

2017 ANNUAL



2017 ANNUAL

of the

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

in the

One Hundred Sixty-Fourth Session
(169th Year)

First Baptist Church
Russellville, Arkansas

November 7-8, 2017

Mailing and Street Address
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IN HONOR OF JIMMIE SHEFFIELD

Jimmie Sheffield is celebrating 61 years in ministry in 2017. He continues to serve Arkansas Baptists as the Assistant to the Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Bro. Jimmie began working at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in 1986. In addition, he serves as leader of the Prayer Task Force and the Intentional Interim Ministry. Over the years, Bro. Jimmie has held various positions at the ABSC including Associate Executive Director, Executive Administrator, and consultant on the Leadership & Worship Team.

Bro. Jimmie was born in Joinerville, Texas in 1937. During his college days at East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, Texas, he met and married Annette Anderson in 1958. He received his B.A. degree from East Texas Baptist College in 1959 and then received his Master of Religious Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1964. Bro. Jimmie and Mrs. Annette have two adult daughters, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. They will be celebrating 60 years of marriage in 2018 and are faithful members of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock.

Prior to his ministry at the ABSC, Bro. Jimmie served churches in Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana. His service at these churches included Administrator, Associate Pastor, Minister of Childhood Education and Administrator, Minister of Education and Music, and Minister of Music and Youth. Bro. Jimmie served Southern Baptists in a variety of denominational positions in Arkansas and Texas concerning Cooperative Program promotion, church training, budget planning, stewardship, public relations, and more. He also served the Baptist Sunday School Board, now LifeWay, as a consultant in the Church Administration department. He has been a conference leader at Glorieta and Ridgecrest, adjunct professor for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Boyce Bible School, as well as a writer for numerous Southern Baptist publications.

Bro. Jimmie is widely known and respected for his godly wisdom and leadership in his service to Arkansas Baptists and Southern Baptists. The 2017 Annual is dedicated in his honor.

DIRECTORY

2017 CONVENTION OFFICERS

President.....	Sam Roberts 2115 S. Prairie, Stuttgart 72160
First Vice-President.....	John McCallum 2350 Central Ave, Hot Springs 71901
Second Vice-President	Craig Collier 107 Ray Road, Jacksonville 72076

2018 CONVENTION OFFICERS

President.....	Greg Sykes 200 S. Denver Ave, Russellville 72801
First Vice-President.....	Wyman Richardson 5200 Fairway Ave, North Little Rock 72116
Second Vice-President	George Goynes, Jr. 23465 State Highway 237, Doddridge 71834

FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE CONVENTION

Next Session

Date	October 23-24, 2018
Place.....	Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro
Preacher.....	Ronnie Deal
October 22-23, 2019	Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock
October 20-21, 2020	First Baptist Church, Rogers
October 26-27, 2021	First Baptist Church, Cabot
October 25-26, 2022	First Baptist Church, Hot Springs

DIRECTORY*

Telephone (501) 376-4791 In Arkansas (800) 838-2272

Information current as of June 2018*EXECUTIVE OFFICES**

J. D. "Sonny" Tucker, Executive Director/Team Leader.....	Ext. 5102
Greg Addison, Associate Executive Director.....	Ext. 5103
David Bond, Executive Administrator.....	Ext. 5102
Jimmie Sheffield, Assistant to Executive Director.....	Ext. 5103

Ministry Assistants:

Vera Clancy.....	Ext. 5102
Connie McCall.....	Ext. 5101
Gwen McCallister.....	Ext. 5103

EXECUTIVE + ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

**Strategy Planning, Business Affairs, Executive, Personnel,
Communication, CP Promotion, Coaching/Mentoring, Staff Training,
Camp Paron, Prayer & Spiritual Awakening**

Kevin Alley.....	(501) 837-7362
Tammy Avery.....	Ext. 5174
Nick Burt.....	Ext. 5129
Jeff Corley.....	Ext. 5107
Emily Dail.....	Ext. 5170
Verna Dame.....	Ext. 5555
Al Farmer.....	Ext. 5186
Hannah Gridley.....	Ext. 5175
Justin Hall.....	Ext. 5176
Elizabeth Jones.....	(501) 594-5257
Rachel Moreno.....	Ext. 5179
Karen Smith.....	Ext. 5190
Samantha Tischer.....	(501) 366-9062
Phillip Walker.....	Ext. 5777
Karen West.....	Ext. 0

CHURCH PLANTING TEAM

Church Planting, Church Planter Training, Institutes: Urban/Delta, Cultivation: Missional Essentials, Church Partners

Tim Wicker, Team Leader.....	Ext. 5149
Dave McClung, Assistant Team Leader.....	Ext. 5149
Ellen Cortez	Ext. 5149
Francisco Gomez	Ext. 5159
Chad Grigsby	Ext. 5159
Willie Jacobs.....	Ext. 5159
Chanson Newborn.....	Ext. 5159

COLLEGE + YOUNG LEADERS TEAM

Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM), Church-Collegiate Ministries, International Student Ministries, High School Transition, Emerging Leaders, E4Call

David James, Team Leader	Ext. 5142
Chris Kohlman, Assistant Team Leader.....	Ext. 5142
Lynn Loyd.....	Ext. 5142
Becky Sanders.....	Ext. 5140
Jonda Shikle.....	Ext. 5142
Teresa “Bit” Stephens	Ext. 5142
Elizabeth Walters	Ext. 5192

CAMPUS MINISTERS

Position to be filled	Arkansas Northeastern College
Position to be filled	Arkansas State University
Gary Hair	Arkansas State University Mid-South
Dave Morley	Arkansas State University-Beebe
Jeff Crow	Arkansas State University-Heber Springs
Bill Hughes	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home
Position to be filled	Arkansas State University-Newport
Brad Branham	Arkansas Tech University
Gary Thomas.....	Arkansas Tech University-Ozark
Michael Clayton	College of the Ouachitas
Ryan Scantling	Conway BCM
Position to be filled	Cossatot Community College-UA
Clint Haynes.....	East Arkansas Community College
Dustin Clegg	East Arkansas Community College, Wynne
Jared Farley.....	Henderson State University
Dawn Reed.....	Lyon College
Adam Venters.....	Metro BCM
Michael Clayton	National Park College

Barbara Searcy	North Arkansas College
Chris Kohlman	Northwest Arkansas Community College
James Taylor	Ouachita Baptist University
Position to be filled	Ozarka College
Position to be filled	Phillips Community College-UA
Position to be filled	Searcy BCM
Rick Snell.....	South Arkansas Community College
Position to be filled	Southeast Arkansas College
Mike Sandusky.....	Southern Arkansas University
Joyce Tillery	Southern Arkansas University Tech
Cole Penick	University of Arkansas-Fayetteville
Lee Woodmansee	University of Arkansas-Fort Smith
Jeremy Woodall.....	University of Arkansas-Monticello
Tarvoris "Tee" Uzoigwe.....	University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Janie Hall	University of AR Community College-Batesville
Position to be filled	University of AR Community College-Hope
Ryan Scantling	University of AR Community College-Morrilton
Sherry Baker	University of AR Community College-Rich Mountain
Megan Dickerson.....	University of the Ozarks
Hayes Howell.....	Williams Baptist College

EVANGELISM + CHURCH HEALTH TEAM

Evangelism, Church Programs/Activities, Family Ministry, Youth Evangelism, Worship, Church Health, Interim Ministry

Marcus Brown, Assistant Team Leader	Ext. 5128
Donna Couch	Ext. 5193
Warren Gasaway	Ext. 5132
Larry Grayson	Ext. 5121
Hillary Hill	Ext. 5132
William Jaques	Ext. 5128
Bob Johnson.....	Ext. 5121
Scottie Johnson	Ext. 5132
Andrea Lennon.....	Ext. 5193
Lynn Riley.....	Ext. 5128
Neal Scoggins	Ext. 5132
Judy Shaddox	Ext. 5128
Emily Smith	Ext. 5193
Seth Tucker	Ext. 5132
Carla Whittington.....	Ext. 5121
Leah Jo Wilson.....	Ext. 5193

MISSIONS TEAM**Mission Events, Volunteer Mobilization,
Disaster Relief, WMU/Missions Education**

Bob Harper, Team Leader	Ext. 5150
Michelle Burton	Ext. 5249
Bob Fielding.....	Ext. 5137
Randy Garrett.....	Ext. 5249
Kathy Hensley.....	Ext. 5150
Travis McCormick	Ext. 5137
Debbie Moore	Ext. 5137
Jamie Naramore	Ext. 5137
Darrel Ray	Ext. 5150
Ashley Sumners	Ext. 5137

AGENCIES***Information current as June 2018***ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES
AND FAMILY MINISTRIES****(501) 376-4791 In Arkansas (800) 838-2272****FAX: (501) 907-6110**

David Perry, Executive DirectorExt. 5167
 Charles Flynn, Program DirectorExt. 5167
 Teresa Hurst, Administrative AssistantExt. 5167
 Joshua Townsend, Development DirectorExt. 5168
 Stella Prather, Director of CommunicationsExt. 5168
 Rebecca Whitfield, Administrative Assistant.....Ext. 5168
 Steve McCarley, Financial AdministratorExt. 5118
 Linda Gridley, Financial AssistantExt. 5119

Arkansas Baptist Home for Children, Monticello: (870) 367-5358

Kelly Jones Campus Director

Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch, Harrison: (870) 741-5784

Russ Draper Ranch Director

Fayetteville Area Office: (479) 521-1296

Waylon Vande Hoef Area Director

Fort Smith Area Office: (479) 646-2100 Ext. 103

Lynn Szczepanik Area Director

Jonesboro Area Office: (870) 935-5134

James Barham Area Director

Little Rock Area Office: (501) 455-8554

Derek Brown Area Director

Aaime Mason Assistant Area Director

East Arkansas Connected Foster Care

Ryan Ropp Foster Care Coordinator

ARKANSAS BAPTIST FOUNDATION**(501) 376-4791 or (800) 838-2272****FAX: (501) 376-3831**

Bobby Thomas, CFP, CIMA President, CEO
 Dillon McClain, J.D. Vice President, Attorney
 Eric Davis, CPA Treasurer, COO
 Laura McCarley Executive Assistant
 Diane Sumners Office Coordinator
 Curt Tucker Finance Coordinator
 Shelli Johnston Support Coordinator
 Dr. Rex Horne Ambassador

ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWS
(501) 376-4791 In Arkansas (800) 838-2272
FAX: (501) 372-4683

Tim Yarbrough, Editor/Executive Director	Ext. 5151
Jeanie Weber, Administrative Assistant	Ext. 5153
Caleb Yarbrough, Assistant Editor	Ext. 5155
Margaret Colson, Writer/Copy Editor	(678) 641-4457
Advertising	Ext. 5161
Accounting/Subscriptions	Ext. 5156

CAMP SILOAM
3600 S. Lincoln, Siloam Springs, AR 72761
FAX: (479) 524-9682

Jason Wilkie, Executive Director	(479) 220-0788
Robert Coppedge, Associate Director-Programs	(479) 220-2990
Nathan Nall, Facilities Manager	(479) 228-0063
Anthony Chastain, Assistant Director-IT	(479) 238-6281

I N S T I T U T I O N S *

**Information current as June 2018*

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
410 Ouachita Street, Arkadelphia, AR 71998
Switchboard: (870) 245-5000 FAX: (870) 245-5412

Ben Sells, President	(870) 245-5400
Ben Elrod, Chancellor	(870) 245-5320
Tracey Knight, Executive Secretary to the President	(870) 245-5401

WILLIAMS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
60 W. Fulbright Avenue, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476
Switchboard: (870) 886-6741 FAX: (870) 886-3924

Stan Norman, President	(870) 759-4101
Jo Carol Phillips, Administrative Assistant to the President	(870) 759-4101

H O S P I T A L

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, INC.
350 Humphreys Blvd., Memphis, TN 38120-2177
Switchboard: (901) 227-2727

Jason M. Little, President and CEO	(901) 227-5117
Mary Jo Suarez, Executive Assistant to the President	(901) 227-5117

TRUSTEES**EXECUTIVE BOARD TRUSTEES****J. D. “Sonny” Tucker, Executive Director****2017-2018 Executive Board Officers**

President.....Manley Beasley, Jr. / Hot Springs Baptist, Hot Springs
 Vice-President.....Craig Jenkins / Beech Street First Baptist, Texarkana

Term Expiring 2018

Big Creek.....Larry Ring / First Baptist, Viola
 Calvary.....Tim Noel / Trinity Baptist, Searcy
 Carey.....Donny White / First Baptist, Sparkman
 Central.....Clay Cunningham / First Baptist, Benton
 Central.....Terry Thompson / Crossgate Baptist, Hot Springs
 Clear Creek.....Chris Johnson / First Baptist, Van Buren
 Concord.....Brad Lewter / Grand Ave. Baptist, Fort Smith
 Conway-Perry.....Tom Stover / Thornburg Baptist, Perryville
 Current-Gaines.....Kevin Murray / Emmanuel Baptist, Piggott
 Greene County.....Kim Bridges / First Baptist, Marmaduke
 Harmony.....Ernest Bradshaw / First Baptist, Dumas
 Independence.....Stacy Reed / First Baptist, Batesville
 Liberty.....Casey Hough / First Baptist, Camden
 Liberty.....Mike Launius / Rugged Cross Cowboy, Magnolia
 Little Red River.....Doug Inzer / West Side Baptist, Greers Ferry
 Little River.....Kevin Sartin / First Baptist, Nashville
 Mississippi County.....Eddie Clemons / Gosnell Baptist, Gosnell
 Mount Zion.....Archie Mason / Central Baptist, Jonesboro
 Mount Zion.....Bruce Venable / First Baptist, Jonesboro
 North Arkansas.....Mark Methvin / First Baptist, Lead Hill
 North Pulaski.....Craig Collier / Mount Pisgah Baptist, Jacksonville
 Northwest.....Randy Cameron / First Baptist, Bentonville
 Pulaski.....Byron Eiseman / Immanuel Baptist, Little Rock
 Pulaski.....Julia Ketner / Hebron Baptist, Little Rock
 Red River.....Randy Dixon / Cedar Grove Baptist, Arkadelphia
 Red River.....Craig Seals / Park Hill Baptist, Arkadelphia
 Rocky Bayou.....Don Selph / First Baptist, Franklin
 Tri-County.....Shirley Forrest / First Baptist, Marion
 Trinity.....Don Neal / Calvary Baptist, Harrisburg
 Washington Madison.....Barry Smith / New Hope Fellowship, Springdale
 White River.....Eric Smeltzer / The River Bible, Mountain Home
 District 2.....Donna Reppond / Pleasant Valley Baptist, Heber Springs
 District 3.....Eddi Settles / First Baptist, Corning
 District 4.....Bev Turner / East Side Baptist, Fort Smith
 District 7.....Rose Knight / First Baptist, Arkadelphia

Term Expiring 2019:

Arkansas River Valley....	Clayton Sheets / First Baptist, Danville
Ashley County	Bobby Pennington / First Baptist, Hamburg
Bartholomew.....	Kevin Henry / First Baptist, Monticello
Black River	Jake Guenrich / First Baptist, Walnut Ridge
Buckner	Gary Martin / Fellowship Baptist, Huntington
Caddo River	Ty Huitt / Lake Ouachita Baptist, Mt. Ida
Calvary.....	Tommy Miller / Union Valley Baptist, Beebe
Caroline.....	Ralph Mashburn / Lonoke Baptist, Lonoke
Central.....	Manley Beasley, Jr. / Hot Springs Baptist, Hot Springs
Central.....	Mike Pounders / First Baptist, Hot Springs
Clear Creek	Ted Darling / First Baptist, Alma
Concord.....	Ronnie Deal / First Baptist, Greenwood
Concord.....	Vacancy
Diamond Lakes	Teddy Hill, Jr. / Millcreek Baptist, Hot Springs
Faulkner	Paul Hudson / OneChurch, Conway
Greene County	Vacancy
Harmony	Todd Howard / Watson Chapel Baptist, Pine Bluff
Independence	Joe Shell / West Baptist, Batesville
Liberty.....	Doug Wills / First Baptist, Norphlet
Mount Zion	Ed Gillham / Central Baptist, Jonesboro
Mount Zion	Mike Hart / Nettleton Baptist, Jonesboro
North Central	Eddie Morgan / First Baptist, Clinton
North Pulaski	Marty Watson / Baring Cross Baptist, Sherwood
Northwest.....	Steve Abbott / First Baptist, Siloam Springs
Northwest.....	Wes George / First Baptist, Rogers
Northwest.....	Johnny Harp / Lakeview Baptist, Cave Springs
Northwest.....	Mike McDaniel / Grace Point Baptist, Bentonville
Ouachita.....	Russell Threet / First Baptist, Mena
Pulaski.....	Dave Hughey / Geyer Springs First Baptist, Little Rock
Southwest.....	Craig Jenkins / Beech Street First Baptist, Texarkana
Tri-County.....	Rob Rash / First Baptist, Marion
Washington Madison.....	Eric Howerton / Ridgeview Baptist, Fayetteville
Washington Madison.....	Lisa Wheat / First Baptist, Fayetteville
District 1.....	Vicki Bedford / Rocky Branch Baptist, Rogers
District 6.....	Vacancy

Term Expiring 2020:

Arkansas River Valley....	Greg Sykes / First Baptist, Russellville
Arkansas Valley.....	Sam Medford / First Baptist, Brinkley
Ashley	Tracy Reed / First Baptist, Crossett
Calvary.....	James E. Hays / Valley Baptist, Searcy
Caroline.....	Don Davis / Mount Carmel Baptist, Cabot
Caroline.....	Melvin York / First Baptist, Des Arc

Centennial	Mike Dodson / First Baptist, DeWitt
Clear Creek	Ben Lairamore / First Baptist, Ozark
Concord.....	Eric Green / First Baptist, Booneville
Concord.....	Mark Williams / First Baptist, Lavaca
Current-Gaines	Sherrill Moffett / First Baptist, Pocahontas
Delta.....	Kenneth Culpepper / Bellaire Baptist, Dermott
Faulkner	Bill Griffith / Friendship Baptist, Conway
Faulkner	Larry D. White / Woodland Heights Baptist, Conway
Greene County	Anthony Cherry / First Baptist, Paragould
Harmony	Paul Williams / First Baptist, White Hall
Liberty.....	Jonathan Kelley / First Baptist, El Dorado
Little River.....	Butch Riddle / First Baptist, Ashdown
Mississippi County.....	Allen Donner / First Baptist, Manila
Mississippi County.....	Vacancy
Mount Zion	Jerry Parker / Walnut Street Baptist, Jonesboro
North Arkansas.....	Cathy Brandt / First Baptist, Harrison
North Pulaski	Ken Shaddox / Park Hill Baptist, North Little Rock
Pulaski.....	Jonathan Curtis / First Baptist, Little Rock
Pulaski.....	Steven Smith / Immanuel Baptist, Little Rock
Rocky Bayou.....	Ricky Burke / First Baptist, Melbourne
Southwest.....	Bill Saxby / Trinity Baptist, Texarkana
Tri-County.....	Gene Crawley / First Baptist, Forrest City
Tri-County.....	Josh Hall / First Baptist, West Memphis
Trinity.....	John Maley / First Baptist, Trumann
Washington Madison.....	Nick Floyd / Cross Church, Fayetteville
Washington Madison.....	Brad Wheeler / University Baptist, Fayetteville
White River.....	Tad Rogers / First Baptist, Mountain Home
District 5.....	Ruby Kite / First Baptist, Sherwood
District 8.....	Pamela Balducci / First Baptist, McGehee

**ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES
AND FAMILY MINISTRIES TRUSTEES**

David Perry, Executive Director

Term Expiring 2018	Term Expiring 2019	Term Expiring 2020
Clara Cromer <i>Immanuel, Little Rock</i>	Josh Bryant <i>First, Rogers</i>	Jana Brandt <i>Central, Jonesboro</i>
Dale Johnson <i>Parkway Place, Little Rock</i>	Bob Hall <i>First, Beebe</i>	Brad Franklin <i>Geyer Springs First, Little Rock</i>
Tommy Papasan <i>First, Danville</i>	Jay Jones <i>First, Monticello</i>	Ron Helvey <i>First, Mountain Home</i>
Kenneth Thornton <i>First, Pine Bluff</i>	Sharon Jones <i>Second, Arkadelphia</i>	Angel Lucas <i>Ridgewood, Forrest City</i>
Mary Watkins <i>First, Marion</i>	Karen Reynolds <i>Hot Springs, Hot Springs</i>	Julie O'Bryan <i>First, Fort Smith</i>
Vacancy	Phillip W. Smith <i>First, Bentonville</i>	Judy C. White <i>First, Valley Springs</i>

ARKANSAS BAPTIST FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Bobby Thomas, President

Term Expiring 2018	Term Expiring 2019	Term Expiring 2020
Mark Conine <i>Immanuel, Little Rock</i>	Jay F. Shell <i>West, Batesville</i>	Judy Davis Jones <i>Geyer Springs First, Little Rock</i>
John McMorran <i>Summit, North Little Rock</i>	Wendell Stratton <i>First, Stuttgart</i>	Tom W. Kimbrell <i>Geyer Springs First, Little Rock</i>
Will Rusher <i>Geyer Springs First, Little Rock</i>	Celia Thompkins <i>First, Rogers</i>	Matthew Shepherd <i>First, El Dorado</i>
Mike Seabaugh <i>Central, Magnolia</i>	Jeff Thompson <i>First, Greenwood</i>	Eric A. Turner <i>First, Pocahontas</i>
Larry Walker <i>First, Russellville</i>	Vacancy	Thomas Vaughan <i>Immanuel, Little Rock</i>

ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWS TRUSTEES**Tim Yarbrough, Editor/Executive Director**

Term Expiring 2018	Term Expiring 2019	Term Expiring 2020
Danny Allen Member-at-Large <i>Rison, Rison</i>	S.D. Hacker District 2 <i>First, Melbourne</i>	Bob Beach Member-at-Large <i>Immanuel, Little Rock</i>
Stephanie Copes Member-at-Large <i>South Main, Crossett</i>	Larry Killian District 8 <i>Parker's Chapel First, El Dorado</i>	Jennifer Booth Member-at-Large <i>Park Hill, North Little Rock</i>
Tommy Jacobs Member-at-Large <i>Greenfield, Harrisburg</i>	Mike McCoy Member-at-Large <i>White Oak, Walnut Ridge</i>	Steve Ellison District 4 <i>Salem, Mena</i>
Carey Trickey District 6 <i>First, Judsonia</i>	Mike Sheets District 7 <i>Cornerstone, Texarkana</i>	Rex Griffin District 1 <i>First, Elkins</i>
Juel Zeiser District 5 <i>Barcelona Rd, Hot Springs Village</i>	Mike Vinson District 3 <i>First, Corning</i>	Doug Hibbard Member-at-Large <i>East End, Hensley</i>

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, INC. TRUSTEES**Memphis, TN****Jason M. Little, President and CEO**

Term Expiring 2018	Term Expiring 2019	Term Expiring 2020
Steve Edwards <i>First, Marianna</i>	Jeff Green <i>Central, Jonesboro</i>	A. Watson Bell <i>First, Searcy</i>
Richard Trout <i>First, Blytheville</i>	Jackie McBride <i>First, Jonesboro</i>	Murray Benton <i>Central, Jonesboro</i>
Bobby Wilkerson <i>First, Stuttgart</i>	Dale Morris <i>First, Forrest City</i>	Don Underwood II <i>First, Marion</i>

CAMP SILOAM TRUSTEES**Jason Wilkie, Executive Director**

Term Expiring 2018	Term Expiring 2019	Term Expiring 2020
Harvey Bowman <i>Cross, Springdale</i>	Gregg Greenway <i>Southside, Stuttgart</i>	Howard R. Hamilton <i>University, Fayetteville</i>
Clarice Cox <i>First, Fayetteville</i>	Ed Hicks <i>Immanuel, Little Rock</i>	Laura MacFarlan <i>First, Siloam Springs</i>
Rebekah Davis <i>Shannon Road, Pine Bluff</i>	Randall James <i>Union Valley, Beebe</i>	Karen White <i>First, Russellville</i>
Jon Stubblefield <i>Barcelona Rd, Hot Springs Village</i>	Russell Rhoden <i>First, Warren</i>	J. H. Williams <i>Central, Jonesboro</i>
Guy Wilcox <i>University, Fayetteville</i>	Laurie Seabaugh <i>Central, Magnolia</i>	Vacancy

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES**Ben Sells, President**

Term Expiring 2018	Term Expiring 2019	Term Expiring 2020
Scott Carter <i>First, Norphlet</i>	Mary Pat Anthony <i>First, El Dorado</i>	Nancy Hassell Benton <i>Central, Jonesboro</i>
Larry Kircher <i>Central, Bald Knob</i>	Clay Conly <i>First, Rogers</i>	Julie Dodge <i>Woodland Heights, Conway</i>
Mark Roberts <i>First, Malvern</i>	Jay Heflin <i>Second, Little Rock</i>	Susan Shambarger Goss <i>First, Bentonville</i>
C. Randall Sims <i>One Church, Conway</i>	Taylor King <i>Second, Arkadelphia</i>	Terri Mardis <i>First, Springdale</i>
Susan Wamble <i>First, Pine Bluff</i>	Richard Lusby <i>First, Jonesboro</i>	Beth Neeley <i>First, Camden</i>
John Ward <i>Park Hill, North Little Rock</i>	John McCallum <i>First, Hot Springs</i>	Molly Magee Shepherd <i>First, El Dorado</i>
Bob White <i>First, Searcy</i>	Ginger St. John Morgan <i>First, Clinton</i>	Tom Thrash <i>Immanuel, Little Rock</i>
James S. Young <i>Cross, Springdale</i>	James E. Young <i>First, McGehee</i>	Tabetha Bramucci* <i>First, Marion</i>

*mid-year replacement for Millard
Aud who passed away Nov. 20, 2017

WILLIAMS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES**Stan Norman, President****Term Expiring 2018**

Jim Tom Butler
First, Harrisburg

J.R. Cox
First, Walnut Ridge

Jim Hale
Hot Springs, Hot Springs

Lloyd McCracken, Jr.
Brown's Chapel, Paragould

Matt Pryor
First, Manila

David Russell
Central, Jonesboro

Kyle Seal
Second, Conway

Brian Whitney
First, Searcy

Term Expiring 2019

Carol Bedford-Lewallen
First, Pocahontas

Ken Brunt
First Southern, Bryant

Brenda Doty
First, Salem

Clint Emfinger
Mt. Hebron, Searcy

Sue McGowan
East Side, Paragould

Heather Moore
Mount Carmel, Cabot

Larry Singleton
East Side, Paragould

Sarah Shell Teague
First, El Dorado

Term Expiring 2020

Lance Brewer
First, Fayetteville

Theodis Brown
Macedonia, Mtn. Pine

Jeff Dial
Life Line, Little Rock

John Hill
Walnut St., Jonesboro

Johnny Hutchison
Highland Dr., Jonesboro

James Miller
First, Melbourne

David Moore
Immanuel, Little Rock

Speedy Shoemake
First, Osceola

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Term Expiring 2018	Term Expiring 2019	Expiring 2020
Ron Lomax <i>AM, Washington Madison, Fayetteville</i>	Sam Roberts <i>First, Stuttgart</i>	Jay Shell <i>West, Batesville</i>
John McCallum <i>First, Hot Springs</i>	Greg Sykes <i>First, Russellville</i>	Larry Walker <i>First, Russellville</i>

CONVENTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Term Expiring 2018	Term Expiring 2019	Expiring 2020
Ralph Mashburn <i>Lonoke, Lonoke</i>	Erby Burgess <i>First, Glenwood</i>	Dave Hughey <i>Geyer Springs First, Little Rock</i>
Phillip Smith <i>First, Bentonville</i>	James “Tad” Rogers <i>First, Mountain Home</i>	Chris Johnson <i>First, Van Buren</i>
Brian Whitney <i>First, Searcy</i>	Mac Stroud <i>Park Hill, North Little Rock</i>	Paul White <i>First, Benton</i>

CONVENTION PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Term Expiring 2018	Term Expiring 2019	Term Expiring 2020
Ronnie Toon <i>AM, Independence, Batesville</i>	Mark Dewbre <i>Park Hill, North Little Rock</i>	Kenny Stacy <i>Eagle Heights, Harrison</i>

**AMENDED AND RESTATED
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION**

Article I. - Name, Duration and Agent for Service

Section 1. The name of this body shall be “The Arkansas Baptist State Convention.”

Section 2. The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual.

Section 3. The Agent for Service of Process of the corporation shall be the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, c/o the corporation’s headquarters, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204.

Article II. - The Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention is to assist the churches of the Convention in fulfilling their mission, and to encourage cooperative support of and involvement in our worldwide mission enterprise.

Section 2. The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 2000, shall be the doctrinal guideline for this Convention.

Article III. - Membership

Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this Convention. Each messenger who is present at the time a matter is submitted to the messengers shall be entitled to one vote. No proxy voting shall be permitted.

Regular Baptist churches are those Baptist churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and the spirit of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the 2000 session of the Southern Baptist Convention, and The Baptist Faith and Message shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.

Section 2. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three messengers, with one additional messenger for each additional one hundred members, or major fraction thereof above one hundred, provided however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than ten messengers.

Article IV. - Authority

While independent and sovereign in its own sphere, this Convention shall never exercise any authority whatever over any church, nor shall it in any way interfere with the constitution of any church, or with the exercise of its functions as the only ecclesiastical body, but will cheerfully recognize and uphold the absolute independence of the churches.

Article V. - Officers

Section 1. The officers of this Convention shall be: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. Each officer of the Convention shall be elected annually, except the Recording Secretary and Treasurer who shall be the same person serving as the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention shall be elected by the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and shall continue in office until his successor in office shall have been elected and qualified.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over the deliberations of the Convention and to discharge such other duties as may devolve upon the presiding officer of a deliberative body. He shall appoint all committees unless the Convention shall otherwise determine. In the absence of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents shall preside in his stead.

Section 3. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention or his designee is authorized to execute and sign all official and legal documents involving transactions in agreement with the Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and/or approved by the Convention, the Executive Board or its Operating Committee.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Executive Director-Treasurer to keep a record of the proceedings of the convention, to edit and arrange publication of a suitable number of the minutes for distribution among the churches, as the Convention may direct, as soon as reasonably possible after the close of the annual meeting. He shall file and keep in order all papers deemed important to the work of the Convention.

Article VI. - The Executive Board

Section 1. This Convention shall elect a Board of Trustees which shall constitute the Board of Directors. This Board shall be known as the "Executive Board of The Arkansas Baptist State Convention." This Board shall be composed of one member from the bounds of each cooperating association with a membership up to 5,000, and one additional member for each additional 5,000 constituency, or major fraction thereof, provided however, that no association shall be entitled

to more than five (5) members. In addition, the Convention shall elect one lady from the bounds of each of the eight districts in the state to serve on the Executive Board. The President of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall be a member of the Executive Board with full rights and privileges. Upon the removal of any Executive Board member from the bounds of his or her association, his or her membership on the Executive Board ceases therewith. His or her successor in office shall be nominated by the Convention Nominating Committee and elected by the Convention in annual session to fill the unexpired term. No person shall be a member of this Board who is an employee of any board, institution or agency of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention or who is receiving financial aid from the State Convention. One-third of this Board shall be elected annually to hold office for three years, and a majority of the Board Members shall constitute a quorum. Any member of the Executive Board who misses all the Executive Board meetings and the Executive Board committee meetings for one year shall be automatically dropped from membership on the Board.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall manage the affairs of the Convention in keeping with the Convention's instructions. The Executive Board shall raise, collect, receive and disburse all the funds of the Cooperative Program, for both state and Southern Baptist Convention causes. The offices of the Executive Board shall be a clearing house for administering the business affairs of the Convention, and a headquarters for Baptist information. Its books, records and files shall at all times be open for the reference and inspection of any cooperating church which may desire to examine them.

Section 3. The Executive Board of the Convention may authorize the withholding of Cooperative Program funds from any institution or agency which fails to act in conformity with its Articles of Incorporation or fails to utilize funds given the institution or agency by the Convention according to stipulations and conditions attached to those funds by the Convention.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall render to the Convention annually a complete and detailed statement of all its business for the year.

Article VII. - Trusteeships

The Convention shall elect trustees who shall serve as directors to manage and operate the institutions and agencies that the Convention may possess, as follows:

Section 1. Ouachita Baptist University, 24; Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, 18; Williams Baptist College, 24; Arkansas Baptist Foundation, 15; Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 15; Arkansas Baptist Assembly, 15; Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis), one-third of the trustees (9).

Section 2. One-third of the members of the Boards of Trustees shall be elected annually to serve a term of three years. Any member of the Board of Trustees who misses all the meetings for that Board for one year shall be automatically dropped from membership on this Board.

Section 3. Each Board of Trustees shall elect from their membership a Chairman and a Recording Secretary and such other officers as seems advisable.

Section 4. All Trusteeships shall render to the Convention at each annual session complete and detailed reports of all transactions and business. The Trustees shall be sensitive to the expressions of the Convention's will in all matters.

Section 5. The Articles of Incorporation of each agency and institution solely possessed by this Convention shall contain the following provisions:

- (a) The Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall be the corporation's sole member;
- (b) The Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall elect the corporation's Board of Trustees which shall constitute its Board of Directors;
- (c) The Articles of Incorporation shall first be approved by the Convention and thereafter no amendment to the corporation's Articles of Incorporation shall be made without the prior consent of the Convention;
- (d) A vote in favor of the proposed amendment(s) by a two-thirds majority of the messengers present and voting at the state convention shall constitute consent required by this section. No proposed amendment shall come before the Arkansas Baptist State Convention unless it has been reported to the Executive Board of the Convention at least sixty days prior to the first session of the Convention's annual meeting; and
- (e) The corporation is organized exclusively for religious, educational, or charitable purposes. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of its charitable purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in [including the publishing or distribution of statements] any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not to be carried on by (a) a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal

Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, convey all of the assets of the corporation to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention if at that time the Arkansas Baptist State Convention qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Article VIII. - Operation of Agencies

Section 1. Each board, agency, and institution of this Convention shall submit to the Executive Board at its annual budget planning meeting, which is to be held prior to the annual meeting of the Convention, a detailed statement of its sources of income, and a budget of proposed expenditures for the ensuing year. When received and adopted by the Convention, these budgets shall become the basis for the ensuing year.

Section 2. No appeals for funds may be made to churches without the recommendation of the Executive Board and the approval of the annual convention in session, other than appeals through the Cooperative Program or from the annual Children's Homes and Family Ministries and the Dixie Jackson State Mission offerings. Other appeals may be made to individuals, organizations, corporations or foundations.

Section 3. A deficit in a board, agency or institution operational budget for any year shall be reported to the Executive Board and the convention in annual session.

Such deficit may not be carried over into the second year without the approval of the Executive Board and the convention in annual session as to how this deficit will be eliminated.

Article IX. - Meetings

The Convention shall meet annually, "if God permit," on a date to be fixed by the Convention. The Executive Board is empowered in emergencies to call special sessions of the Convention and to change either the time or place of meeting or both should the occasion demand.

Article X. - Amendments

Section 1. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members voting and concurring in two successive annual meetings of the convention, except Article IV, which shall remain forever unalterable in substance.

Section 2. Any proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation shall be presented to the Convention in writing, for its consideration, upon the first day of the annual meeting, and may be voted on, on any subsequent day during the meeting, provided adequate publicity has been given by previous announcement.

Article XI. - Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, shall be the standard for deciding questions of parliamentary procedure.

Article XII. - Districts

The Convention shall establish such geographic districts as it may deem wise to facilitate its promotion, administration, and organization of its objectives, provided, it will never violate in any way the boundaries of any association within the area of the convention. The boundaries of such districts shall be drawn so as to provide equitable geographical and numerical voice and representation on all convention committees, commissions, and boards, except the Executive Board. Each tenth year hereafter, the whole matter of districts shall be readjusted to take in consideration the flow of membership in our Baptist churches.

Article XIII. - Internal Revenue Requirements

Section 1. The corporation is organized exclusively for religious, educational, or charitable purposes. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of its charitable purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in [including the publishing or distribution of statements] any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not to be carried on by (a) a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a

corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 3. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, convey all of the assets of the corporation to an organization which qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Code.

BYLAWS

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

The following bylaws are enacted by The Arkansas Baptist State Convention for the purpose of carrying out its Articles of Incorporation and for the governing of the Convention.

Article I. - Enrollment of Messengers

Section 1. The Recording Secretary of the Convention shall enroll, upon arrival, messengers who present proper credentials from the churches. These messengers, together with others who may be enrolled upon presentation of approved credentials during the session, shall constitute the Convention. Any contention concerning seating messengers shall be presented to the Credentials Committee appointed by the President for recommendation to the Convention for its action.

Section 2. A standing Credentials Committee with five (5) members shall be appointed by the President of the Convention. No member of this committee may serve more than two consecutive Conventions. The President of the Convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the Chairman each year.

Article II. - Officers

Section 1. The President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President shall be elected on the second day of the Convention, their terms of office to begin with the conclusion of the final session of the Convention. No employee of any convention agency, institution, or the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall be eligible for election as an officer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Section 2. The election of all officers shall be by ballot; provided, however, there is only one nomination for the office, then the Recording Secretary or any other messenger present may be directed to cast the ballot of the entire assembly for the single nominee.

Section 3. The First Vice-President shall be nominated and voted upon and elected after balloting for the President has been completed and the winner announced, and the Second Vice-President shall be nominated and voted upon and elected after the balloting for the First Vice-President has been completed and the winner announced. Each officer of the Convention shall be elected by a majority of all votes cast. In the event there are more than two nominees for any office, a runoff shall be held, if necessary, between the two nominees receiving the highest number of votes. In all cases of removal from office, by death or otherwise, of the President, the Vice-Presidents shall automatically succeed to the office of President in the order of their election. The President may not be elected for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 4. All elected officers of this Convention shall be members of churches cooperating with this Convention. This must also apply to members of the Executive Board, agencies and institutional boards of this Convention.

Article III. - The Executive Board

Section 1. The Executive Board is empowered to act for the Convention between sessions of the Convention, provided that it shall never exercise any authority contrary to the expressed will of the Convention.

Section 2. When any unforeseen emergency occurs in any of the affairs of the Convention, or in any of the interests it controls, that in the judgment of the Executive Board requires action before the next session of the Convention, the Executive Board shall have full authority to take such action as may seem necessary, and all interests concerned shall be governed by such action, provided the Executive Board shall make full report of all matters pertaining thereunto to the next session of the Convention for its approval, and provided further, that nothing in this article shall be construed as giving the Executive Board authority to execute any matters already committed by the Convention to any of its agency or institutional Boards of Trustees.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall maintain at its offices a record of the names and addresses of the messengers determined to be eligible to vote at the convention, and the books and records of account. The Executive Board shall allow any messenger to inspect at any reasonable time these records, a record of the proceedings of the Convention and of the meetings of the Executive Board, its committees, and committees of the Convention.

Section 4. All proposals requiring the expenditures of money by the Convention, or the Executive Board of the Convention, from the annual budget, shall be considered by the Executive Board, before being presented to the Convention.

Section 5. No loans shall be made by the Convention to its officers, or to the members of the Executive Board.

Section 6. This Board shall be charged with the responsibility to have the books and financial affairs of each agency and institution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention audited annually by an accredited firm of auditors, all audits to be accessible to the Executive Board at its budget planning session, and to be included in the institution's report to the Convention.

Section 7. Members of the Executive Board, having served two full terms of three years each shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one year has elapsed. In determining eligibility for re-election, any individual filling a vacancy, shall be deemed to have served a full term if that individual shall have served two-thirds or more of a full term.

Section 8. The various associations of Arkansas whose churches are affiliated with this Convention, may submit to the convention nominating committee names of those whom they believe should be considered for membership on the Executive Board as members from that association.

Article IV. - Trusteeships

Section 1. All trusteeships of this Convention shall be sensitive to expressions of the Convention's will in all matters.

Section 2. Members of Boards of Trustees having served two full terms of three years each shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one year has elapsed. In determining eligibility for re-election, any individual filling a vacancy, shall be deemed to have served a full term if that individual shall have served two-thirds or more of a full term.

Section 3. Not more than two (2) members of the Board of Trustees shall at the same time be members of the same local church, nor shall more than six (6) members reside in any one association. A member of the Board of Trustees of any agency or institution of the Convention may not at the same time be a member of any other Board of Trustees of any agency or institution of the Convention. No member of the Board of Trustees of any institution of this Convention may at the same time be a member of the Executive Board of the Convention.

Section 4. Any person receiving compensation from the Convention through the Executive Board shall not be a member of any Convention agency or institutional board. The President of the Convention by virtue of his office shall be a member of the Executive Board for the duration of his term of office.

Article V. - Nominating Committee

Section 1. A nine-member rotating Nominating Committee, comprised of at least three lay persons, will place in nomination at each annual convention names of persons to fill vacancies on all Convention boards and committees not provided for otherwise. Following each annual convention, the President will appoint three people to a three-year term to replace the three people rotating off, plus filling any vacancies that may exist on the Committee at that time. The President shall also name the Chairman, who shall come from a one-year term member. Nominations for all boards from this Nominating Committee must be as equitably divided as possible between the eight existing districts of the State Convention.

Section 2. A member filling an unexpired term not having served the full term of years as provided by the Articles of Incorporation, shall be, at the discretion of the Nominating Committee, eligible for election to a full term.

Section 3. No member of a commission or committee delegated to study or make recommendations concerning our agencies and institutions shall be a member of any Board of Trustees of such agency or institution.

Article VI. - Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee

Section 1. A standing Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee shall be composed of six (6) members to be nominated by the Nominating Committee. One-third of the membership shall be elected annually to serve for a term of three (3) years. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two terms until one year has elapsed. In determining eligibility for re-election, any individual filling a vacancy, shall be deemed to have served a full term if that individual shall have served two-thirds or more of a full term.

Section 2. The President of the Convention shall appoint the Chairman of the Committee each year. The Chairman must be one who has been a member of the Committee for at least one year and may succeed himself until his tenure of eligibility shall expire.

Section 3. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of advising the presiding officer concerning matters related to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws during the annual meeting of the Convention with reference to matters which may arise from the floor or from other committees. The Committee will act ad interim in all matters concerning the Convention Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws referred to it by any agency and institution of the Convention. The Committee will receive all proposed changes before the convention and will be responsible for presenting them in writing for Convention consideration upon the first day of the annual meeting after adequate

publicity has been given. The duties of the Committee in no way preclude amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws by messengers to the Convention.

Amended and Restated by Arkansas Baptist State Convention 10/31/06

THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

I. THE SCRIPTURES

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Ex. 24:4; Deut. 4:1-2; 17:19; Josh. 8:34; Psalm 19:7-10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isa. 34:16; 40:8; Jer. 15:16; 36:1-32; Matt. 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Rom. 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

II. GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Gen. 1:1; 2:7; Ex. 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Lev. 22:2; Deut. 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chron. 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isa. 43:3, 15; 64:8; Jer. 10:10; 17:13; Matt. 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Rom. 8:14-15; 1 Cor. 8:6; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 4:6; Col. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedi-

ence, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord.

Gen. 18:1ff.; Psalm 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isa. 7:14, 53; Matt. 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16, 27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6, 19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18, 29; 10:30, 38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16, 28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20, 28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5, 20; Rom. 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3, 34; 10:4; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8, 24-28; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; 8:9; Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Heb. 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15, 24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Rev. 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Gen. 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalm 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isa. 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matt. 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10, 12; Luke 1:35; 4:1, 18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8, 2:1-4, 38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17, 39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Rom. 8:9-11; 14-16, 26-27; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11, 13; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:19; 1 Tim. 3:16; 4:1; 2 Tim. 1:14; 3:16; Heb. 9:8, 14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Rev. 1:10; 22:17.

III. MAN

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by

His Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherited a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable or moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Gen. 1:26-30; 2:5, 7, 18-22; 3: 9;6; Psalm 1: 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isa. 6:5; Jer. 17:5; Matt. 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6, 12, 19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18, 29; 1 Cor. 1:21-31; 15:19, 21-22; Eph. 2:1-22; Col. 1:21-22; 3:9-11

IV. SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Gen. 3:15; Ex. 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matt. 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14, 29; 3:3-21, 36; 5:24; 10:9, 28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Rom. 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18, 29-39; 10:9-10, 13; 13:11-14; 1 Cor. 1:18, 30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Gal. 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Phil. 2:12-13;

Col. 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 2 Tim. 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8, 14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Rev. 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

V. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-8; 1 Sam. 8:4-7, 19-22; Isa. 5:1-7; Jer. 31:31ff.; Matt. 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22, 31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45, 65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Rom. 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7, 26-36; 1 Cor. 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Eph. 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Col. 1:12-14; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:12; 2:10, 19; Heb. 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

VI. THE CHURCH

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Matt. 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Heb. 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Rev. 2:3; 21:2-3.

VII. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matt. 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 17:7; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 10:16, 21; 11:23-29; Col. 2:12.

VIII. THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Ex. 20:8-11; Matt. 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3, 33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1, 19-28; Acts 20:7; Rom. 14:5-10; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Col. 2:16; 3:16; Rev. 1:10.

IX. THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Gen. 1:1; Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; Matt. 3:2; 4:8-10, 23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Rom. 5:17; 8:19; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Col. 1:13; Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Rev. 1:6, 9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

X. LAST THINGS

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever

in Heaven with the Lord.

Isa. 2:4; 11:9; Matt. 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27, 30, 36, 44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40, 48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 4:5; 15:24-28, 35-58; 2 Cor. 5:10; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thess. 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Tim. 6:14; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Rev. 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

XI. EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-6; Isa. 6:1-8; Matt. 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8, 16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Rom. 10:13-15; Eph. 3:1-11; 1 Thess. 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:5; Heb. 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Rev. 22:17.

XII. EDUCATION

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinated with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deut. 4:1, 5, 9, 14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Neh. 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalm 19:7ff.; 119:11; Prov. 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7, 11; 15:14; Eccl. 7:19; Matt. 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; Eph. 4:11-16; Phil. 4:8; Col. 2:3, 8-9; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:14-17; Heb. 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

XIII. STEWARDSHIP

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Gen. 14:20; Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 8:18; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Rom. 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:15; Phil. 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

XIV. COOPERATION

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Ex. 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judg. 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Neh. 4; 8:1-5; Matt. 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Cor. 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Cor. 8-9; Gal. 1:6-10; Eph. 4:1-16; Phil. 1:15-18.

XV. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn

and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Ex. 20:3-17; Lev. 6:2-5; Deut. 10:12, 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Mic. 6:8; Zech. 8:16; Matt. 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Rom. 12-14; 1 Cor. 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Gal. 3:26-28; Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:12-17; 1 Thess. 3:12; Philémon; James 1:27; 2:8.

XVI. PEACE AND WAR

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Isa. 2:4; Matt. 5:9, 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36, 38; Rom. 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Heb. 12:14; James 4:1-2.

XVII. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Gen. 1:27; 2:7; Matt. 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Rom. 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Gal. 5:1, 13; Phil. 3:20; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

XVIII. THE FAMILY

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; I Sam. 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5,78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Prov. 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15, 17; 31:10-31; Ecc. 4:9-12; 9:9; Mal. 2:14-16; Matt 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Rom. 1:8-32; I Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; I Tim. 5:8, 14; 2 Tim. 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Heb. 13:4; I Peter 3:1-7.

A statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14, 2000.

HISTORICAL DIRECTORY

Place	President	Secretary	Preacher
1848 Brownsville, Dallas Co.....	Isaac Perkins	S. Stevenson.....	E Haynes
1849 Mt. Zion, Hempstead Co.....	Jesse Hartwell.....	S. Stevenson.....	
1850 Mt. Bethel, Clark Co.....	W.H. Bayliss	S. Stevenson.....	F. Courtney
1851 Princeton	Jesse Hartwell.....	F. Courtney	E. Haynes
1852 El Dorado.....	E. Haynes.....	S. Stevenson.....	
1853 Camden	Jesse Hartwell.....	S. Stevenson.....	E. Haynes
1854 Tulip	Jesse Hartwell.....	S. Stevenson.....	S. Stevenson
1855 No Report			
1856 New Hope, Dallas Co.	Jesse Hartwell.....	R.J. Coleman.....	W.M. Lea
1857 Samaria, Dallas Co.....	W.M. Lea	R.J. Coleman.....	
1858 Charleston	W.M. Lea	R.M. Thrasher.....	
1859 Little Rock	W.M. Lea	R.M. Thrasher.....	
1860 Pine Bluff	W.M. Lea	R.M. Thrasher.....	
1861 Fort Smith	W.M. Lea	R.M. Thrasher.....	
1862-1866 (inc.) No Meetings.....	W.M. Lea		
1867 Little Rock	W.M. Lea	J.K. Brantley	S. Stevenson
1868 Little Rock	W.M. Lea	W.H. Roberts.....	W.D. Mayfield
1869 Helena	W.D. Mayfield	J.B. Searcy	J.R. Graves
1870 Arkadelphia.....	A. Yates.....	J.B. Searcy	W.D. Mayfield
1871 Monticello	M.Y. Moran	J.B. Searcy	Moses Green
1872 Austin	M.Y. Moran	J.B. Searcy	J.M. Hart
1873 Little Rock	M.Y. Moran	J.B. Searcy	R.M. Thrasher
1874 Dardanelle.....	W.W. Crawford.....	J.B. Searcy	J.R.G.W.N. Adams
1875 Arkadelphia.....	H.H. Coleman.....	J.B. Searcy	J.B. Searcy
1876 Searcy.....	H.H. Coleman.....	J.B. Searcy	
1877 Forrest City	H.H. Coleman.....	T.P. Boone.....	W.A. Forbes
1878 Monticello	J.M. Hart.....	W.F. Mack.....	M.D. Early
1879 Hope.....	J.M. Hart.....	J.R.G.W.N. Adams.....	R.J. Coleman
1880 Russellville.....	J.P. Eagle.....	J.R.G.W.N. Adams.....	J.D. Jameson
1881 Little Rock	J.P. Eagle	B. Thomas.....	J.B. Searcy
1882 Lonoke	J.P. Eagle.....	J.B. Searcy	W.E. Paxton
1883 Fayetteville.....	J.P. Eagle.....	J.B. Searcy	W.D. Mayfield
1884 Pine Bluff	J.P. Eagle.....	J.H. Holland	A.J. Kincaid
1885 Hope.....	J.P. Eagle	J.H. Holland	A.J. Fawcett
1886 Forrest City	J.P. Eagle.....	J.H. Holland	A.B. Miller
1887 Morrilton	J.P. Eagle.....	J.H. Holland	A.S. Pettie
1888 Jonesboro	J.P. Eagle.....	Martin Ball.....	Enoch Winde
1889 Little Rock	W.E. Penn	J.G.B. Simms	J.R. Hughes
1890 Eureka Springs.....	J.P. Eagle.....	J.G.B. Simms	R.J. Coleman
1891 Arkadelphia.....	J.P. Eagle.....	J.G.B. Simms	W.T. Box
1892 Fort Smith	J.M. Hart.....	J.G.B. Simms	J.W. Lipsley
1893 Conway	W.P. Throgmorton.....	W.F. Blackwood.....	W.P. Throgmorton
1894 Lonoke	J.P. Eagle.....	W.F. Blackwood.....	J.H. Peay
1895 Monticello	J.P. Eagle.....	J.G.B. Simms	E.B. Miller
1896 Hot Springs	J.P. Eagle.....	J.G.B. Simms	A.H. Autry
1897 Pine Bluff	J.P. Eagle.....	J.G.B. Simms	O.L. Hailey
1898 Little Rock	J.P. Eagle.....	W. Theo Smith	W.H. Paslay
1899 Jonesboro	J.P. Eagle.....	W. Theo Smith	C.W. Daniel
1900 Hope.....	J.P. Eagle.....	W. Theo Smith	J.K. Pace
1901 Paragould	J.P. Eagle.....	W. Theo Smith	N.R. Pittman
1902 Conway	J.P. Eagle.....	Sam H. Campbell.....	O.J. Wade
1903 Little Rock	J.P. Eagle.....	Sam H. Campbell.....	A.J. Barton
1904 Pine Bluff	John Ayers	W.F. Dorris.....	W.A. Freeman
1905 Fort Smith	John Ayers	W.F. Dorris.....	Ben Cox
1906 Texarkana.....	W.E. Atkinson.....	Sam H. Campbell.....	F.F. Gibson
1907 Little Rock	W.E. Atkinson.....	John Jeter Hurt.....	H.L. Winburn

HISTORICAL DIRECTORY - CONTINUED

Place	President	Secretary	Preacher
1908 Fayetteville	W.E. Atkinson	John Jeter Hurt	W.T. Amis
1909 Arkadelphia	H.T. Bradford	John Jeter Hurt	R.F. Treadway
1910 Fort Smith	H.T. Bradford	John Jeter Hurt	J.T. Christian
1911 Pine Bluff	H.T. Bradford	John Jeter Hurt	N.R. Townsend
1912 Hot Springs	P.C. Barton	E.P.J. Garrott	V.C. Neal
1913 Monticello	P.C. Barton	E.P.J. Garrott	N.M. Green
1914 Little Rock	P.C. Barton	E.P.J. Garrott	A.H. Autry
1915 Conway	P.C. Barton	E.P.J. Garrott	W.J.E. Cox
1916 Malvern	J.W. Conger	E.P.J. Garrott	T.D. Brown
1917 Jonesboro	J.W. Conger	E.P.J. Garrott	B.B. Bailey
1918 Little Rock	L.E. Barton	D.S. Campbell	C.D. Wood
1919 Little Rock	L.E. Barton	D.S. Campbell	B.V. Ferguson
1920 Fort Smith	A.H. Autry	B.L. Bridges	Austin Crouch
1921 Pine Bluff	A.H. Autry	B.L. Bridges	Calvin B. Waller
1922 Little Rock	A.H. Autry	B.L. Bridges	E.P.J. Garrott
1923 Arkadelphia	G.W. Puryear	B.L. Bridges	J.W. Hulsey
1924 Little Rock	G.W. Puryear	B.L. Bridges	W.W. Kyzar
1925 Conway	G.W. Puryear	S.R. Doyle	O.J. Wade
1926 Little Rock	H.L. Winburn	S.R. Doyle	L.M. Sipes
1927 Jonesboro	H.L. Winburn	S.R. Doyle	T.H. Jordan
1928 Texarkana	H.L. Winburn	S.R. Doyle	Ben L. Bridges
1929 Hot Springs	Otto Whittington	J.B. Luck	Otto Whittington
1930 Fort Smith	Otto Whittington	J.B. Luck	Perry F. Webb
1931 Batesville	E.P.J. Garrott	J.B. Luck	A.S. Harwell
1932 Little Rock	E.P.J. Garrott	J.B. Luck	C.V. Hickerson
1933 No Meeting			
1934 El Dorado	O.J. Wade	J.B. Luck	L.M. Keeling
1935 Pine Bluff	O.J. Wade	J.B. Luck	J.G. Cothran
1936 Hot Springs	B.V. Ferguson	J.B. Luck	T.L. Harris
1937 Paragould (January)	B.V. Ferguson	J.B. Luck	C.W. Daniel
1937 Fort Smith (November)	L.M. Sipes	J.B. Luck	Thomas W. Croxton
1938 Arkadelphia	L.M. Sipes	J.B. Luck	Elmer J. Kirkbride
1939 Camden	Calvin B. Waller	J.B. Luck	A.M. Herrington
1940 Monticello	Calvin B. Waller	J.B. Luck	O.L. Powers
1941 Jonesboro	J.S. Rogers	Taylor Stanfill	C.C. Warren
1942 Little Rock	J.S. Rogers	Taylor Stanfill	W.J. Hinsley
1943 Little Rock	T.L. Harris	Taylor Stanfill	W.R. Vestal
1944 Little Rock	T.L. Harris	Taylor Stanfill	J.F.F. Queen
1945 Little Rock	W.J. Hinsley	Taylor Stanfill	V.H. Coffman
1946 Texarkana	W.J. Hinsley	Taylor Stanfill	M. Ray McKay
1947 Little Rock	W.J. Hinsley	Taylor Stanfill	B.H. Duncan
1948 Little Rock	F.C. Brown	Taylor Stanfill	B.V. Ferguson
1949 Little Rock	E.C. Brown	Ben L. Bridges	J.A. Overton
1950 Little Rock	T.H. Jordan	Ben L. Bridges	H.A. Elledge
1951 Little Rock	T.H. Jordan	Ben L. Bridges	Lloyd A. Sparkman
1952 Little Rock	Lloyd A. Sparkman	Ben L. Bridges	W.M. Pratt
1953 Hot Springs	Lloyd A. Sparkman	Ben L. Bridges	W.O. Vaught
1954 Little Rock	W.O. Vaught	Ben L. Bridges	T.K. Rucker
1955 Little Rock	W.O. Vaught	Ben L. Bridges	C.Z. Holland
1956 Little Rock	Rel Gray	Ben L. Bridges	S.A. Whitlow
1957 Little Rock	Rel Gray	S.A. Whitlow	Hugh Cantrell
1958 Little Rock	T.K. Rucker	S.A. Whitlow	W. Harold Hicks
1959 Little Rock	T.K. Rucker	S.A. Whitlow	Don Hook
1960 Fayetteville	Bernes K. Selph	S.A. Whitlow	S.W. Eubanks
1961 Little Rock	Bernes K. Selph	S.A. Whitlow	Robert L. Smith
1962 Little Rock	C.Z. Holland	S.A. Whitlow	Minor E. Cole
1963 Little Rock	C.Z. Holland	S.A. Whitlow	Lloyd L. Hunnicutt

HISTORICAL DIRECTORY - CONTINUED

Place	President	Secretary	Preacher
1964 El Dorado.....	Walter L. Yeldell.....	S.A. Whitlow	E.E. Greiver
1965 Little Rock	Walter L. Yeldell.....	S.A. Whitlow	Lehman F. Webb
1966 Little Rock	Don Hook	S.A. Whitlow	Dale Cowling
1967 Little Rock	Don Hook	S.A. Whitlow	Thomas A. Hinson
1968 Hot Springs.....	Thomas A. Hinson.....	S.A. Whitlow	Andrew Hall
1969 Fort Smith.....	Thomas A. Hinson.....	Charles H. Ashcraft.....	Herbert Hodges
1970 Little Rock	Tal Bonham	Charles H. Ashcraft.....	William L. Bennett
1971 Little Rock	Tal Bonham	Charles H. Ashcraft.....	Wilbur Herring
1972 Hot Springs.....	Rheubin L. South.....	Charles H. Ashcraft.....	Bernes K. Selph
1973 Little Rock	Rheubin L. South.....	Charles H. Ashcraft.....	George T. Blackmon
1974 Little Rock	Don Moore	Charles H. Ashcraft.....	C.W. Caldwell
1975 Fort Smith.....	Don Moore	Charles H. Ashcraft.....	John McClanahan
1976 North Little Rock.....	R. Wilbur Herring.....	Charles H. Ashcraft.....	Lloyd Hunnicut
1977 Little Rock	R. Wilbur Herring.....	Charles H. Ashcraft.....	Johnny Jackson, Sr.
1978 Little Rock	Johnny Jackson, Sr.	Charles H. Ashcraft.....	Kendall Black
1979 Little Rock	Johnny Jackson, Sr.	Charles H. Ashcraft.....	Don Moore
1980 Little Rock	John Finn	Huber L. Drumwright.....	Ed Hinkson
1981 Fayetteville	John Finn	L.L. Collins, Jr.	Jon Stubblefield
1982 No. Little Rock (January) ...	Dillard Miller.....	L.L. Collins, Jr.	
1982 No. Little Rock (November) ..	Dillard Miller.....	Don Moore.....	Charles Chesser
1983 Pine Bluff.....	Dillard Miller.....	Don Moore.....	Joe Atchison
1984 Fort Smith.....	Jon Stubblefield.....	Don Moore.....	John Holston
1985 Ouachita	Jon Stubblefield.....	Don Moore.....	John Maddox
1986 Geyer Springs.....	Lawson Hatfield	Don Moore.....	R.H. Dorris
1987 Fort Smith.....	Lawson Hatfield	Don Moore.....	Trueman Moore
1988 North Little Rock.....	Cary Heard	Don Moore.....	Ron Herrod
1989 Little Rock	Cary Heard	Don Moore.....	Randall O'Brien
1990 Little Rock	Mike Huckabee.....	Don Moore.....	Paul Sanders
1991 Little Rock	Mike Huckabee.....	Don Moore.....	Rex Holt
1992 Pine Bluff.....	William H. Sutton.....	Don Moore.....	James McDaniel
1993 No. Little Rock	William H. Sutton.....	Don Moore.....	Dale Thompson
1994 Little Rock	Ronnie Rogers	Don Moore.....	Cliff Palmer
1995 Little Rock	Ronnie Rogers	Don Moore.....	David Crouch
1996 Little Rock	Rex M. Horne, Jr.	Emil Turner.....	Kerry Powell
1997 Little Rock	Rex M. Horne, Jr.	Emil Turner.....	David Miller
1998 Arkadelphia.....	Greg Kirksey	Emil Turner.....	Rodney Reeves
1999 Springdale.....	Greg Kirksey	Emil Turner.....	J. Scott Duvall
2000 Little Rock	Ben Rowell	Emil Turner.....	Ken Gore
2001 Russellville	Ben Rowell	Emil Turner.....	Wes George
2002 Cabot.....	James W. Lagrone.....	Emil Turner.....	Phillip Smith
2003 Fayetteville	James W. Lagrone.....	Emil Turner.....	Stephen Davis
2004 Hot Springs.....	Grant Ethridge	Emil Turner.....	Ken Shaddox
2005 Little Rock	Grant Ethridge	Emil Turner.....	Ronnie Floyd
2006 Little Rock	Harry Black	Emil Turner.....	Bill Elliff
2007 Van Buren	Harry Black	Emil Turner.....	Rex Horne
2008 Bentonville.....	Wes George	Emil Turner.....	Kenneth Startup
2009 Benton.....	Wes George	Emil Turner.....	Doug Falknor
2010 Jonesboro.....	Clay Hallmark	Emil Turner.....	Archie Mason
2011 Little Rock	Clay Hallmark	Emil Turner.....	John Hodges
2012 Cabot.....	Greg Addison.....	Emil Turner.....	Gary Hollingsworth
2013 Rogers.....	Greg Addison.....	J.D. "Sonny" Tucker.....	Larry Page
2014 Texarkana.....	Archie Mason	J.D. "Sonny" Tucker.....	Dale Thompson
2015 Hot Springs.....	Archie Mason	J.D. "Sonny" Tucker.....	Larry White
2016 Little Rock	Sam Roberts	J.D. "Sonny" Tucker.....	Nick Floyd
2017 Russellville	Sam Roberts	J.D. "Sonny" Tucker.....	Craig Collier

PROCEEDINGS

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, RUSSELLVILLE
NOVEMBER 7-8, 2017



Encourage
to Engage

TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

1. Pre-session music was led by Scott Quimby, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart.
2. President of the convention, Sam Roberts, welcomed everyone and asked the congregation to stand for the presentation of the flags by the Dardanelle High School ROTC.
3. After the posting of the flags, Brandon Mistler, children's minister, First Baptist Church, Russellville, led the pledges to the United States flag and Christian flag.
4. Scott Quimby, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart led the congregation in praise and worship.
5. Larry Grayson, Evangelism and Church Health Team, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, coordinated music for the convention.
6. Rev. Greg Sykes, pastor, First Baptist Church, Russellville welcomed the messengers to the host church and led in prayer.
7. The congregation was led in worship in song by Scott Quimby, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart.
8. Dr. Roberts shared a few opening comments and then introduced Kyle Reno, pastor, The Summit Church, Conway to lead in a time of Focused Prayer. Rev. Reno read from I Corinthians 9:19 and led the congregation in a time of prayer.
9. President Roberts introduced Dr. J .D. "Sonny" Tucker, executive director, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, for Encourage to Engage-Arkansas. Dr. Tucker read from Acts 11 and emphasized the theme "Encourage to Engage." Following Dr. Tucker's remarks there was a brief time of meeting and greeting among the messengers.
10. President Sam Roberts called to order the one hundred sixty-fourth session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in the one hundred sixty-ninth year of its history at 9:10 a.m., November 7, 2017, at First Baptist Church, Russellville. The theme for the 2017 Convention was "ENCOURAGE TO ENGAGE."

Voted: Enrollment of Messengers

11. President Roberts introduced Brian Whitney, pastor, First Baptist Church, Searcy and chairman, Credentials Committee. Dr. Whitney moved that in compliance with the Articles of Incorporation, the messengers who have registered, and those who will register, as duly certified messengers be seated to constitute the one hundred sixty-third session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The motion passed.
12. President Roberts announced the members of the Credential Committee:

Credentials Committee

Brian Whitney, Chairman	Jeff Paxton
Jonathan Curtis	Tad Rogers
Casey Hough	Wade Totty

Voted: To Adopt the Printed Program as Order of Business

13. President Roberts introduced Scott Miller, associational missionary, Faulkner Baptist Association, Conway and chairman, Order of Business Committee. Rev. Miller moved the adoption of the printed program as the Order of Business of the one hundred sixty-fourth session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and that the items in **BOLD CAPS** be given priority. It is to be understood that the printed times are flexible and subject to change by the flow of the program. The elections of some officers may take place prior to the printed times if the elections of previous officer positions do not require a messenger ballot vote. The motion carried. Dr. Roberts announced the members of the Order of Business Committee:

Order of Business Committee

Scott Miller, Chairman	Ronnie Toon
Kenny Stacy	

The program follows:

Tuesday Morning
November 7, 2017

8:25	Presentation/Salute to Flags	
8:30	Pre-Session Music	Scott Quimby, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart
8:45	Welcome	Greg Sykes, First Baptist Church, Russellville
8:50	Worship	Scott Quimby, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart
8:55	Focused Prayer	Kyle Reno
9:05	ENCOURAGED TO ENGAGE-Arkansas.....J. D. "Sonny" Tucker	
9:15	President's Welcome and Call to Order	Sam Roberts
9:20	Appointment of Committees	Sam Roberts
	Credentials Committee	Brian Whitney
	Order of Business Committee	Scott Miller
	Resolutions Committee	Larry Page
	Tellers Committee	Tim Noel

9:25	Worship.....	Scott Quimby, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart
9:30	PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....	Sam Roberts
10:00	ENCOURAGE TO ENGAGE-International Missions ...	Bob Harper
10:15	Worship.....	Scott Quimby, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart
10:20	Williams Baptist College.....	Tom Jones
10:30	Arkansas Baptist Foundation.....	Bobby Thomas
10:40	EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT	Rob Davis
11:00	Worship.....	Scott Quimby, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart
11:05	Camp Siloam	Jason Wilkie
11:15	Closing Prayer	Izah Broadus

Tuesday Afternoon

November 7, 2017

1:15	Instrumental Ensemble	Master'Singers
1:30	Worship.....	Worship Team, Central Baptist Church, Conway
1:35	Focused Prayer	Dave Hughey
1:45	ENCOURAGE TO ENGAGE-Delta Network.....	Tim Wicker
1:55	Worship.....	Worship Team, Central Baptist Church, Conway
2:00	MESSAGE.....	Chris Simmons
2:30	Miscellaneous Business.....	Sam Roberts
2:40	Convention Nominating Committee Report.....	Don Phillips
2:45	Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council.....	Larry Page
2:55	Agency & Institution Panel Discussion.. moderated by J.D. "Sonny" Tucker (Tom Jones, David Perry, Ben Sells, Bobby Thomas, Jason Wilkie, and Tim Yarbrough)	
3:25	Worship.....	Worship Team, Central Baptist Church, Conway
3:30	MESSAGE.....	John Meador
4:00	Closing Prayer	Carl Fair

Tuesday Evening

November 7, 2017

6:00	Worship.....	Ouachita Sounds
6:05	Welcome	John McCallum
6:10	Ouachita Baptist University Choir and Report....	Gary Gerber, Ben Sells
6:40	Worship.....	Ouachita Sounds
6:45	Engaging Arkansas Baptists <i>Above + Beyond</i>	Greg Addison
7:00	Focused Prayer	Bill Elliff
7:15	Concert of Praise	Master'Singers
7:45	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE.....	J.D. "Sonny" Tucker
8:15	Church Planter Commissioning Service.....	J.D. "Sonny" Tucker
8:40	Closing Prayer	Zach Belt

Wednesday Morning
November 8, 2017

8:30	Pre-Session Music	Worship Team, First Baptist Church, Russellville
8:45	Worship	Worship Team, First Baptist Church, Russellville
8:50	ENCOURAGE TO ENGAGE-SEND City Connections..	Bob Harper
9:00	Miscellaneous Business	Sam Roberts
9:15	Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes	David Perry
9:25	Worship	Worship Team, First Baptist Church, Russellville
9:30	CONVENTION SERMON	Craig Collier
10:00	ELECTION OF OFFICERS (President)	
10:05	<i>Arkansas Baptist News</i>	Tim Yarbrough
10:10	SBC Executive Committee	Augie Boto
10:15	ELECTION OF OFFICERS (First Vice President)	
10:20	Resolutions	Larry Page
10:35	ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Second Vice President)	
10:40	Prayer for Newly Elected Officers.....	J. D. “Sonny” Tucker
10:45	Prayer for Revival and Spiritual Awakening	Sam Roberts
11:05	Adjourn	

14. Dan Raines, lead parliamentarian, approached President Roberts for a point of order. President Roberts informed the messengers that during the Enrollment of Messengers the meeting session was inadvertently referred to as the one hundred sixty-third session, but noted it should be accurately referenced as the **one hundred sixty-fourth** session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.
15. President Roberts announced the members of the Resolutions Committee and shared with the messengers the procedure to present a Resolution to the Resolutions Committee. President Roberts stated that all Resolutions must be presented in writing by 10:00 a.m. today at the Registration desk in the lobby which gives the committee time for careful consideration. The committee will meet to prepare Resolutions that they will present to the messengers on Wednesday morning.

Resolutions Committee

Larry Page, Chairman	Don Phillips
Rick Grant	Stacy Reed
Dave Hughey	Ken Shaddox
Ricky Lee	Jarvis Smith
David Mitchell	Greg Sykes

16. President Roberts announced the members of the Tellers Committee and shared with the messengers the duties of the Tellers Committee.

Tellers Committee

Tim Noel, Chairman	David O'Dell
Bryan Adair	Roderick Rogers
B.T. Cooper	Rusty Ross
Terry Fortner	Greg Spann
Aaron Matthews	

17. President Roberts announced the Parliamentarians and thanked them for their service.

Parliamentarians

Dan Raines, Lead Parliamentarian	
Rob Davis	Mike Rainwater

He continued by stating that he would read some information to remind the messengers about parliamentary procedure rules that we follow as a state convention. He read "Article XI of the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention states the following: 'The current edition of **Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised** shall be the standard for deciding questions of parliamentary procedure.' Our presiding officers and parliamentarians will do everything possible to help messengers accomplish their desires. We recognize that many of our churches do not always follow strict parliamentary procedures; but in order for the messengers of this convention to be able to express their desires and wishes, we have made that decision to adhere to the guidelines and rules of **Roberts's Rules of Order Newly Revised.**"

18. President Roberts made several announcements.
19. John McCallum, convention first vice-president and pastor, First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, began presiding.
20. Dr. McCallum introduced Dr. Sam Roberts, convention president and pastor, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart, for the President's Message following worship.
21. The congregation was led in worship in song by Scott Quimby, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart.
22. Dr. Roberts delivered the President's Message reading from Ephesians 2:1-10.
23. First Vice-President John McCallum introduced Bob Harper, team leader of the Missions Team, for Encourage to Engage-International Missions. Dr. Harper introduced Randy Garrett, disaster relief director, who gave an update on disaster relief efforts including over 1,100 volunteers trained in one month and over 640 deployed in response to the recent devastating floods in Texas. Dr. Harper then introduced Debbie Moore, Arkansas WMU executive director, and Margaret Little, Arkansas WMU president. After a short video, they shared about the various work of Arkansas WMU in partnership with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and its impact through missions praying, giving, going, education, and discipleship. In conclusion, Dr. Harper introduced Jamie Naramore international church strategist, and newest member of the Missions team. Rev. Naramore spoke about the

more than 216,000 people groups representing 127 distinct people groups living in Arkansas, in addition to the 5,665 international college students representing at least 120 different nations and how churches can connect with these people groups.

24. The congregation was led in worship in song by Scott Quimby, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart.
25. Dr. McCallum introduced Dr. J.D. “Sonny” Tucker who shared that Dr. Tom Jones, president of Williams Baptist College, will be leaving Arkansas to serve with the California Baptist Foundation. Dr. Tucker invited Dr. Jones to the platform and expressed words of appreciation for his ministry in Arkansas. Dr. Tucker then presented Dr. Jones a plaque on behalf of Arkansas Baptists. The messengers responded with a standing ovation. Dr. Jones shared that he will be leaving in two weeks and reflected on the history of the college and the accomplishments during his presidency. He shared with the messengers that following a two year study, the Williams Baptist College trustees voted at their September 2017 meeting to change their name to Williams Baptist University. Dr. Jones noted this change is in an effort to strengthen their identity and advancement as a four year institution. Dr. Jones announced that Dr. Ken Startup will be interim president. A copy of the report for Williams Baptist University can be found on pages 88-89.
26. Dr. McCallum introduced Bobby Thomas, president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, for the report of this agency. Mr. Thomas shared with the messengers an update on the Foundation’s distributions. He then announced ChurchExcel.org/abf which makes available free church financial resources to all Arkansas Baptists. In addition, Mr. Thomas announced a new online application process for scholarships at ABF.org/scholarships to help streamline both private and Cooperative Program funded scholarships for Arkansas Baptists. In closing, Mr. Thomas discussed the Foundation’s newly defined purpose statement, the staff, and reflected on the benefits of having relocated their offices to Remington Drive. A copy of the report for the Arkansas Baptist Foundation can be found on pages 83-84.

Voted: To Adopt the Executive Board Recommendations

27. President Roberts introduced Rob Davis, president of the Executive Board and pastor of First Baptist Church, Harrison, for the recommendations from the executive board. He was joined by the parliamentarians on the platform. Rev. Davis moved for the adoption of **Recommendation No. 1 - 2018 Budget**. The recommendation for the 2018 budget was printed on page 16 of the *2017 Book of Reports and 2016 Annual Audits* distributed to the messengers prior to the beginning of the morning session. Rev. Davis explained how the budget has gone through a detailed review process and was approved by the full executive board. The motion passed. The recommended budget is on page 59.

28. Rev. Davis moved for the adoption of **Recommendation No. 2 - 2018 Goals**. The recommendation for the 2018 Goals was printed on pages 17-24 of the *2017 Book of Reports and 2016 Annual Audits* distributed to the messengers prior to the beginning of the morning session. Rev. Davis stated this recommendation was approved by the full executive board. The motion passed. The recommendation is on pages 60-66.
29. Rev. Davis moved for the adoption of **Recommendation No. 3 - Amend the Articles of Incorporation for Arkansas Baptist Foundation**. This recommendation was printed on pages 25-27 in the *2017 Book of Reports and 2016 Annual Audits* distributed to the messengers prior to the beginning of the morning session. Rev. Davis explained the amendment defines their purpose statement. Rev. Davis stated this recommendation was approved by the full executive board. The motion passed. The recommendation is on pages 67-69.
30. The congregation was led in worship in song by Scott Quimby, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Stuttgart.
31. President Roberts introduced Jason Wilkie, executive director, Camp Siloam for the report of this agency. Mr. Wilkie reported 5,338 campers attended this year the highest number to date, and shared that almost 500 campers made a profession of faith at camp. He also shared an update on the dining hall projected to be completed in 2018 and thanked Arkansas Baptists for their support. A video was shown which illustrated the various aspects of the camp and included testimonies of campers, church leaders, and camp pastors. A copy of the report for Camp Siloam can be found on pages 85-86.
32. The benediction was led by Rev. Izah Broadus, pastor, New Faith Baptist Church, West Helena.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

33. Pre-session music was provided by the Master'Singers Instrumental Ensemble under the direction of Doug Moore, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville.
34. The congregation was led in worship in song by Darrel Spigner and worship team of Central Baptist Church, Conway.
35. John McCallum, first vice-president, introduced Dave Hughey, pastor, Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock to lead in a time of focused prayer. Rev. Hughey briefly spoke on the relationship of prayer and the pastor, and then led the congregation in a time of prayer focusing on pastors.
36. Dr. McCallum introduced Tim Wicker, team leader of the Church Planting Team for Encourage to Engage Arkansas-Delta Network. Dr. Wicker introduced Rev. Willie Jacobs, Church Planting team member. Both shared how God is continuing to work in the Delta and explained that after meeting with Rev. Jarvis Smith, Second Baptist Church, West Helena, it was expressed that

Delta pastors needed help with training young pastors and doing evangelism. As a result, the Delta Institute was formed with 15 men meeting weekly to go through basic systematic theology. Throughout the state, pastors with a heart for the Delta assisted in training the Delta pastors and leaders. Dr. Wicker and Rev. Jacobs reported that requests were made for additional Institutes. As a result, Institutes were started in 5 different locations which have trained 55 Delta pastors and church leaders. The partnerships that formed have resulted in multiple evangelistic efforts in the Delta with numerous block parties, Vacations Bible Schools, Medical/Dental Clinics, 1 Day Mission trips, etc. They further shared that there have been 938 salvations, 288 baptisms, numerous church starts and partnerships, and over 20 churches have affiliated with the ABSC. Rev. Chanson Newborn, Fellowship Community Church, Forrest City who attended the Delta Institute in Forrest City shared a word of thanks and closed in prayer.

37. The congregation was led in worship in song by Darrel Spigner and worship team of Central Baptist Church, Conway.
38. Dr. McCallum introduced Rev. Chris Simmons, pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas for the afternoon message.
39. Rev. Simmons read scripture from Matthew 4:35 and preached a message on "Encourage to Engage the Disengaged."
40. Dr. Roberts asked the parliamentarians to join him on the platform and called the messengers into session to consider items of miscellaneous business.
41. President Roberts recognized Rusty Richardson, a LifeWay Church Planter brought greetings from Dr. Thom Rainer to the messengers. Rev. Richardson then made a presentation to Dr. Roberts on behalf of LifeWay.

Voted: To Dedicate the 2017 Annual

42. Dr. Roberts recognized Rev. Ken Shaddox, messenger from Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, for a motion to dedicate the 2017 Annual in honor of Rev. Jimmie Sheffield. There were multiple seconds to the motion. The motion carried. The congregation showed their appreciation to Rev. Sheffield with a standing ovation.
43. Emily Ruth Watson, messenger from Greenlee Memorial Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, was recognized by the President Roberts. Mrs. Watson shared her appreciation for the Focused Prayer Times and requested prayer for retired missionaries, healing of families, and pastors in Texas since the recent church shooting. Dr. Roberts lead in prayer.

Voted: To Adopt the Report of the Convention Nominating Committee

44. President Roberts recognized Rev. Don Phillips, chairman of the Convention Nominating Committee and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Camden, for the report and recommendation of the committee. Copies of the Convention Nominating Committee Report were distributed to the messengers at the Registration table. Rev. Phillips stated that the names presented have come

after many hours of consideration and meetings by the Convention Nominating Committee, which consists of 9 committee members along with the Convention President and Executive Board President. Nominations from Arkansas Baptists, the boards of Agencies and Institutions, and the Convention Nominating Committee were prayerfully considered. After discussion, the nominations were approved by the Convention Nominating Committee and representatives of Agencies and Institutions. Rev. Phillips referred to the printed report and moved for the adoption as printed. The motion passed.

45. Rev. Craig Collier, second vice-president, began presiding and recognized Larry Page, executive director of the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council, to bring the report of this organization and engaging the culture on moral and social issues. A copy of the report for the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council can be found on pages 89-91.
46. Rev. Collier introduced the Agency and Institution leaders and Dr. J.D. “Sonny” Tucker for a panel discussion. Dr. Tucker moderated the panel discussion with Dr. Tom Jones, president, Williams Baptist University; Mr. David Perry, executive director, Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes and Family Ministries; Dr. Ben Sells, president, Ouachita Baptist University; Mr. Bobby Thomas, president & CEO, Arkansas Baptist Foundation; Mr. Jason Wilkie, executive director, Camp Siloam; and Mr. Tim Yarbrough, executive director and editor, *Arkansas Baptist News*. Dr. Tucker expressed appreciation to each of the agency and institution leaders and the importance of their ministry in the state. They were asked to share what exciting things that are taking place; any needs or how we can become better partners with them and engage them; and finally, what specific ways can we pray for them. After a time of discussion by each agency and institution leader Dr. Tucker concluded the panel discussion by asking Dr. Sam Roberts to lead in prayer for these leaders and their respective agency or institution.
47. Dr. McCallum introduced Rev. John Meador, pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas for the afternoon message following worship.
48. The congregation was led in worship in song by Darrel Spigner and worship team of Central Baptist Church, Conway.
49. Rev. Meador read scripture from II Timothy 4:5 shared a message on “Encourage Gospel-Centered Churches.”
50. The benediction was led by Rev. Carl Fair, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dardanelle.

TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

51. The congregation was led in worship in song by Ouachita Sounds from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia.
52. Dr. John McCallum, first vice-president, welcomed everyone to the evening

session and introduced Dr. Ben Sells, president, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia and the Ouachita Baptist University Choir under the direction of Dr. Gary Gerber.

53. During the report of this institution, the Ouachita Baptist University Choir presented several musical selections. Dr. Sells shared how the university fosters a love of God and love of learning. Dr. Sells introduced Carmen Lane, camp coordinator for Super Summer Arkansas, who shared about the continuing partnership between Ouachita Baptist University and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to reach students through Super Summer. Dr. Ray Franklin, professor of missions, shared briefly about a three week mission study trip that ten students and two professors took to southeast Asia as a result of the partnership with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. A copy of the report for the Ouachita Baptist University can be found on pages 86-87.
54. The congregation was led in worship in song by Ouachita Sounds from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia.
55. Dr. Sam Roberts, president, introduced Rev. Greg Addison, associate executive director, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, for the Engage Arkansas Baptists-*Above + Beyond* for the Cooperative Program report. He shared how Arkansas Baptists continue to work together to do more for missions through Cooperative Program giving. During his presentation, Rev. Addison introduced Ryan Scantling, BCM director at UCA, who shared how college students are impacted as a result of Cooperative Program giving.
56. Dr. Roberts introduced Bill Elliff, pastor, The Summit Church, North Little Rock to lead in a time of focused prayer. Dr. Elliff read scripture from Luke 18:1 and briefly spoke on the need to cry out to God in prayer. He then led the congregation in a time of prayer.
57. President Roberts introduced the Master'Singers under the direction of Larry Grayson, team member of the Evangelism & Church Health Team for the Concert of Praise. Peggy Pearson of Crystal Hill Baptist Church, Little Rock and Bart Morrison, minister of music, Hot Springs Baptist Church, Hot Springs, served as accompanists.
58. Dr. Roberts introduced Dr. J. D. "Sonny" Tucker for the evening message. Dr. Tucker read from John 6:1-14 and preached a message on lessons from Christ on faith and trust.
59. Dr. Roberts invited Dr. Tucker to the platform for the Church Planter Commissioning Service. Tim Wicker, team leader from Church Planting team, and Dave McClung, team member, joined Dr. Tucker on the platform. Dr. Wicker shared there have been 35 new church starts this year. The pastors of the new church plants along with the pastors of the sponsoring churches were invited to the platform. The pastor of each sponsoring church introduced who they were sending out and the church planter spoke a word of greeting. A map was shown indicating the location of the church plant as well as a picture of the church planter and his family as each spoke. Following the

introductions, the church planters were disbursed throughout the congregation. The congregation divided into groups who surrounded a church planter and his family in a special time of prayer with Dr. Tucker closing in prayer.

60. The benediction was led by Rev. Zach Belt, pastor, Open Range Cowboy Church, Ozark.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

61. Pre-session music was presented by the worship team from First Baptist Church, Russellville under the direction of Robert Ramsey, minister of music.
62. The congregation was then led in worship in song by Robert Ramsey and the worship team of First Baptist Church, Russellville.
63. Dr. Roberts introduced Bob Harper, team leader, Missions Team, for Encourage to Engage-SEND City Connections. Dr. Harper introduced Jeremy Ayeltt, Adam Wallace, Danny Torres, and George Ross who shared about God's work in some of the SEND cities and how churches can connect with SEND City missionaries.
64. President Roberts opened the floor for miscellaneous business asking the parliamentarians to join him at the podium. There was none.
65. Dr. Roberts introduced David Perry, executive director, Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries for the report of this agency. Mr. Perry informed the messengers about their new logo and website. He shared about the various ministries which offer hope to children and families. Mr. Perry introduced a lady along with her children from the Jonesboro Family Care Home. She shared her testimony in how God used the ministry of the Family Care Home to help transform her life. Dr. Sam Roberts came and offered a time of prayer for this family. A copy of the report for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries can be found on pages 81-82.
66. Dr. Roberts introduced Rev. Craig Collier, pastor, Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, Jacksonville, and convention second vice-president, for the afternoon message following worship.
67. The congregation was led in worship in song by Robert Ramsey and worship team of First Baptist Church, Russellville.
68. Rev. Collier read scripture from Revelation 2:2-4 shared a message on "Don't let the fire go out."

Voted: Election of President

69. President Roberts asked the parliamentarians to join him at the podium during the election of the officers. Dr. Roberts presided over the election of president of the state convention and opened the floor for nominations for this office. Jeff Paxton, pastor and messenger from First Baptist Church, Dover, nominated Greg Sykes, pastor of First Baptist Church, Russellville, as president of the convention. Emily Ruth Watson, messenger from Greenlee

Memorial Baptist Church, Pine Bluff was recognized by the President Roberts. Mrs. Watson asked about the percentage of Cooperative Program giving of First Baptist Church, Russellville. There were no other nominations. Dr. Roberts called upon Dr. Tucker to cast the ballot of the convention to elect Greg Sykes as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

70. Dr. Roberts introduced Tim Yarbrough, editor/executive director of the *Arkansas Baptist News* for report of this agency. Mr. Yarbrough shared about why the Newsmagazine exists and being connected to it. A copy of the report for the ABN can be found on pages 84-85.
71. Dr. Roberts introduced Augie Boto, executive vice president and general counsel for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Mr. Boto brought greetings and a report from the SBC Executive Committee.

Voted: Election of First Vice President

72. President Sam Roberts opened the floor for nominations for the first vice-president position. John McCallum, pastor and messenger from First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, nominated Wyman Richardson, pastor of Central Baptist Church, North Little Rock, for first vice-president. There were no other nominations. Dr. Roberts called upon Dr. Tucker to cast the ballot of the convention to elect Wyman Richardson as first vice-president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Voted: To Adopt the Resolutions

73. President Roberts introduced Larry Page, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, for the presentation of the resolutions which had been provided to the messengers prior to the session. The committee members were invited to join Mr. Page and parliamentarians who were already on the platform. Mr. Page expressed a word of thanks and stated that the committee members will introduce themselves when presenting a resolution. The first resolution was brought by Ken Shaddox, pastor and messenger from Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, and moved for its adoption. The motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 1: APPRECIATION

Whereas, this year's annual meeting has been guided prayerfully, fairly, and effectively by our President, Dr. Sam Roberts, with the support and assistance of Dr. James D. "Sonny" Tucker, Executive Director, and the other dedicated staff and leaders of the Convention; and

Whereas, the staff and laity of First Baptist Church, Russellville, have provided excellent service and arrangements for the annual meeting; and

Whereas, the one hundred and sixty-fourth session has been ably organized by the Program Committee; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, the messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas, November 7 & 8, 2017, express

our deep appreciation to our president, executive director, convention officers, the staff and members of First Baptist Church, Russellville, and the Program Committee for their diligent and sacrificial service in the successful preparation and guidance of the one hundred and sixty-fourth session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

74. Resolution No. 2 was presented by Ricky Lee, pastor and messenger from First Baptist Church, Sherwood, who moved for its adoption. The motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2: ON COMMENDING ABSC'S DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY

Whereas, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention has and continues to fulfill Christ's mandate to His followers to "love their neighbors as they love themselves" (Matthew 22:39); and

Whereas, the love Christ requires of believers is an active involvement replete with selfless and eager service to others; and

Whereas, in an effort to facilitate that kind servanthood the Arkansas Baptist State Convention created and maintains its Disaster Relief ministry; and

Whereas, the stated purpose for the Disaster Relief ministry is to "extend the love of Christ to disaster survivors by preparing hot meals, removing damaging trees and debris, tarping roofs, shoveling mud, providing emergency communications, and coordinating responses to those disasters" and the objective is to follow a common ministry pattern of Jesus Christ, in which "volunteers seek to share God's grace, hope, and Truth while meeting physical needs"; and

Whereas, those who serve with the ABSC's Disaster Relief ministry are fulfilling Christ's call to "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16); and

Whereas, a review of where the Disaster Relief ministry served this year and how it served will amply demonstrate how invaluable it is to the Kingdom's work and to the state convention; and

Whereas, that review reveals that ABSC's Disaster Relief ministry served in the following locations this year: Woodward, Oklahoma; Gentilly, Louisiana; Conway, Mississippi County, Williams Baptist University, Lonsdale, Rover, Monticello, Hensley, and Pocahontas, Arkansas; Houston, Orange, Dallas, Pasadena, Angleton, Victoria, Portland, Canton, Sugarland, Katy, Beaumont, and Rockport, Texas; and

Whereas, a summary of services rendered by the Disaster Relief ministry this year and the results produced shows: 64 days deployed, 638 volunteers served, 4,038 volunteer days served, 30,613 volunteer hours served, 320,137 meals served, 90 chainsaw jobs completed, 28 flood recovery jobs completed, 64 heavy equipment hours performed, 13 tarp jobs completed, 2,686 showers provided, 1,756 loads of laundry processed, 26 assessments conducted, 2,043 ministry/chaplaincy contacts made, 689 Bibles distributed, 108 tracts handed out, 219 gospel presentations made, and 44 professions of faith made; and

Whereas, the kind of pure servanthood displayed by the good people laboring in the Disaster Relief ministry is the kind of service that Billy Graham had in mind when he said, “The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service. The greatest form of praise is the sound of consecrated feet seeking out the lost and helpless”; and

Whereas, we will be judged by “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.” (Matt. 25: 35); therefore, be it

Resolved that we, the messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas, November 7-8, 2017, wish to express our gratitude to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for its foresight in establishing and maintaining such a vital ministry as its Disaster Relief ministry; and, be it further

Resolved, that we want to acknowledge the sacrificial service rendered now and throughout the existence of the Disaster Relief ministry by its administrators and volunteers; and, be it finally

Resolved, that we commend in the strongest way possible the way those involved in the Disaster Relief ministry have breathed life into its stated mission of being “a ministry of the heart – caring people rushing to people in crisis to offer the help, healing, and hope of Jesus Christ.”

75. Resolution No. 3 was presented by Dave Hughey, pastor and messenger from Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, and moved for its adoption. The motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 3: ISRAEL RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Old Testament declares God’s promise to Abram, “I will make you into a great nation.... I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who treat you with contempt, and all the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:1–3); and

Whereas, the modern-day nation of Israel, established May, 1948, represents the descendants of Abram and the recipients of God’s promise; and

Whereas, the New Testament affirms that salvation is from the Jews and that God’s Word concerning Israel will be fulfilled (John 4:22; Romans 9–11); and

Whereas, we are instructed to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the salvation of Israel (Psalm 122:6–7; Romans 10:1); and

Whereas, we are concerned by anti-Israel sentiments and activities in this country within certain university campuses, academic and professional associations, popular culture, and even our government; and

Whereas, we thankfully remember that we are indebted to the Jewish people, who gave us much of our Bible and our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah; and

Whereas, we want to be a people who are blessed because we are a people who bless the descendants of Abram; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention meeting at First Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas, November 7-8, 2017, commit to bless Israel; and be it further

Resolved, that we support the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state and reject any activities that attack that right by promoting economic, cultural, and academic boycotts against Israel; and be it further

Resolved, that we will take every opportunity to encourage our fellow citizens and specifically our government leaders to be a blessing to Israel at every possible opportunity with everything in our power; and be it finally

Resolved, that at this critical time when dangerous forces are mounting up against the nation of Israel, we recommit ourselves to pray for God's peace to rule in Jerusalem and for the salvation of Israel. For the Gospel is "God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew." (Romans 1:16)

76. Resolution No. 4 was also presented by Jarvis Smith, pastor and messenger from Second Baptist Church, West Helena, and moved for its adoption. The motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 4: ON THE "NASHVILLE STATEMENT": A MANIFESTO ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

Whereas, on August 29, 2017, a document, commonly known as the "Nashville Statement" (Statement), was signed and released by over 150 initial signatories; and

Whereas, as one of the Statement's authors said, we "evangelical leaders have released a document offering clarity on gender and sexuality in a time of confusion; and

Whereas, in the Statement's preamble we are told, "As Western culture has become increasingly post-Christian, it has embarked on a massive revision of what it means to be a human being. . . . It is common to think that human identity as male and female is not part of God's beautiful plan, but is, rather, an expression of an individual's autonomous preferences"; and

Whereas, the Statement continued in its preamble, "Our true identity, as male and female persons, is given by God. It is not only foolish, but hopeless, to try and make ourselves what God did not create us to be. . . . We believe that God's design for his creation and his way of salvation serve to bring him the greatest glory and bring us the greatest good"; and

Whereas, the following are selected excerpts pulled from the 14 articles of the Statement; and

Whereas, in Article 1, we read, "We affirm that God has designed marriage to be covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong, union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride the church. We deny that God has designed marriage to be a homosexual, polygamous, or polyamorous relationship; and

Whereas, Article 2 states, "We affirm that God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage. We deny that any affections, desires, or commitments ever justify sexual intercourse before or outside marriage; nor do they justify any form of sexual immorality; and

Whereas, Article 3 affirms that “God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in his own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct as male and female”; and

Whereas, in Articles 4, 5, and 7 we find, “We affirm that divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God’s original creation design and are meant for human good and human flourishing. We deny that such differences are a result of the Fall or a tragedy to be overcome. . . . We affirm that the differences between male and female reproductive structures are integral to God’s design for self-conception as male or female. . . . We deny that adopting a homosexual, a transgender, or non-binary gender self-conception is consistent with God’s holy purposes in creation and redemption”; and

Whereas, we see in Article 8, “We affirm that people who experience sexual attraction for the same sex may live a rich and fruitful life pleasing to God through faith in Jesus Christ, as they, like all Christians, walk in purity of life. We deny that sexual attraction for the same sex is part of the natural goodness of God’s original creation, or that it puts a person outside the hope of the gospel”; and

Whereas, Article 10 states, “We affirm that it is sinful to approve of homosexual immorality or transgenderism and that such approval constitutes an essential departure from Christian faithfulness and witness. We deny that the approval of homosexual immorality or transgenderism is a matter of moral indifference about which otherwise faithful Christians should agree or disagree”; and

Whereas, in Article 13 we read, “We affirm that the grace of God in Christ enables sinners to forsake transgender or non-binary gender conceptions and by divine forbearance to accept the God-ordained link between one’s biological sex and one’s self-conception as male or female. We deny that the grace of God in Christ sanctions self-conceptions that are at odds with God’s revealed will”; and

Article 14 assures all that, “We affirm that Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners and that through Christ’s death and resurrection forgiveness of sins and eternal life are available to every person who repents of sin and trusts in Christ alone as Savior, Lord, and supreme treasure”; and

Whereas, we agree with what one of the Statement’s contributor said, “We understand that we live in an increasingly post-Christian world, and that a vast revolution in sexual morality is now fundamentally reshaping the landscape. Churches and pastors, Christian institutions and individual Christians, are now under intense pressure to adopt this new sexual morality, along with its redefinition of marriage and gender. . . . It would be much easier to be quiet, to let the moral revolution proceed unanswered, and to seek some kind of refuge in silence or ambiguity. For the sake of same-sex attracted people and others, we did not believe we could remain silent – or unclear – and be faithful”; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we the messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas, November 7-8, 2017,

declare without equivocation that we are in complete agreement with the Nashville Statement; and, be it further

Resolved, that we find the statement without error in its declarations based on biblical truths and we wholehearted endorse its purposes to avoid condemnation and self-righteousness, while “trying to point all person, regardless of the struggles over sexuality and or self-identity, to salvation and wholeness in Christ”; and, be it finally

Resolved, that we hold fast to the summation by a signatory of the Statement, when he says, “With all our hearts, we believe that the sexual revolution cannot deliver on its promises, but that Christ always delivers on his.”

77. Resolution No. 5 was presented by David Mitchell, pastor and messenger from Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Cabot, and moved for its adoption. The motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 5: ON RACIAL RECONCILIATION

Whereas, the Bible teaches that God created men and women in His image (Genesis 1:27) and made every person from the union of one man and one woman; and

Whereas, God loves the world (John 3:16), gave His son to die for the sins of the entire world (1 John 2:2), and, through Christ, He is reconciling to Himself people from every tribe, tongue, and nation (Revelation 5:9); and

Whereas, our justification before God is based on faith in Christ alone and not in our ethnicity (Galatians 3:27-28); and

Whereas, God has made believers one in Christ, clothed in righteousness of Christ, and uniquely qualified to stand together in faith (Ephesians 2:15-16); and

Whereas, the Lord has given His people the mission of making disciples from every nation (Matthew 28:19); and

Whereas, racism is sin because it disregards the image of God in all people and denies the truth of the Gospel that believers are all one in Him; and

Whereas, we grieve over the continued presence of racism and the recent escalation of racial tension in our nation; and

Whereas, Arkansas Southern Baptists, in both our congregations and entities, increasingly reflect the racial and ethnic diversity in our communities and state; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas, November 7-8, 2017, recommit ourselves to the responsibility and privilege of loving and equipping people of all races and ethnicities in our communities; and, be it further

Resolved, that we urge churches to demonstrate their hearts for racial reconciliation by seeking to increase racial and ethnic diversity through church staff, leadership and membership; and, be it further

Resolved, that we call on Arkansas Southern Baptists to be faithful to seek reconciliation in their personal relationships and local communities as they demonstrate the power of the Gospel to reconcile all persons in Christ; and, be it finally

Resolved, that we will be diligent in denouncing racial discrimination in whatever form it takes in seeking to bring healing and cohesiveness to our fractured culture as we understand that in the final analysis there is one race – the human race – created by God for His pleasure.

78. Resolution No. 6 was presented by Stacy Reed, pastor and messenger from First Baptist Church, Batesville, and moved for its adoption. Chase Crawford, messenger from First Baptist Church, Pocahontas, offered an amendment by adding the following: “Whereas racism and white supremacy are sadly not extinct but present all over the world in various white supremacy movements sometimes known as white nationalism or alt-right.” The proposed amendment was not made available in print, so for clarity President Sam Roberts restated the proposed amendment to the messengers. The motion to amend the resolution was seconded by Ron West, messenger from Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock. Following the second, Mr. Crawford spoke in favor of the amendment.
79. Larry Page, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, responded against the amendment by reporting on the decision process of the Resolutions Committee on this particular resolution to denounce hatred in every form. Ron West, messenger from Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, spoke in favor of the amendment. Cliff Bernard, messenger from First Baptist Church, Helena, spoke against the amendment. There was no further discussion in favor of the amendment. Courtney Rainey, messenger from Village Baptist Church, Magnolia, spoke against the amendment. The chair called for the vote on the motion to amend. The motion to amend failed.
80. The chair called for the vote on the motion to approve the original resolution. The motion passed. The resolution was adopted as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 6: ON POLARIZATION IN AMERICA

Whereas, as our culture becomes more secular and more distant from the Judeo-Christian principles, we are experiencing a dramatic increase in fringe groups that harbor antipathy for those of other races, ethnicities, national origin, religious identity, economic status, or ideologies; and

Whereas, the polarization and hostility exhibited by these various groups are largely the result of identity politics and group-think that are promoted and encouraged by race hustlers, religious extremists, revolutionists, and anarchists; and

Whereas, such arbitrary and capricious divisions and passions are diametrically opposed to God’s truth and design for how we are to relate to others; and

Whereas, Acts 10: 34-35 teaches that, “God doesn’t show favoritism, but in every nation the person who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him”; and

Whereas, Galatians 3: 27-28 establishes that our justification before God is based on faith in Christ Jesus alone and no other distinction; and

Whereas, we know that Jesus has redeemed believers by His blood “from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 7:9); and

Whereas, the Baptist Faith and Message calls on all Christians to make the will of Christ supreme in their own lives and in human society, opposing all forms of racism, selfishness, and vice, and bringing society under the influences of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love; and

Whereas, our history reveals the effects of racism and hatred; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we the messengers to Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas, November 7-8, 2017, denounce in the strongest terms the antipathy and hostility hate groups display based on racial, ethnic, religious, class, economic status, and other such illegitimate and unreasonable distinctions, all of which are antithetical to the gospel; and, be it further

Resolved, that we believers must endeavor to remove from our midst any remaining forms of unbiblical attitudes for others based on race, ethnicity, national origin, or other such inappropriate distinctions; and, be it finally

Resolved, that we must focus prayer on those who advocate hateful ideologies and those who are deceived by them, so that they may see that those illicit feelings are contrary to the Gospel, repent of their attitudes, and come to know the peace and love of Christ through redeemed fellowship in the Kingdom of God, which is established from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

Voted: Election of Second Vice President

81. President Roberts opened the floor for nominations for the second vice-president position. Craig Jenkins, pastor and messenger from Beech Street First Baptist Church, Texarkana, nominated George Goynes, Jr., pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, Macedonia, for second vice-president. There were no other nominations. Again, Dr. Tucker cast the ballot of the convention to elect George Goynes, Jr. as second vice-president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

82. Dr. Roberts invited Dr. Tucker to the podium to lead in prayer for the newly elected officers. Dr. Tucker was joined by the newly elected officers, Greg Sykes, Wyman Richardson, and George Goynes, Jr.

83. Prior to praying for the newly elected officers, Dr. Tucker presented a plaque of appreciation to Sam Roberts for his two years of service as president of the state convention. The messengers expressed their appreciation with applause.

84. Reading from Psalm 85, Dr. Roberts along with the new officers, Greg Sykes, Wyman Richardson, and George Goynes, Jr., led in a time of prayer for revival and spiritual awakening.

85. After sharing a few closing remarks, President Roberts adjourned the one hundred sixty-fourth session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at 11:15 a.m.

There were 549 registered messengers for the 2017 annual meeting.

REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

J. D. “Sonny” Tucker, Executive Director

Rob Davis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Harrison, served as president of the Executive Board for 2017. Dale Walker, pastor, Concord Baptist Church, Van Buren, served as vice president.

Chairmen of the Executive Board committees for 2017 were:

- Finance Committee -
Bruce Venable, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jonesboro
- Operating Committee -
Craig Jenkins, pastor, Beech Street First Baptist Church, Texarkana
- Program Committee -
George Goynes, Jr., pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church, Macedonia

The Executive Board met October 25, 2016; November 10, 2016; August 15, 2017; November 7, 2017; and November 28, 2017.

PERSONNEL

The Operating Committee approved employment of the following Arkansas Baptist State Convention Cooperative Program Missionary this year:

- Seth Tucker was approved for employment on April 11, 2017 as Youth Ministry Consultant for the Evangelism + Church Health Team.
- Bob Johnson was approved for employment on June 6, 2017 as Sunday School and Music Consultant for the Evangelism + Church Health Team and Associational Missionary Liaison for the Executive + Administrative Team.
- Chris Kohlman was approved for employment on June 6, 2017 as Assistant Team Leader, Community College Consultant, and Media Mobilization Strategist for the College + Young Leaders Team.
- Jamie Naramore was approved for employment on June 6, 2017 as International Church Strategist for the Missions Team.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1
2018 BUDGET**

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

Executive Board Programs.....	\$6,264,502
Camp Siloam.....	240,146
Children’s Homes and Family Ministries	552,913
Arkansas Baptist Foundation	323,677
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	256,521
Christian Higher Education.....	3,908,512
Ouachita Baptist University	2,947,852
Williams Baptist College.....	960,660
TOTAL ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION	\$11,546,271

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

International Mission Board.....	\$4,765,625
North American Mission Board	2,154,505
Theological Education Ministries	2,094,946
Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Ministries.....	155,987
Facilitating Ministries	282,666
(SBC Executive Committee Expenses)	

TOTAL SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.....\$9,453,729

TOTAL BUDGET \$21,000,000

OUT OF STATE MISSIONS

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2022</u>
CP	45.02%	45.82%
Out of State	2.58%	2.58%
Total Out of State	47.60%	48.40%

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2: 2018 GOALS

Executive Board goals for 2018 have been planned by the teams. Approved by the Program Committee on May 9, 2017 and Executive Board on August 15, 2017.

**2018 Team Goals****3 Essential Intents**

The Executive and Administrative Team (EAT) directs the overall strategy for the ministries of the ABSC. The EAT insures that all of our efforts are focused on our mission: working with Arkansas Baptists to accomplish the Great Commission. Our ABSC Teams strive to make every person, dollar, and hour count towards that end.

Therefore, it is imperative that we do everything with purpose. We prayerfully developed **3 Essential Intents** as a guide to focus our strategies and planning. While there are lots of good things that we could do, these essential areas are what we must do to reach our goals. This focus is reflected in every Team's goals. The **3 Essential Intents** mandate the ministries of the ABSC to ...

1. Revitalize churches
2. Focus our evangelism partnerships toward people that are unengaged, unreached, and underserved in access to the gospel
3. Impact students from kindergarten to graduate school

First, our Teams are intent on efforts to **revitalize our churches**. Every church is necessary in reaching Arkansans with the gospel. The task is too great without every church being vibrant and on mission. While the Evangelism and Church Health Team leads in this area through its Church Revitalization emphasis, every Team engages churches to strengthen and support their efforts in spreading the gospel.

Second, we are intentionally focusing our evangelism partnerships on those **peoples who do not have access to the gospel**. There are too many people groups in Arkansas with too little access to the gospel, such as low income families and internationals living in our state. We also have numerous geographic areas that have far too little access to either churches or vital gospel ministries. Through both church planting and evangelism partnerships, we are focused on bringing the gospel to those underserved people and areas.

Moreover, Arkansas Baptists are becoming increasingly aware of the vast numbers of people around the world that have no way to effectively learn that Jesus is the hope of the world. We are continuing our expansion of partnerships in areas of the world that **are unengaged and unreached for Jesus**. For example, our churches are partnering with missionaries in Southeast Asia to work with unengaged people groups. College students are also making intermediate length trips to send more people to those areas of need.

Finally, we are intent on **reaching the younger generations with the gospel**. Clearly, the church has not been effective in reaching Generation X or the Millennial generation. We simply cannot continue to fail impacting successive generations. We are redoubling our efforts to impact students with the gospel. This includes a greater emphasis on evangelism partnerships and revitalizing churches to reach students. We are developing new ways to connect with students being called to ministry. Our reorganization which created a Team focused on College + Young Leaders is developing new ways to connect students to churches and gospel ministry. We are intent on **reaching students before losing another generation**.



Church Planting Team 2018 Impact Statements and Goals

The church planting team will engage Arkansas Baptists with intentional evangelistic strategies for the purpose of planting churches that reflect the diversity of the State of Arkansas – socioeconomically, racially, and culturally.

The goals for 2018 are set for measuring our effectiveness in our developing strategy for assisting Arkansas Baptists to impact their world for Christ through church planting.

I. Impact Goals

- 1- Lead more churches to become involved in church planting than ever before. Goal: 100 churches partnering with new works
- 2- Develop more church planters for beginning new works in AR, North America, and the World. Goal: Develop and train 75 church planters
- 3- Start more new works in AR. Goal: Start 50 new churches, restarts, missions, missional outposts (evangelistic preaching points)
- 4- Lead our new church plants to baptize more new converts.
Goal: Baptisms 400

II. Networking Goals

- 1- Regional Church Planting Roundtables – 30 events; 300 churches
- 2- Collegiate Church Planting Connection Events – 15 events; 200 students
- 3- Expand church planting networks
 - a. Delta Network – 30 churches
 - b. Metro Network – 20 churches
 - c. Hispanic Network – 50 churches
 - d. Cowboy Network – 30 churches
 - e. North West AR Network – 15 churches
 - f. House Church Network – 5 counties
 - g. Sportsman’s Church Network - 5

III. Training Goals

- 1- Train and Coach Church Planters through Church Planting Cohorts
 - a. Cowboy church planters – 10
 - b. Metro church planters – 15
 - c. Delta church planters – 15
 - d. Innovative church planters – 15
- 2- Train Hispanic Church Planters through 2 Institutes - 15
- 3- Statewide Church Planting One-Day Training events – 6 events; 600 people
- 4- Delta Institutes – 4 locations; 60 people
- 5- Assist churches with church planting residencies – 4 residencies



College + Young Leaders Team 2018 Impact Statement and Goals

The College and Young Leaders Team will help Arkansas Baptists prepare their high school students for college; challenge all collegians to exalt God through growing in Christ, connecting to His Church, and serving His world while in college; and send them out in the work force as godly young professionals connected to the church.

High School: Transition to College and/or Career

- Prepare high school students for transition to college, particularly through Lead/Defend Conference 2018
- Develop and maintain a system for collecting contact information of high school graduates to give collegiate-engaged churches
(www.NextConnect.me is currently used to collect these names)
- Develop a strategy to connect high school graduates going into the work force or into the military to local churches

College: Mobilize Collegiate-Engaged Churches & Campus-Based Ministries to Fulfill the Great Commission

- **Empower Collegiate-Engaged Churches:**
 - Increase the number of collegiate-engaged churches and Matrix-involved churches by 10%
 - Increase the NextConnect (a resource e-magazine for college churches) distribution list by 10%
 - Provide training opportunities for church and campus collegiate ministers at two statewide/regional events
 - Mobilize all collegiate-engaged churches to participate in Engage24, an annual, planned 24-hour period of collegians engaging in evangelism
- **Empower Campus-Based Ministry:**
 - **Growing in Christ:**
 - Equip 1000 CYL participants through evangelistic training events
 - Involve collegians in 12,000 significant witnessing experiences
 - All BCM's to provide Engage24 programs/events

- **Connecting to His Church:**
 - Campus ministers will present Cooperative Program/Dixie Jackson/BCM presentations in 200 churches and collegiate meetings (1 min., 6 min., and 30 min. presentations)
 - Involve collegians in 500 churches
 - Train BCM leaders to invite and take students with them to church
- **Serving His World:**
 - Mobilize 800 collegians and leaders for missional lifestyle experiences
- **Engage the Nations:**
 - Create an International Student Task Force to provide and implement a statewide strategy for ministry to international students
 - Provide a statewide or regional Global Multipliers gathering to equip churches in international student ministry
 - Plan a statewide Engage the Nations international student gathering

Career: Send Out Young Professionals to the Marketplace and Connect Them to the Church

- Provide two–four evangelistic networking opportunities on campuses with young professional leaders (Education, Law, Engineering, Medical, Business)
- Provide workplace transition events for college graduates on 10 campuses
- Develop website to assist collegians preparing for ministry (www.E4Call.org)



**Evangelism and Church Health Team
2018 Impact Statement and Goals**

Impact Statements:

1. “Lead more people to faith in Christ and baptize more than have been baptized before”
Goal: Baptisms 12,000
2. “Lead more people to attend Bible Study/Sunday School/Small Groups”
Goal: 120,000 in attendance
3. “Lead more people to attend worship”
Goal: 160,000
4. “Lead churches to an increase in undesignated receipts”
Goal: 2.5% increase

Training Goals:

1. Church Leadership – 100 churches
2. Church Revitalization – 150 churches
3. Evangelism – 600 churches
4. Marriage/Parenting – 150 churches
5. Men/Women’s Ministry – 100 churches
6. Stewardship – 200 churches
7. Vacation Bible School – 150 churches
8. Worship – 250 churches



2018 Missions Team Impact Statement and Goals

Purpose Statement: The Missions Team will assist Arkansas Baptist churches, associations, and their members to impact lostness statewide and globally by encouraging and equipping them to be engaged in mission's discipleship and mobilization.

Goal 1: Provide State, National and International Mission opportunities to assist churches in reaching the unreached, unengaged and underserved.

Action Plans: Impact 150 churches; 7,730 participants

- Provide "Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip" and associational/church One Day Mission Trip – mobilize 150 churches and 1500 participants
- In-State Mission Trips, Block Parties and Multi-Housing Ministry – mobilize 2,500 participants
- Christian Women's/Men's Job Corps – mobilize 100 participants
- Medical/Dental Missions – mobilize 250 participants
- Hunger Ministries – mobilize 1,500 participants
- Literacy Missions – mobilize 50 participants
- Pregnancy Care Center Ministries – mobilize 300 participants
- Disaster Relief Ministries – train and mobilize 900 participants
- Muslim Women Outreach Ministry – mobilize 25 participants
- Delta Women's Ministry – mobilize 25 participants
- Mentor/Coaching Training – train 100 participants
- Connect and Training Events for National and International – connect 250 participants
- IMB Asia Support Trip – mobilize 60 participants
- Christian Women Job Corps/Christian Men's Job Corps (CWJC/CMJC) Site Coordinators Retreat – involve 10 participants
- Train and Resource 100 ABSC chaplains
- Annual Chaplaincy Meeting at State Convention – involve 30 participants
- Provide Two Missionary Parents Fellowship Meetings (Spring and Fall meetings)

Goal 2: Strengthen and revitalize churches through mission's discipleship and mobilization.

Action Plans: Impact 45 churches; 785 participants

- Share the Gospel at each mission event giving people the opportunity to respond
- Provide evangelism training for Disaster Relief Workers – involve 400
- Encourage testimony training for all mission trip participants

- Nailbenders for Jesus – mobilize 15 participants
- Arkansas Baptist Builders – mobilize 75 participants
- “ACTS 1:8” Strategy Consultations – provide for 10 churches
- “Community Needs Assessment” presented to 5 churches/associations
- Bible Storying Workshops – mobilize 60 participants
- Campers on Mission – mobilize 15 participants
- Engage (Annual State WMU Meeting) – involve 150 participants
- Provide safety training for missions teams through Fort Sherman Training Academy – provide for 30 churches and 100 participants

Goal 3: Impact students from birth to graduate school through mission’s discipleship and mobilization.

Action Plans: Impact over 145 churches; 710 participants

- Work with 30 churches to start, train, or assist with traditional on-going missions discipleship (Women on Mission / Adults on Mission; myMISSION; Acteens / Challengers / Youth on Mission; GA/RA/Children in Action; Mission Friends).
- Work with 50 churches that offer Team Kid and AWANA helping them to integrate Southern Baptist Missions lessons in their meetings.
- Encourage churches to use their VBS offerings for state wide causes, Dixie Jackson Missions Offering 25 churches
- “Connect” student missions events – mobilize 400 participants 20 churches
- Student Summer Missionaries / E4Call Arkansas Summer Ministry Associates– mobilize 35 participants
- Provide One Fellowship Event for Third Culture Kids (TCK’s) Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist College - involve 5 churches
- Royal Ambassadors Camp-O-Rama (State RA Missions Weekend) – involve 200 participants
- Provide Missions Discipleship Component for ENGAGE student camp in July involve 75 students – 10 churches

Goal 4: Promote missions giving.

Action Plans: Impact over 1500 churches; direct contact with 175 churches via personal contact by Mission Team Travel Staff

- Promote missions in speaking engagements in 150 churches
- Promote missions offerings through mail, email, social media, and other means.
- Provide Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering web portal, designed to inform and involve Arkansas Baptists in state missions
- Promote SBC special offerings
- Encourage 25 churches to start giving to missions offerings

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3: AMEND THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR ARKANSAS BAPTIST FOUNDATION

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention recommends the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation for the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.

Current:

FOURTH: This Corporation is organized as a nonprofit corporation exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes which are more specifically described as follows:

(a) To primarily serve any local church, benevolent, charitable, educational, or missionary undertaking, institution, or agency, fostered by or having the official sanction of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, or any of its affiliated state conventions, such conjoined purposes to be executed simultaneously in the furtherance and development of benevolent, charitable, educational, and missionary activities in and for the benefit of schools, churches, hospitals, orphanages, and other charitable enterprises which have as part of their mission the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into all the world.

(b) To receive by bequest, devise, gift, purchase or lease, either absolutely or in trust, any property, real, personal or mixed; and to administer such property, convey such property, invest and reinvest the same, or the proceeds thereof, in such manner as in the judgment of the Directors will best promote the objects and purposes of the Corporation.

(c) To develop innovative ways and means for raising, developing and acquiring funds for the charitable purposes of the Corporation; to act as an agent for life insurance companies in procuring, receiving and forwarding applications for life insurance, together with the collection of premiums and the taking of such other actions as may be designated to agents by life insurance companies in order to facilitate the contribution by donors of policies of life insurance, the beneficiary of which is this organization or some other Baptist cause, such proceeds to be used for the charitable objects and purposes thereof.

(d) To receive and administer assets where a gift or bequest is for the benefit of any benevolent, charitable, educational, or missionary undertaking, organization, institution or agency, provided such undertaking, organization, institution or agency is organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes and qualifies as a publicly supported organization as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law (the "Code") and the regulations thereunder, and provided that the purposes of such undertaking, organization, institution, or agency are not inconsistent with the purposes of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

(e) To serve as corporate Trustee of any trust in which the Arkansas Baptist State Convention or any of its affiliated churches, agencies, or institutions, the Southern Baptist Convention or any of its affiliated churches, agencies, or

institutions, or any other evangelical Christian organization which has a primary purpose that is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and which operates strictly for benevolent, charitable, educational, or mission purposes have a beneficial interest, to serve as corporate Trustee of any trust originating from the same estate plan or design as a trust described herein; and to inform and educate potential donors of the tax and other advantages of the various charitable giving vehicles permitted by state and federal law which may be used to benefit such organizations as described herein.

(f) To serve as administrator of any donor-advised fund in which a majority of the income and/or principal is to be used to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the Arkansas Baptist State Convention or any of its affiliated churches, agencies or institutions, the Southern Baptist Convention or any of its affiliated churches, agencies or institutions, or any other evangelical Christian organization which has a primary purpose that is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and which operates strictly for benevolent, charitable, educational, or mission purposes.

(g) To provide education, information and other services to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and its affiliated churches, agencies, institutions, and other related ministries in the areas of church business administration and financial management of church resources.

Amended Request:

FOURTH: This Corporation is organized as a nonprofit corporation exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes. Generally, the Corporation is organized as a ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to serve the churches, agencies, institutions and ministries of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention as well as the greater body of Southern Baptist believers in Jesus Christ. This purpose is preeminent and defining and shall serve as a guide and framework through which the Corporation's mission, vision, activities, efforts and policies are construed, interpreted and carried out.

In carrying out the foregoing purposes, the Corporation may:

(a) serve any local church, benevolent, charitable, educational, or missionary undertaking, institution, or agency, fostered by or having the official sanction of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, or any of its affiliated state conventions, such conjoined purposes to be executed simultaneously in the furtherance and development of benevolent, charitable, educational, and missionary activities in and for the benefit of schools, churches, hospitals, orphanages, and other charitable enterprises which have as part of their mission the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into all the world.

(b) receive by bequest, devise, gift, purchase or lease, either absolutely or in trust, any property, real, personal or mixed; and administer such property, convey such property, invest and reinvest the same, or the proceeds thereof, in such manner as in the judgment of the Directors will best promote the objects and purposes of the Corporation.

(c) receive and administer assets where a gift or bequest is for the benefit of any benevolent, charitable, educational, or missionary undertaking, organization, institution or agency, provided such undertaking, organization, institution or agency is organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes and qualifies as a publicly supported organization as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law (the "Code") and the regulations thereunder, and provided that the purposes of such undertaking, organization, institution, or agency are not inconsistent with the purposes of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

(d) serve as corporate Trustee of any trust in which the Arkansas Baptist State Convention or any of its affiliated churches, agencies, or institutions, the Southern Baptist Convention or any of its affiliated churches, agencies, or institutions, or any other evangelical Christian organization which has a primary purpose that is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and which operates strictly for benevolent, charitable, educational, or mission purposes have a beneficial interest; serve as corporate Trustee of any trust originating from the same estate plan or design as a trust described herein; and to inform and educate potential donors of the tax and other advantages of the various charitable giving vehicles permitted by state and federal law which may be used to benefit such organizations as described herein.

(e) serve as administrator of any donor-advised fund in which a majority of the income and/or principal is to be used to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the Arkansas Baptist State Convention or any of its affiliated churches, agencies or institutions, the Southern Baptist Convention or any of its affiliated churches, agencies or institutions, or any other evangelical Christian organization which has a primary purpose that is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and which operates strictly for benevolent, charitable, educational, or mission purposes.

(f) provide education, information and other services to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and its affiliated churches, agencies, institutions, and other related ministries in the stewardship of their resources.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM REPORT

Arkansas Baptists have embodied the Southern Baptist passion for sending out missionaries to spread the gospel since the beginning of the missions movement known as the Cooperative Program (CP) in 1925. Arkansas Baptists continue to hear the cries of a lost world and give sacrificially through our churches. Arkansas Baptists have always sent a large portion of the CP giving out of our state to support Southern Baptist missionaries in North America and around the world.

In 2016, your church, along with other Arkansas Baptists churches, gave more to support missions than ever before. Arkansas Baptists gave \$20.9 million to cooperative missions through the Cooperative Program. We celebrate what the Lord has done in 2016 because of you!

This year (2017) the Arkansas Baptist State Convention has budgeted to give 46.35% of all CP gifts received to out-of-state missions while doing incredible ministry here in Arkansas. In 2018, the ABSC will begin a new five-year funding formula that will gradually increase our out-of-state CP giving percentage to 48.4% by 2022. The privilege to send more missionaries and do more missions is possible because of you and your commitment to send even more of your God-given resources out of state.

We focus our out-of-state missions giving in three areas. 1) Giving to the SBC budget through planned budget giving. 2) Promoting and administering CP missions to increase giving and participation by Arkansas Baptists. 3) Working to connect Arkansas Baptists directly to SBC missions strategies.

You will read reports on the following pages that show specific ways the teams, agencies, and institutions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention are working to strengthen churches, to impact the next generation and to reach the unengaged, unreached, and underserved across Arkansas, North America, and around the world. All of these actions are undergirded by your prayers and gifts through the Cooperative Program.



Tim Wicker, Team Leader

2016 Achievement Report on Goals/Action Plans

Tim Wicker, Team Leader

The church planting team will engage Arkansas Baptists with intentional evangelistic strategies for the purpose of planting churches that reflect the diversity of the State of Arkansas – socioeconomically, racially, and culturally.

The goals for 2016 are set for measuring effectiveness in our developing strategy for assisting Arkansas Baptists to impact their world for Christ through church planting.

Goal 1: Promote church planting through relationships and events.

Action Plans:

- a) Conduct 12 church planting connection/cultivation events. (OBU, Williams, associations, Missional Essentials cohorts, BCMs, networks, etc.). *Achievement: The church planting team connected with every association, OBU, Williams, and several BCMs and set up more than 20 roundtable type events with over 600 churches participating.*
- b) Do a statewide conference on church planting in partnership with Sentralized Conference. *Achievement: Partnered with The Summit Church to host this event with 160 attending.*
- c) Host a key business leaders luncheon to discuss ways to be involved in BiVocational church planting. *Achieved with 8 key business leaders involved.*
- d) Use preaching/speaking engagements to promote what God is doing in church planting here in Arkansas. *Achieved.*
- e) Heighten church planting awareness among 300 churches. *Achievement: Promoted church planting with more than 600 churches.*

Goal 2: Develop leadership for new and existing church plants through training and coaching.

Action Plans:

- a) Train 40 church planting leaders through church planting training (CPE, High Impact, Delta, Cowboy). *Achievement: Trained 40 church planting leaders through 8 different monthly cohorts, 6 one day events, 2 training weekends, and 2 institutes.*
- b) Conduct 1 Church Planting Essentials in Spanish. *Achievement: Transitioned Hispanic Bible Institute to Church Planting Training in both the Jonesboro and Little Rock areas. Had 18 trained.*

- c) Conduct 30 church planter assessments. *Achieved 29.*
- d) Strengthen 35 new churches through network events; coaching and conferencing. *Achieved.*
- e) Conduct 3 Delta Institutes. *Achievement: Transitioned Delta Institutes to Seminary Extension with 23 students.*
- f) Conduct 1 Urban Little Rock Church Planting Institute. *Achievement: Transitioned LR Institute to Seminary Extension with 9 students.*
- g) Continue to resource 4 church planting networks. *Achieved: Metro, NWA, Cowboy, Delta.*
- h) Provide coaching for all new church planters for 1 year through individual and group coaching events. *Achieved.*
- i) Provide opportunities for church planting internships with OBU and Williams. *Achieved with 4 students.*
- j) Utilize cross team personnel and key pastors to assist in strengthening church planter/plants (have them help teach CPE, address strategic issues, coaching/mentoring). *Achievement: worked with all teams.*
- k) Assist 2 new church plants in adopting a disciple making process based on the Real Life Ministries model (in conjunction with EVCH Team). *Achievement: Moved to 2017*
- l) Work with churches to collaborate on developing new church planters through a church planting residency. *Achievement: partnered with Summit Church on one, and conducted a pilot residency at the ABSC.*

Goal 3: Cultivate New Church Plants.

Action Plans:

- a) Conduct 15 demographic studies to develop new church plant locations. *Achieved.*
- b) Cultivate and develop 20 new sponsors. *Achievement: 27 new sponsors*
- c) Assist in starting 30 new churches and missions. *Achievement: Saw 41 new works (church plants, restarts or affiliations) in 2016.*



2016 Goals Report David James, Team Leader

The College and Young Leaders Team will help Arkansas Baptists prepare their high school students for college; challenge collegians to exalt God through growing in Christ, connecting to His Church, and serving His world while in college; and send them out as godly young professionals when they leave college.

College & Career groundwork: Develop and mobilize a high school transition strategy

Goal: Lead/Defend Conference preparing high school students for college

Result: Lead/Defend Conference was held at Geyer Springs FBC on February 27, 2016. There were a total of 656 people involved from 126 churches. 200 of the attendees were high school students. One high school student stated, “I’ve always known that I believe in God, now I know why I believe in God.” An international college student shared that, “I want to share the Gospel with other International students – as many as I can!”

Goal: Develop high school apologetic curriculum for churches

Result: FBC Hot Springs, FBC Rogers and Immanuel Baptist Little Rock are examples of churches who are developing a student apologetic curriculum. Other churches are coming on board to develop their own material or find materials that assist in apologetic training.

Goal: Develop a four week curriculum for graduating high school students

Result: *Make College Count* by Derek Melleby was given to all the church and BCM leaders at the Lead/Defend Conference. It is a resource to aid with transition for graduating students.

Goal: Recruit names of high school students for collegiate-engaged churches

Result: Developed website to collect names of students and where they are going to college: www.nextconnect.me. These names are forwarded to BCM’s and collegiate-engaged churches.

College Experience: Mobilize collegiate-engaged churches and campus based BCM ministries to fulfill the Great Commission

Empower Collegiate Engaged Churches:

Goal: Develop list of collegiate-engaged churches and strategize with collegiate leaders

Result: We have recorded 60 collegiate-engaged churches.

Goal: Resource collegiate-engaged churches with nextConnect, (an occasional e-blast for churches)

Result: All collegiate-engaged churches have been added to the list.

Goal: Provide training for church and campus collegiate ministers

Result: Breakout sessions with Derek Melleby and Ricky Chelette were provided for leaders and staff at the Lead/Defend Conference. In addition, funds and resources were provided for church based collegiate leaders to attend Collegiate Week (Lifeway), Hitchhiker Conferences (NAMB), and BCNet (Lifeway).

Goal: Encourage churches to participate in *Engage24* (one day evangelism thrust)

Result: Connected to Haystack. We had 13 campuses and 900 plus involved in our Haystack prayer meetings and then connected to the Engage24 national event. BCM's and churches were both involved.

Empower Campus Based Ministry: BCM

Growing in Christ:

Goal: Train 1000 collegians to use an evangelism tool

Result: We recorded 1634 students trained.

Goal: Involve collegians in 12,000 significant witnessing experiences.

Result: 16,843 significant witnessing experiences were recorded.

Goal: Engage24 (one day evangelism thrust)

Result: 13 campuses were a part of Engage24. While Engage24 is intensely focused on a single day of evangelism, our mission is to promote a 24/7 lifestyle of evangelism and engagement with the Gospel. Evangelism training and prayer are a part of the Engage24 strategy. www.engage24.org

Goal: Develop upper class and freshmen leadership teams to share the gospel on campus and to the nations

Result: Leadership teams were composed of 308 upper classmen and 134 freshmen.

Connecting to His Church:

Goal: Campus ministers will present a Cooperative program/Dixie Jackson/BCM presentation in 200 churches and collegiate meetings. (1 minute, 6 minute, and 30 minute presentations)

Result: 328 presentations were made.

Goal: Involve collegians in 500 local churches

Result: Collegians were involved in 621 churches.

Serving His World:

Goal: Mobilize 600 collegians and leaders in missional lifestyle experiences

Result: 984 collegians traveled to 29 states and 47 different countries to share the Gospel on short term trips. Some of the highlights of these trips were: Christmas in China, For Columbus, Nehemiah Teams, and FAMS-Bali. There were another 90 individuals who served a semester or longer. Additionally, 706 students were involved in local community missions.

Engage the Nations: Mobilize International Student Strategy team:

Goal: Enlist and train 2-4 collegiate-engaged churches with effective models to reach internationals

Result: CYL Team with the Missions Team toured Arkansas churches and BCM's to research who is reaching international students. There are 25 churches in 5 strategic areas, which are actively involved in international student ministry. This new network will be strategic in equipping and encouraging other Arkansas Baptist churches to reach the world at their doorstep. Strategic churches in this network are: FBC Russellville; University Baptist Church, Fayetteville; Second Baptist Church, Conway; FBC Clarksville; and Walnut Street Baptist Church, Jonesboro.

Goal: Send out 2-4 Christmas in China/international teams

Result: Sixteen Arkansas students were involved in Nehemiah Teams in Southeast Asia during the summer. This is an increase of 15 compared to 1 in 2015. Other international teams which had strategic impact include: Christmas in China, Canada, and Poland.

Career: Young professionals sent out to the marketplace and connected to the Church

Goal: Pilot projects with professional leaders: 2-4

Result: 5 campuses were involved in strategic pre-professional meetings: WBC, OBU, UAF, SAU, and UCA. One highlight was the event for the University of Arkansas Law School. Over 50 law students attended the meeting hosted by UAF BCM/CYL. Christian lawyers and judges who represented key area churches hosted tables to talk about life and faith as a lawyer. Additionally, 10 different BCM's provided transitional meetings for graduating seniors.

Goal: Ministerial Leadership Development Retreat

Result: This retreat was moved to February 2017.



**Evangelism and Church Health Team
2016 Annual Report
Terry Bostick, Team Leader**

The Evangelism and Church Health Team works alongside our four other Executive Board teams to accomplish our three essential intents to revitalize churches, focus our evangelism partnerships toward people that are unengaged, unreached, and underserved in access to the gospel, and impact students

from kindergarten to graduate school. Our team focuses on four major impact statements to see the essential intents met. We want to see churches: (1) lead more people to faith in Christ and baptize them, (2) lead more people to attend Sunday School/ Small Groups, (3) have more people attend worship, and (4) increase undesignated receipts. In addition to strategic, statewide and regional training events, our team strives to be responsive to the pastors, staff, and lay leaders through phone calls, emails, and personal consultations.

Church Revitalization

2016 was the third year of our Church Revitalization emphasis. Our team has engaged 463 churches in the area of revitalization through 2,309 multi-church events, individual church training events, and personal consultations. The churches have participated in some form of praying for revival, training, working the revitalization process, or utilizing some of the design guides associated with the process.

Evangelism

With only 83% of churches reporting, Arkansas Baptist churches reported 10,212 total baptisms in 2016. Through individual church training opportunities and personal consultations, Evangelism and Church Health Team members provided 2,152 evangelism consults, church training, and multi-church training with 708 churches.

Sunday School/Small Groups

Sunday School/Small Groups are vital growth and assimilation strategies for churches to reach the most people they possibly can. Our team trained 275 churches in the area of Sunday School/Small Groups through 909 multi-church events, individual church training events, and personal consultations. In 2016, Arkansas Baptist churches reported an average Sunday School attendance of 109,651 people.

Worship

In 2016, Arkansas Baptist churches reported a total average worship attendance of 152,154. The Evangelism and Church Health Team provided 2,057 worship related consults, multi-church training and individual church training opportunities for 357 churches.

Stewardship

Arkansas Baptist Churches reported 2016 undesignated receipts of \$281,927,805. While this number reflects a decrease from last year's reported receipts, the ABSC reported the highest Cooperative Program giving in its history. We are confident that the record giving to the Cooperative Program reflects an increase in undesignated receipts as well, but due to decreased participation in the Annual Church Profile (ACP) our number does not reflect the reality of what the churches in Arkansas have experienced. Through 360 consults, individual church training and multi-church training events, the Evangelism and Church Health Team assisted 260 churches in increasing their giving.



Executive + Administrative Team
Sonny Tucker, Team Leader

Dr. Sonny Tucker leads the Executive + Administrative Team, This team has the major responsibility of directing and administering the work of all the Executive Board Teams. The areas of work and ministry are listed below with a brief report of each area.

- **Strategy Planning**

Dr. Tucker leads the Strategy Planning Team which consists of all the team leaders, assistant team leader and executive team leaders. This Team meets monthly to discuss and plan major emphases of our Executive Board Teams.

- **Prayer**

Greg Addison, associate executive director, Jimmie Sheffield, assistant to the executive director and David Bond, executive administrator, work with a Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Task Force to encourage a greater emphasis on prayer in our churches. Approximately 300 ministers have attended each of four statewide prayer gatherings. Ministers spend almost eight hours of strategic praying led by Arkansas pastors.

More than 1500 prayer leaders receive the bi-monthly electronic newsletter compiled by the executive team leaders. In addition, approximately 300 prayer leaders attended the prayer conference led by Steve Gaines on Monday morning preceding the annual Evangelism Conference.

- **Camp Paron**

In 2016, Camp Paron hosted 107 camps/retreats with 5889 in attendance.

- **Cooperative Program**

CP Share continues to provide a platform for Cooperative Program. CP Share provides an entire package of resources that tells the story of how CP giving from an ABSC church connects that church to engage with a missionary or mission strategy supported by CP giving. These testimonies come in both written and video formats. The videos are designed to be shown by churches as well as viewed when posted on social media.

The communications team of the Executive +Administrative Team has also developed a very comprehensive strategy for social media communications. One component, “CP Screens,” is a collection of infographics for use in sermon illustrations, emails, brochures and any other communication tool. The aim is to connect Arkansas Baptists to the information and testimonies which will lead to more cooperative participation with ABSC missions and ministries.

- **Executive Board/Convention**

This team assists the Executive Board in preparing for and conducting Board and committee meetings. In addition, the Executive + Administrative Team leads in the planning for the annual convention meeting.

- **Personnel Administration**

This team has the responsibility for administering personnel policies, coordinating the hiring process for new employees, and implementing the Impact Appraisal System for the Executive Board employees.

- **Terminated Ministers Assistance**

The Executive + Administrative Team assists the Executive Board Terminated Assistance ministry in providing financial assistance for minister who have been terminated. In 2016, financial assistance was provided to 10 pastors and staff members.

- **Business Office**

The Business Office of the Executive + Administrative Team provides services that assist all the teams of the Executive Board including accounting, computer services, printing and mailing services, building services and management of the insurance program of the convention and Executive Board personnel. In addition this office manages the mission gifts of our churches.



2016 Goals Report

Bob Harper, Team Leader

Functioning as a team of servant leaders the Missions Team proactively engaged Arkansas Baptist churches, associations, and their members, through missions discipleship/mobilization, to impact lostness in their communities, Arkansas and around the world through evangelistic missions and ministries. The goals for 2016 were set for measuring effectiveness in our continually developing strategy of assisting churches and associations to impact their world for Christ through missions and ministries.

Goal 1: Provide State, National and International Mission opportunities for 11,188 participants.

Action Plans:

a) Provide IN-State Missions opportunities for 10,298 participants

-Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip events – Mobilize 3,500 participants

Achievement: Mobilized 1,800 participants

-Connect Student Missions events – Mobilize 600 participants

Achievement: 355 participants

- In-State Mission Trips, Block Parties and Multi-Housing Ministry– Mobilize 1,500 participants
Achievement: 5,342 participants
- Christian Women’s/Men’s Job Corps – Mobilize 100 participants
Achievement: 150 participants
- Medical Missions and Baptist Nursing Fellowship – Mobilize 100 participants
Achievement: 463 participants
- SSM/KASMA Student Summer Missionaries – Mobilize 35 participants
Achievement: 38 participants
- Hunger Ministries – Mobilize 2,500 participants
Achievement: 2,398 participants
- Literacy Missions – Mobilize 100 participants
Achievement: 65 participants
- Pregnancy Care Center Ministries – Mobilize 300 participants
Achievement: 2776 participants
- Disaster Relief Ministries – Train and Mobilize 1,200 participants
Achievement: Mobilized 1,306 participants
- Nailbenders for Jesus – Mobilize 15 participants
Achievement: Mobilized 41 participants
- Church-In-A-Day – Mobilize 8 participants
Achievement: Mobilized 0 participants
- Arkansas Baptist Builders – Mobilize 50 participants
Achievement: Mobilized 94 participants
- Campers on Mission – Mobilize 15 participants
Achievement: Mobilized 29 participants
- Arkansas Baptist Bikers Association – Mobilize 15 participants
Achievement: Mobilized 0 participants

b) Provide National/International Missions opportunities for 365 participants.

- Mission Connection Events for National and International Partnerships–Connect 150 participants
Achievement: Connected 181 participants
- Haiti Mission Trips – – Mobilize 100 participants
Achievement: Mobilized 11 participants
- Smaller Membership Church National Mission Trip – Mobilize 40 participants
Achievement: Mobilized 0 participants
- International or National Mission Trip for Women – Mobilize 25 participants
Achievement: Mobilized 47 participants
- IMB Support Trip- Mobilize 50 participants
Achievement: 65 participants

c) Provide Missions Discipleship Events for 480 participants

- Engage (Annual State WMU Meeting) – Involve 200 participants
Achievement: Involved 107 participants
- RA Camp-O-Rama – Involve 200 participants
Achievement: Involved 227 participants
- CWJC/CMJC Site Coordinators Retreat – Involve 10 participants
Achievement: 0 participants
- Train and Resource 70 ABSC chaplains
Achievement: Resourced 122 participants

d) Provide Specialized Missions Services for churches and associations, involving 45 participants

- ACTS 1:8 Strategy Consultations for 10 churches
Achievement: Provided 21 consultations
- Community Needs Assessment conducted for 5 churches
Achievement: Conducted 7 assessments
- Annual Chaplaincy Meeting (convention) involving 30 participants
Achievement: Involved 20 chaplains
- Provide One Fellowship Event for TCK's at Ouachita Baptist Univ. & Williams College
Achievement: 2 events
- Provide Two Missionary Parents Fellowship Meetings
Achievement: Involved 2 events

Goal 2: Reach 1,500 people for Christ through Missions Discipleship/Mobilization events.

Achievement: 990 people reached

Goal 3: Equip 130 churches to provide church wide missions discipleship opportunities.**Action Plans:**

- Work with 30 ABSC churches to start, train, or otherwise assist with traditional on-going missions discipleship (WOM/AOM, student, children, preschool)
Achievement: Worked with 53 churches
- Work with 100 churches that offer TeamKid and AWANA to integrate Southern Baptist Missions lessons in their meetings.
Achievement: Worked with 188 churches

Goal 4: Promote missions giving

Action Plans:

- Promote missions in speaking engagements in 150 churches
Achievement: 167 churches
- Promote missions offerings through mail, email, social media, and other means
Achievement: 3201 contacts
- Work with ABSC stewardship trainers to promote ABSC and SBC special offerings
Achievement: Worked in 11 settings
- Encourage 25 churches to start giving to missions offerings
Achievement: 36 contacts



ARKANSAS BAPTIST
CHILDREN'S HOMES &
FAMILY MINISTRIES

David Perry, Executive Director

Who Are the People of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries?

Our ministry theme this past year is, "Who are the People of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries?" When asked to suggest a Bible verse that would relate to this theme, one staff member suggested Colossians 3:12: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Indeed, to be effective in this ministry our staff must possess these Biblical characteristics to turn the hurt into healing, the sadness into comfort and the hopelessness into hopefulness.

Of course, the answer to, "Who are the people of this ministry?," really starts with those that we serve, such as Daniel. He was one of 46 children cared for at the **Arkansas Baptist Children's Home**. Several years ago, when Daniel came into care, he would overload his plate because he had a history of not knowing when his next meal would be. Now, he always knows there will be plenty of food. Daniel is a gifted honor student and a leader on the Home campus.

At the **Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch**, we are able to take advantage of beautiful outdoors activities. When Sam first got on a horse, he had to be led around in a circle by a staff member who promised to not let go of the lead rope. Now, 4 months later, Sam has to be told to slow down and to give his horse a break. Healing and confidence come with time and patience. And, the lessons learned in the stable often find their way into the classroom, cottage and home. Thirty-two boys lived at the Ranch.

The “Who are the people” at our three **Emergency Receiving Homes** includes children that arrive, day or night, from difficult situations. Renee was the “caretaker” for her siblings because of their parents’ drug addictions. The children were separated until reunited in our care. Now, Renee is awaiting her soon to be adoption. 110 were cared for in emergency care. We are in the process of changing these facilities into long-term care family homes.

The **Family Care Homes** in Jonesboro, and Little Rock, served 25 mothers with 45 children. Julie and her daughter Lynn were reunited at one of these homes. Through counseling many wounds were healed. Lynn accepted Christ at church camp this summer, and Julie grew in her faith and dependence on Christ. Now, with a graduation certificate and full time job, Julie and Lynn have moved into their own home. A third family care home in Springdale will open in 2017.

Our licensed professional counselors, working in seven locations, provided 2,372 **counseling** sessions this past year, with 437 of those to ministers and/or their families. For our counselors, their work is a truly a ministry of compassion as they utilize their training, skills and a Biblical perspective to bring restoration and hope to those they serve.

Two years ago, we began “traditional” **Connected Foster Care** as a means to recruit and train foster home families for the Arkansas Department of Human Services. We are continuing to do that in several counties. However, we have recently added a “placement” component in Sebastian and Pulaski counties, whereby we are recruiting homes in which we also provide supervision of the home and case management for the children.

There is a third group which is included in the, “Who are the people of Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes and Family Ministries?” That group is you! Without your support, your prayers, and your involvement, there would be no place for Daniel at the Children’s Home, and Sam might not be improving in school. Without your help, Julie and Lynn, as well as Renee and her siblings may still be living separated from one another. Without you, we could not provide Christian licensed counselors, and who knows what the negative impact of that would bring? Without your partnership, fewer children would be living in loving foster homes.

Who are the people of Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes and Family Ministries? I am. You are. We all are!

ARKANSAS BAPTIST
Foundation 

SERVE. ADVISE. ENCOURAGE.

Bobby Thomas, President

The Arkansas Baptist Foundation exists...

...to serve the agencies, churches, and institutions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention,

...to encourage God's people to serve as obedient stewards,

...for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Since 1949, Arkansas Baptist Foundation has served as an incorporated agency of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and has had the privilege of helping many Arkansas Baptists become more faithful stewards. Being the trust agency for Arkansas Baptists, the Foundation manages funds for God's work in Arkansas and around the world with almost every Baptist ministry.

It is encouraging to note that during the Foundation's history, over \$370 million has been distributed to these ministries and individuals. These distributions are representative of the 1,200+ gift agreements the Foundation administers. Over the past year, distributions have totaled \$34,008,364.

These distributions represent God's great provision as well as two incredible stories:

(1) These distributions represent Cooperative Program support, help for families and children, scholarships for students, support for missionaries, funding for churches, and much more.

(2) These distributions represent the generous men and women who have given of God's provision for them as stewards, therefore leaving a lasting legacy of support to God's work.

In addition to managing charitable resources for distribution, the Foundation seeks to serve, advise, and encourage individuals and ministries toward a Biblical worldview, especially as it relates to best stewarding the resources that they have been given.

The Foundation supports pastors and ministry leaders by:

- Serving as a resource for estate planning, charitable giving, and governance issues
- Administering charitable gifts benefitting Arkansas Baptist churches and entities
- Providing oversight to a ministry's investment structure and strategy
- Aggregating Kingdom resources to maximize pricing efficiencies
- Offering investment options for reserve and designated funds
- Consulting churches and entities through capital campaigns

The Foundation supports Arkansas Baptists by:

- Providing free estate planning for any Arkansas Baptist in denominational service
- Offering gift planning assistance for those benefitting evangelical causes
- Serving as trustee, agent, and/or executor for charitable estates

This year has given us an opportunity to truly recognize and appreciate our purpose. After all, the Foundation is organized as a ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to serve the churches, agencies, institutions and ministries of the Convention as well as the greater body of Southern Baptist believers in Jesus Christ. This purpose is preeminent and defining and shall serve as a guide and framework through which the Foundation's mission, vision, activities, efforts and policies are construed, interpreted and carried out.

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for the privilege of serving you!

ABNNEWS

Tim Yarbrough, Editor/Executive Director

The *Arkansas Baptist News (ABN)* has a rich history as a trusted source of news and information about and for Arkansas Baptists, their churches, and the ministries of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC). That tradition continued in 2016 as the ABN completed its 115th year of ministry.

The circulation of the *ABN* ranks well compared to other Arkansas daily and weekly newspapers – both secular and religious. Moreover, the *ABN* has the largest circulation of any religious newspaper in the state.

In addition to producing an excellent newspaper with a statewide print circulation, the *ABN* is engaging younger Arkansas Baptists with its online and digital presence.

In addition to launching a new mobile-friendly web presence (arkansasbaptist.org), the *ABN* is focusing on enhancing its digital presence by completely retooling its backend systems to allow new subscribers to access all available content – in print and digital format.

While the print model of the *ABN* will continue to be its stalwart for years to come, the development of digital delivery is essential moving forward as the *ABN* addresses the ever-evolving audiences of Southern Baptists and other evangelicals across the state.

Thousands of people follow the *ABN* Twitter feed and visit the *ABN* Facebook page each week. These online sources supplement the *ABN* Web site – which was recently updated and is one of the most frequented Christian evangelical Web sites in Arkansas. In fact, arkansasbaptist.org is the second most-frequented Web site in the state for classified ads related to churches.

Additionally, the *ABN* Podcast and *ABN Link* free digital publication are produced regularly to target younger audiences. The *ABN* Podcast, available via the *ABN* Web site or on iTunes, features Baptist newsmakers and a variety of topics of interest to Arkansas Baptists. *ABN Link* is a free digital publication targeting church leaders, and is a complement to the *ABN* digital edition.

Partnership is important to the *ABN*, such as working with the state convention each August to distribute thousands of copies of a special Cooperative Program (CP) edition of the newspaper to every Arkansas Baptist church.

The *ABN* has not increased church subscription rates since 2009 and is committed to keeping the newspaper affordable to the widest number of churches throughout the state.

Regular subscription plans for the *ABN* include the Every Resident Plan at \$7.75 per subscription per year, the Group Plan (10 or more subscriptions per church) at \$8.75 per subscription per year, and the Individual subscription rate of \$15 per year. For as little as 31 cents per person, every resident family in an Arkansas Baptist church can receive information, inspiration and be involved in the work of God’s kingdom through the *ABN*.

The *ABN* staff considers it an honor and privilege to serve Arkansas Baptists through the ministry of the state newspaper and is grateful for the gifts received through the CP. We are committed to identifying new and innovative ways to make the *ABN* a relevant and trustworthy source of news and information today and for future generations – all while doing everything possible to further the kingdom of Jesus Christ in the Natural State.



Jason Wilkie, Executive Director

2017 SCRIPTURAL & PROGRAM THEMES

As the Camp Siloam staff talk to young people, the staff hear them searching for their place in this world, seeking their purpose and trying to figure out how to live out God’s plans for their life in the midst of the struggles they face. Esther is a Biblical story that illustrates these themes. Esther 4:14 was our theme scripture; “...and who knows but that you have come to your royal position **for such a time as this?**”

Camp Siloam's distinguishing feature has become the ability to create a five-part play which parallels a Biblical story and draws God's truth out of the theme scripture. This year, Camp Siloam's theatrical play, *Cavematch: Time to Rock*, was set during the Stone Age era. The hunters (Persians) and gatherers (Israel) struggle back and forth, but a young gatherer woman named Wo (Esther) finds herself as a contestant to become the next queen.

KINGDOM RESULTS

There were 215 churches that brought 5,338 campers from seven states. The churches that came also brought more campers than were projected for several of the weeks. There were 985 life changing commitments. Of those commitments 486 were salvations, 242 were recommitments, 90 expressed an interest in baptism and 70 made a commitment to missions or full-time ministry.

FEED MY SHEEP CAMPAIGN

In November of 2015, Camp Siloam launched the Feed My Sheep Campaign for a new dining hall. The campaign goal was set at \$3.4 million. Due to over 800 individual gifts from Arkansas Baptists throughout 2016, the campaign reached \$1 million in gifts and pledges by June. In October of 2016, Charles and Genevieve Bonner made a gift of \$1 million to the Feed My Sheep Campaign, transforming the campaign and bringing the total raised to \$2,064,000. In January 2017, Camp Siloam was awarded a \$250,000 challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation. With this award, Camp Siloam was given one year from the date awarded to complete the campaign. This award brought the total raised to \$2,343,000. With the transformative gift of the Bonner Family and the grant award from the Mabee Foundation, the Camp Siloam Board of Trustees voted this past March to step out in faith and begin the construction for the new Dining Hall this July. The Board's decision was based upon the fact that the old dining hall was falling apart, construction costs were rising and our lead gift donors (the Bonner Family) would like to see the project completed in their lifetime. The new dining hall is set to be completed by June 2018. As of this report Camp Siloam has \$632,000 to raise to meet the grant deadline.



OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Dr. Ben Sells, President

As Ouachita Baptist University enters its 132nd year, our faculty and staff remain committed to fostering a love of God and a love of learning among our students.

Looking toward the future, for Ouachita to do more good – Kingdom good and common good – we must be better. To be better, we must dream a larger dream and we must think transformatively. As we prepare to adopt a new five-year Strategic Plan, our University Planning Committee has proposed six Strategic

Directions for Ouachita:

- Sustain Ouachita's Christ-centered identity
- Support committed faculty and staff
- Grow undergraduate enrollment to capacity
- Ensure transformative learning experiences for our students
- Develop graduate and innovative programs
- Strengthen partnerships with alumni and friends

The in-depth strategic planning process has included significant collaboration with all of Ouachita's constituencies, including Arkansas Baptists. University trustees are scheduled to consider a final report this fall that will include more specific goals and initiatives. Ouachita is deeply grateful for our partnership with Arkansas Baptists. You send us students, resources to support those students through Cooperative Program gifts and your prayers. Our investment in your students is given back to Arkansas Baptists as our graduates leave campus and serve in your churches, communities and around the world.

Among our many ongoing partnership efforts, Ouachita's Pruet School of Christian Studies and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention co-host the annual Conference on Issues in Christian Counseling each spring and the annual Pastors' Conference each fall on Ouachita's campus. The Pruet School partnered with the Hickingbotham School of Business on a summer mission trip to Southeast Asia to intentionally support the ABSC partnership with the International Mission Board. Other partnership projects include hosting Super Summer, JoyWorks and PraiseWorks camps each summer and hosting this year's first-time Called 2 Ministry Retreat for high school students. Ouachita re-engineered its summer conference schedule to allow Super Summer to expand to two weeks to accommodate the growth experienced by this significant ministry.

Ouachita's primary partnership with Arkansas Baptists involves educating and equipping current and future students to impact their world for the Kingdom of God in their generation. To that end, Ouachita honored a total of 293 graduates during spring commencement, bringing the total number of Ouachita graduates to more than 18,000 since its founding in 1886.

This fall's new student enrollment is projected to exceed the 12.5 percent increase proposed by university administrators. That trend, combined with a projected increase in current student retention, indicates Ouachita is on track for a strong fall enrollment total. As Ouachita seeks to "grow undergraduate enrollment to capacity," trustees recently approved five-year goals for residential student enrollment. The enrollment plan aims to increase student enrollment by approximately 60 students per year to a total of 1,750 by 2021. Ouachita also has added a number of innovative new majors and emphases to benefit students, ranging from biophysics and entrepreneurship to community and family services and legal studies.

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for your faithful partnership as our faculty and staff educate and prepare tomorrow's leaders in Ouachita's Christ-centered learning community.



WILLIAMS

BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Dr. Tom Jones, President

Williams Baptist College has celebrated its largest gift in school history, launched its first master's degree program, and completed a new residence hall in the past year. These and other achievements allow Williams, a Cooperative Program ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, to build upon its mission to provide an excellent, holistically Christian, liberal arts education while compassionately shaping student lives.

Williams has received a \$3.2 million estate gift from the late Clifford Toney of Jonesboro. Mr. Toney, who passed away in 2015, was a local businessman, auctioneer, and Baptist minister, and he was a 1980 graduate of WBC. The gift is the largest ever received at Williams. It will go toward capital improvements and other initiatives to help Williams continue moving forward.

WBC has begun its first graduate program, a Master of Arts in Teaching. Williams received approval this winter from its accrediting agency and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to start the master's program, which allows students with a bachelor's degree to earn teaching credentials in their chosen field of study. Classes are fully online and began in May.

WBC is also nearing the launch of its bachelor's degree program in criminal justice. This is a degree completion program that is geared toward police officers and others within the justice system. The program will be fully online.

Work has been completed on Belle Hall, a women's residence facility which will open this fall. The 43-bed residence hall is a two-story structure which features a large lobby, study room, full kitchen, exercise room and a covered patio. The project cost \$2.3 million, and it was completed debt-free! Funding for Belle Hall included a \$500,000 gift from the Jim Tom Butler family of Harrisburg.

Williams completed the year-long celebration of its diamond anniversary in December. Among the highlights of the 75th Anniversary celebration were a special convocation service that featured all three children of Dr. H.E. & Beatrice Williams in August, a wonderful tribute and reception during the Arkansas Baptist State Convention meeting in October, and a huge crowd for the anniversary festivities at homecoming in November. WBC was founded in 1941.

The Williams Eagles athletic program continues to grow. Men's & women's golf, men's & women's swimming, men's Greco-Roman wrestling, and junior varsity men's basketball are all new additions for the 2017-18 school year. The

new programs bring the Eagles to 19 varsity and three junior varsity sports. The expansion of athletic programs is a key component of WBC's Diamond Vision Plan. Williams competes in the American Midwest Conference of the NAIA.

It has been a good year for other Williams teams, as well. The Eagles wrestling team, in just its third year of existence, had a national champion wrestler, with Demetrius Thomas, a freshman from Ferguson, Mo., claiming the NAIA title in his weight class. The WBC wrestling squad as a whole finished fourth in the country. The Lady Eagles softball squad also had plenty to brag about, advancing to the NAIA Nationals for the second year in row.

And as always, WBC opens doors for students to minister. Williams students spent their spring break on a mission trip to Arlington, Tex., and another group traveled to Brooklyn, N.Y., in May. Dozens more have been serving in summer missions, both close to home and around the globe.

ARKANSAS FAITH & ETHICS COUNCIL

Larry Page, Executive Director

The following is a summary of our work at the recently adjourned regular session of the Arkansas General Assembly. It is not an exhaustive list of the measures that we monitored or that we dealt with at some level, but it does include many of the important ones.

I want to acknowledge God's blessings on our efforts; we felt His leading in so many areas. Also, I want to express how grateful we are for those who have and continue to stand by us with prayerful and financial support. We are thankful for all those who contacted their legislators in response to our alerts – it made a difference. Lastly, we recognize that we worked alongside some other fine groups.

The session was not typical, because one issue – “medical” marijuana – took up such an unusually large amount of time and attention. From my viewpoint, that one issue caused a bit of an imbalance and prevented other issues from receiving their due consideration. We supported some really good measures intended to regulate and limit the medical marijuana business in the state. Unfortunately, many of those measures – some of the best -- didn't become law.

PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION

House Bill 1032/Act 45-Prohibits abortion procedures that result in the dismemberment of a child.

House Bill 1428/Act 383-Improves and strengthens abortion clinic regulations.

House Bill 1434/Act 733-Bans abortions performed for sex-selection purposes.

House Bill 1566/Act 603-Prohibits the selling the organs of aborted babies and requires their burial.

Senate Bill 148/Act 392-Bans infanticide by requiring medical personnel to provide life-sustaining medical care to any baby born alive in a botched abortion.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

House Bill 1400/Act 740-Prohibits the smoking of marijuana everywhere that tobacco smoking is not permitted by law and disallows anyone under 21 years of age from smoking marijuana.

House Bill 1991/Act 1023-Bans the use of marijuana or being under its influence at any medical marijuana dispensary and requires that marijuana edibles be sold in child-resistant packaging.

The following good, common-sense marijuana related measures failed either in a committee or in one of the two chambers of the legislature: 1) House Bill 1391-It would have allowed a local option election to ban marijuana cultivation or dispensing in a city or county; 2) House Bill 1392-It would have disallowed the selling of marijuana edibles; 3) Senate Bill 357-It would have banned all smoking of marijuana; 4) Senate Bill 238-It would prevent Arkansas' medical marijuana law from going into effective until federal law was amended to permit the marketing and use of marijuana; 5) Senate Bill 561-It would have allowed city councils or quorum courts by ordinance to block marijuana cultivation sites or dispensaries within the city's or county's boundaries.

ALCOHOL

Senate Bill 623/Act 1112-Requires that a city council or quorum court approve the application for a private club in a dry area prior to the application being filed with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

Senate Bill 183/Act 875-Despite our opposition, this bill passed. It allows the disenfranchisement of voters by giving the exclusive right of the people to vote whether or not to allow the on-premises serving of alcohol to city councils or quorum courts in counties in which the retail sales of alcoholic beverages have been approved in a prior local option election.

We are pleased that the following ill-advised measures failed in either a committee or in one of the two chambers of the legislature: 1) House Bill 1558-It would have made it much easier to call a local option election to take a dry county wet; 2) House Bill 1761-It would have allowed on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages on Christmas Day; 3) Senate Bill 378-It would have permitted liquor stores to deliver alcoholic beverages to private residences and unreasonably expand their trade.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY (SO/GI)

House Bill 1894 was a good bill that deserved more consideration and passage, but it died in committee. It would have required that the gender designation on birth certificates reflect a child's biological sex at birth and it would have prohibited the changing of the designation on the birth certificate in the future.

Senate Bill 346 should also have been given a fairer hearing and serious consideration. It would have required that a person use bathroom, shower, and changing facilities designated for the person's biological sex, not the gender identity that the person claims.

Fortunately, the following two bad measures died in legislative committees: 1) House Bill 1797-It would have expanded the state's civil rights laws by improperly including homosexuals and transgendered individuals in groups deserving special protection; 2) House Bill 2088-It would have added members of the SO/GI groups to hate crimes laws in order to advance the homosexual and transgender agendas.

CHILDREN'S WELFARE

House Bill 1013/Act 371-It expands and improves the law regarding the internet stalking of a child.

Senate Bill 271/Act 209-it includes the category of human trafficking to the list of things that constitute child maltreatment for purposes of the state's statutes intended to protect children.

Please bear in mind the above compilation does not include all the legislative measures we tracked or were involved with, but it does reflect the more important ones. Again, thanks to every church, every church group, and all individuals who undergird this ministry with prayers, financial support, and by getting involved in this critical matter of being real "salt" and "light."

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Jason Little, President and CEO

Baptist Memorial Health Care began as a 150-bed hospital in downtown Memphis in 1912. It was formed by the Southern Baptist Conventions of Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas because they recognized a tremendous need for a health care facility in this part of the country. The hospital's early days were rough – at one point, it almost closed – but eventually it grew to become the largest private hospital in the world. The hospital played a very important role in the history of health care in the 20th century, celebrating many firsts along the way.

The Baptist Memorial Health Care system was created in 1981 to provide an integrated health care delivery system offering a full continuum of care to communities throughout the Mid-South. Today, a total of 16 hospitals in Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi; a 500-member physician group; and dozens of other entities are affiliated with Baptist.

Baptist Memorial Health Care's staff chaplains are a part of the health care team. Patients, family members or employees can ask that a chaplain be involved in spiritual or emotional care. In our hospitals, our chaplains represent their own faith but deal with spiritual issues that transcend denominational lines.

In August 2017, Baptist's Pastoral Care Department will introduce the Rev. Jimmy Terry Preaching Series: It's All About Jesus, named in memory of a beloved member of Baptist's Board of Trustees and the founder and former pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, who passed away in June 2017. Each month, an ordained Baptist minister will deliver an evangelical message to employees, physicians, patients and visitors at Baptist Memphis, our flagship hospital. The message will be broadcast to all 21 of Baptist's hospitals in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas.

In April 2017, Baptist became the first organization in the world to receive a 10-star rating from Epic, one of the largest electronic health record providers in the nation. The distinction means that Baptist has adopted more of Epic's nearly 700 "Gold Star items" than any other health care organization.

In February 2017, the Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation Board approved a grant for two new Centers for Good Grief; one will be located in Jonesboro, Arkansas. The center will offer free grief counseling and seminars to those who need help coping with the loss of a loved one.

NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital was the only hospital in Arkansas to earn Healthgrades' Outstanding Patient Experience award and Healthgrades' Patient Safety Excellence Award.

STATISTICAL TABLES

The following pages contain associational and church summaries as reported through the Annual Church Profile (ACP) for the 2017 reporting period.

Figures for the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering are amounts received by the Accounting Office of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for the year January through December 2017. If contributions were received by the Accounting Office by January 8, 2018, the amount was recorded for the 2017 calendar year and will be reflected in the information which follows.

Please note that a summary page follows the Membership and the Financial Information reports.

Explanation of column headings:

Bapt Total	Total number of baptisms
Other Add	Total number of additions other than baptism
Total Mbrs	Total number of members
SS Avg	Average Sunday School attendance
Worship Att	Average Worship attendance
Undesignated	Total of all Undesignated Receipts
Total Receipts	Total of all receipts (designated + undesignated)
LMCO	Total of gifts for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions received by the Accounting Office for Jan. 2017 - Dec. 2017
AAEO	Total of gifts for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions received by the Accounting Office for Jan. 2017 - Dec. 2017
DJSMO	Total of gifts for the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering received by the Accounting Office for Jan. 2017 - Dec. 2017
TMG	Total Missions Giving: Total of all missions giving as reported by the congregation on the Annual Church Profile
Coop Prog	Total of Cooperative Program gifts received by the Accounting Office for Jan. 2017 - Dec. 2017