moore | Aug 14, 2024



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Fort Myers Church Committed To Spend 'Less On Ourselves,' Give 'More To Missions'

FORT MYERS – When it comes to fulfilling the Great Commission, Crossroads Baptist Church in Fort Myers has discovered that less is more.

“The Great Commission [Matthew 28:18-20] is in our conversations, teaching, small groups. ... Everywhere we go, the gospel goes; and everywhere we go, we are on mission. We are striving to be a church that spends less on ourselves and gives more to missions,” said David Gold, senior pastor of Crossroads. He explained that 17% of the church’s annual budget is earmarked for missions, in addition to the church’s emphasis on special offerings such as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.



Local Community

Crossroads Baptist Church’s missions commitment is lived out with various outreach and layperson-led ministries throughout its local community.

“We encourage our people to live out personal ministry. We want to equip the saints and encourage them to catch the power and vision of the gospel,” said Michael Caro, youth pastor at Crossroads.

Equipping the saints to do the work of ministry has evolved into a food pantry distribution that feeds more than 275 families a month, a juvenile prison ministry, One More Child volunteer team, an active and thriving Good News Club and more.

The southwest Florida church also has adopted five public schools in Lee County to offer support and encouragement, partners with Iglesia Real Fort Myers Church, and ministers through Ride Nature—a ministry that seeks to serve extreme sports enthusiasts, one of the largest unreached people groups in the world.

“We seek to be a church that if we ceased to exist, we would be deeply missed by our community,” said Gold.



Along with committing to increase its missions giving by one percentage point annually and “giving more and more toward kingdom ministries,” with the ultimate goal of the church giving 30% or more to missions, Crossroads also is committed to praying vigorously for its community, other local churches, and its national and international church partners.

“We pray for missions, our city, other local churches, and our partners consistently in our services,” Gold said.

Generous giving and vigorous prayer ultimately lead to the church being directly involved with missions and working with full-time missionaries, which further fuels the church’s outward focus. When church members return from mission trips, Gold said, “We celebrate what God has done before our people.”

Engaging in missions and keeping evangelistic fervor before the people takes intentionality and constant celebration, Gold said. “By sharing their experiences, creating videos, developing partnerships, we have learned that whatever gets celebrated, gets repeated.”



Scan to read complete story and their **National and International Missions**

By Jessica Pigg | Aug 26, 2024



COOPERATING
MINISTRIES
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CLAYTON P. CLOER
President



**Baptist University
Of Florida**

The Baptist University of Florida exists to be the Christian higher education partner of Florida Baptists. The main campus sits on more than 200 acres in Graceville, Florida with additional sites throughout the state. More than 5,000 graduates have scattered throughout Florida and the world to push back the darkness with the light of the gospel. BUF offers full degree programs, dual enrollment, online programs, distance learning opportunities across the state, and in English, Spanish, and French Creole. With 22 degree programs, BUF makes exceptional Christian higher education available and accessible.

ACCREDITATION

The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. It holds membership in the National Association of Schools of Music and the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

BUF practices a comprehensive approach in admission policy. This approach considers academic, personal, and spiritual aspects of the applicant's life. Specific admission requirements are listed in the 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 University offers top-quality postsecondary education at an affordable cost. Through partnerships with the state convention, individual churches, and generous donors, the financial burden left to each student is kept at the lowest possible level. Additional financial aid funds are available to qualifying students through federal and state sources. The University's net worth exceeded \$40 million this year including permanent endowment and undesignated reserves.

ACADEMICS

The University's areas of study include Pastoral Ministry, Biblical Studies, Christian Education, Business, Music, Psychology, and Teacher Education. The curriculum, characterized by a strong Christian Worldview, features an excellent mixture of liberal arts courses, as well as ministry preparation courses designated to equip graduates for ministerial service or further graduate study.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024

- BUF achieved its highest ever enrollment of 686 students in August of 2024.
- Graduate programs have grown from 25 to more than 190 since 2023.
- BUF: Hispano and BUF: Francais launched with record breaking enrollments.
- BUF: Calvary College was launched in August 2024 in Clearwater.
- BUF: Athletics is launching in Graceville with Basketball, Volleyball and Cross-Country.
- Brackin-Chandler Residence Hall was completely renovated and occupied in August 2024.

2024 RECOGNITIONS

- Best Online Bachelor's Program by Major | U.S. News & World Report
- Best Online College in Florida | Ranked #2 (Intelligent.com)
- Best Online Bachelor's in Ministry Degree Program | Ranked #6 (Intelligent.com)
- Most Affordable Online Business Administration Program | Ranked #8 (Intelligent.com)
- Best Online Bachelor's in Elementary Education Program | Ranked #9 (Intelligent.com)
- #98 in The 100 Most Affordable Colleges & Universities (College Consensus)
- Gold Award for Recruitment Series (Collegiate Advertising Awards)
- Gold Award for Acceptance Package (Educational Advertising Awards)



COOPERATING
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**Florida Baptist
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RICK WHEELER
President/CEO



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Every “Yes” Matters

Have you ever thought about how many times in your life you have said yes? Sometimes our “yes” can be a simple affirmation to a mundane daily decision. We say yes when we decide where to eat, where to go for a family vacation or even what to wear every day. But then there are times where we have an opportunity to say yes to God. These are moments of divine appointment where our response to God’s invitation can forever shape the narrative of our life. At FBFS, we understand the significance of this “yes” and make it our mission to help every individual, family and church fulfill God’s call by saying yes to His plan and their specific calling.

There are many ways we help people and churches say yes such as planned giving, cash management and church loans. We believe that when we say yes to God, more churches are planted, more missionaries are sent, the gospel is extended further into lostness, and a Kingdom legacy can be both planned and fulfilled. Florida Baptists – because of your “Yes” to partner with our ministry, we have been able to see God do amazing things in this season:

- Total **distributions** YTD are **\$2,068,276** with \$601,151 going to churches and associations, \$377,062 to Theological Education & Scholarships, \$473,299 to SBC Missions and \$230,779 to One More Child.
- Since our 2023 Convention meeting last November in Tampa, **\$580K** went directly from the Florida1Fund and the Florida Baptist Retired Shepherd’s Fund to a variety of Florida Baptist mission causes.
- Through July, four FBC churches in Pace, Dade City, Apopka and Poinciana received a total of **\$11,750,000 in new capital** through loans to buy, build or renovate church facilities.
- Since January, the total cash and investments in the Church Growth Investment Fund grew **by \$11.5M** with 53 new accounts with a total of \$6.4M from new individual and church clients.
- In partnership with the Florida Baptist Convention, we provided **88 scholarships** to pastors and immediate family members pursuing theological education as they prepare for ministry leadership across Florida.

- Our flagship **Kingdom Fund** has earned 7.3% since inception (09) while making an eternal impact through Biblically responsible screening and investing in a variety of redemptive causes.
- During the current year, the Lord has grown our total **assets under management to a new high of \$391,637,854. This represents a cumulative growth of 75% since 12/31/2019.**

While these numbers speak to God’s faithfulness and the generosity of Florida Baptists, there are also great Kingdom stories that paint the fuller picture. Here is one story that reminds us that **Every Yes Matters...**

A little over five years ago, we said “yes” to partnering with First Baptist Daytona Beach in their relocation and construction of their new worship facility. During a time when the church was at a critical crossroads, the Lord led our leadership to engage with this church to. Five years later, the church construction & relocation is complete - they are in their new facility and their ministry is thriving. Pastor Eric Stitts recently shared with us that because we said yes, FBC Daytona is now able to say yes to seven mission partnerships around the globe, a weekly feeding ministry to hundreds in their community and they recently saw fourteen professions of faith through their summer VBS.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude to our Lord and to Florida Baptists to serve individuals, families & churches across our mission field. We would love to hear from you and explore how we can help you say **Yes** to how the Lord is inviting you to join Him!

Unto the Praise of His Glory!

Dr. Rick Wheeler
President & CEO



COOPERATING
MINISTRIES
**Lake Yale Baptist
Conference Center**

JEFF A. YANT
Executive Director



Making Christ Known through a Life-Changing Experience in an Opportunity Rich Environment

God continues to move powerfully through the ministry of Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, impacting lives from diverse backgrounds and circumstances. This year, we hosted 360 different groups, with an average size of 60 or more people, staying an average of 3.8 days, providing a sacred space for reflection, discipleship, and evangelism. Each moment spent here is an opportunity for God to work in the hearts of His people, whether it's through a pastoral sabbatical, a youth camp, a men's gathering, or one of Lake Yale's programmed events.

One guest shared, *"I was the only one able to come from our group. The others were home sick. After settling into the room, I met a few ladies playing cards who invited me to join them. They welcomed me into their group, and now I'm looking forward to meeting them again next year. They were from Lakeland, where my son lives, and I want to tell him about their church!"*

Youth groups are seeing God move mightily as well: ***"We had over 170 decisions during youth week, including a student who recommitted his life to Christ. His father prayed to receive Christ, and they were baptized together on Sunday!"*** Stories like this echo the heart of Lake Yale's mission. Another leader shared, ***"We had so many students commit their lives to Christ, a lot of whom had no previous background with the church. God was moving greatly!"*** Other youth leaders reported, ***"Six students dedicated or recommitted their lives to Jesus, and thirteen made decisions to answer the call to ministry."***

Even our pastoral sabbaticals have provided life-changing moments: ***"God gave me amazing times of prayer and solitude, much-needed rest, and sent me back to my pastoral assignment with joy and thanksgiving."***

This year, we are excited to highlight the updated Bunkhouse, which has become a favorite new feature, offering comfort and space for groups of all sizes. Alongside this, our new amenity additions have enhanced the overall experience for all visitors, from youth to seniors.

As a ministry, we exist to come alongside churches in support, giving them an avenue for discipleship, reflection, respite, and evangelism. Lake Yale thrives because of the faithful partnership with the Florida Baptist family. Your contributions and prayers are vital, making Lake Yale a place where God's presence is felt, and lives are transformed.

Thank you, Florida Baptists, for making Lake Yale a vital and viable ministry. We invite you to come and see firsthand what God is doing through YOUR Florida Baptist Camp and Conference Center. Together, we continue to make Christ known!

For His Glory,

Jeff Yant, Executive Director





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

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



ENGAGE FOR CHILDREN

One More Child passionately seeks to reach vulnerable children and struggling families with the love of Jesus Christ. Survivors, victims, and children in need often wonder, "Does anyone see me?" At One More Child, our answer is clear: "Yes, we see you, and we are here!"

In 2023, we served 250,259 children and individuals and provided more than 19 million meals. Our commitment to reach one more extends to hungry children, foster children, trafficked children, single moms, and struggling families. Since our inception, the love of Christ remains the cornerstone upon which we build every program and initiative.

Through our services, we help individuals like Julie. At 13 years old, Julie was exposed to drugs and at 16 years old, she was sexually trafficked. Julie courageously broke away from her trafficker at 19 years old, but was left lonely, scared, and wrestling with doubt and shame. She was concerned for her safety and, as a single mom, for the safety of her son. That's when she encountered One More Child.

We found a safe place for Julie and her little one to live. Our team walked alongside her as she finished school and helped her out of the spiritual darkness that plagued her, guiding her to the hope found in Jesus Christ. Julie had a long-time dream of becoming a firefighter, and through a scholarship provided by One More Child, she was able to attend EMT and Fire School, recently graduating with an associate's degree in Fire Science Technology. Julie's firefighter dream is becoming a reality.

The support from our churches allows us to serve those, like Julie, who need the hope of Christ to interrupt their despair. Your partnership with One More Child makes it possible to offer foster children loving homes, provide warm meals to the hungry, support single moms on the road to self-sufficiency, and bring healing to survivors of child sex trafficking.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- **250,259** children and individuals served, and **19,580,059** meals provided.
- **FOSTER CARE** 2,700 foster children served, and 148 children placed with an adoptive family.
- **SINGLE MOMS** 265 moms and children served through the Single Moms program with an 86% completion rate.
- **FAMILY SUPPORT** 2,297 clients served, and \$53,839,915 worth of in-kind resources distributed.
- **ANTI-TRAFFICKING** 1,007 clients served, and 12,969 impacted through education, advocacy, and awareness.
- **SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE** 2,196 clients presented with adoption, and 1,027 babies saved from abortion.
- **SPONSOR A CHILD** 19,627 global child sponsorships.



Learn More

Church And Christian Academy Partner To ‘Pray And Obey, Love Christ Well, Share God’s Love’



WINTER GARDEN—What is the secret to a spiritual awakening taking place among students in central Florida?

It’s really no secret at all.

First Baptist Church in Winter Garden and Foundation Academy, a private Christian school in Winter Garden, have partnered together to integrate the gospel into every aspect of students’ educational life, resulting in a campus-wide spiritual revival.

“All we’ve done is pray and obey, love Christ well, and share God’s love with the students through every available avenue,” said John Bradley, student ministry director at First Baptist Church in Winter Garden.

Over this past 2023-2024 academic year, this intentional gospel integration into daily school activities has seen countless students “come to understand that there is a difference between having knowledge about the things of God and following through on them in faith and obedience,” Bradley said.

Many students have made professions of faith in Jesus as they realized that a Christian commitment “takes more than behavior to ‘be good enough,’” Bradley said. “It requires surrender to the lordship of Christ,” which includes following through “in obedience” in matters such as baptism, church involvement, serving or personal discipleship.

First Baptist Winter Garden pastors and Foundation Academy faculty say the movement of God among the students started in September 2023 when Bradley and

Jeffrey Lawrence, director of spiritual development at the school, began to teach more directly on doctrine and theology—challenging students to think more intentionally about their personal relationships with God.

“We began to teach more directly on theology and doctrine, primarily who God is, how we can know Him, and what He produces in us. Students were challenged to evaluate their relationship with God and test its foundation,” Bradley said.

Spiritual transformations taking place at Foundation Academy are evident on the high school baseball team. What started as one coach sharing his testimony with the players after practice launched an immediate response. After players and students were challenged to understand that nothing else matters aside from a genuine relationship with the Lord, several players responded with salvation decisions, resulting in numerous baptisms.

Bradley also credited the spiritual awakening to longtime, diligent prayer, saying, “The faculty and staff have prayed long and hard over these students and this school.”

Foundation Academy, Bradley said, is now “reaping” the harvest of years of prayer and preparation by both church and school leaders.

“We’re realizing the vision Tim Grosshans, senior pastor at First Baptist Winter Garden, and Dave Buckles, president of Foundation Academy, had years ago and what this place should be. We are reaping the reward now of years of preparation and diligently seeking the will of God by this leadership and faculty,” Bradley said.

Genuine, organic life change

With leaders’ priority on foundational doctrine and prayer, the students are living out their genuine love for the Lord, which is leading to “organic discipleship” campus-wide.

What is taking place at Foundation Academy isn’t overwhelming chapel invitations and extended prayer services, but rather one-on-one conversations taking place around campus, in classrooms and at after-school practices, Bradley said.

“Students are seeing faith lived out by others, whether that be through peers, faculty or their pastors,” he said. “It’s the work of the Spirit through the believers displaying a genuine and effective faith. It’s a, ‘Let’s do this together,’ rather than a, ‘Do as I say’ attitude.”



When asked if he could describe what is happening on campus in two words, Bradley described it as “lifestyle testimonies.”

“It’s genuine believers living out what God has developed in them,” he said. “It’s not fake, superficial or manipulative. It’s real-life stuff happening with ordinary people in divine ways.”

Vital church partnership

The faculty, leadership and pastors believe that this recent evangelism explosion and genuine life change are the result of a strong and vital partnership between the church and academy.

With First Baptist Winter Garden church members serving as board members for the school, the cohesive partnership between the two has developed into family-centered mission and discipleship over the years.

“The church functions as a spiritual accountability and guidance entity, allowing the school flexibility in how it applies matters of faith in daily student life,” Bradley said. “The church directs the faith doctrine and theology, and the school implements the formation process.”

Because the private school is not a “covenant school,” meaning that students don’t have to profess faith in Christ to attend, a large portion of students do not know God or actively attend a local church. Therefore, Foundation Academy is a ripe mission field for “many faith decisions and baptisms,” Bradley said.

“Many students are truly professing the message of the gospel for the first time!”

By Jessica Pigg | Jul 23, 2024



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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.

Hershel Adams | Emerald Coast Association | Retired AMS
Carlos Armenteros | Iglesia Bautista Manantial De Vida, Miami | Retired Pastor
Elwood Baker | Felmington, Micanopy | Retired Pastor
Arthur Beal | Greenville, Monticello | Former Pastor
Joe Boatwright | Aloma, Winter Park | Former Pastor
Charles Bradshaw | Mt. Pleasant, Milton | Former Pastor
Larry Brister | Immanuel, Fort Lauderdale | Pastor
Michael “Mickey” Burroughs | First, New Port Richey | Former Interim Pastor
John Cates | Englewood, First | Pastor
Lamar Clark | Flat Creek, Chatahoochee | Worship Leader
Bill Coffman | Westview, Sanford | Former Pastor
James “Harold” Davis | Immanuel, Bowling Green | Pastor
Gary Durham | Fellowship, Ocala | Pastor
Luc Andre Fleurestil | Fraternity, Miami | Associate Pastor
James Fortinberry | South Conway Road, Orlando | Former Pastor
Jerry Gesell | New River, Brooker | Former Associate Pastor
Warren Gilmore | James Street, Milton | Pastor Emeritus
Charl Griffin | Emmanuel, Crestview | Former Associate Pastor
Lawrence Hicks | Neptune Road, Kissimmee | Pastor
Jerald Hicks | Powers Drive, Orlando | Pastor
Julian (Gene) Hodges | Youngstown, Youngstown | Former Pastor
Zachery Hudson | Rebirth, Tampa | Pastor
Elwood Jeffries | Church at the Cross, Orlando | Former Associate Pastor
Julien Joachin | Grace Haitian, Orlando | Pastor
James Johnson | Pleasant Ridge, Defuniak Springs | Former Pastor
Sandy Kemp | Sonshine, Ocala | Pastor
Thomas Kinchen | Baptist University of Florida | Former President
David Lathrem, JR | St. James City, First | Former Pastor
AD Lenoir | Westview, Miami | Pastor
LeRoy Lewis | San Mateo, First | Retired Pastor
John Marshall | Celebration, Tallahassee | Former Associate Pastor
Joe McLendon | Panama City, First, Youngstown | Pastor
Charles Miles | Forest, Fort McCoy | Former Pastor
Chris Millett | Waterstone, Longwood | Associate Pastor
Bob Parker | True Life, Melbourne | Founding Pastor
Raymond Payne | Bell Shoals, Brandon | Former Associate Pastor
Tom Pieper | Grand Island, Grand Island | Former Associate Pastor
Ralph Rodriguez | Evangelism at New Testament Baptist Church, Miami | Associate Pastor
Juan Rojas | Iglesia Bautista Nazaret, Miami | Former Pastor
Raynald Saint-Juste | Palm Springs, Haitian | Pastor
Guy Sanders | New Port Richey, First | Former Pastor
James Sledge | Wildwood, Bartow | Former Pastor
Ron Smith, JR | Waterstone, Longwood | Lead Pastor
Mark Spradley | Athens, Lake City | Pastor
Andrew Strachan | North Dunedin, Dunedin | Pastor
John “Jack” White | Zolfo Springs, First | Former Pastor
Kenneth White | Donald Ross, Palm Beach Gardens | Pastor
Randy Wilson | Faith Family, Jacksonville | Former Pastor

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.’

5,000 Western Cubans Walk Into New Year With New Life In Christ



WESTERN CUBA—As 2024 dawns, close to 5,000 Western Cubans are walking into the new year with new spiritual life found only in Jesus Christ.

During a recent mission trip to the island nation, eight Florida Baptist leaders came right beside Western Cuba Baptist leaders for eight days of evangelistic outreach and preaching, resulting in 4,820 professions of faith. While there, the Florida Baptist leaders divided into teams of two and preached in 45 churches and missions scattered across the provinces of Villa Clara and Cienfuegos.

Florida Baptists have partnered with the Western Cuba Baptist Convention since 1997. It is a “true partnership” characterized by Florida Baptists’ “heart of servanthood,” said Kurt Urbanek, International Mission Board strategy leader for Cuba.

In his several visits to Cuba during the partnership, Myles Dowdy, Florida Baptists’ catalyst for missions and ministries, stated that he has met many Cubans who are yearning for “the hope of Jesus Christ.”

Mission team member Zach Terry, pastor, Fernandina Beach First Baptist Church, agreed with Dowdy, saying in a social media post, “Through the gospel of Jesus Christ, there is always hope.”

Reflecting on the Florida Baptist team’s trip to Cuba, mission team member Phillip Hamm said, “I was amazed at how receptive the people of Cuba were to the gospel.



Not only were they very hospitable and friendly, but they also have a sincere hunger for spiritual things.”

Fred Pitts, recently retired pastor of Ancient City Baptist Church in St. Augustine, added, “I was impressed with the commitment of the Cuban ‘missionaries’ working alongside us during the day and the receptivity of the people to the gospel. These missionaries were laypeople from another part of Cuba as well as members of the churches we served.”

This mission trip marked Pitts’ first visit to Cuba. The pastors there, he said, “were not only very committed to Jesus, to their churches and to Cuba as a nation in need of God’s love, but they were also well trained and solid students of Scripture.

“And the people were so very receptive! They were welcoming and friendly and excited to hear words of hope from God and His word. It is clear that God is moving among the churches and people in Cuba.”

Pastor Manuel Barahona had not planned to go on the Western Cuba mission trip; too many details seemed to be getting in the way of him going. Yet, the issues keeping him at home were resolved, and he joined the mission team.

“This trip in many ways changed my life,” said Barahona, pastor of Westside First Baptist Church in Boynton Beach. His takeaway? “The church in Western Cuba is alive and well. All I can say is, ‘Praise God.’”

“Our priority while we were there was getting the word of God out and supporting our brothers and sisters. I’m ready to continue to do anything and everything I can to help. I’m in.”

Barahona recalled preaching one night as he held a lantern to read Scripture. The church was dark due to an unexpected power outage.

“Although we came and wanted to preach and bless the people; it was the other way around. I received the blessing,” he said.

The recent mission trip was the fourth time in Cuba for Al Fernandez, Florida Baptists’ Southeast region catalyst. This time, in particular, he said. “We saw evidence of the gospel spreading like wildfire.”

Scan to read complete story



By Margaret Colson | Dec 14, 2024



3:16 ON 3/16

For God So Loved The World...

MARCH 16, 2025

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